

CURATOR'S REPORT

THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 13, 2025



NEW POST OFFICE COMING TO

NEW BALTIMORE

BETTY CHANEY RETIRES FROM THE INSURANCE AGENCY!

Betty Chaney, Secretary of the board of directors of the Berlin Area Historical Society, retired on March 31, 2024 from Walton, Suder, and Dott Insurance Agency in Berlin. Betty retired with 34 years in the insurance business.

She started with Highland Mutual Insurance and ended her career with Walton, Suder, and Dott Insurance Agency with other insurance companies in between.

You will find Cynthia (Lyons) Sleppy, a co-worker, now working in the Berlin office. We wish Betty a long and interesting retirement!

HILLBILLY HAVEN

ADDITIONAL HISTORY ON HILLBILLY HAVEN 803 FAIRHOPE ROAD, FAIRHOPE, PA 15538

Lynette "Sis" (Shroyer) Troutman of Kennells Mill, the current operator of **Hillbilly Haven**, has shared additional interesting history of **Hillbilly Haven**. This is in addition to the early history that was shared in our March 11, 2025 Curator's Report.

Prior to "Sis" Troutman operating **Hillbilly Haven**, it was operated by Tracy and Stephanie Shroyer. Earlier operators included Bill & Eileen Beedley, and Mr. Westnewski, believed to be from the Pittsburgh area. George A. and Laura (Shaffer) Baker developed the tavern, which originally was known as **Baker's Tavern**. It passed into the ownership of Gary L. and Bernice Baker and became **Hillbilly Haven**. Another operator was Mike Fleegle.

THE GREATEST GIFT YOU
CAN GIVE SOMEONE
IS YOUR
TIME.
BECAUSE WHEN YOU
GIVE YOUR TIME,
YOU ARE GIVING A
PORTION OF YOUR LIFE
THAT YOU WILL NEVER
GET BACK.



**COPIES OF PHOTOS LOANED TO BAHs BY BARRY LANDIS.
LEFT – SCENES OF FAMILY GATHERINGS AT THE FORMER
LEVI QUEER HOME IN BROTHERSVALLEY TOWNSHIP.
THREE CHILDREN OF RALPH G. AND ANNA (QUEER) LANDIS: MYRON
“MIKE”, DEVON, AND JANE GORDON.**

ADDITIONAL DONATIONS

A small group of volunteers has been re-arranging displays in the barn in preparation for the fifth grade school tour on May 8. The group is tossing around ideas on various displays and the possibility of building a staircase up to the loft in the barn. Carol Miller volunteered to make a curtain for the window in the meeting room facing the barn.

Jeff Calvert donated a Desert Combat Uniform from Operation Iraqi Freedom and a Mountaineer wrestling jacket. Karen Bittner and Leanna Coughenour have been working weekly on the inventory projects, focusing on the John & Lucille Lichvar Sports Department..



JIM HOLMAN, JR. WITH SPINNING WHEEL HE DONATED

**JIM
HOLMAN, JR.
WITH THE
YARN
WINDER
FROM THE
SIMON &
ROSANNA
(RAUCH)
HAUGER
FAMILY!**



DONATIONS BY JIM HOLMER, JR. FROM THE ESTATE OF HIS MOTHER, JOYCE (SMITH) HOLMAN



ROSANNA (RAUCH) HAUGER
1834 – 1925
WIFE OF SIMON HAUGER
1830-1891

In addition to the above picture of Joyce Ann (Smith) Holman's great grandmother, Rosanna (Rauch) Hauger of

Brothersvalley Township, Joyce desired that Rosanna's spinning wheel and her yarn winder be donated to the Berlin Area Historical Society following her passing in January 2024. These items plus additional items mentioned below were delivered to the Berlin Area Historical Society by Joyce's son, James Kenneth Holman, Jr. on April 23, 2025. Joyce was a member of the Berlin Area Historical Society and graduated in 1960 from the Berlin Brothersvalley High school.

Also donated were the following items:

- . A quilt made for Joyce by her Great Aunt Lillie Evora (Hauger) Gumbert.
 - . A book "Recollections of Somerset County's Earlier Years."
 - . A book "Berlin Area 1777-1977."
 - . A book "Berlin Memories."
 - . A book – "Berlin Sesquicentennial."
 - . A family picture of George Washington and Mary Ann (Hauger) Smith and children.
 - . A Factory School group picture (1899 circa)
 - . Pictures of Joyce's parents – Harry Gruver and Mildred (Hastings) Smith and their former Berlin home.
 - . A framed 1905 picture of Berlin.
 - . Afghans and other miscellaneous items.
-



Joyce Ann Smith
College Preparatory



**JOYCE ANN (SMITH)
HOLMAN WITH HER
PARENTS: HARRY GRUVER
& MILDRED (HASTINGS)
SMITH**

**JOYCE GRADUATED IN
1960 FROM BERLIN
BROTHERSVALLEY.**





**Mildred (Hastings) Smith (1905-1997) with husband, Harry Gruver Smith (1891-1990)
and their grandchildren: Julia Ann and James Kenneth Holman, Jr. About 1980.**

Harry G. and Mildred Smith lived for many years at 1100 East Main Street in Berlin in a home that in recent years has been owned by the Mark & Kristina Engleka family. They were the parents of one daughter, Joyce Ann, who was born on January 17, 1943 and graduated in 1960 from Berlin Brothersvalley High School. She married James Kenneth Holman, Sr. and lived many years in Wilmington, Delaware before moving to Tennessee and Tucson, Arizona. It was Joyce's wish that following her January 2024 passing in Arizona, that her parent's spinning wheel and yarn winder would be donated to the Berlin Area Historical Society. Her son, Jim Holman, Jr., an English teacher in Wilmington, DE, delivered those family heirlooms, as well as pictures, and other items to Berlin on April 23, 2025. The spinning wheel and yarn winder are believed to have been originally owned by Simon and Rosanna (Rausch) Hauger, the great grandparents of Joyce (Smith) Holman.

Harry Gruber Smith was one of at least nine children born to George Washington and Mary Ann (Hauger) Smith and was raised in Brothersvalley Township on his parental farm. We believe Harry's home place was along the Mason Dixon Highway that senior citizens remember as being later owned by his brother and sister-in-law, Claude William Sr. and Irene (Deeter) Smith and later his nephew and wife, Claude William "Bill" Jr. and Lois (Hady) Smith. (The buildings for this farm are currently owned by Theodore S. Jr. and Carol Lehman.) The George W. Smith farm likely also included land on which the Hollywood Inn was located, which was operated by Harry G. Smith's sister, Elmira (Smith) Fritz-Walker. Harry's brothers included Howard, Guy, Marling, and Claude William, while sisters included Nellie Krause, Rose Lybarger, Belle Lichty, and Elmira Fritz-Walker.

Harry Gruber Smith and Mildred, a native of Dover, Delaware, were married 53 years at the time of Harry's passing on May 27, 1990 at the age of 98 years. Harry retired in 1963 after nearly 40 years as highway construction superintendent for Central Pennsylvania Quarry, Stripping and Construction Co. The couple's daughter, Joyce was born in 1943 while her parents were living for a short time on what later became the John W. & Mary (Esken) Coleman and Robert F. and Zona (Dively) Coleman farm below Hillcrest Grange in Brothersvalley Township. Older folks remember this farm as being the Ray O. and Bertha Walker farm.

THE COWS' SALT BLOCK IN THE PASTURE!

A FARM KID SOMETIMES FOUND GREAT DELIGHT IN
TAKING A FEW LICKS OFF THE SAME SALT BLOCK!

BY DAVID R. HAY

A trip to Berlin in my childhood years to the Berlin Feed Company (John Glessner, proprietor) sometimes included adding a salt block to the purchases of fertilizer, binder twine, or milk replacement for the young calves we were raising. In later years Eastern States in Somerset delivered feed items and once or twice a year a salt block. Dad maintained a steel post in the pasture not far from the barnyard that held the salt block in place as the dairy cows often lined up for an opportunity to take a few licks at the salt block before enjoying a refreshing drink at the farm pond.



Sometimes when we kids were driving the cows home to the barn for the milking we had to pause a few extra minutes until one of our favorite cows (yes, farm kids had their pet cows) finished her licks at the salt block. After the salt block was in place for a short while, you noticed clean areas where the last cows had taken their licks.

That's when the farm kid got the idea of getting down on his knees and taking a few swipes of his tongue across the 'clean' areas of the salt block. The farm kid generally made sure he was alone so that an adult would not deter him from his desires!

This was a time period before families (especially kids) didn't concern themselves too much about germs. While I can't come up with any facts to prove it, I'm certain that we farm kids didn't get sick as often as our cousins from the cities. Farm life had its blessings along with its hard work!

DONATIONS FROM RON & LUANN WALKER

**INCLUDED THE TWO PICTURES ON THIS PAGE, A POCKET KNIFE
ADVERTISING DONNER'S INSURANCE AGENCY AND MISCELLANEOUS
ITEMS.**

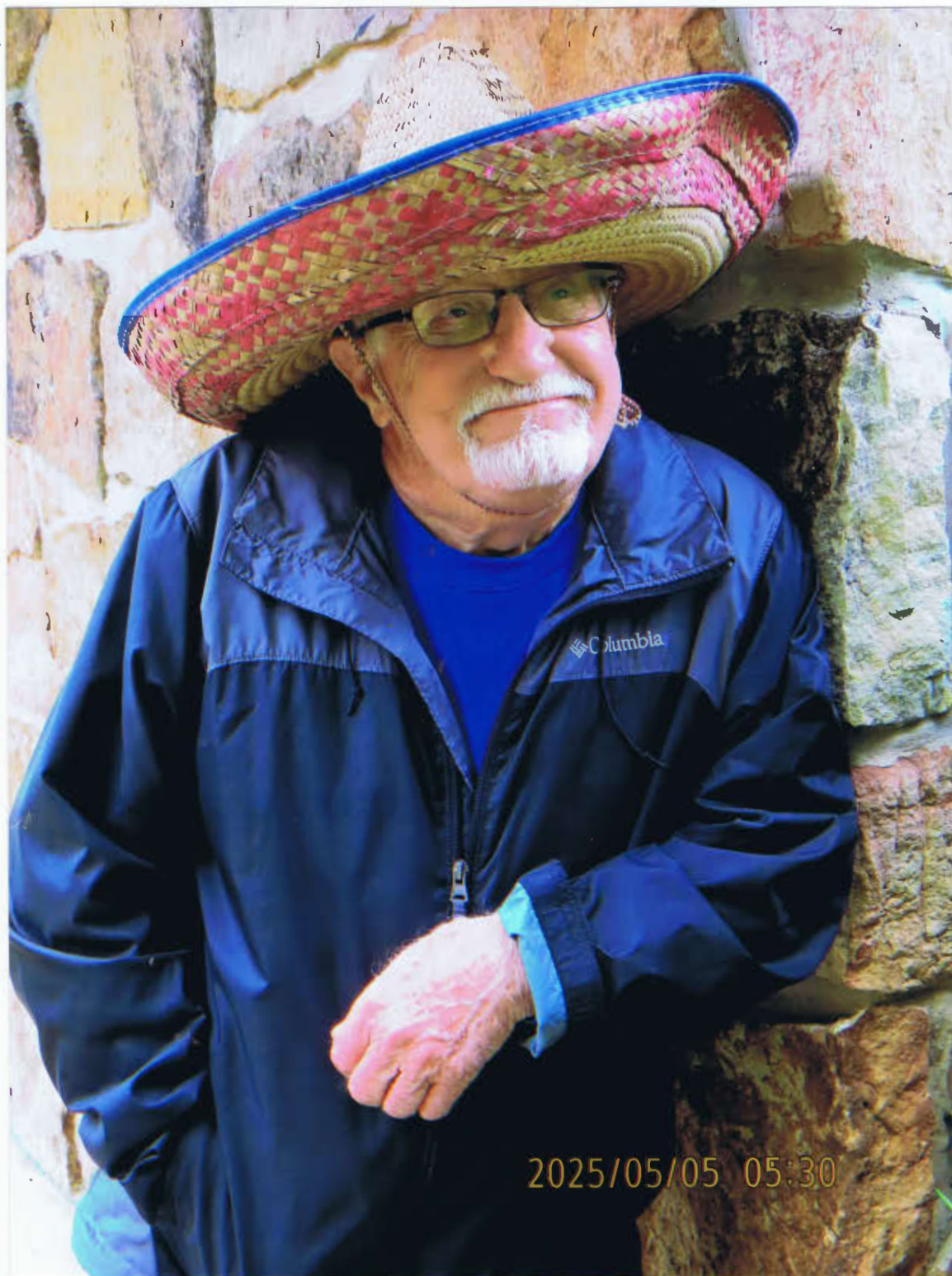


AERIAL VIEW OF THE EARL WALKER FARM BROTHERTON ROAD, BERLIN



JAY P. WALKER – BROTHERSVALLEY TOWNSHIP FARMER

P
E
D
R
O



DOWN MEXICO WAY!