

# Berlin Historical Society

## Notice

The September meeting of the Berlin Historical Society will be held on Tuesday, September 27, 2011 at 7:00 PM at the town office building.

Dave Perrin will be our featured speaker at the meeting talking about the Perrin family who were among the very first settlers of Berlin.

Other items:

- Status of the Barre-Montpelie/E. F. Knapp Airport book.
- West Berlin/Riverton postmasters.
- Inquiry into the Sawyer family.
- Fireproof files.

Richard Turner

Secretary

## August Minutes

August 23, 2011

The August meeting of the Berlin Historical Society commenced at 7:03 PM at the town office building. The following were present: Maudean & Lewis Neill, Cheryl Poor, Anita Flannigan, Richard Turner, Norb Rhinerson, Mary Wells, Junetta & Stan Fitts and Mary & Manny Garcia.

The secretary's report for the July meeting was accepted as written.

I reported that I have taken my manuscript of the airport book to a printer by the name of Town

and Country Reprographics in Concord, NH. They will work on putting it into form for printing a soft cover book 7"x10" in size. When completed they will send me a copy for my approval before printing. I've decided to have them print 200 copies to start with and will order more as needed. They have assured me that they will print more on short notice at the same cost per book as the original order. Norb and I looked in our past meeting minutes and found out that we printed 750 copies of *A Place to Pass Through* and now have about 200 left. I hope to have the book printed before I leave for the winter in mid-October. Mary checked with the state tax department and found out we do not have to collect a sales tax when we sell the book because the total value of the sales will not exceed \$20,000.



Norb has been busy taking pictures of all the monuments in the Berlin Corner Cemetery. He has completed this monumental :>) task and will now work on indexing them to our list of names that was accomplished by members of our society back in 1985. We have acquired section maps for this cemetery and now have maps of all our cemeteries except Cox Brook. We also have pictures of monuments in all cemeteries except Johnson-Sawyer and Cox Brook.

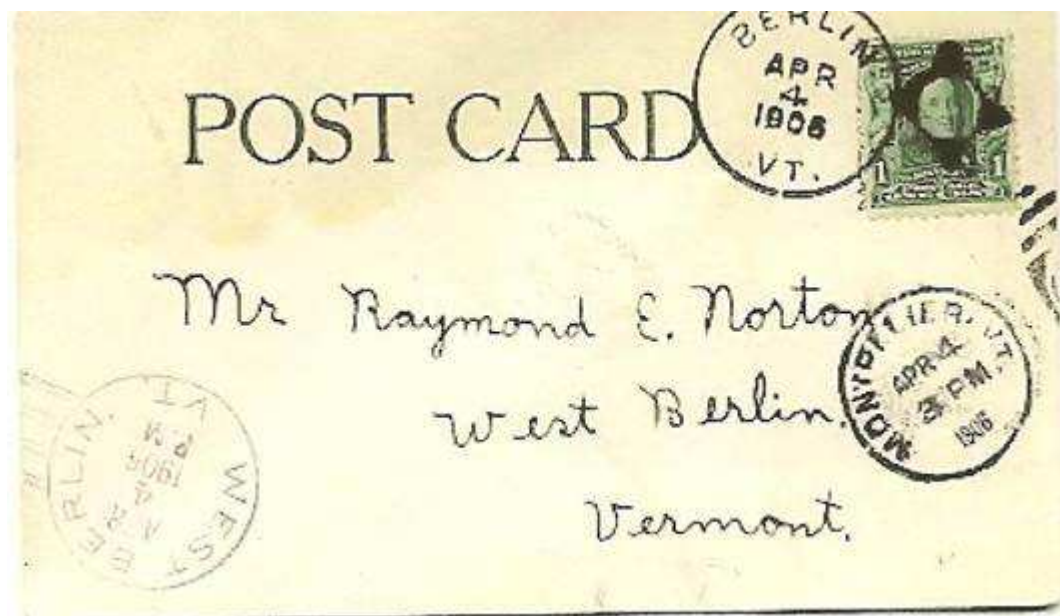
Here is a satellite photo of the Berlin Corner Cemetery showing the roads into the cemetery off Scott Hill Road. The various sections of the cemetery between roads have been labeled alphabetically.

Norb brought up again the subject of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War which has already started and will go on for the next four years. We will be putting together information on the men from Berlin who sacrificed themselves in that noble cause. Maudean plans to look up pension records in the national archives and we all need to explore all other means of obtaining information on those who served.

We decided to again discuss whether we ought to fund the cost of a new fence for the Veterans Memorial at Berlin Corner. We talked about it at the last meeting and it was thought to be something that the town should take responsibility for. However, in looking at our records we found that we have been largely responsible for it ever since it was created. We mowed it for a number of years until the town agreed to take over that task along with the mowing of our old cemeteries. We have replaced the flag a number of times and we have kept up the flowers. After discussion a motion was made by Cheryl Poor to buy materials for a new fence for a cost of around \$700 provided the town or others would supply the labor for installation. I seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. It should be mentioned here (this was not discussed at the meeting) that there is a time capsule buried in 1991 next to the memorial base that is to be opened on the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the town in 2091. It is our responsibility to bring this fact up occasionally so the members of the Berlin Historical Society at that time will be aware of its presence.

Dave Perrin will be at our September meeting to talk about the Berlin Perrins who were among the first settlers of our town. Manny Garcia will present a program at our October meeting entitled *Transportation in Central Vermont*.

Below is a copy of a post card (we do not have the original) that was sent to Raymond Norton who lived on Crosstown Road near the house where Rev. Arthur Hewitt lived. The card was posted at Berlin Corner on April 4, 1906 where Charles Kimball was the then postmaster. It travelled to Montpelier where it was given a receiving stamp at 2PM (or possibly 3PM) the same day. It then was sent to West Berlin where it was received by Postmistress Ella M. Ayers also on April 4. That was pretty good service for that time. We do not know whether it went by horse and buggy or by automobile and also have no information as to when Raymond picked it up.



Norb put on a slide show of some of our pictures of Berlin Pond, Benjamin Falls and George Bosworth photos that he had prepared for the Washington County History Fair held in July.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 and members were treated with lemonade provided by Anita Flanagan and homemade cookies prepared by Cheryl Poor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Turner, Secretary