

Berlin Historical Society

Notice

The April meeting of the Berlin Historical Society will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2011 at 7:00 PM at the town office building.

- Details for our May potluck dinner meeting will be discussed.
- Details for the Washington County History Fair which will be held on July 16 will be discussed.

The next meeting will be our annual potluck dinner meeting on Tuesday, May 24 and will be held at the Congregational Church annex at Berlin Corner. The program will be about the "Cottage" that used to be at the top of Erhardt Hill and the people that were associated with it. It will be presented by Sylvia Parker with assistance from Jim Sumner. (Sylvia and/or Jim, please respond to this e-mail to assure that all is in readiness).

Richard Turner

Secretary

Berlin Historical Society Meeting Minutes for March 22, 2011

Present were Maudean and Lewis Neil, Robert Miller, Manny and Mary Garcia, Cheryl Poor, Mary Wells and Norbert Rhinerson

The meeting opened at 7:10 PM

The minutes of January 25,2011 had been distributed prior to the meeting so were not read.

Treasurer Mary Wells presented the treasurers report for February 20 and March 20. The funds grand total was \$48,408.93 as of March 20. Cheryl Poor moved and Maudean Neil seconded the motion that the report be approved as read. Motion Carried.

We played a few minutes of the audio tape that Kristan Gallagher and Lorin Thompson, who now live on the old Dodge Farm had recorded of about an hour of conversations with George Dodge in the spring of 2010. They gave us the tape which we would like to convert to a DVD.

Norbert described the 1771 Map of Newbrook which shows properties parceled out by New York Lt. Governor Cadwallader Colden in an attempt to claim land that had already been granted by the Governor of New Hampshire eight years earlier. The area includes Berlin and Berlin Pond is titled "pond" It also shows a New England to Canada Great Road.. Had not Ira Allen chased the surveyers out of the area we might now be called the Newbrooke Historical Society.

Doug Littles who recently talked to the 5th and 6th graders at Berlin Elementary about the Knapp airport asked the common question, was Erhardt Hill named after Amelia Earhart. This whole idea has persisted for a long time and will be hard to put to rest that that is not who Erhardt Hill is named after.

There was an E-mail inquiry from Cathy Beaudoin of Brantford, Ontario looking for information on the Gladden family. She sent us a death certificate for Bernard Gladden who lived on Gladden Road when he died in 1999. Gladden Road is a private road off Route 12 about 3 miles south of Memorial Drive in Montpelier. We have no information on that family.

The Washington County History Fair is scheduled for July 16 at the Pavillion. (Unfortunately this is a date that Richard will not be here for) so we will need others to help.) We will have a display on a table that we will have to provide on the porch as we did before. Maudean volunteered to present the same information there that we did at the History Expo this last summer. We will also be able to present some slide shows on Benjamin Falls and Bosworth pictures in the small theatre

and or on a screen in the lobby. These are pictures we have never showed to anyone other than ourselves. We also will put together a display on our Post Office on a table in the lobby. Norbert is co chairing this with Manny Garcia of the Montpelier Historical Society. We will meet again on April 16 to continue working on the details.

Manny Garcia has joined our society and will work with us to set up a folder on the area that was Berlin that was annexed to Montpelier in 1899. He is currently working on an article for the Quarterly Vermont Historical Society publication.

A Kim Rich was looking for information on Clarence, Hollis and David Rich. We found records of David marrying Sophia Coburn on Dec 5, 1822 and two pictures of Rich monuments in our West Berlin and Colby Cemeteries. Not those she was looking for but we thought they may be of interest to her. We now have pictures associated with several of our cemeteries tied to the numbering system of the maps that Greg Dubois of the Cemetery Committee has surveyed and drawn up. The pictures are not on the web site but if someone wants a picture of a particular monument we can provide it..

We have received notice from the Probate Court that we will be receiving \$1000 from the estate of Mabel F. Prince. Richard Turner is the executor of the estate. Richard had suggested to her some time ago that the Berlin Historical Society would be a good charity to contribute to.

Richard Pettit of Fayston has contacted us again. He has been trying for years to identify stereo pictures taken by Carlyl Goodrich circa 1876-1881 of Plainfield. He has now put up all the unidentified photo on the following website as he has given up traipsing around trying for identification. He has another one that he thinks was taken near Berlin Pond for us to look at.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vermonthistory/collections/72157621894810438/> We don't think this is of Berlin.

Richard has recently made contact with Mary Jane Bosworth who still has the glass plate negatives

that have all of the Berlin Scenes that we copied several years ago and he indicated to her that we would be interested in purchasing them. She is giving it some thought.

Another extensive e-mail inquiry was received about the name Woodbury in the late 1700's and early 1800's. Lynn has supplied information on the Woodburys. The party also asked about Gershom Heaton and Vernon has provided information including the fact that Gershom Heaton was a resident of Berlin moving here in 1795 and most probably was our first doctor who later became a farmer and landowner..

It was noted that 2013 will be the 250th anniversary of Berlins Charter. A lot of Towns in Vermont are planning observances of this milestone and we should do something special that year also.

Our next Meeting is April 26 when we will finalize our planning for our May 24 Potluck/Program Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at about 8:30 PM

Repectfully submitted by Norbert Rhinerson, temporary secretary