

Norb Rhinerson

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Sent: Friday, October 24, 2008 10:25 AM
Subject: October Meeting Notice and September Minutes

Berlin Historical Society

Notice

The October meeting of the Berlin Historical Society will be held on Tuesday, October 28, 2008 at 7:00 PM at the town office building.

At the September meeting we decided that we should have a major topic for our meetings with members taking turns in presentations. In keeping with this Maudean Neill offered to make the presentation for this meeting. Her subject is the Ku Klux Klan in Vermont. Maudean has researched the subject and written a book entitled "Fiery Crosses in the Green Mountains".

We also have borrowed a large collection of Montpelier pictures that include many of Berlinside which is that part of Montpelier that was annexed from Berlin about 1899. We will have these at the meeting.

Richard Turner
 Secretary

October Meeting Minutes

Berlin Historical Society

September 23, 2008

The monthly meeting of the Berlin Historical Society opened at 7:05 PM at the Berlin Town Office Building. Those in attendance were: Norbert Rhinerson, Lynn McManus, Lewis & Maudean Neill, Mary Wells, Tom Williams, Cathy Brimblecomb, Elene Sartell, Richard Turner and guest Dave Perrin.

The minutes of the August meeting that had previously been sent to members were approved as written. Treasurer, Mary Wells, reported that our assets as of September 20th were \$45,614.51. There was no full report available at the time of this meeting.

Agendas for future meetings were discussed and it was suggested that members take turns preparing

a main topic for each meeting. Then other topics of interest that had occurred during the month could be added to the agenda to fill out the rest of the meeting. It was felt that having a main topic might boost attendance at future meetings. Members present reacted very favorably to this suggestion with the following persons volunteering to make presentations:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Maudean Neill	October 2008	The Ku Klux Klan in Vermont
Mary Wells	Nov/Dec 2008	Dan Perry
David Perrin	Later date	The Perrin's in Berlin
Elene Sartell	Later date	The Brigham's in Berlin

I suggest that each presenter prepare a written summary of their subject relating all the important highlights. This summary would then be added to our files for future reference. There is nothing more frustrating than to read in past minutes where a member gave a talk on an interesting subject (especially about Berlin) but there is no clue as to what was said. This is especially true when the presenter may be the only one who knew the story and now that they are gone the story is lost.

Norb has scheduled a meeting with Brenda Thow who lives in the area of Berlin that was annexed by Montpelier. She is interested in any information we have on this area.

I brought in my latest post card purchases from e-bay. They were two postcards showing the Hills Farm Tourist Camp on US-2 in Middlesex just outside the Montpelier City limits. There is a bi-winged airplane parked in front of the restaurant/service station in one of them. I purchased the postcards because of the airplane to add to the history of the Barre-Montpelier Airport. I had heard that it was popular during the early years of the airport to land in a hayfield next to the Three Mile Bridge Road (after haying was done) and stop in at the restaurant for a coffee or breakfast. This picture proves the story.



Bi-winger parked in front of the Hills Farm Restaurant on US-2 in Middlesex

Norb presented a slide show on Berlin post offices. He has accumulated a lot of information over the last few years with some interesting Berlin postmarked letters and has

turned his collection over to our society. The collection includes postmarks from the Berlin Corner post office that was in operation from 1825 to 1908, the West Berlin post office which was in operation from 1874 to 1918 when the name was changed to Riverton, and the Riverton post office until it closed in 1988. The collection includes lists of postmasters at the three post offices and their terms of office. The first letter in the collection was dated in 1816 before there was a post office in Berlin. It was carried by a friend as was done in those days. Norbs favorite envelope and the earliest one that we have from a Berlin post office was signed by Israel Dewey, our first postmaster and was dated in 1847. Israel, as the postmaster on limited salary, was allowed franking privileges for his personal mail.



1847 Envelope signed by Israel Dewey

We are indebted to Norb for this gift to our society. The collection is available for all to view in the Nye/Woodbury room and will be located in a notebook in the **Post Office** file drawer.

We have purchased two more scrapbooks and will be posting more of our newspaper clippings in them and indexing them on the computer for future reference.

Thanks again to Nancy Tripp for her work on the plantings at the Veterans Memorial. It is important to keep the site looking its best in honor of all of Berlin's Veterans.

Tom Williams brought in apples from the old Andrews Orchard on his property. The orchard is still producing Magog, Bethel and Wolf River apples which are hard to find anymore.

The next meeting will be October 28.

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard Turner, Secretary