

Minutes of the Berlin Historical Society Inc. January 27, 2009 Meeting

Present were Norbert Rhinerson, Lynn McManus, Mary Wells, Elene Sartell and Carthy Brimblecombe.

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM. The minutes of December 9 were approved as distributed. Mary Wells presented the treasurers Report for both the period ending January 20 and the annual report for 2008 which will be in the Town Report. At year end our assets totaled \$46,041.04 and at January 20, 2009 they were \$46,222.86.

There was no old business.

The program for the evening -“Berlin Historical Cemeteries” was postponed because of a computer glitch and the low attendance. It will be presented at a later meeting. Norb had presented it at the Kellogg-Hubbard Library on January 21 and had added some slides that highlighted our society’s participation in the improvement of our historical cemeteries.

Presidents Report

Presidents Norb reported that Sylvia Parkers paper on “The Cottage” has been accepted by the Vermont Historical Society for publication in a future Biannual Journal. Her new title is “ A Riverton Retreat”.

We have been in contact with Wallace Rogers Baker who has Randall and Bean ancestors in the Dewey-Wright Cemetery and plan to be in town early in February to see the cemetery and visit with us.

We have been trying to find out who owned the area where the Berlin Quarry is. There is a note in Richard Nyes tradition story on the Howard Cemetery that mentions that Moses Howard owned that area at one time in addition to the “Wing Lot” on Irish Hill.

There also was an article in the Sunday January 25 Times Argus on the telegram that President Lincoln had sent to Governor Fairbanks. On the back of the telegram was a hand written note that Mary Greene Nye said was the return message to President Lincoln which mentioned Full Duty which became the title of Howard Coffins first book on the Civil War.

Program for May Program/Potluck meeting.

Several ideas were suggested such as Bill Doyle who with his students at Johnson State has produced a video on Montpelier, Manny Garcia who has a presentation on the area of Montpelier that used to be Berlin, but could not do it in May, another suggestion is to have Esther Munroe Swift who edited “Vermont Place Names - Footprints of History” Another might be by Sylvia Parker with her “Riverton Retreat”.

It was decided that we would contact Esther Munroe Swift to see if she would agree to speak to us and Mary Wells will do that for us. Mary and or Walter Wells will also make arrangements to reserve the Congregational Church Parish Hall on the fourth Tuesday in May or the 26th.

Scrapbook

Richard has finished the scrapbooks that he took along with him to Florida and Norb sent him 4 more to work on there. There are only a few more including the latest clippings that we may as well incorporate into the new standardized scrapbooks that we have purchased recently.

Election of Officers

Norb summarized the dates the various officers and directors had been elected. willing to continue. Vice President, Vernon Turner wishes to resign because of the distance and not being able to attend all of our meetings. Vernon was first elected on Jan 26, 1999. Secretary

Richard Turner has served since Jan 26, 1993 and is willing to continue. Treasurer Mary Wells first elected Jan 27, 1998 and is willing to continue

Tom Williams is also able to sign checks but is not an elected officer, we could elect him to be the Assistant Treasurer. Directors - Walter Wells first elected Jan 27, 1998. Elene Sartelle first elected Jan 28, 1997. Sally Schober first elected Jan 23, 1996.

It was moved by Mary and seconded by Elene that Lynn McManus be elected as our Vice President to replace Vernon Turner who chose not to continue in that position. The Motion carried. It was moved by Lynn and seconded by Mary that Tom Williams be elected to be our Assistant Treasurer. Motion Carried. Tom has been able to sign checks in the absence of our Treasurer for awhile.

Mary Wells presented the Society an autographed copy of "The Old Brick Manse" by Arthur Wentworth Hewitt. It was accepted with thanks and was put into the display case.

Our Next Meeting will be on February 24. Adjournment was at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Norb Rhinerson and Elene Sartell