

CURATOR'S REPORT
THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

APRIL 14, 2026



A BIRDS-EYE VIEW OF
SHANKSVILLE

DR. HUDSON VIRGIL GRUMBLING

FORMER SUPERVISING PRINCIPAL AT THE BERLIN BROTHERSVALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Over a seven year period during his early to mid-30s, **H. Virgil Grumbling** served as the Supervising Principal for the Berlin Brothersvalley School System. The Bervalon years for the Berlin Brothersvalley High School confirms that Mr. Grumbling served that administrative position from 1940 through 1946 - with some time off for military leave during WW II. There are few surviving former students of the school district during that period who remember Mr. Grumbling's service as the Supervising Principal.

After he departed Berlin, James M. Cassel came on board in 1947 as Berlin's new Supervising Principal - an administrator that many former students remember throughout his long tenure as Supervising Principal.

Dr. Grumbling was born on November 10, 1909 at Homer City, Pa and graduated from high school in Homer City. He was awarded a Bachelor's Degree from IUP and a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from the University of Pittsburgh and an honorary Doctorate was conferred upon him by Waynesburg College.

Mr. Grumbling began his career as a teacher and Supervising Principal in the Pine Township Schools in Indiana County from 1930-1938. During that period, he coached basketball and track for two years. He became Assistant County Superintendent of Indiana County Public Schools in 1938 and served that position for one year until he was hired by the Berlin Brothersvalley Schools as Superintendent beginning the 1939-1940

school term. He continued to fill that position for a seven-year period.



DR. H. VIRGIL GRUMBLING

The Berlin Bervalon for 1942 was dedicated to Virgil Grumbling for his earnest work for a better school. "His guiding hand, his smile and his interest in the school and its

activities are pleasant memories that his students treasure” according to the Bervalon.

After leaving the Berlin Brothersvalley Schools in the fall of 1946, he began his long tenure as Supervising Principal of the Oil City Area Schools where he served until his retirement in 1970.

He and his wife, Mildred Alice (Seanor) Grumbling were active for many years in numerous Oil City organizations. Mildred and Virgil moved to Sun City, Arizona in 1970 where they were again active in many organizations as well as the First Presbyterian Church. Virgil died on September 12, 1976 at the age of 66 years. He and Mildred raised two children: Dr. H. Virgil, Jr. who lived in Litchfield Park, Arizona and Susan Samonsky, who lived in Ventura, California. They also had four grandchildren.

Mildred Alice (Seanor) Grumbling, Virgil’s widow, was born in Indiana County, PA. She earned a Normal School Diploma in 1930 from Indiana State Teachers College (now Indiana University of Pennsylvania) to teach elementary education. While in college, she met her future husband, H. Virgil Grumbling. They were married March 12, 1932. Mildred was a devoted mother, grandmother, church member at the First Presbyterian Church of Sun City, the Aqua Fria Chapter of the Daughters of American Revolution and other Arizona organizations.

Mildred lived many years as a widow following her husband’s passing. She died on January 18, 2013 at the age of 102 years in Sun City, Arizona. She and her husband are interred in the Sunland Memorial Park, in Sun City, Arizona.

SUPERVISING PRINCIPAL H. VIRGIL GRUMBLING’S MESSAGE TO BERLIN’S SENIORS

**(PRINTED IN THE 1944 BERVALON
YEARBOOK)**

“Congratulations on your attainment, young Americans. During these past twelve years, while you have been striving toward the goal, you have been building for life. I trust your elementary and secondary education has prepared you to meet bravely the problems which lie ahead.

In the land of the free and the brave, each individual may plan his own destiny. Your life depends largely on what you make it.

Each is given a bag of tools,
A shapeless mass, a book of rules;
And each must make, ere life is flown,
A stumbling block
Or a stepping stone.

- R. I. Sharpe

I am confident that you will do your best whatever you are with whatever you have, and it is my sincere wish that you may find success and happiness.

H. VIRGIL GRUMBLING

During time when Mr. Grumbling was on military leave **EUGENE W. PUGH** served as ACTING SUPERVISING PRINCIPAL.

By David R. Hay



COLLECTOR'S MEDICINE BOTTLES DR. W. P. SHAW & DR. G. B. MASTERS

PATRICK BRODERICK PROPERTY ANNEXED TO BERLIN

A beautiful newer residential area that has been annexed to Berlin Borough as the Broderick Division includes many new homes. They were developed on the land that belonged to the late Patrick Edward Broderick (1891-1965). The annexation of the Broderick property, originally a part of Brothersvalley Township, was made official with the filing of the deed in the Clerk of Courts office of Somerset County.

The ordinance, No. 168 authorizing the annexing of the Broderick property, was adopted November 30, 1961 and recorded in the minute book of the Berlin Borough and advertised in the Somerset Daily American.

Patrick Edward Broderick was 73 years of age at the time of his passing on September 24, 1991 while living at 1126 East Main Street in Berlin. He was born on October 30, 1891 in Lonaconing, Maryland a son of Patrick and Sarah (Coleman) Broderick. His father, worked in the mines until 1899, when he sold his property at Lonaconing and purchased a farm in the Avilton, Maryland area. He was living there at the time of his passing in 1915. His son, Patrick, was a retired farmer who owned the farm on which the Broderick Division was developed. He and his wife, the former Freda Hoffman, were parents of several children, who were raised in Berlin.



The Berlin Brothersvalley High School girls basketball team repeated as PIAA Class 2A champion in a 55-039 victory over Neshannock March 19, 2026 at the Giant Center in Hershey. The girl's coach is Rachel Prosser.



Names of Pupils

Leora Engle Mildred S. Kimmel
 Lena S. Glessner Rosy A. Wyand
 Merle T. Boyer George H. Glessner
 Vesta E. Carver Marion H. Kimmel
 Maggie A. Glessner Ida R. Boyer
 Nellie R. Manges Guy L. Engle
 Lucy P. Will Edrth Engle
 Pearl N. Stull Lester H. Kimmel
 Mary E. Will Ivy O. Carver
 John H. Will Edward B. Stutzman
 Park F. Shank Bruce A. Boyer
 Blanche Lambert Edna Engle
 William E. Kimmel Robert J. Landis
 Clarence H. Kimmel Lydia Engle
 George W. Lambert Mae Boyer
 Elton E. Carver Sadie E. Engle
 Malissa J. Will Carrie B. Boyer
 Edith R. Stull Ivy B. Glessner
 Clara E. Boyer Lortie E Hillegass
 Jacob S. Kimmel



Downey School,
District No. 14,
Stony Creek Twp.,
Somerset County, Penna.

1903-1904

...PRESENTED BY...

IRA G. CARVER, Teacher
DIRECTORS.

J. M. Knepper I. W. Miller
 T. J. Speicher Wm. Weigle
 F. L. Walker E. H. Miller
 D. W. Seibert, Co. Supt.



Boone School

**DOWNEY AND BOONE SCHOOL MEMORABILIA FROM THE WILLIAM
 AND SHIRLEY (FLAMM) GLESSNER ESTATE.**

DONATIONS:

Christina Hemminger donated additional items from the estate of William and Shirley (Flamm) Glessner. They included the Somerset IOOF Lodge badge pictured to the right of this page; Chichonian yearbooks for 1981 and 1982; post cards, and Bill Glessner's Bible School pictures. **Trisha Paul** donated three books: (1) Barnes Elementary History of the U.S; (2) The Bobbsey Twins and Baby May; and (3) Tarzan of the Apes.

Esther Hauger donated old posters. **Blane Quinn** donated a number of 1940s Bervalon yearbooks. **Earl and Barbara Croner's family** donated Jacob Zorn's Civil War bayonet. (See picture of Greg Croner displaying the bayonet in this report). **Mark Gindlesperger** donated some program booklets including the May 1975 issue of Laurelin, consisting of poetry submitted by BBHS pupils. Also a booklet featuring the 75th anniversary of Holy Evangelical Lutheran Church (1777-1952) and the rededication and 185th anniversary of Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.

LuAnn Walker donated photos. **John Wesley Brant** donated two booklets: Eli - War of the Rebellion and Sgt. Reuben B. Jones' Civil War Diaries. On March 26 we hosted members of the Young Farmers Association for a tour of our Berlin facilities. Including tour guides and guests there were 22 persons in attendance.

Mark Engleka donated a large, framed aerial picture of Berlin (circa 1950s) and two automobile banks from the Philson Bank

Thank you to all our volunteers for all the time and services you provide to the Berlin Area Historical Society.

David R. Hay, Curator



GLESSNER PUBLIC SCHOOL District No. 3 Stonycreek Twp., Somerset Co., Penna. CLYDE C. WALKER, Teacher PUPILS	
John M. Glessner	Richard H. Gindlesperger
John J. Kimmel	Elmira M. Miller
Sherman D. Glessner	Lester C. Hillegass
Lee M. Musser	Nellie B. Will
Millard E. Meyers	C. Harold Glessner
Annie P. Hillegass	Harry T. Kimmel
Nevin S. Hillegass	Ed'son J. Glessner
Ethel L. Reitz	Jacob L. Hillegass
George E. Brant	Alvin H. Hillegass
Lloyd E. Hochstetler	Eva E. Will
Elsie E. Musser	Willard W. Brant
Daniel M. Kimmel	Manford R. Miller
Harner P. Glessner	Ida P. Stull
Anna E. Brant	Jefferson C. Glessner
Everett G. Will	Aida M. Miller
Elsie B. Boyer	Gideon J. Kimmel
Charles H. Brant	Harry Sarver
William R. Will	Catharine R. Brant
Mabel B. Musser	Pius M. Kimmel
Ross L. Hillegass	Mary B. Musser
J. Rei Glessner	Merle T. Boyer
Charles H. Schradel	
School Officers	
Geo. Grove, Pres.	J. J. Reiman, Sec.
John R. Glessner, Treas.	
Wilson Lambert	L. H. Musser
D. W. Seibert, Co. Supt.	
M. R. Schrock, Supervising Prin.	

1914

GREG CRONER

DISPLAYING JACOB ZORN'S CIVIL WAR BAYONET



**A GIFT TO BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY FROM THE ESTATE OF
EARL AND BARBARA (MILLER) CRONER**