

CURATOR'S REPORT

THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER 13, 2026



GARY ESTNICK

**GLORIA BLACK'S 2024
SPIDER CAN-AN**

FUN TIMES GO ALONG WITH VOLUNTEER DAYS!

WELCOME TO MARK KNOPSNYDER, THE NEWEST ADDITION TO THE BOARD OF THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For this story, we asked Mark to share some highlights from his biography. We were thrilled with the following impressive information this Brothersvalley resident shared. Mark has been a contributor of numerous stories to the Memos and we are happy to welcome him as the newest member of the Board of Directors of the BAHS.

"I moved here from a dairy farm in Ohio when my parents bought a dairy farm in Brothersvalley Township. I was 12. I attended and eventually graduated from BBHS. After high school, I attended a welding technology program at a community college and then went to work in the Naval Shipyard in Philadelphia. I worked there for a little over a year, more than long enough to learn that the big city lifestyle was not for me. I missed my Pennsylvania mountains, and I took the opportunity to go back to college.

For my undergraduate program I majored in psychology and education and obtained a B.S. degree. I chose to pursue the psychology route over teaching and began fulltime work for Somerset County while attending graduate school at night where I completed my Master's degree in Counseling Psychology. The same month and year that I graduated, the sunset on the law allowing Masters in psychology to be licensed as psychologists. I could not sit for the licensure exam, so I pursued and obtained licensure as a professional counselor when that became available, becoming the 325th counselor licensed in Pennsylvania.

I am currently in my 36th year of providing treatment service. I have virtually always worked multiple jobs at the same time so there are many jobs that I have worked and several I have omitted here. I often joke that I started working with all children, then virtually all adults, then all offenders and I am not completely sure how that happened.



I have worked for and/or provided contracted services to CYS, MH/MR, Youth Advocate Programs, Tressler Wilderness Care and Juvenile and Adult Probation among others. I left my employment with the county and went to work for the PA Department of Corrections. I provided a variety of psychological services for a little over 20 years and then retired from there. I currently work part time for Forensic Associates for Assessment Consultation and Treatment out of Pittsburgh providing telehealth services to parolees from the

federal, state, and county justice systems as part of their conditions of release. I have maintained a small private practice for the past 31 years. I previously served on two national boards in my field including a couple of terms on the Professional Psychologist Certification Board and one term on the North American Association of Masters in Psychology. Enough about me already. Let's talk history!"

RECENT DONATIONS

From **Ann McLuckie** we received a box of books that included Two Centuries of Brothersvalley Church of the Brethren; Berlin Area 1777-1977; Berlin Sesquicentennial 1837-1987; a collection of older Memos; Locating Your Immigrant Ancestors; America Naturalization Process and Procedure; 1790-1985; Civil War Genealogy; The Gazettes of Scotland; and miscellaneous books. **Rachel Saylor** donated a Berlin Fife and Drum post card celebrating 175 years in 1957. **Kay Ann Cober** donated various sports booklets; a Gulf service station bill issued to John Lichvar when Don's Golf Station was located on East Main Street near Luteri's Restaurant; and a sports ball cap. **The F. Carl Walker Estate** donated a framed collage of houses owned by Hillcrest Grange's original 1916 members.

Dick Poorbaugh donated another Poorbaugh Reunion notebook to the collection of Poorbaugh Reunion notebooks. **Larry Pritts** donated the 87th annual Berlin Brothersvalley Community Fair program booklet. **James Leazier** donated miscellaneous items. **Mike Merrill** donated an 1876 Beers' Atlas; Leland Tipton's military records; a Keidel's Hardware and Electric thermometer; a First National Bank of Garrett picture; and a Collins's Drug Store fan. **Bullskin Township Historical Society** donated \$100.00 following their tour of our facilities. **Mandy (Estnick) Cooper** identified BBHS' 2026 graduates' picture which was taken and donated by **Amanda Dowdy**.

Amy (Dively) Bowman donated miscellaneous news clippings and pictures; a 1940 and 1949 Chicahonian yearbooks; a booklet of the public schools of Stonycreek Township; and a Stonycreek Township High School mug. **Gary and Edith (Emerick) Mills** donated two Berlin Brothersvalley Elementary posters - advertising Davy's Star grade school operetta for December 12, year not printed and March 14, 1960 grade school operetta. **Robert E. Miller** donated a picture of his residence taken in September 1943. The home at 603 North Street, Berlin, was built in the late 1890s by the Swope family, who were the late Barbara (Swope) Miller's family. **Binnie Lambert** donated 1943 and 1945 Bervalon yearbooks and the Berlin High School diploma for Binnie Rebecca Tipton. **Stephanie (Claypool) Cooney** donated a box of old Berlin related newspapers from the collection of her late **Uncle William Wolfersberger**.

Thank you to our many volunteers for sharing your talents and energies and helping to keep the cogs turning at the Berlin Area Historical Society. Various groups and individual families made use of the Pious Springs garden for special photos during the summer and fall.

David R. Hay, Curator

THE ANNUAL BANQUET OF THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**THE BERLIN FIFE AND DRUM CORPS PROVIDED ENTERTAINMENT
FOR THE PROGRAM AT THE ANNUAL BAHS DINNER.**



**THESE BOARD MEMBERS AND FRIENDS PARTICIPATED IN
NORMAN MENHORN'S BERLIN FIFE AND DRUM CORPS' QUIZ.**



SIXTY-EIGHTH YEAR REUNION OF THE CLASS OF 1958 AT THE BERLIN BROTHERSVALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

BERLIN VETERAN'S HOME - 2026.

FRONT ROW (L TO R) LAVERNE (SUDER) COSLIC, DOROTHY (SUHRIE) SMITH, SANDRA JEAN (LEYDIG) FERGUSON, DONNA (HAY) RAUPACH, RAY BOYER, ROY LEISTER, AND HAROLD SMITH.

BACK ROW: (L TO R): LARRY SHOBER, STANTON LANDIS, PASTOR RONALD BEACHLEY, JAMES MOWRY, CHARLES HAUGER, ROBERT CRONER, ELAINE (KEEFER) GUMBERT, SHIRLEY (LONG) CUNNINGHAM, SARA (CRONER) ATKINSON, AND BARRY FOGLE.

RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

During our annual dinner meeting in September, the following persons were the winners of our raffle tickets:

\$1776 in cash - Denver Philip

\$250 in cash - Clark Brocht

Maple basket from the Hillegas Sugar Camp - Grace Nicholson

Painting by Linda Coddington - Tom Croner

Jean Ogburn's braided rug - Valerie Bramble.



A NEW PAINT JOB FOR THE LUTHER HAUS



BAHS MEMBERS AT MOUNTAIN CRAFT DAYS. L - FRED WILL AND R - ROBERT SWANK



LEE WOIDA DEMONSTRATED THE CONSTRUCTION OF HICKORY ROCKING CHAIRS AND OTHER FURNITURE AT THE ANNUAL MOUNTAIN CRAFT DAYS AT THE SOMERSET HISTORICAL CENTER. TO THE RIGHT IS HIS HELPER MIKE O'NEIL.



THE FORMER RAYMAN CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER BY A MENNONITE CONGREGATION. WHO CAN SUPPLY THE NEW NAME OF THE CONGREGATION?



**GARY ESTNICK, GLORIA (MILLER) BLACK AND LARRY PRITTS
LARRY PRITTS SEATED ON GLORIA'S SPIDER CAN-AN**



FUN TIME AT BAHS!

**LARRY PRITTS,
DAVID HAY,
SEATED ON
THE SPIDER
AND GARY
ESTNICK**

**OCTOBER
5, 2026**