

Berlin Historical Society

Minutes of the September 25, 2007 Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Berlin Historical Society opened at 7:10 PM on September 25 at the Berlin Town Office Building. Members in attendance were: Norbert Rhinerson, Lynn McManus, Mary Wells, Elene Sartell, Cheryl Poor, Tom Williams, Vernon Turner, Cathy Brimblecombe and Richard Turner. Also two guests, John Stockton and Terry Brigham Stockton.

The minutes of the August meeting were approved with corrections made in the spelling of several names and in the increase of \$2.00 to the amount reported as our total assets. The Treasurer's Report showing our total assets as of September 20 to be \$45,344.36, was given by Mary Wells and approved as reported. Mary also reported that the Town of Berlin has now been paid the 2007 yearly fee of \$250 that we owe for heating, electricity etc.

The subject of Joe's barn was brought up again. We have very few things left there and there was not any interest in our retaining them for our society. So we will see if we can locate any museum that would be interested in them as a donation. In the meantime, we will remove them from the barn and thus get out from the monthly charge.

Norb mentioned that he and I have put together an article for the town newsletter that explains our accomplishments this year.

We have taken pictures of the Cox Brook Schoolhouse, which is now owned by Mark Jenkinson. Mark allowed us to copy his old picture of the school and two pictures of school children in front of the schoolhouse. All of these pictures were in the 1930's to 1940's era.

Cheryl Poor found out that the old Berlin Corner teacher's desk is still at the Berlin Elementary School. Norb and I will visit the school to take a picture of it and while there will also film the old school bell that was in the Berlin Corner school belfry.

I brought in the three new acquisitions that we bought off from the E-bay auction. These were a broadside warning of a meeting of Berlin Town Officers on January 31, 1899; a history of the Mackenzie Memorial Church by Reverend Arthur Hewitt; and a picture of a Berlin covered bridge which is believed to be the one that spanned Rowell Hill Road over the Dog River.

Cheryl Poor allowed me to copy a painting that she borrowed of the Buck house that burned down in 1963.

A Forrest Paine from Texas contacted me via e-mail to find out where the name of the Paine Turnpike came from. When researching his family tree he came across the name and Googled Berlin to get our address. I sent him information on Elijah Paine, who built the turnpike, and Governor Charles Paine, Elijah's son. He promised to send us information on Paine genealogy if he finds that Elijah is descended from the same line of Cape Cod Paines that he is descended from. I contacted Adam Boyce from Williamstown to see if he had any more information on Elijah, which he didn't. But he did have a story that relates to Berlin and will give a talk which will include the story if we so request. It seems there was a fiddler from Berlin, James Paul, who played for a dance in Williamstown and was nearly excommunicated from a Berlin Church.

Anita Flannigan donated a pair of bookends that had belonged to her parents, Walter and Martha Picker. Thanks Anita.

We decided to continue our membership in the Vermont Historical Society. Mary will send in the dues.

We received an offer of several books from Carol O'Grady whose father went to school in Northfield. However, none of them related to Berlin so we declined her offer.

Looking ahead, we have to check out the theme for next years History Expo and decide if we are going to participate. Also, Howard Coffin an author of several Civil War books, has agreed to be our speaker for our annual dinner meeting next May.

The next meeting will be on October 23 and the November/December meeting will be on December 11.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Turner, Secretary