

## Berlin Historical Society, Inc Meeting Minutes of the March 24, 2009 Meeting

The meeting opened at 7 PM with Mary Wells, Lynn McManus, Cheryl Poor and Norb Rhinerson.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of January 27 and February 24 were not read or approved.

### **Treasurers Report**

Mary Wells read the treasurers report for both Feb 20 and March 20. The total balance as of March 20 was \$46,420.99.

There was no old business.

### **Program**

The program for evening was presented by Lynn McManus. It was the history of Abel Knapp, who was Berlin's Town Clerk from 1795 til 1845 with only the exception of one year when Gershom Heaton filled that position.

Abel was born in Rehoboth, Mass in 1769, the son of Peter Knapp and Huldah Fuller.

Abel died shortly after leaving his office in 1845 and he is buried in the Berlin Corner Cemetery.

The history was accompanied by pictures and a map of the farm he lived on along the Wolfboro Road in Hanover, New Hampshire. Lynns work is accompanied by the sources of her information.

Norb is planning on putting the text and pictures together and add it to the Berlin Web Site.

Lynn added a touch by providing some Vermont Maple Syrup Trivia as well.

### **Presidents Report**



Norb reported that he had received an interesting show bill of a play that was put on at the District 6 School House on Vine Street just off the "Montpelier Road" as they called it. There were 6 Dodges, including Harvey, and two McLeods'. Beatrice Perry is related to Mary Wells and she was going to find out more about her.

This show bill was given to us by Tom McMorrow, a member of the Washington County Stamp Club and a postcard dealer.

Norb said that he had offered to do the Berlin Cemetery Powerpoint for the Selectboard at some meeting of theirs to familiarize them with these cemeteries as they provide a budget for their maintenance and upkeep each year.

Norb said that he would work on getting plaques for the desk and chair at the Elementary School. He will try to see if we could incorporate a picture of the School at Berlin Corner where they both were used. Richard reminded us of the text we selected in our meeting notice.

### **May Program/Potluck meeting**

We have now had confirmation from Esther Munroe Swift that she will speak to us on May 26 on her book "Footprints of Vermont" and on her knowledge of Berlin. Thanks to Mary and Walter Wells for making this contact. We have also reserved the Congregational Church Parish Hall for this meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup>. Cheryl Poor will be our potluck coordinator.. It looks like we have made all of the arrangements necessary.

### **June 20 Mini Washington County History Expo**

As there is no statewide History Expo this year we will have a smaller one in our area. This will be held on June 20 at the Pavilion Building. There is no particular theme. The affair is being headed up by the Montpelier Historical Society. We will participate and will probably have only a single table for a display. A letter is coming from Montpelier with perhaps more details. We will have to figure out what to display. We no doubt will use our laptop in some way.

There will be other similar Mini History Expos around the state. We have seen the notice of one being held in Bethel which is called the White River Valley Historic Fair and will be later, August 15 at the Whitcomb High School Gym in Bethel.

### **The Great Debate**

It was noted that Paul Gillies is going to debate UVM Frank Bryan on April 1 at the Unitarian Church in Montpelier. "Is it time for a Second Vermont Republic" The notice does not say what side Paul is going to be on.

### **Our Next Meeting**

This will be on April 28

The meeting adjourned at 8 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Norbert Rhinerson, acting Secretary

