

# CURATOR'S REPORT

THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AUGUST 10, 2021



HOME OF JOSEPH C. &  
GLORIA BLACK

SHANKSVILLE

## GONE FROM THE HISTORICAL VILLAGE OF HAY'S MILL



**D**uring the month of July 2021, the former dairy barn on acreage owned by Michael and Kimberly Saylor along the edge of Hay's Mill in Brothersvalley Township was dismantled. During a four-week period Josh Thomas of Quemahoning Township dismantled the century-old structure estimated to have been built sometime after the mid-1800s by an unknown barn builder.

Josh is owner and works alone in dismantling old barns and other structures and also specializes in buying barn wood. He resells the salvageable materials to individuals and contractors who enjoy using the wood in new and remodeling projects. Some of the salvageable wood from the Hay's Mill barn will be used by Ryan and Tammy Saylor for projects at their home on the same farm.

The former dairy barn was last used for dairy operations more than 50 years ago after being used for many years by the late Homer and Sadie Boger. Homer had followed his parents, Ephraim E. and Melissa Boger in operations of the Boger family farm. Much earlier the same farmstead was the home of Pioneer Simon Hôh (Hay), who immigrated from Gerhardsbrunn, Germany, in 1767 and eventually settled in Hay's Mill and operated his grist mill on the banks of the Blue Lick Creek. Homer P. Boger held auction on his Hay's Mill farm on March 21, 1967 to dispose of his farming equipment.



## BAHS'S SUMMER PICNIC AT THE GROVE OF THE BROTHERSVALLEY CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN!

An estimated group of 65 members and friends gathered on July 22 at the Brotherton picnic grove for our annual summer picnic.

Guest speaker was Jacob Miller, Curator of the Somerset County Historical and Genealogical Society. Jake spoke on early history of the Brother area and is pictured with Leanne Calvert, President of the Berlin Area Historical Society. Jake is holding an early picture of Grandpa Robert Bauernmaster's farm at Brotherton.

It was an enjoyable evening with picnic committee members: Betty Chaney, Gary Estrick and W. Scott Miller taking charge with ham supplied by the society and an abundance of delicious covered dishes provided by those attending.

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### ON THESE DATES:

**NOVEMBER 30, 1940** - Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz were married at the Byram River Beagle Club in Greenwich, Connecticut. The marriage ended in divorce in 1960.

**NOVEMBER 30, 1960** - The last DeSoto was built by Chrysler, which had decided to retire the brand after 32 years.





**BONNIE WEIMER HAS BEEN VOLUNTEERING HER TIME WITH HER KODAK MINI DIGITAL FILM SCANNER TO SCAN SOME MID 1950S SLIDES ONTO THE COMPUTER AND A THUMB DRIVE FOR REPRODUCTION POSSIBILITIES!**



**REMEMBERING YESTERYEAR'S FARMING ACTIVITIES!**

Remember those hot days of August when the grain binder came out of storage to cut the wheat and oats harvests! Remember sweating in the field as the wheat and oats grain was shocked? This scene was taken near Springs, July 2021.

## DONATIONS

**Terry DePhillip** donated several books: Hotel Red Book - 1947; Pennsylvania Postal History - 1976; and Superintendent of Public Instruction - 1910. **Jim Mowry** donated a partially identified old Shanksville School photo from the estate of his sister-in-law, Mary Louise Mowery. **Betty Meyers** donated Zug family records pertaining to an old pioneer family in the Berlin area.

**Janie Dull** donated a Reels Corner Gas Station and Coffee Shoppe advertisement when Merle D. Snyder was the manager. **Larry Pritts** donated a Trapper's Program from a trapper's event in Clearfield, PA. **Kay Ann Cober** donated various BBHS sports programs; newspaper sports clippings; and track and field medals. **Cathy Webreck** donated Snyder's chip bags from the 1950s or 1960s.

**BERLIN RURAL MAIL  
CARRIER DENNIS HARVEY  
HAS OFFICIALLY RETIRED  
FROM THE US POSTAL  
SERVICE!**

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## BERLIN AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY!



**Nancy Prebelsky** donated an American Legion cape as well as emblems from American Legion Unit 4454 of Berlin.

**Craig Lindsay** donated \$50.00 and **Susan Johnston** donated \$100.00 in appreciation of services rendered during July visits to BAHS.

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## 1897 EGGS SALES

(Taken from the account book of Leah (Troutman) Leydig, wife of Dennis Leydig.)

Prices of eggs sold from January to February 23, 1897 were 15 cents per dozen at the farm of Dennis and Leah (Troutman) Leydig of Northampton Township. They lived on the farm where Dale and Dorothy Hartman live in 2021.

On February 26, 1897 eggs fell to 12 cents a dozen.

Joyce (Leydig) Knotts has loaned us the account book of her ancestor Leah Leydig.

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## GOD BLESS AMERICA! KEITH AND DENISE LEYDIG BROTHERSVALLEY TOWNSHIP

### PEANUTS FOR THE BUS DRIVER!!!

An old lady offers the bus driver some peanuts... so the driver happily munches on them. Every 5 minutes she gives him a handful of more peanuts...

**Driver:** Why don't you eat them yourself? **Old lady:** I can't chew. Look, I have no teeth. **Driver:** Then why do you buy them?

**Old lady:** "Oh, I just love the chocolates around them."

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Thank you to our faithful volunteers for all you do to keep after all the jobs we take care of in our office and other facilities. July involved extra hour preparing our annual banquet letters, ordering the raffle tickets, and then getting them together into the envelopes and prepared for mailing.

David R. Hay, Curator