

Berlin Historical Society

Notice

The August meeting of the Berlin Historical Society will be held on Tuesday, August 23, 2011 at 7:00 PM at the town office building.

Items of interest:

- Norb will explain his work on Berlin Corner Cemetery pictures and indexes.
- We will revisit the need for fencing at the Veterans Memorial.
- I will update the status of the airport book.
- Work needs to be done on Berlin's contribution to the Civil War.
- Interesting West Berlin post card.
- Norb will run his slide show that he put together for the Washington County History Fair (Berlin Pond, Benjamin Falls & Bosworth pictures).
- Upcoming programs.

Sept. – Dave Perrin will talk about the Perrin family in Berlin.

Oct. – Manny Garcia will give a talk on Transportation in Central Vermont

which will include something on the portion of Berlin that was annexed by Montpelier in 1899.

Richard Turner

Secretary

Berlin Historical Society

July 26, 2011

The July 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, Richard Turner, Norb Rhinerson, Walter & Mary Wells and Mary & Manny Garcia.

The secretary's report for the June meeting was accepted as written.

Norb asked members to be thinking about ideas for a program for our potluck dinner meeting next May. Something on the Civil War was mentioned as a possibility as we are now in the period of the 150th anniversary of the war. The cost of advertising for this year's dinner program was mentioned as not being cost effective. We had a larger ad that cost about \$90 which probably only brought one or two people. The ad does have the added benefit of keeping the public aware of our presence.

The Washington County History Fair that was held at the Pavilion Building in Montpelier on July 16 was considered a success. Maudean exhibited her 1860 Agricultural Census display that she originally put together for the Vermont History Fair in Tunbridge last year. She has been expanding it by adding pictures of the Berlin farms, birth and death records of the Berlin farmers and footnoting the exhibit materials. She may also send to Washington for pension records of Berlin Civil War Veterans.



**Norbs Berlin Corner Post Office display
Census display**



Maudean with her Agricultural





**Manny Garcia with his Montpelier-
Berlinside photo display**

Norb showed his Berlin Corner Post Office exhibit with examples of mail handled by each of the many postmasters and pictures and locations of the houses they lived in while they served. Norb also ran a slide show showing pictures of Berlin Pond, Benjamin Falls and George Bosworths scenes of Berlin. Manny Garcia was there also putting on a slide show of his photos of Montpeliers Berlinside (the entire area of Montpelier on the south side of the Winooski River which was part of Berlin until 1899).

I mentioned that the airport book is ready to go to the printers. My plan is to pay for the cost of setting it up and printing but the Berlin Historical Society is to be the publisher. The Society will reimburse me as copies are sold. All profits after my costs have been recovered will go to our Society.

Norb has purchased a device that allows him to copy our audio tapes onto our computer. He has transferred ones by Les Buck, Hazel Somers (nee: Smith & Niles), George Dodge and Richard Nye. The tapes may be accessed by going on the computer to **File Cabinet Folder Contents/Berlin Families** and then the appropriate family name.

Meredith Dodge, a first cousin twice removed of George Dodge has visited us several times and left pictures and memorabilia including copies of obituaries of the Dodge family.

Jerry Kolb of Frederick MD has inquired about the Thomas Spear family of Berlin. There is a Spear lot at the Berlin Corner Cemetery. Norb has obtained copies of section maps of that cemetery from Cheryl Poor's daughter, Sue Verchereau who is Secretary/Treasurer of the Berlin Corner Cemetery Association.

Norb mentioned that the rail fence at the Veterans Memorial needs to be replaced and the cedar trees need trimming or possibly replaced. The cost of material for the fencing would be about \$700 and then we would need volunteers to do the work. I suggested that we should approach the town to cover the cost as this project should be their responsibility rather than ours. There was no vote taken on expenditure for this project.

Norb brought up the fact that 2013 will be the 250th anniversary of Berlin's Charter. Other Vermont towns plan to observe this milestone in their towns and Norb thought we should also.

The Treasurer's report was given by Mary Wells. Our total worth is now \$49,809.02.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Turner, Secretary