

CURATOR'S REPORT
THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 10, 2020



**VERLE C. & LYDIA BITTNER &
VERLE C. JR. & JUDY BITTNER
FAMILY FARM**

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP

ANTIQUUE CHILD'S TABLE DONATED BY EMILY AND EUGENE BITTNER



The above table was handcrafted for Evelyn (Altfather) Engleka by the late Harman Riehl – a former talented carpenter of Berlin. Harman Riehl was a great uncle of Eugene Bittner. Evelyn Engleka was the mother of Emily Bittner. The table was a Christmas present given to Evelyn by her parents and Altfather grandparents in 1924 when she was four years of age.

ON THIS DATE:

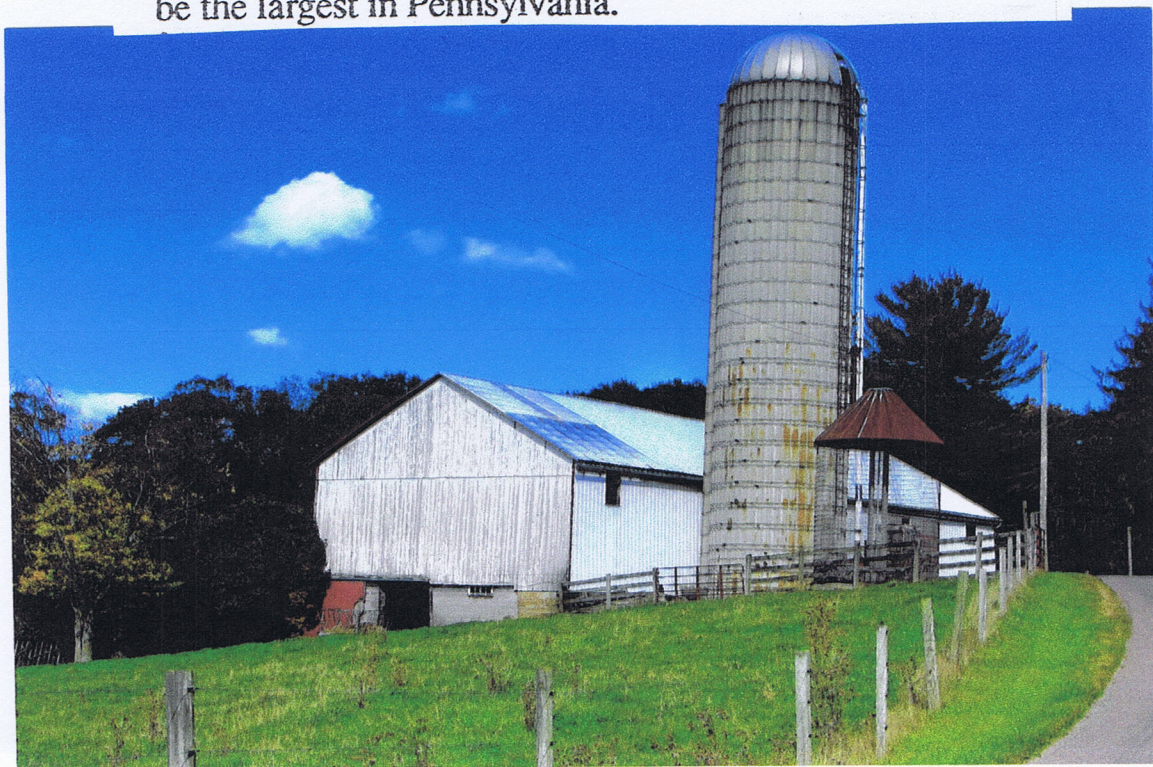
OCTOBER 26, 1949 – President Harry S. Truman signed a measure raising the minimum wage from 40 to 756 cents an hour!

OCTOBER 26, 1861 – The legendary Pony Express officially ceased operations, giving way to the transcontinental telegraph. The last run of the Pony Express was completed the following month.



Nov. 2, 1944

Carlton Frantz, president of the Frantz Distillery Co., has announced the purchase of the Butler farm, adjoining the distillery near Berlin, and has announced that the property will be developed into one of the largest pig farms in the country. Frantz said the plan is to purchase approximately 10,000 pigs weighing about 80 pounds each and to fatten them until they weigh 200 pounds or more before shipping them to market. It is estimated that the 10,000 pigs will require 40,000 gallons of cooked slop from the distillery each day. Pigs are said to thrive and grow fat on distillery slop. The Frantz piggery will be the largest in Pennsylvania.



**FRANTZ DISTILLERY'S PROPOSED PIG FARM.
PURCHASED FROM THE FORMER WILLIAM F. & LUCINDA BUTLER
FAMILY IN 1944. OWNED IN RECENT DECADES BY EMMA GENE
ENGLE AND THE LATE JACK A. ENGLE.**

A DISPLAY OF BUTCHERING TOOLS ADDED TO THE BARN AT BAHS!



On October 21, 2020, Ken Miller mounted a collection of butchering tools on the wall in the barn at the Berlin Area Historical Society. Helping with the arrangement was Ken's wife, Carol. At the time the society was looking for a crock to sit on the right side of the pictured shelf.

The items were donated by the Clayton Hoffman family. The sign above the display was already mounted to the wall having been donated some years ago by John W. Wallace in memory of his father, Grover C. Wallace.

OTHER DONATIONS:

Mrs. Gary Kimmel donated an 1896 land deed from Somerset County Sheriff Edward Hoover to John Klingaman. **Richard Berkley** donated a container of disinfecting wipes. **Emily and Eugene Bittner** donated Tribune Democrat copies of the 1977 Johnstown flood and a photo of the Berlin graduating class of 1935.

Hillcrest Grange donated two ballot boxes – one that belonged to Hillcrest and the other that came when Friendship Grange merged with Hillcrest. Also a decorated crock of Hillcrest Grange and the summerhouse on "Fairview Farm" where Hillcrest was organized on March 16, 1916.

Marion (DeLozier) Cowan donated a circa 1908 picture of the students of the Southampton School near Glencoe. The school house later burned down and the students hiked into Glencoe for school classes.

Donations to our endowment fund have been coming in to honor the late **Donald W. and Edna (Miller) Deist** of Northampton Township. As of November 1, we received a total of \$405.00 in their memory.

Gary Estnick and Jim Suder provided a tour for Pastor Jay Shaffer and three of his students at Unity United Church of Christ and one other adult on November 11. A thank-you was written to **Martha Lowery**, retiring custodian, for her many years of devoted services. Tara Keim is Martha's replacement.

MAUDE (SUTTON) PUGH

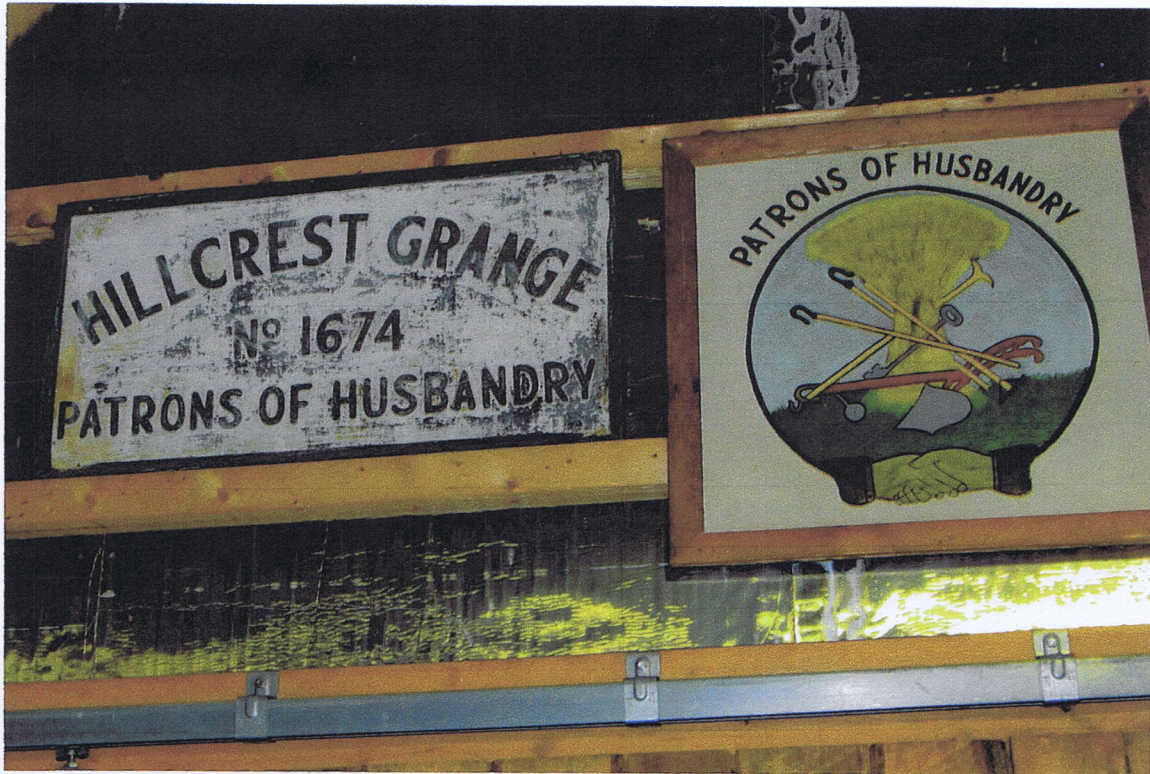
**Former Berlin Brothersvalley Township elementary school teacher
Wife of Eugene Pugh**



Many former students at the Berlin Brothersvalley Elementary School will remember this fourth grade teacher. These two photos of the late Maude (Sutton) Pugh were donated by her granddaughter and husband, Becky (Brown) and Paul McCusker. Along with the photos were donated some jewelry that belonged to Maude Pugh from her college studies at California Normal School.

Remember the second floor of the former Elementary School on Vine Street when Maude Pugh and Mildred Smith had end classrooms adjoining the center room of Pearle Hillegass. All three were former fourth grade teachers. Becky (Brown) McCusker is a daughter of the late Katherine (Pugh) Brown, who along with her brother, James Pugh, were children of Eugene and Maude Pugh.

HILLCREST GRANGE SIGNS DONATED TO BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The above pictured two signs were donated by the **Hillcrest Grange** and were erected on the wall in the society's barn on October 21, 2020. The Hillcrest Grange sign was attached to the hall on its front porch for as long as the older members can remember. The Patrons of Husbandry sign hung on the wall in the meeting room since it was painted in 1923. Both signs were hand painted by the well-known Berlin area sign painter, Samuel Buckman.

The signs were mounted on the barn's interior wall by Ken Miller and Gary Estnick. Ken recalls early years when he was in the Roxbury garage of his father, the late Elmer D. Miller. Ken was fascinated when Sam Buckman visited the garage to hand paint lettering on vehicles for customers.

Beth (Lambert) Preston donated a 1975 Mountaineer newspaper and various photos. Bob Platt and Stew Saylor removed the hard drives from several computer towers that Bob transported for recycling purposes.

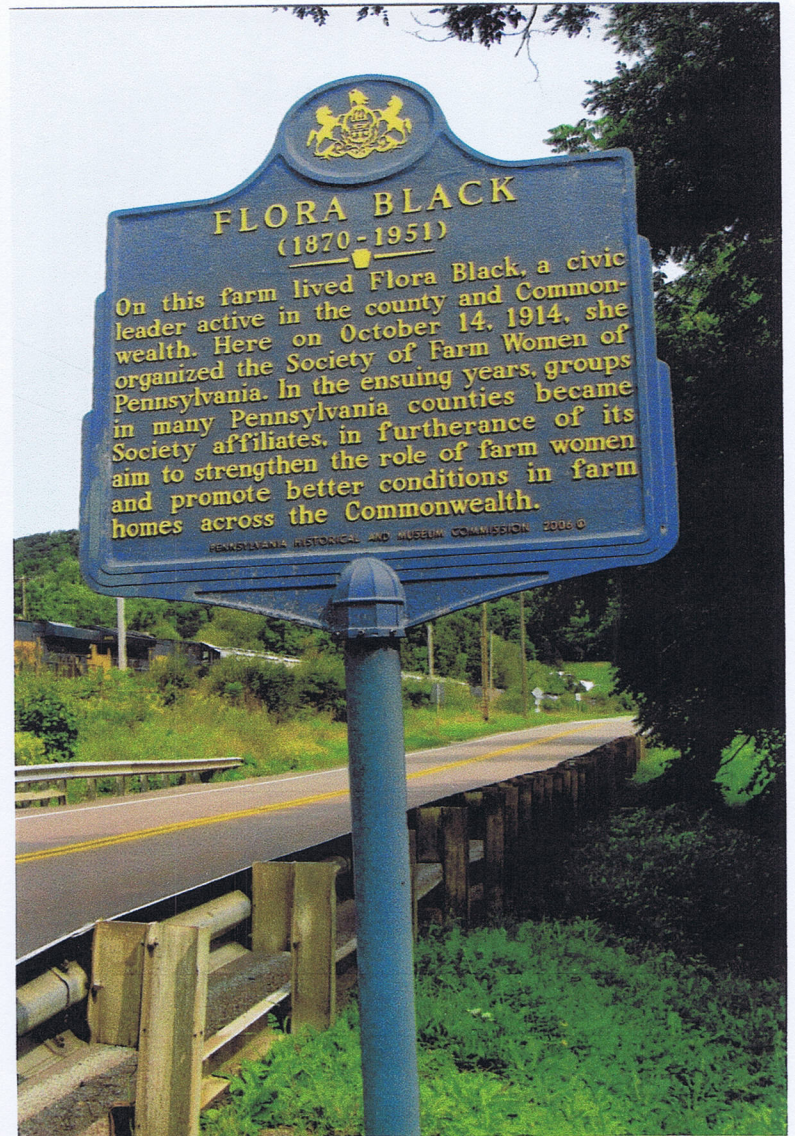
THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
MONUMENT HONORING

FLORA (SNYDER) BLACK
OF HOLLAND FARM, SUMMIT TOWNSHIP
**ORGANIZER OF THE SOCIETY OF FARM
WOMAN**

75 YEARS AGO

October 8, 1917 issue

The annual meeting of the "Die Hausfrauen" was held at the Holland Farm, the home of the founder of the society, Mrs. Flora S. Black, recently. The most important and far-reaching action taken was the changing of the name and the reorganization of the society. Formerly, the society was organized by local lines, but owing to its steadily growing membership over the state, the constitution and by laws have been changed to meet all requirements, and to suit every territory and all departments of farm work. Owing to the stigma that has been brought to bear on German nomenclature since Germany has become a menace to civilization, the members of the society, who are intensely patriotic, decided to drop the name "Die Hausfrauen" and decreed that henceforth the organization shall be known as "The Society of Farm Women."



A 2020 VIEW OF THE ADAM MÜLLER (MILLER) HOUSE AT THE SOMERSET HISTORICAL CENTER



THE ADAM MILLER HOUSE WAS ONCE LOCATED IN BROTHERSVALLEY TOWNSHIP!

In early September, Chet DeVore of Severna Park, Maryland mailed us a package consisting of valuable historical records pertaining to Adam Miller (1750-1827). Chet is a direct descendant of this German immigrant Adam Miller, who operated one of the first stores in Berlin. Adam Miller served as Justice of the Peace for nine years and was elected Representative to the Pennsylvania Assembly for five consecutive years: 1799 to 1803. His log home in Brothersvalley Township (also referred to as the Cossel log house) is now located at the Somerset County Historical Society.

Adam Miller was born in Gerhardsbrunn, Germany – the same village where Pioneer Simon Hay was born and raised – as the youngest son of Johann Michael Müller. The story goes that Adam's older brother, Michael, returned to Germany from America at the age of 23 years to visit family, friends and to aid Adam in his migration to America. Michael and Adam Miller, as well as brothers Simon and Frantz Hay and their cousin, Valentine Hay, supposedly all sailed to America in 1767 on the ship Sally.

After residing in the Berlin area, Adam Miller retired c. 1810 and moved from Berlin to Madley in Bedford County where he lived out his life. He is buried in Berlin in the Old Reformed Cemetery.

Chester "Chet" DeVore donated the following historical books and documents to the Berlin Area Historical Society: Otto Müller's history on the village of Gerhardsbrunn, Germany, which was Adam Miller's birth place; History and Genealogy of Adam Miller prepared by Neal Umstot; the will of Adam Miller, marriage records of Adam Miller while serving as Justice of the Peace; and the Pennsylvania German Society book containing ship records of German Pioneers. Gerhardsbrunn was the home of Adam Miller from 1750-1774.