

Minutes of the May 26, 2009 meeting.

Berlin Historical Society

May 26, 2009

Our annual pot luck dinner meeting was held on May 26 at the Berlin Congregational Church annex. It was enjoyed by 22 attendees. Our originally scheduled speaker, Esther Swift, was unable to be there so our president, Norbert Rhinerson, pinch hit for her and gave an excellent presentation on Berlin's post offices and our historical old cemeteries.

Norb utilized power point software and our projector to display many pictures from our collection to enhance his presentation. These included an 1816 letter written by Joseph Staples of Berlin, a 1947 envelope signed by postmaster Israel Dewey who had franking privileges and could just sign his name on the envelope instead of attaching a stamp, and many envelopes postmarked in Berlin, West Berlin and Riverton. It was noted that Berlin has recently made another protracted effort to convince US postal officials that we should have our own post office only to be turned down again. We will probably try again sometime in the future.

Berlin has ten cemeteries within it's boundaries with only one, Berlin Corner, that is active. The others are: Black, Boles, Colby, Cox Brook, Dewey-Wright, East Road, Howard, Johnson-Sawyer and West Berlin. The Town of Berlin now has an Old Cemeteries Commission with an annual budget of \$9000 that is dedicated for keeping up the nine old cemeteries. Our society got the ball rolling a few years ago by making improvements which amounted to clearing brush, putting up signs to identify them and improving some of the boundary fences. Our efforts probably helped convince a recent Select Board of the town's responsibility for their upkeep.

Thanks go out to Norb for taking over in the absence of Ms. Swift and to Cheryl Poor for the coordination of the pot luck dinner.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Turner, Secretary