

CURATOR'S REPORT

THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JUNE 10, 2025



**DR. JAMES S. & DARLENE M.
(McCURDY) KNEPPER**

**WINDSWEPT EQUINE FARM
STONEYCREEK TOWNSHIP**

PRIOR OWNERS OF THE DR. JAMES & DARLENE KNEPPER FARM IN STONYCREEK TOWNSHIP!

Thank you to Carol Ann (Engle) Miller for supplying this information. Carol was raised on the neighboring Alvin & Ruth Fisher, Jr. farm. She is a daughter of Roy M. and Grace Ilene (Will) Engle and step-daughter of Helen (Reiman) Engle. Farm owners, beginning with Carol's paternal grandparents:

- . George D. & Barbara (Handwork) Engle**
 - . Carl M. Sr. & Grace Edith (Engle) Cotter**
 - . Carl M. Jr. & Mary Ann (Ringler) Cotter**
 - . Dr. James S. and Darlene (McCurdy) Knepper**
- . Farm sold in 2025 to Orlo & Lori (Horning) St. Clair, whose main farm (Yoder farm) is located at 440 Shady Hollow Road, Berlin – former Charles & Eileen (Knepper) Horning farm.**



ON MAY 30, 1922

The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. was dedicated in a ceremony attended by President Warren G. Harding, Chief Justice William Howard Taft and Abraham Lincoln's surviving son, 78-year-old Robert Todd Lincoln.;

DONATIONS AND HEPPENINGS

On May 12 Gary Estnick provided a tour to Berlin's Leaning Support class. Also in May approximately 60 students and their teachers from the fifth grade at the Berlin Brothersvalley School enjoyed a tour of the Heritage Haus, our Humble log house, the barn and our combination genealogy-museum building. David Hay donated the booklet, "The Pearl Harbor Story". Richard Sturtz with his photographer Peter Barta were filming at our facilities for an upcoming episode of "Tales of the Alleghenies". Carolyn Payne, Karen Bittner, and Leanna Coughenour have worked on inventory projects. We appreciate all of our volunteers and the important place they hold in our society

Thanks, David R. Hay, Curator

A DISPLAY HOLDER BUILT BY ELMER C. ALTATHER



Elmer C. Altfather presents his hand-crafted display holder to Leanne Calvert, President of the Berlin Area Historical Society on May 28, 2025

Before selling his wood-working tools in anticipation of selling his home and moving into a Berlin apartment, Elmer C. Altfather put his carpentry skill to work to build a display holder for the numerous Berlin log house posters that were displayed on the individual houses during the Whiskey Rebellion's Bicentennial Celebration.

The posters had been displayed along the loft in our society's barn in recent decades until Elmer conceived the idea for displaying them in a unique wooden holder that he created in his work shop. At the same time that he built the holder, Elmer built frames to display each of the posters so that the assemblage can find a prominent display area to continue sharing the history of Berlin's historical log houses. Elmer spent his lifetime working career doing cabinetry work. He was one of the skilled craftsmen that helped with the construction of the 2002 addition to our genealogy-museum back room display area.

Banners included in the display and the approximate years those houses were built:

- **DAVID LANDIS (1820); GEORGE DIVELY (1820); JOSIAH HEFFLEY (1875); DANIEL HEFFLEY (1855), JOHN HEFFLEY (1810); CHRISTIAN EVEL - POTTER HOUSE (1789); MARTIN DIVELY (1820); HENRY SHOEMAKER (1835); FRANKLIN FORNERY (1820); LEVI SHOEMAKER (1875); JOHN JOHNSON (1870); CHARLES STONER (1850); DANIEL BRUBAKER (1850); AND E. L. COOK (1873).**

GLENCOE MEMERABILIA DONATED BY SUSAN AND BILL JOHNSTON



Susan and Bill Johnston of Salpulpa, Oklahoma donated Glencoe memorabilia to the Berlin Area Historical Society and have become lifetime members. They are also the owners of the former John and Mary (DeLozier) Hartman home in Glencoe, which was built in 1950 on the same plot where the house and mercantile store of Isaiah Daniel Leydig had previously been located. I. D. Leydig was Susan's great grandfather while across the roadway was the G. G. DeLozier Hotel, which was Susan's other great grandfather.

DONATIONS:

- Three burnt wooden boxes (pictured in front of them), which were built in Illinois by Henry Leydig, a brother of I. D. Leydig. Many sizes and shapes of these boxes were sold by I. D. Leydig in his mercantile store between 1907 and 1917.
- I. D. Leydig's book "Family Library of Poetry and Song". Mary (DeLozier) Hartman's English Grammar book.
- A 1918 Meyersdale High School banner. Susan's grandmother, Elizabeth (Leydig) Delozier rode the train from Glencoe into Meyersdale weekly for her high school education.
- Various certificates presented to Frederick DeLozier, including his 1916 graduation certificate from Somerset County Schools.
- Susan's 95-year-old mother, Marian Virginia (DeLozier) Cowan, a life-time member, passed away May 10, 2025 while residing in Texas. Many remember Marian from the frequent summers she spent in Glencoe in her retirement years.

THE DANIEL J. BRUBAKER RESIDENCE

822 EAST MAIN STREET, BERLIN



DARLENE HILLEGASS HOME

Daniel J. Brubaker was one of the most widely-known and influential men of Berlin. By trade he was a contractor and builder. In 1874 he served a term as Justice of the Peace for Berlin Borough. This home – built in 1851 - was once known as the Brubaker Tavern, a stage coach stop on the Somerset and Cumberland Turnpike.

Daniel Brubaker constructed many homes and other buildings in Berlin and the surrounding community. The house above was once a bustling stage coach stop for travelers. It was built in 1851 by John Brubaker and later willed to his son, Daniel J. Brubaker. A carpentry shop was located at the rear of the property while it was owned by Daniel Brubaker in partnership with Sam Engle. Daniel died on October 29, 1904 at the age of 74 years, 11 months and 7 days. His home has been passed down through his family through the past century.

THE MT. ZION REFORMED CHURCH'S COMMUNION SET!



The Glendon Keller family donated the above pictured pewter communion set from the former Mt. Zion Reformed Church in Allegheny Township. (The church still stands and has been owned and used as a storage facility for many years by the Lee D. Hoppert family.) Glendon's father, Russell Keller, who worshipped at the church, received the communion set from the late Anne Bittner.



MT. ZION REFORMED CHURCH WAS BUILT IN 1892. IN THE CIRCA BETWEEN 1920 AND 1925 THE CONGREGATION HAD FINANCIAL TROUBLES. THE BUILDING WAS SOLD TO JAMES TIPTON AND THE LAND WAS RETURNED TO THE ORIGINAL OWNER, MR. TIPTON.

IT WAS A MODERN CHURCH FOR ITS TIME PERIOD WITH STAINED GLASS WINDOWS AND A FURNACE.