

The Berlin Informer

East Berlin Historical Preservation Society

July – September 2022

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Photo: Mike Loges

A full and enthusiastic crowd welcomed John Krepps, a certified Gettysburg Battlefield Guide and Hanover resident, when he presented “The Battle of Hanover” at Red Men’s Hall on June 15.

Mr. Krepps’ program detailed the troop movements and events leading up to the battle and gave clear details about the action, citing reports gleaned from soldiers’ diaries as well as official communications. A packet of maps and outlines given to all in the audience was very helpful in bringing the “big picture” to life and showing a walking tour of historic sites, some not easy to spot without such a guide.

Mark these dates and don’t miss these upcoming presentations...

Wednesday, September 21: “Susquehanna Petroglyphs”

Bart Stump will discuss carvings of animals, human figures and symbols, possibly 1000 years old, on rocks rising out of the Susquehanna River.

Wednesday, November 16: Tom Davidson takes us on a road trip through fourteen counties on “**The Lincoln Highway in Pennsylvania**”

Submitted by Sharon O’Connell

A message from the President:

It is unbelievable to think that we are halfway through 2022! We have accomplished so much and have plenty more to do before the year's end. I would like to review and give updates on our three main goals for the year.

Goal #1: Membership

Our members have been doing an amazing job getting the word out and promoting EBHPS. It shows with the addition of twelve new members and the large turnouts at our guest speaker events. Membership is critical to the health of our organization, but we are still in need of directors and volunteers for future events. Please get involved where you can and continue to support our historical society.

Goal #2: Education

We are committed to educate not just members of our organization through guest speakers and society events, but to our youth and the public in general. It is crucial to the future of our society to educate the students in our community and surrounding areas through our programs. We have had three successful educational field trips this year and we are looking to increase that number next school year.

Goal #3: Open hours for buildings

This goal has been the most challenging of all. We need support from members to make this happen. In the near future we are going to have some, if not all buildings, open on Saturdays for a short period of time to display and promote what we are all about. With that being said, Red Men's Hall, the log house, the school house, and Swigart's Mill are in need of some general cleaning. Please contact me if you are interested.

As we promote EBHPS more throughout the community and strive to educate and preserve history, it is our hope that we can engage multiple generations with the rich history we have right in our own backyards of East Berlin.

Daniel Chubb
President

"History teaches the young the virtues of freedom. By apprising them of the past it will enable them to judge the future."

Thomas Jefferson

Membership Report

Please help me welcome new members who joined since the last issue of *The Informer*: Joseph McPeak & Susan Marshall, Todd & Brenda Seeman, all of East Berlin, and Daniel Szetela, Jr. of Hanover. Thank you for joining East Berlin Historical Preservation Society! We are happy to have you all as members and hope to see you at our meetings and events.

Thank you to all of those members who renewed this year after we sent a letter to remind you that your membership had not been updated. We are glad for your continued support and also hope to see you at our meetings and events. Your membership is important to our society, keeps you informed of all that happens, and the monetary contributions help with the everyday necessities of our society, including repairs and utilities.

Karen Sheaffer
Membership Chair

Education Report

York Country Day School joined us May 11 and came to East Berlin after the pandemic had halted all field trips for two years. Sixteen third grade students, two teachers and one chaperone were eager to be with us as they had not been on a field trip since the children were in kindergarten!

We offer a wonderful hands-on program, and this was enthusiastically welcomed after the past several years of virtual on-line classes and hybrid classrooms. The textile program offered them carding, spinning, and weaving. Each student took home carded wool and a picture of an Adams County quilt pattern they were able to color. In the log house, they were taught how early East Berlin residents would have lived and survived, working together as a family. Students made and ate beaten biscuits with fresh churned butter and made a garni herb bag to take home. In the church schoolhouse, they wrote their names with a quill pen and ink, solved a math problem on a slate board with a slate pencil, and sealed their letters with hot wax and a brass seal.

This program is so amazing to young students, learning early American history as they "see and do" in our historic buildings. Please lend a hand, volunteer, and support our Education Program!

Karen Sheaffer
Education Program Chairperson

Treasurer's Report

The required audit is completed and has been filed.

The Historical Society received a \$300 check from the Borough from their ARP (American Rescue Plan) fund.

Hanna Furst
Treasurer

Nice to know... from the May 1979 Informer

"During the year 1879, the people of Hamilton, of which East Berlin formed a part, became dissatisfied with having the election poll in East Berlin and petitioned the court to have it moved to Pine Run School House, about three miles from town. An election was held accordingly, at which time it was decided to move the poll to Pine Run. When the fall election occurred, the citizens of East Berlin turned out "en masse" and, headed by the Berlin Band, proceeded to the new election poll to deposit their ballots. As a consequence, the people of East Berlin petitioned the Court of Adams County to incorporate their town into a borough. The petition was approved, and East Berlin became an incorporated Borough on November 10, 1879. After approval of the petition by the court, the land was surveyed and was found to contain Four Hundred and Seven (407) acres neat measure."

History "bits"

At the annual meeting of the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia on April 22-24, 1982, Ambassador George Kennan and Whitfield Bell presented a paper entitled "Views from Another East Berlin" The topics were the Berlin Improvement Society and the village of East Berlin.

Ambassador Kennan and Dr. Bell were both members of the East Berlin Historical Preservation Society and the American Philosophical Society, founded in 1743 by Benjamin Franklin.

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More things nice to know... from the May 1982 Informer

“Tax records for Hamilton Township (which included Berlin) list “Thaddeus Stevens – house and lot \$350.00”. The stone house, which he owned on West King Street, is still standing and in a state of good repair. Elected to the Berlin Improvement Society, December 24, 1845. Thaddeus Stevens purchased the house located at 426 West King Street from an estate of two minor children. Mr. and Mrs. George Spangler who reside in the house at present, have deeds and records stating this historical fact.

Stevens died in 1868 and by his own wish was buried in a small graveyard in Lancaster. His tombstone bears an inscription prepared by himself: ***I repose in this quiet and secluded spot, not from any natural preference for solitude, but, finding other cemeteries (sic) limited by charter rules as to race, I have chosen this, that I might illustrate in my death the principles which I advocated through a long life – EQUALITY OF MAN BEFORE CREATOR”***

Hearth Cooking Committee

We had planned to cook May 22 but canceled for various reasons. Then we were looking in June for a date but hot weather and some sickness has delayed us. Hopefully we will be able to set a date to cook soon. We have cooked on very hot days to experience what it was like for cooks in the 1800’s but we’ve had that experience and like milder temperatures.

Submitted by Jane Fox

More History “bits”

From The Adams Centinel, (also Sentinel) Gettysburg, Wednesday, August 1, 1821:

“By the law of the State passed last winter, any person who apprehends a Horse Thief is entitled to receive a reward of 20 dollars and 6 cents for every mile necessarily travelled in pursuit of the offender out of the county treasury. “

Also from the same issue: “The last law of this State for posting tiplers had a most salutary effect. In several towns we are informed, approaches have been made towards sobriety and temperance by those who were long before habitual drunkards. In some cases, admonition backed by threatening of the law, has produced reformation, and in others the mere knowledge of the law has checked the eager votaries of Sir Richard. Thousands of dollars will be saved to the State yearly by the operation of this single law, besides it’s incalculable benefit to morals and industry of the people.”

A wealth of family history resources...

Many of you may not be aware of the extensive family history records available for use at Red Men's Hall. Published York and Adams County histories, many cemetery records, hundreds of files on specific families amassed over the years from newspapers, etc., and many extensive research projects done on local families have been donated to the Society.

Examples of the latter include:

Alleman	George Henry Joseph
Altland	Wilhelm Knepper
Samuel Bechtel	Christian Lau
Heronimus Brugh, Bruch, Brough	Liesenstein
Chronister	Line
Eisenhart	MacSherry
Eyster clan	Smyser
Frankenberger 1717-2004	Strayer
Gochenour	Studebaker
Hamilton	Sunday
Samuel Jacobs	Hans Jacob Thoman
Jacobs Family History, vol. 1	

In addition, the Society recently received **thirty-two thick binders containing the handwritten genealogy research records done over many years by the late Olive Jones**, a previous member who was intensely interested in preserving local and area family histories. The contents are filed alphabetically, making it easy to locate your surname.

Local East Berlin High School yearbooks including a number dating from 1936 to 1961 are also available.

We welcome all visitors and urge you to take advantage of all these resources available to the public. Email EBHPS@comcast.net to request a time to stop in. We hope to have regular hours in the near future.

Submitted by Bev Jadus



York Country Day School field trip group enjoying Karen Sheaffer's Church Schoolhouse presentation.

Photo: Brenda Mulvey

EBHPS 2022 Calendar of Events

July 18	Board Meeting	6 p.m.	Red Men's H
August 15	Board Meeting	6 p.m.	"
September 19	Board Meeting	6 p.m.	"
September 21	General Meeting	7:30 p.m.	"

Speaker: Bart Stump
"Susquehanna Petroglyphs"

October 17	Board Meeting	6 p.m.	"
November 16	General Meeting	7:30 p.m.	"

Speaker: Tom Davidson
"The Lincoln Highway Across Pennsylvania"

Election of Executive Board

November 21	Board Meeting	6 p.m.	"
November 25-26	<u>Log House Craft Show</u>		Log House
	10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily		
December 10	Christmas Dinner	6 p.m.	Red Men's Hall
December 19	Board Meeting	6 p.m.	"