

The Berlin Informer

East Berlin Historical Preservation Society

July-September 2018

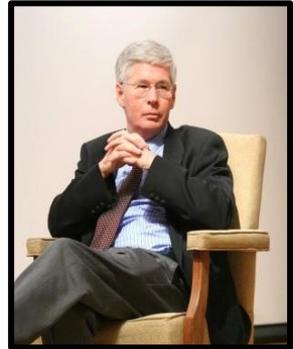
Vol. XXXIV No. 87

**The East Berlin Historical Preservation Society
and
East Berlin VFW Post 8896
*proudly co-sponsor***

“Captured but not Forgotten: How US Intelligence secretly contacted Allied Prisoners held in German camps during WWII and American POWs detained in the infamous Hanoi Hilton”.

David C. Taylor, a Peabody and Emmy award winning documentary filmmaker, will provide an ongoing narrative with clips from two of his productions, “The Great Escape” and “The Spy in the Hanoi Hilton”.

Mr. Taylor has produced more than 100 independent film programs for the BBC, The History Channel, A&E, National Geographic, Smithsonian and Discovery.



Free and Open to the Public

Wednesday, July 18, 2018, at 7:30 p.m.

AT

VFW Post 8896, 107 Locust St., East Berlin, PA

A Message from the President

Summer is upon us; a time to enjoy the outdoors, a time to enjoy friends, and a time to enjoy travel. I hope that all of you take advantage of the season and when you travel you visit historic sites. See what others are trying to preserve, what is important to them, and how they are doing it. Then come back to East Berlin and put your newfound knowledge to work to make for a better historical society and a better East Berlin.

While it may be vacation time, your historical society never rests. The Building Committee is busy arranging for much needed work on our properties. The Ways and Means Committee continues to think up and execute fund raising events (good job on the last tea!), and all of the other committees continue to do their work. Even impromptu committees continue to do their thing as the cleanup of the third floor of Red Men's Hall demonstrated.

Why don't you join in? There is always room for another set of hands.

Have a good summer and begin getting ready for the many events your society has planned for the remainder of this year.

Michael Hrinyak, President

Did you.....

.....notice that the July 18 meeting featuring David C. Taylor is being held at the VFW Post 8896 in anticipation of a large crowd?

.....notice that November's general meeting has been rescheduled for Nov. 14?

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E.B.H.P.S.
332 West King St.
P.O. Box 73
East Berlin, PA 17316

www.ebhpspa.org
717-259-0822
ebhps@comcast.net

Editor/Publisher- Bev Jadus
bai12@verizon.net

What **is** the Ways and Means Committee up to? Recently, Committee members along with other members of EBHPS have run two successful fundraisers.

On April 30, a combined hot dog and bake sale at the Church School House attracted customers on their way to and from the EBACC Yard Sale. The aroma from the grill was an incentive to savor a grilled hot dog while the bars, cookies and fudge tempted passersby as well. Quite a few Society members donated baked goods for the sale. Not a morsel remained when the sale closed down in the early afternoon.



Sharon gets the early sales going



How about a breakfast hot dog?

Most recently, the Society's Spring Colonial Fashion Show Tea attracted twenty-two guests. The Society is establishing a reputation for fine fare beautifully presented. Linda Clark, our "resident" musician, entertained the group with harpsichord music. At the conclusion of the food service, Jane Fox served as M.C. for the fashion show which featured period clothing from the Society's collection.



Many hands working for.....another successful tea.

The Ways and Means committee will continue to initiate ideas and, with the continued support of the Society, carry them forward to successful completion. It is gratifying to see income generated, membership involvement increase, and news of the good work of the Society spread widely.

Submitted by Lucia Hrinjak

Another note on the tea:

We will be planning another tea for the fall and are in need of donations for this purpose. We are looking for nice cream and sugars, china dinnerware, silverware or stainless steel flatware and teapots. Since the items are for a specific need please call the Society and leave us a message or contact Jane Fox, Sue Hess, Sharon O'Connell or Lucia Hrinjak at our next meeting. It would be most helpful if you could take a picture of your items.

Submitted by Jane Fox



Presidential wig adjustment



M. C. Jane Fox and model Erma Barnhart



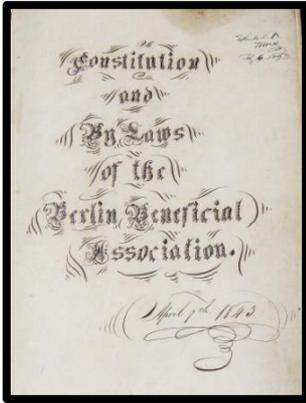
Model Megan Smith



Carol Carlson goes Colonial

A Beneficial Donation

The Society has received the original records of the Berlin Beneficial Society, a group formed in 1843 to provide what we would now call health insurance benefits to members. Many thanks to Marilyn Hoover for donating these records to the Society.



Four large ledgers contain the by-laws and constitution, minutes from inception to 1892 and the "Names of Old People of East Berlin".

It is interesting to note that the first meetings took place in the **brick** schoolhouse. Where would that have been in 1843?

The by-laws make it clear that the organization was vigilant in its work. Applying members were to be free of all diseases and infirmities and also to be of good moral character.

Members paid in money as noted in the ledgers and after a year could apply for benefits which ranged from \$3.50 a week if completely bedridden to \$25 for burial fees. Disability due to age or mental derangement brought \$2.50 weekly.

Duties were taken very seriously and all were expected to participate in visiting the ill. Extra funds were raised as fines were imposed for failure to attend funerals, drunkenness, fraud, feigning illness, leaving meetings early, refusing to serve when elected to office, and many other infractions. Benefits were withheld due to venereal disease, boxing (except in self defense), horseracing or "any other immoral conduct".

The latest date found in the ledgers is 1893 by which time the minutes had become very brief and mention was made of inquiries into financial status.

Submitted by Bev Jadus

Scott Mingus Program

On Wednesday, September 19, author Scott Mingus will present a PowerPoint talk on origins of the Underground Railroad and its early workings in the Susquehanna River region through the early days of the Civil War. He will discuss leading conductors in the river area, as well as routes through Adams and York counties. Copies of his Civil War and Underground Railroad books will be for sale before and after the talk.

Old vs. New

East Berlin Pennsylvania is a town of historical significance having been founded prior to the Revolutionary War in 1764. Those that settled here built sturdy homes, churches, and schools, some of which still stand today. These early settlers built the town not only to last but to flourish. Today, I believe it has a strong sense of community and is a place where neighbors come together to help one another preserve not only the integrity but the continuity of their community.

That said, sometimes change becomes necessary. Yet we all know change is never easy. There are those who become used to the ways things have been done in the past and will not be accepting of the new changes. If only I had a nickel for every time someone told me, "but we have always done it this way". Others embrace the change and see it as an opportunity to inject many new ideas.

The key here is balance, to have the opportunity to keep it fresh yet find a way to blend the new into the old and keep events like Colonial Day alive. So, at this year's event you will see that changes have indeed been made. However, I hope you find that we will continue to offer you a day filled with wonderful goods being offered by the vendors who will continue to line our streets, along with good food and music to make for an enjoyable day. Looking forward to seeing you at our 44th annual Colonial Day event!

Submitted by Laura Ferrara

June 9 a Clean Sweep!

If you have ever visited the third floor of Red Men's Hall you likely did not plan to return. Most of it is one huge open room, an area which over the years attracted everything that couldn't find another home but was kept in hopes of someone needing it again. This floor had not been cleaned and reorganized for MANY years, but it met its match when volunteers pitched in on June 9.

Dust flew, boxes were sorted and reorganized, at least 35 years of financial records were ordered correctly, scrap metal was transferred via human chain down two flights of stairs to await recycling, shop vacs attacked the floor, and many large trash bags were filled with "stuff" of no value. Meanwhile, work continued on the first floor where some of the early Colonial Day records were being thinned out ready for their trip back upstairs.

The "Crew" (Mike Loges, Lucia Hrinayak, Bill Powell, Lois Loges, Mary Kollmar, Erma Barnhart, Bev Jadus, and Michael Hrinayak) then relaxed and enjoyed their pot luck meal (delicious!) **THANK YOU ALL!**

Building Report

Log House: The process of determining the best approach to the many log house issues is ongoing. Since the last Informer, Sam McKinney (chief restorer at the Dill Tavern complex) has looked over the building and offered advice, but he is very busy and not available to work at this time. Relics, an architectural salvage and restoration business from Union Bridge, MD, has done a thorough assessment and provided a very detailed estimate of work needed, breaking down options clearly. (To do it all would cost \$100K plus.) Volunteers will be meeting with another restoration company from the Lancaster area this week. It is hoped that at least the most critical repairs and preventive work can somehow be done for a sum the Society can manage. Also, the Society has received notice that the log house has been assessed for tax purposes for the first time ever, so we will have to file an appeal as a nonprofit organization.

Log Schoolhouse: Scott Hull is finishing work on the windows and other repairs.

Red Men's Hall: Several weeks ago the front overhang was damaged when a driver lost control, slammed into a nearby car and then drove through two of the metal posts which support the roof. One pole then slammed into the porch of the house just to the east. Richard Fox sprang into action and by the next day had temporary replacements in place. The Society has received a check from the driver's insurance company and Scott Hull has agreed to do the permanent repairs.

Submitted by Bill Powell

Hearth Cooking Guild

The next cooking date is set for June 24. We have researched cookbooks from the 1700 and 1800's to learn more about preparation at the hearth and will be cooking beef on a string with side dishes of cabbage with a cream dressing and a German puff. A caraway seed cake will serve as dessert this time. I am sure this will keep us all busy through the day.

Submitted by Jane Fox



2018 Calendar of Events

DATE

EVENT

TIME

LOCATION

July 18	Board Meeting	6 p.m.	Red Men's Hall
	General Meeting	7:30 p.m.	VFW Post 8896

David C. Taylor, Peabody and Emmy Award winning documentary filmmaker

“Captured but not Forgotten: How US Intelligence secretly contacted Allied prisoners held in German camps during WWII and American POWs detained in the infamous Hanoi Hilton”.

August 15	Board Meeting	6 p.m.	Red Men's Hall
September 8	COLONIAL DAY	8 a.m.-4 p.m.	Everyone participate
September 19	Board Meeting	6 p.m.	Red Men's Hall
	General Meeting	7:30 p.m.	Red Men's Hall

Scott Mingus: “The Underground Railroad in the Susquehanna Region”

October 17	Board Meeting	6 p.m.	Red Men's Hall
November 14	Board Meeting	6 p.m.	Red Men's Hall
	Gen. Meeting/Election	7:30	Red Men's Hall
	Vote on By-law Revisions		
November 23, 24, 25	Log House Craft Show	10 a.m.-4 p.m.	Log House
December 9	House Tour	TBA	TBA
December 15	Christmas Party	6 p.m.	Red Men's Hall
December 19	Board Meeting	6 p.m.	Red Men's Hall

