

CURATOR'S REPORT
THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DECEMBER 9, 2025



**A VINTAGE SANTA CLAUS
HIDDEN AWAY FOR 50 YEARS!**

**WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
JOYOUS AND PRODUCTIVE 2026!**

VISITORS TO BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**ROBERT MACK AND HIS
SISTER, DEBBIE MACK
PROVIDED RETRO SAMPLES
OF CANDIES THEY ENJOYED
IN THEIR YOUTH. THEY
DONATED A BAG OF MANY
SAMPLES TO THE BAHS.**

**RUTH ELMIRA (SHOCKEY)
DRAB – AT 94 YEARS OF AGE –
VISITING BAHS WITH HER
DAUGHTER, VIVIAN (DRAB)
COPLEY. RUTH GREW UP IN
BERLIN AS A DAUGHTER OF
HENRY H. SR. & LULU
(LANDIS) SHOCKEY. RUTH'S
OLDER SISTER IS GRACE
(SHOCKEY) SVONAVEC OF
NEW CENTERVILLE AREA.**



JAMES F. HANKINSON



BARBARA SHOVESTULL AND MARSHALL DICKEY

TWO DESCENDANTS OF JAMES F. HANKINSON, A FORMER RESIDENT OF NEW BALTIMIRE, DISPLAYING THE NEW MEMORIAL STONE PLACED AT HIS GRAVESITE IN THE (OLD) SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH CEMETERY ON NOVEMBER 5, 2025.

STONE PAID FOR BY BARBARA AND DON SHOVESTULL FOR THE DESCENDANTS OF JAMES F. HANKINSON. JAMES HANKINSON WAS A SON OF GREGORY FRANCIS HANKINSON (1791-18720.) AFTER JAMES' DEATH AT THE AGE OF 30 YEARS, HIS WIDOW, CAROLINE (LUKEN) HANKINSON DALLARD REMARRIED.



CCA HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS VISIT THE GLADE ONE-ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE



ROBERT ANSELL INSTRUCTING STUDENTS. PICTURE BY LEANNE CALVERT

On November 4, 2025 some 22 children from the CCA Home School, ranging in ages from pre-school to the age of 12, visited the one-room Glade School in Stonycreek Township to learn about the schooling techniques of an earlier generation. BAHS members assisting with the activities were Sally Zeigler, Bob Ansell, Judy Sarnack, Cindy Flamm, Tom Calvert, and Elmer Altfather. Leanne Calvert coordinated the activities. The students packed their lunches and ate in the nearby fellowship hall of the Unity United Church of Christ.

DONATIONS

Al and Fae (Platt) Kurtz donated a large collection of older Memos **Robert Mack and his sister, Debbie Mack** donated a bag filled with many different brands of candies that we remember from our earlier years of life. Not only was it fun to remember those earlier candies, but our fingers eagerly snatched a few samples while examining the candies. The two Cleveland, Ohio residents remember the small store on the corner of their street where they visited for candy in their childhood years. **Derek Hoyman** donated a variety of clothing items and head coverings, including a fez, that were worn during Masonic ceremonies – items found in the attic of the Henry and Emily Fritz' former home. Also donated were some notebooks filled with marriages and other genealogical materials and record books from the former Lady Rebekah Lodge of Berlin. These items were from the former farm home of Henry and Emily Fritz. Many will remember the years when Emily Fritz served as the Brothersvalley Township tax collector.

SURGE – WALTER ATHEY'S COLLECTION



LEFT TO RIGHT: SUSAN SPANGLER, RICHARD A. ATHEY, KATHY (ATHEY) PICKING, AND RONALD PICKING

On November 3, 2025, the above named family of the late Walter W. and Agnes (Raygor) Athey, long-time residents of the Berlin area, visited the Berlin Area Historical Society. They enjoyed the interesting display of Surge items and a personal photo album that shares details of the many years that Walter Winfield Athey served as a Surge dealer and serviceman to many farm families living in the Berlin area and many surrounding communities.

Many farm folks depended upon Walter for new Surge equipment and dependable maintenance when they were having trouble with their equipment. He was known far and wide for his business ventures. His son, Rick assisted in the business while growing up. As he perused the photo and memorabilia album he easily named the various models and years of the trucks that were used by the Athey dealership. Kathy Picking, a daughter, recalled that when her parents, Walter and Agnes Athey, re-located to the Berlin area, they had five children with little money for a down payment on buying a home. A local farmer provided money so they could purchase their home along the Brotherton Road in Brothersvalley Township. The Athey children included Annie Lee Baker, Dorothy Shultz, Nancy Barkman, Kathleen Picking, and Richard Athey.



A CHRISTMAS CARD SENT BY THE LATE
DWAYNE O. ROSS - CLASS OF 1966 AT
BERLIN BROTHERSVALLEY HIGH SCHOOL.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026