

Following are the minutes of the January meeting. There was no meeting held in February.

January 25, 2011

The January meeting of the Berlin Historical Society commenced at 7:00 PM at the town office building. The following were present: Maudean & Lewis Neill, Cheryl Poor, Anita Flannigan, Vern Turner, Richard Turner and Norb Rhinerson.

The treasurer's report as prepared by Mary Wells showed that our total assets were \$48,169.93 as of January 20, 2011.

Election of officers: The only change in officers was the selection of a Director to replace Elene Sartell. Lynn McManis was nominated for this position by Richard Turner and the nomination was seconded by Lewis Neill. Lynn was elected by a unanimous vote of members present as were the rest of the officers as follows:

President – Norb Rhinerson

Vice President – Maudean Neill

Secretary – Richard Turner

Treasurer – Mary Wells

Assistant Treasurer – Tom Wells

Directors – Walter Wells, Cheryl Poor, Lynn McManis

Plans are being formulated for a mini history expo to be held in Montpelier in June to take the place of the Vermont History Expo which is now held every other year. I brought up the Paine Turnpike as a possible subject for the expo. It could be a group project if we could get the five towns of Brookfield, Williamstown, Northfield, Berlin and Montpelier together to each find out the history of that portion of the turnpike that was in their town. Norb will contact Tess Taylor at the Vermont Historical Society to see if she will contact the historical societies of the five towns.

Norb has our scrapbooks just about brought up to date. He has finished putting all the old articles collected by Dick Nye into our new scrapbooks and continued the index of the articles on our computer so we can search subjects and find them by scrapbook number and page number.

I was unsuccessful in bidding on a group of old tintypes and daguerreotypes that were auctioned off at Merrill's Auction Gallery. The group of about eight or ten photographs were of

Berlin residents including several of the Bosworth family including Jonathan Bosworth. I left a telephone bid of \$150 but was outbid. I contacted the Merrills to see if I could get the name of the high bidder but they didn't give me that information.

Norb has been contacted by Richard Leyden who is writing a history of the first Northern League that existed in Vermont between 1902 and 1906. Barre and Montpelier had a baseball team in the league who were known as the Hyphens (this from the hyphen that separated Barre and Montpelier when the two cities names were put together). The field they used was owned by C. P. Pitken of Montpelier and was in the vicinity of the farm at the bottom of Benjamin Falls Hill. A Montpelier Evening Argus article dated May 17, 1904 places it adjacent to the Benjamin Falls trolley station. There were three parks along the Barre-Montpelier Road known as the Dewey, Palisades and Caledonia parks. We have a picture given to us by Bob Somaini of a group of people at the Caledonia Park. Some appear to be in baseball uniforms and are holding bats. It is probably a stretch to believe they could be members of the Hyphens baseball team. The picture is not dated.



Malcolm Phifer of Plainfield, Illinois is compiling a genealogy of his father's family. His Berlin ancestors are Azariah Grant and his wife Abigail Crofoot who are both buried in Dewey-Wright Cemetery. Lynn McManis has researched this and found that members of the family moved from here to Plainfield, Illinois. We sent photos of the monuments to Malcolm.

The main purpose for my trip to Vermont is to do some needed research on my history of the Barre-Montpelier/E. F. Knapp Airport. The project is nearing completion but there are some key dates that have been elusive to locate. We have had a number of airlines that flew into the airport

but finding when they initiated and terminated these flights is difficult. I have the information I need for Boston & Maine/Central Vermont which became Northeast in 1941 and sold out to Delta in 197 . But some of the other airlines are: Terry Air Transport and New England Air Service which both started up in 1946, and Precision Airlines, Green Mountain Airlines, Executive Airlines and Air New England which all operated after Northeast had terminated. The only way that I know of to find these dates is to go through the newspaper microfilm but unless I have the date narrowed down to within a few weeks it is an extremely tedious project. So keep the faith. I may actually finish sometime.

A reminder that the speaker for our potluck dinner in May is set. Sylvia Parker will talk about her research into the background on the "Cottage" that used to be at the top of Erhardt Hill. Jim Sumner will assist her.

We will not hold a meeting in February. The next meeting will be on March 22.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Turner, Secretary