

The Berlin Informer

East Berlin Historical Preservation Society

www.ebhpspa.org

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Society Membership

Contributor: Peggy Bange, Membership Chairman

We would like to welcome the seven new members who joined on Colonial Day 2014: Jim Coleman & Nancy Barnett (Arendtsville), Glenn Mulvey (East Berlin), Dennis & Kathy Neiman (East Berlin), Joy Rosoff (East Berlin), and Michael Schen (New Oxford).

Your membership in the Society is based on a calendar year and membership dues are due in January of each year. **Enclosed with this issue of *The Berlin Informer*, you are receiving the renewal application for dues for the calendar year 2015.** (The membership form is also available on the society's website.) Please pay your dues by December 31, 2014. If 2015 dues are not paid by January 31, 2015, your name will be removed from the active membership list and you will no longer receive *The Berlin Informer*. Please make sure you include your current email address on the membership form.

Note: Some members submit multiple payments for the same membership year. If you submit multiple payments for the same year, we will extend your membership and not return the funds. **Please check your paid through membership date on the cover of *The Berlin Informer*, above your name.**

We had an early renewal Colonial Day Special for all members, and we received renewal applications representing 38 members. Thanks to all of the members who renewed early.

We would also suggest that you think about giving a 2015 membership in your Society as a Holiday Gift. The enclosed renewal form contains a special area where you can designate a Holiday Gift Membership. All Holiday Gift Membership recipients will receive a letter from the Membership Chairman informing them of their gift membership and acknowledging the donor of the membership.

I would like to thank you in advance for your prompt membership renewal. ↑

Log House Christmas Craft Show & Sale

Jane Fox and Connie Rogers have another great Log House Christmas Crafts Show & Sale planned for this year. There are currently approximately ten vendors who have agreed to sell their traditional holiday crafts at the Show. The Show & Sale is one of the Society's three annual fundraisers to support the expenses of the Society. Please plan to attend the Show & Sale, as it is a great time to buy holiday gifts for friends and family and, at the same time, support your Society. Dates and hours of operation are on the back cover of this newsletter. ↑

Board of Directors Seeks New Leadership for *The 1764 Preservation Fund*

The EBHPS Board of Directors is seeking a new leader(s) for *The 1764 Preservation Fund*.

In 2012, Peggy and Clair Bange approached the Board with the concept of soliciting funds from area businesses and organizations for the preservation of the Society's buildings. The Board approved the concept and Peggy and Clair then submitted an action plan to the Board for the implementation of *The 1764 Preservation Fund*.

As previously reported in *The Berlin Informer*, "*The 1764 Preservation Fund* is designed for companies and organizations to provide annual contributions for the ongoing preservation of the Society's buildings. All contributions will be dedicated to the preservation of the Society's five buildings."

In 2013, approximately 90 local area businesses and organizations were contacted by Peggy and Clair and asked to provide donations to the Society that would be used exclusively for the preservation of the five building which the Society maintains. Seven organizations responded with contributions totaling \$1325. This year, 2014, approximately 100 local area businesses and organizations were contacted and asked to provide donations to the Society. The original seven organizations responded positively and four new organizations responded with contributions. 2014 contributions totaled \$2450, for an 85% increase over 2013.

Earlier this year, Peggy and Clair informed the Board that they want to pass the torch to another Society member or members to manage the solicitation of memberships in *The 1764 Preservation Fund*. The expectation is that we can find someone who has knowledge of and relationships with many of the local area businesses and organizations, so that they can use those relationships to help increase the number of organizations making an annual contribution and increase the level of contributions for current *1764 Preservation Fund* members.

As the income from our current fundraisers either remains static or in some situations are starting to decline, it is critical that we continue to develop and grow *The 1764 Preservation Fund*.

If you have an interest in helping to continue building the preservation fund to maintain the Society's buildings, then please contact Bev Jadus, either by phone or email, at Red Men's Hall to express your interest in this leadership position. The email address and phone number are in the masthead on page 1. **We would like to have new leadership in place by mid-December 2014, so solicitation can begin in January 2015 before everyone gives their donations to other organizations.** Peggy and Clair will assist the new leadership with past practices and the mailing list. †

2015 Historic East Berlin Antique Show

Mark you calendars now for the 2015 antique show. The preview will be Thursday evening, April 30, 2015. The show will then continue on May 1 and 2, 2015 for general admission. We again expect to provide free admittance to the show on May 1 and 2 to current EBHPS members. †

Message from Your Board President - Bev Jodus

If you have driven past the log schoolhouse or the back of Red Men's in the last few weeks you have probably noticed some busy contractors, hard at work outside replacing rotten boards and sills, scraping, priming, glazing and painting. Interior work at the schoolhouse began today and should be finished when you receive this. By then both crews will have moved on to the log house to reglaze the windows and repair and paint the gable ends. Many thanks to Bill Powell, Mike Loges, Michael Hrinyak, and Clair Bange for assessing the buildings' needs and signing up contractors.

Scenes like this are the end result of all our fundraising work, from the Historic East Berlin Antique Show, Colonial Day, and the Log House Craft Show to the donations received for preservation. This is what we do.

Membership in the Society lends support to all the volunteers who work so hard to raise the necessary funds. However, we are in great need for members to take the next step and become active...planning the events, helping on committees, and especially by becoming board members.

Please choose to contribute some of your skills and time. **No organization can survive without commitment from its members.†**

Membership Survey

Contributor: Peggy Bange, EBHPS Membership Chairman

On the reverse side of the enclosed membership renewal form, please find a survey we are conducting with respect to volunteer skills and volunteer desires of our membership. Please complete this form as a part of your renewal submission.†

The 1764 Preservation Fund

Contributor: Peggy Bange, EBHPS Membership Chairman

As of the publishing of this newsletter, we have received support from the following organizations for 2014. Thanks to all of the contributing organizations. Members, please support these organizations. We increased membership from 7 members in 2013 to 11 members in 2014 and almost doubled the dollar amount of donations.†

2014 - 1764 Preservation Fund Members

Platinum

VFW Post 8896

Gold

Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.
East Berlin Smiles

Silver

ACNB Bank
Aero Energy
East Berlin Beverage Dist., Inc.
East Berlin Community Library
East Berlin Chiropractor
East Berlin Excavating, Inc.
Rick's Custom Baling, LLC
Sites Realty, Inc.

Progress in Living

(My Life in East Berlin from 1946 – 1952.)

Contributor: Charles Bechtel, Society Member

After the Rural electrification Authority (REA) received the budgeting in the later part of the 1940's to provide rural electricity to secluded farms, my parents arranged to have their farm buildings, including the farmhouse, electrified. Availability of that one utility made an immense lifestyle difference, providing not only electric lights in the farmhouse and in multiple other farm buildings, but also ongoing electric power for rural use of refrigeration in the kitchen, which had become a depended upon factor in East Berlin town living. This development provided the opportunity for our family to move from our rental home in East Berlin, to our family farm in Reading Township, just outside East Berlin.

Since typically farm buildings had not been kept in premium condition during the 1930's depression and the years that followed, a number of initiatives were taken by the family to generate funds to cover roof, porch, and spouting repairs that were needed on the farmhouse, the barn, and other principal buildings.

Farm operations included growing wheat, corn, and hay for animal feed and as crops to generate cash. The family also raised annual fields of tomatoes and sold them to Hanover Canning. In addition, sweet corn, cabbage, strawberries, raspberries, chickens, geese, and ducks were raised and offered for sale during the summer and autumn seasons through a fresh farm produce and meat marketing route which involved door-to-door marketing to families and homes primarily in the West York section or York, PA.

At this time in 1946, our father left his wartime employment in the City of York, and returned to teaching, initially in one room schools at Maple Grove School in the Pigeon Hills and later at Gables School located east of Abbottstown, PA., just off Route 30. During the late nineteen forties these schools were closed due to consolidation, and he transitioned to teaching at the sixth grade level of elementary school in Hanover, PA and to coaching boys basketball there. Our mother continued to teach at Eisenhardt School on Lake Road in nearby York County, PA.

During the 1940's animal pelts brought good prices since fur coats were still part of ladies' fashion. Our family farm straddled Markle Run and abutted the Conewago Creek and was an excellent source of muskrat and skunk furs obtained by trapping.

Also, in the summer months during the late 1940's and early 1950's the principal of East Berlin High School, Elmer Gruver, and his wife, Samantha, held contracts with Adams and York Counties' orchards to supply high school students to both thin and pick peaches. The Gruvers provided transportation to both male and female high school students, and the orchards paid seventy-five cents per hour for ten hours of daily labor six days a week. The student workers were picked up and returned to their homes daily by bus and made provisions for their own lunches.

During the early 1950's a substantial number of high school students also had an opportunity to pick sweet cherries and, later in the season, to pick apples as an income source.

The various types of orchard work turned out to be a key asset in paying for my freshman year of college, when the college years finally happened during the autumn term of 1952. †

Colonial Day

Contributor: The Editor

We would all like to thank Bev Jadus for again chairing this year's Colonial Day. Without her leadership, the event would not have happened. We are all looking forward to Bev chairing the event again in 2015. By-the-way, since we can no longer afford a paid part-time administrative person, Bev also spends hundreds of hours working throughout the year doing administrative work to keep the Society intact. She deserves a crown!

Bev spends hundreds of hours coordinating the efforts that go into arranging Colonial Day. Vendors must be recruited; vendors' products must be vetted; contracts must be signed by the vendors; phone calls must be made and returned; volunteers must be obtained to lead the various subcommittees, including: the Information Booth, the Pig Roast Stand, the Root Beer Stand, the Parking Lot money takers and directors, the Food Stand, the Funnel Cake stand, and the Entertainment Committee. Bev must arrange for ambulance services, police patrols, street cleaning with the town for before and after the event, contacting the Commonwealth for permission to close the State highway for the event; and, most of all, port-a-potties and trash removal contracts.

Please take a few minutes to send Bev an email or thank-you card for all the hours of effort she puts into this event and the time she commits to the administrative duties throughout the year. Colonial Day is the largest fund-raiser for the Society and without it the Society would cease to exist. I am sure Bev would appreciate your kind words of thanks.

Please visit the Society's website for pictures of this year's Colonial Day. (Photos do not print well in our newsletter and consume costly space.) †

Colonial Day Raffle Winners

(The drawing of the winning tickets was done by a person picked from off the street who did not have an entry in the raffle.)

First Place – 250th Anniversary Quilt – Jacque Hoffman (East Berlin, PA)

Second Place – Pipe Box – Lauren Peterson (Hagerstown, MD)

Third Place – Hand-sculpted Santa – Patti Gumbert (Mechanicsburg, PA)

Hands at the Hearth Cooking Club

Contributor: Jenn Oswald

The Hands at the Hearth Cooking Club gathered at Redman's Hall on September 27th in the afternoon. The main dish was a favorite of Thomas Jefferson's. It is called Jefferson's Porkchop Casserole, and it was made by layering cubed pork chops and sweet potatoes. A great time was had by all. Hands at the Hearth will be participating in the holiday tour on December 14th. The Log House will be one of the stops on the Holiday House Tour. Hearth cooks will be demonstrating food preparation over the warm fire. Stop in and see us at work. †

My Great Grandmother was a Suffragette!

November 4th is Election Day. Do you know how long it took for women to gain the right to vote? Come to our next meeting and find out. Dora Townsend, great-granddaughter of the influential suffragette Dora Kelly Lewis will give a presentation on her feminist relative and the suffrage movement. Townsend's story is framed with historical facts as well as personal details from letters written by her great-grandmother. This compelling story came to life after Townsend looked through a trunk of Lewis's things which she inherited from her mother, after being contacted by a woman writing a book on famed suffragette, Alice Paul. †

2014 Historic East Berlin Holiday House Tour

The 2014 Historic East Berlin Holiday House Tour will take place on Sunday, December 14 from noon to 5 p.m. Tickets will be available at Red Men's Hall on the 14th beginning at 11:30 a.m. The cost of admission on the day of the show will be \$15. Advanced purchase of tickets are currently available at Cashman's True Value Hardware Store in East Berlin for \$12.

Tour locations include: Elliot Maher Home, 114 W. King St.; Trinity Lutheran Church, 117 W. King St.; Studebaker House, 200 W. King St. (Neimans); The Old Log House, Behind Post Office; Dolly Menges House, 324 W. King St. (Pohlmans); Red Men's Hall, 332 W. King St.; Zwingli UCC, 403 W. King St.; James & Debbie Snead Home, 409 W. King St.; Jan Hoffman & David Woodward, 412 W. King St (John Fox House); and Liberty No. 1 Engine House, 101 Fourth St. †

The Christmas Party at Red Men's Hall

Contributor: Mary Kollmar

The Christmas Party this year will be on Saturday, December 6, for members of the EBHPS. Please note the change in location for this year's party! Red Men's offers many amenities: no stairs, an oven and refrigerator, heat, and restrooms. Plan to join us for a special evening. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Please make sure you have your food there by that time.

Please note the following: Food for the evening is provided by the members who attend. Please bring a generous dish of your favorite food. Deserts are needed as well. We will provide turkey and ham cooked by volunteers, as well as punch, coffee, and water. You may bring your own wine, if desired. Please bring your own plates and utensils.

This year, it would be very helpful to call Mary Kollmar, 225-0848, by December 1, to make a reservation. We need to plan ahead for adequate seating.

Help is needed for: Volunteers to donate and cook turkeys and hams, people to move and set-up tables and chairs (must be done by December 3rd), clean-up crew for December 8th, and donations of greens and holly with berries for December 3rd set-up. Please phone Mary to volunteer for these items. †

Education Report

Contributor: Karen Sheaffer

Now that school is back in session, we have had inquiries for field trips to East Berlin. York Country Day School will bring their second and third grade students on November 13th. They have been returning each year since 2007 and are eager to learn the history of East Berlin and life in early America. Many times the students and teachers have assured us that "this is the best field trip ever!" We will be sure to show them that all the hard fundraising work by our volunteers has helped preserve the buildings not only for their use, but for future generations as well.

Wellsville Cub Scout Pack 146 also inquired about coming to East Berlin with their first grade students to tour at least one of our buildings. I am working with their leader to determine which building tour would best help them earn a local history badge.

Now I challenge you, the *Informers* readers, to suggest our Education Program to any groups that may have an interest in learning local history and touring any of our buildings that we work so hard at preserving. Please have them contact our Society, and we will give them the opportunity to have "the best field trip ever!" †