

Berlin Historical Society Minutes of the September 30, 2009 Meeting

The September meeting of the Berlin Historical Society opened at 7:00 PM at the Berlin Town Office Building. Those in attendance were: Norbert Rhinerson, Anita Flanagan, Richard Turner, Vern Turner, Maudean & Lewis Neill, Stan & Junetta Fitts and guests Bob Crandall, David & Lynn Perrin, Sally Chartrand, Henry Perrin, Colleen Turner, Preston & Chris Turner, their daughter Sarah Nocito and Betty & Brent White.



Descendants of the original Turners in Berlin at the 9/30/2009 BHS Meeting

**Sitting from left: Henry Perrin, Chris Turner (wife of descendent Preston Turner), Sarah Nocito, Bob Crandall and Dave Perrin
Standing from left: Vern Turner, Sally Chartrand, Betty Turner White, Preston Turner, Colleen Turner and Richard Turner**

The program commenced with the presentation of the main topic “The Turners in Berlin” by Vern and Richard Turner. Vern covered the history of the Turner line starting with Humphrey Turner and his wife Lydia Gaymer at the beginning of the 17th century in England, their coming to the Plymouth Plantation about 1630 and the subsequent moves of their descendents through several towns in Mass. and New Hampshire, finally arriving in Norwich, Vermont in 1794. Their next move was to Duxbury, Vt. in 1808 where the first Turners to arrive in Berlin were born and grew up. Vern spoke about the lives of the family in Duxbury, their fighting in the Civil War and the life of our great grandfather, Harrison Turner, homesteading a piece of land in Coventry Gore up near the Canadian border. I then told about the family of Addie Turner Crandall who was the first of the Turner family to arrive in Berlin in 1880 and her convincing her brother, Harrison, to move to Berlin which he did in 1884. Addie and her husband, George, moved to a farm on East Road south of where the airport is now located.



**The Turner Farm on Paine Turnpike - c 1884 (sketch by C. T. Crandall)
The house is still standing – All other buildings have been removed**



The Crandall Home on East Road (it burned in 1959)

Harrison moved to the farm on Paine Turnpike at its intersection with Richardson Road. Vern related the history of the Turner farm starting with Jeremiah Culver who bought and homesteaded two lots in 1795 and then left a portion of his property to each of his eight children in his will in 1829. His

daughter, Polly, and her husband Jesse House bought out the property willed to three of Polly's brothers and sisters and these four parcels became the farm that Harrison bought from Columbus House in 1884. I next told something about the lives of Harrison and his descendents in Berlin, William (our grandfather) & his family including our father, Ranald, and Hiram & his family.

There are no descendents of Harrison with the name Turner still living in Berlin. I moved out of town in 2008 and was the last one. But a couple of his descendents are still living on Scott Hill Road, namely Henry Perrin and Sally Perrin Chartrand who are descended through William and his daughter, Marion Turner Perrin. Likewise there are just a few descendents of Addie still living in Berlin but none with her married name of Crandall. They are Jenn Ingersoll, who lives in West Berlin, Steve Dodson on Brookfield Road near the south end of Berlin Pond and Wendy Manlay also on Brookfield Road just south of the pond (but Wendy has sold her house and will be moving away soon).

The complete story will be on file when Vern and I have it written up and it will be located in the "Turner" folder in the "Berlin Families" drawer. Included will be many pictures of people and places that were part of the presentation. There is also a book of Turner letters written between 1859 and 1884 in our showcase.

Norb showed a picture of the town hall and school at Berlin Corner along with the words that will go on plaques to be attached to the old desk and bell that are displayed at the Berlin Elementary School. His plan is to have the picture on the plaques if it is possible which shows the belfry that held the bell.

Our treasurer, Mary Wells, was not present but left her report with Norb. That report showed our total assets as of Sept. 20 to be \$47,240.02.

Our next meeting will be October 27 and the Nov/Dec meeting will be on December 15. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard Turner, Secretary