

# The Berlin Informer

East Berlin Historical Preservation Society

July – September 2023

Vol. XXXIII No. 7



## Red Men's Parade Decorations Ca. 1918

**Can someone provide information about this annual event?**

## **President's Message**

First off, I would like to thank all of our members for their help with our events in the last quarter. Our volunteers stepped up and made our Spring Tea and Strawberry Fest huge successes. I would like to recognize both Casey Chubb and Casey Grim for coordinating and leading both events. We also had an educational event lead by Rob and other members speaking on the history of East Berlin at the Lake Meade Community Center. The community response was very encouraging and we look forward to doing more educational presentations.

We also had another great guest speaker, SueAnne Keim, who delivered a fantastic presentation on the history of nursing during the 1800's. We hope to have her back again in the future.

During the month of May, EBHPS partnered with the library and were given two display cases to use to promote some of our historical society items for display. Thanks to Darrin Youker for coordinating and setting up these display cases. We look forward to working with the library again in the future.

Speaking of looking towards the future, we still have more to do and we are excited for the next series of events. Fall Fest is right around the corner and we are excited to participate and expand our mission vision with the community. Membership is growing, so stay tuned for more details.

“Determine never to be idle ... It is wonderful how much may be done if we are always doing.” — Thomas Jefferson.”

Daniel Chubb/President

## Civil War Nurse Visits Red Men's Hall

Sue Ann Keim enlightened the audience at Red Men's Hall on May 20<sup>th</sup> about what women and men endured during the Civil War when it came to medical needs. Sue Ann is not only a retired nurse but she portrays a Civil War nurse at the Daniel Lady Farm outside of Gettysburg.



She began the talk by explaining the different types of clothing women wore and how they kept these items clean. Dresses were not washed as often as one might think. Hems usually became dirty and so they would be brushed off and be ready to wear again!

Sue Ann talked about how women became involved in nursing due to war showing up at their doorsteps as in Gettysburg. The conditions both doctors and nursed worked in were horrendous. She explained that the Minie ball, which was the ammunition used by both sides during the conflict, was made of soft lead and did not travel at great speed. If a soldier was hit in his arm or leg and the bone was shattered then amputation was the only way to save the soldier's life. Sue Ann had some of the various instruments doctors used to locate the bullet and perform the surgery. Surgeries were usually performed on barn doors or house doors. Of course, she explained, disinfectant was unheard of at this time. Doctors went from surgery to surgery without washing their hands or wiping down the operating table. Therefore, infections were the norm and many men died.



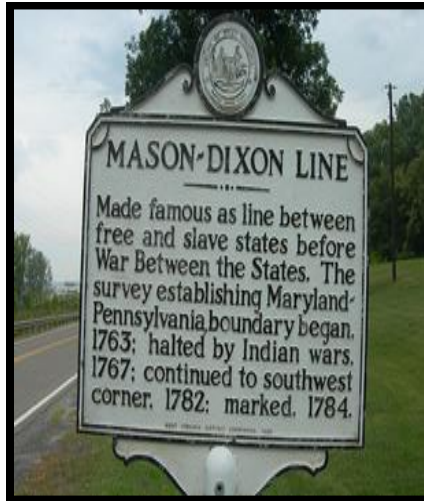
Sue Ann ended her presentation talking about the setting up of Camp Letterman outside of Gettysburg. She said it was like a small city. The location was chosen because of proximity to water and it was away from the wreckage of Gettysburg. The tents were large and airy. Nurses cared for the soldiers' wounds and provided good food. Nurses also provided soldiers with moral and spiritual support. They were most certainly the Civil War's unsung heroines!

### Ether Demonstration

Photos courtesy of Mike Loges

Submitted by Sharon O'Connell

# “The Mason-Dixon Line Dispute”



**David Peters** will discuss the history of the 80-year border dispute between the colonies of Maryland and Pennsylvania, which led to the creation of the Mason - Dixon line as their common border.

**Wednesday, July 19, at 7:30 p.m.**  
**Red Men's Hall, 332 West King St.**

---

## *The Berlin Informer*

Published 4 times a year by the East Berlin Historical Preservation Society and provided to society members as a benefit of their support. All materials are Copyright of the **East Berlin Historical Preservation Society** and may not be reproduced without permission.

E.B.H.P.S.  
332 West King St.  
P.O. Box 73

[www.ebhpspa.org](http://www.ebhpspa.org)  
717-259-0822

Editor/Publisher- Bev Jadus  
[baj12@verizon.net](mailto:baj12@verizon.net)

## **Membership**

**Welcome** to new members: Barbara Angelino, Lillie Shockney and William and Rosie Hartman, all of East Berlin!

Half the year is over and still some have not renewed their membership for 2023. Sometimes the time gets away from you. Please consider renewing as soon as possible. If you know anyone who is interested in history and preservation, think about asking them to join and become an active member. We have a very diverse group of people and will welcome any new members.

Submitted by Hanna Furst

## **Treasurer's Report**

Society events this year are starting to help our finances, but we are far from meeting basic operating expenses.

I have been watching the interest rates and working with both Truist and ACNB banks to get the best rates for the Society's money. It's a juggling act, but you have to go where you get the best return.

The Board is contemplating some new ideas which we hope will provide funds for preserving our buildings and East Berlin heritage.

Submitted by Hanna Furst

## **Hearth Committee**

The hearth cooking group met on June 11, 2023, to prepare a meal at the log house. The hearth fire was started at 10 a.m., we began cooking shortly after noon, and shared our meal together around 2:30 p.m. The menu consisted of: roast chicken, fried potato balls, steamed asparagus, potato rolls and rhubarb pie. The chicken was turned in a tin kitchen (reflector oven). We also used Dutch ovens, trivets and a spider pan (fry pan with legs).

Everything turned out well with the exception of the pie, which browned well but didn't thicken as well as expected. Imagine controlling the temperature of your pan through either the distance from the fire or the amount of coals placed underneath and/or on the lid of your Dutch oven. We learn something new with each cooking event. It was quite warm by the end of the day, with the outside temperature reaching 87 with humidity of 90%.

Submitted by Scott Hull

# Strawberry Festival Welcomes Community

Scenes on the grounds of Swigart's Mill:  
Food, Fun and History on June 10!



The Chubb Gang



A Happy Funnel Cake Customer



Strawberries Anyone?



Blacksmith Demonstration



A Perfect Day



Michael Hrinjak, Mill Tour Guide

# **Memories of Home Front Conditions During World War II**

Following are excerpts from an article written by Dr. John F. Schwartz, East Berlin Optometrist, on August 14, 1995, on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of V-J Day.

During those war years:

Tires almost impossible to get.

All suitcases were hard cases – to sit on in trains and buses.

No passenger limits on buses and trains – stood or sat in aisles.

Civilian air travel practically non-existent.

Book paper was thin and poor quality.

No elastic – underwear held up by buttons, snaps, and pins.

Skirts were shorter and narrower to save material

Men's trousers had no pleats or end cuffs to save material.

If on a long visit, took ration stamps for host.

War stamps used as corsages at dances.

Time was on WAR TIME – two hours ahead in summer & one in winter.

Bridges across Susquehanna river(sic) at Harrisburg were guarded.

V - J DAY – AUGUST 14, 1945 – At least, that was the day Japan capitulated and hostilities ceased.

Great elation. PEACE AT LAST.

---

**The cost of mailing The East Berlin Informer continues to rise with the frequent price increases at the USPS. Several years ago the number of yearly issues was cut from six to four to economize and a number of members chose to receive their copies via email. The resulting savings on paper, postage, printer ink and machine wear and tear, and sealing tabs are a plus for the Society. It all helps.**

**If you wish to receive a digital copy starting with the Oct. thru Nov. issue, please leave a message at [ebhps@comcast.net](mailto:ebhps@comcast.net) with your name and email address.**

# ***EBHPS 2023 Calendar of Events***

**Board meetings are held at 6 p.m. on the third  
Wednesday of each month.**

<b>July 19</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>RMH</b>
	<b>Speaker: David Peters</b> <b>“The Mason – Dixon Line Dispute”</b>		
<b>September 9</b>	<b>EBACC Fall Festival</b>		<b>EBACC</b>
<b>September 20</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>RMH</b>
	<b>Speaker: Jim McClure</b> <b>“Presidential Visits to York County”</b>		
<b>November 15</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>“</b>
	<b>Speaker: Tom Davidson</b> <b>“The Lincoln Highway Across Pennsylvania”</b> <b><u>Election of Executive Board</u></b>		
<b>December 9</b>	<b>Christmas Dinner</b>	<b>6 p.m.</b>	<b>“</b>