

## Berlin Historical Society Minutes of the September 28, 2010 Meeting

The September meeting of the Berlin Historical Society commenced at 7:00 PM at the town office building. The following were present: Lynn McManis, Dave & Lynn Perrin, Junetta & Stan Fitts, Maudean & Lewis Neill, Cheryl Poor, Mary Wells, Vern Turner, Richard Turner and Norb Rhinerson.

I gave a talk entitled "Growing up in Berlin in the 1940's" and used our projector that connects to our computer to show pictures related to the story. The narrative which Vern and I wrote about eight years ago included: School life, At play and Life on the farm. The full story as we wrote it up can be found in the "Turner" folder in the "Berlin General" drawer in our file cabinets.

Mary gave the treasurer's report that showed our total assets to be \$47,959.93.

Norb told about visiting the cellar hole of the house owned by Austin Peck in the 1870's with Wendy Carter who was a descendent of Austins. The cellar hole is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Brookfield and Darling Roads.

Lynn cleared up some of the confusion over whether Eleazer Hubbard was in the service during the Revolutionary War. We do not have proof of this but Eleazer's cousin Elizer was in the war.

Several members attended a program of old Vermont songs that was held at the Berlin Congregational Church. The soloist was Linda Radke and one of the songs she sang was "My Berlin Town". Most of us had not heard it sung before or if we had we didn't remember the tune. The program was thoroughly enjoyed by all that attended.

William Casey has been researching Cornelius Nye's participation in the Civil War. Cornelius, a Berlin resident, was killed in the battle of the Wilderness along with 1200 other Vermonters during the first day of the battle. There is a monument for Cornelius in the East Road Cemetery but he was buried on the battlefield as attested by the words on the monument. William pointed out that it was erroneously indicated in "A Place to Pass Through" that he was buried in the East Road Cemetery. William has left us a copy of his story about Cornelius which is the result of a lot of research.

We had an inquiry as to what was located on the Kentucky Fried Chicken lot on the Barre-Montpelier Road prior to its being built. It is believed to be the first structure to be on the lot.

We answered a query about the old Dewey District #5 School on the Northfield Road and sent them a picture of it taken by Rev. Arthur Hewitt back in 1923. We asked them to send any additional information that they have to us but haven't heard back yet.

We are waiting to hear from Sylvia Parker as to whether she will be available to make a presentation at our pot luck dinner meeting next May. Sylvia wrote an article about the "Cottage" on Erhardt Hill and Bela Bartok who stayed there one summer. Her article appeared in a recent edition of the Vermont Historical Society magazine. Norb has talked to Mark Hudson the Director of the Vermont Historical Society who is a possible alternative is Sylvia isn't available.

We are still looking for someone to help Norb with keeping our scrapbooks up to date with Berlin clippings from the local newspapers.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Richard Turner, Secretary

