

Berlin Historical Society
December 11, 2007 Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Berlin Historical Society opened at 7:10 PM at the Berlin Town office building.

Members in attendance were Mary Wells, Walter Wells, Pat McDonald, Maudeen Neil, Lewis Neil and Norbert Rhinerson. Guests were Bill Doyle and Mike Doyle.

The minutes of the November meeting were acknowledged as having been received by those present. The Treasurers report showing our total assets as of November 20, 2007 to be \$45,713.04 was given by Mary Wells and was approved as reported.

President Norbert Rhinerson reported that

1. There was an inquiry about Carlos Rich who was listed as being from Berlin and had been wounded twice in the Civil War. He had been awarded a Medal of Honor which we had not known about. The request was for a picture that was to be used in a book about those Vermonters who had been awarded the Medal of Honor and is going to be called "Everlasting Glory." We were unable to provide a picture but Lory Holm found a great deal about Carlos who was a farmer in Roxbury and died May 29, 1918 and is buried in the Roxbury Cemetery.
2. We received an inquiry from a Bill Jessup of Andover, MA who had purchased a sampler made which was signed by a Temperance Sloan of Berlin. He wondered if this was Berlin, VT and Lynn McManus reported that there is a Temperance Sloan buried in the Dewey Wright Cemetery. The sampler was dated August 18, 1816. Temperance was born December 1, 1804 and died March 31, 1880. Temperance would have been almost 12 when she did the sampler. Bill sent us a picture of the sampler for our files.
3. Elene Sartell has provided us a letter giving the Society the teacher's desk that is displayed at the Berlin Elementary School. In her letter she tells how she obtained the desk in the 1960's and how it ended up at the School. She had a conversation with Marcia Bowles who the school employees thought had owned the desk. Elene asks that we give the school a copy of her letter. We now can proceed to design a plaque for the desk as well as for the bell that is also displayed at the school.
4. Maudeen Neil and Richard Turner are working on the indexing of our scrapbooks.

Maudeen presented her work on the 1974-1976 Scrapbook that we have temporarily called #9

Bill Doyle was present to discuss the "Origin of Berlin" that he had recently published in the Washington World. Bill had said in the article that the area of the Barre-Montpelier Road had been called Shephardville. The Walling map shows some Shephards living near where the Dog River flows into the Winooski but not on the East Side of Town. Bill also

gave us some insights into how Benning Wentworth became the Royal Governor of New Hampshire. There were a number of other questions about his article. We thank Bill for taking the time to meet with us and on a not so pleasant evening.

We have recently acquired 2 more picture postcard, one of Berlin Pond showing a number of boaters The card was postmarked in Montpelier and dated Aug 27, 1906. It was sent to Mr. H. H. Cummings, Box 364, Dover, N.H. It was published by Buswell's Bookstore. and another of George Bosworth's cards looking northerly on Paine Turnpike along Berlin Pond in front of Clark Stewarts house with a personal note to a friend in Pennsylvania with a February 8, 1908 Berlin Postmark.

It was noted that we have notified the party that updated the Vermont Cemetery Archives of the indexes of our cemeteries that are on the Berlin Web Site and they will be included on the next update.

Norbert is preparing a poster on the Crosstown Granite Quarry which Richard and Norbert visited this summer and took a number of pictures. Granite from this quarry was used to construct the Montpelier Post Office which was torn down in 1962 and the Christ Episcopel Church on State Street in Montpelier. The steeple of this church was removed in 1963.

The members present agreed that we should participate in the next Vermont History Expo to be held on June 21 and 22 next year. Our theme will be Mary Greene Nye. The Vermont Historical Society needs to be notified of our participation by December 15, 2007.

It was also noted that Howard Coffin has confirmed that he will be our speaker at our Potluck/Program Meeting on May 20 at the Congregational Church.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Norbert Rhinerson, temporary acting Secretary