

## Berlin Historical Society Minutes of April 22, 2008

The monthly meeting of the Berlin Historical Society opened at 7:09 PM on April 22 at the Berlin Town Office Building. Those in attendance were: Norbert Rhinerson, Vernon Turner, Lynn McManus, Cheryl Poor, Lewis & Maudeen Neil and Richard Turner.

The minutes of the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as previously distributed to the members. A picture of the Lotus Lodge will be added to the archived minutes. The Treasurer's report was read as prepared by Treasurer, Mary Wells, and approved as read.

It was noted that a house for sale on Crosstown Road was advertised as being located next to the summer home of Amelia Earhart. We don't know how this rumor got started but it is not true. Erhardt (note spelling) Hill was named for Justus and Fannie Erhardt who owned the magnificent summer home called the "Cottage" at the crest of the hill ascending from West Berlin. They were the owners from 1905 & 1906 when they bought the property in separate parcels, until they sold it on October 6, 1931.



**The Cottage on Erhardt Hill**

Norbert reported that Vern, Lynn and he have visited the Vermont Historical Society and found the following information on Mary Greene Nye:

- An article in the VHS publication "News and Notes"

- A copy of the Berlin Town Meeting resolution about Mary

- A report on the "Blizzard of 88" written by Mary when she was 16 years old

- A letter written by Mary to her son, Richard, urging him to continue his schooling

Norb emphasized again that we need suggestions on how best to display the material we have and that we will need help setting up our exhibit Friday, June 20 and manning it from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM on June 21 and 22.

Andrea Chandler has completed typing the history of Berlin from Hemenway's Gazetteer that was written by Sylvanus Nye and Norb has put it on the Berlin web page. Norb added the addendum to that history and also the short history written by the Rev. James Hobart on the web page. Thanks go out to Andrea as well as to Norbert for all the work they have put in.

I reported that I had completed two more scrapbooks over the winter so now we have five counting the one that Maudeen had previously completed. There is a wealth of information in these books that can now be searched by means of our computer.

I also brought in the five new Benjamin Falls stereos that I purchased over the winter. Norb is incorporating all our Benjamin Falls pictures into a presentation that can be given using our proposed new projector.

If anyone is interested in learning more about Arthur Wentworth Hewitt, they should read "The Old Brick Manse" (copies in our library). It is the story of his life while he was the minister for the Methodist Church in Plainfield and there are a few references to the time he lived in Berlin as a child.

While searching for information on Sylvanus Nye at the VHS, Vern found Civil War letters written by his brother Cornelius and a letter written by another brother, Chauncey. These brothers were all Berlin natives.

I made a motion that we purchase a lap top computer in the \$600 range and a projector in the \$700 range that would project images from the lap top. The motion was seconded by Lewis Neil and passed unanimously.

The title of Howard Coffin's talk to be given on May 13 at our pot luck dinner meeting is "Civil War Discoveries in Vermont". Cheryl will coordinate with the church and with those attending as to what they will bring. I will send a notice to our members and Norb will post an advertisement in the paper.

We need another member besides Mary to be authorized to sign checks and Norb thought it ought to be someone other than him. We did not make an appointment at this meeting.

Norb had an inquiry from Stacy Cannizzaro asking if we had pictures of the Sironi house located on the Barre-Montpelier Road. We do not but are trying to find someone who has. Howard Coffin asked about mineral springs in Berlin. We will refer him to the Beers Atlas, which shows their locations.

We still haven't decided on the wording for plaques for the bell and desk at the Berlin Elementary School.

We need to have someone to take care of the planters at the Veterans Memorial and are hoping that Nancy Tripp will be willing to take on this task again.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Richard Turner, Secretary