

Berlin Historical Society Minutes of the August 25, 2009 Meeting

The August meeting of the Berlin Historical Society opened at 7:03 PM at the Berlin Town Office Building. Those in attendance were: Norbert Rhinerson, Anita Flanagan, Mary Wells, Walter Wells, Richard Turner, Cheryl Poor, Lynn McManus, Maudean Neill, Lewis Neill and guest Bob Crandall.

The meeting commenced at 7:02 with Maudean presenting the main topic for this meeting "The Herrings of Berlin". The Herrings originally settled in Moretown beginning in 1843. Their holdings were along what became Herring Brook in Moretown. Herring Brook is westerly of and feeds into Jones Brook which is mostly in Berlin. Maudean got interested in the history of the Herring family because this was the area where her in-laws, the Neills, had lived for some 20 years previous to their moving to Berlin. The Herrings expanded into Berlin prior to the Civil War with several of the family going off to fight. Charles Herring (his name was spelled Harran in the records) served from Berlin in Company F of the 2nd Vermont Regiment from July 5, 1861 to June 29, 1864. His brother, Selden, also served although he is not listed as from Berlin at the time. In addition, subsequent to the meeting, I found that another brother, Ira, is listed in our Berlin records of Civil War veterans from Berlin. Maudean tied the family to other familiar names in the area including, the Banfields and Westons of Berlin and the Gidneys of East Montpelier. Her research brought the genealogical record down close to modern times with pictures of the old family farm in Moretown and several of family gatherings. It's interesting to note the different ways the family name has been spelled in various records. In addition to the Herring brothers being listed as Harran in military records other misspellings were: Herrand, Harron, Herran, and Herron.

Maudean's research will be stored in the "Herring" folder in the "Berlin Families" drawer for future reference.

Following Maudean's excellent presentation, I projected the scans that I had made at UVM Bailey/Howe Library in their special collections section onto the screen. The scans were of our five 11"x14" glass plate negatives that were donated by Laura Willey Lewis and were of Berlin Pond. The images are very sharp and can be blown up to show details of buildings around the pond. These images are now stored on our computer and may be found by clicking on: Pictures/Areas of the Town/Berlin Pond/11"x14"glass plate negatives.

The treasurer's report, given by Mary Wells, was approved by the members present. Our total assets are now \$47, 102.67.

The minutes of our July meeting, which were previously sent to our members, were approved as written.

The story of the Berlin quilt that we discussed at the last couple of meetings is now in the "Berlin General" drawer in the "Quilt" folder. Lynn and Norb will try to list as many of the Berlin family names that appear on the quilt as they can to add to the information in the folder.

Norb and I have continued working on numbering and indexing our scrapbooks but there is considerable work left to do. The indexing is by subject and date which allows us to "find" information by searching the index on the computer. We can already use the index for the books we have completed and it provides us with another great resource of Berlin information.

Our main topic for the September 22nd meeting will be "The Turners in Berlin" to be presented by Vern and Richard Turner.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Turner, Secretary