



Tales & Trails

NEWSLETTER OF THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Nationwide Tolling of Bells
- Three new Honorees added
- Happy Birthday Berlin tree
- President's Year End report

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Lucy Morris named to Wis Library Hall of Fame	2
Picture from Walczynski program at library	2
2018 Year End Report	3
Membership & Meeting s	4



**CITY OF BERLIN, WISCONSIN
PROCLAMATION
BELLS OF PEACE: A WORLD WAR I REMEMBRANCE
November 6, 2018**

A National Tolling of Bells to Honor Those Who Served in the Great War

WHEREAS, a century ago 4.7 million American families sent their sons and daughters off to World War I; and

WHEREAS, men and women from Berlin, Wisconsin, served selflessly and honorably in World War I; and

WHEREAS, 116,516 Americans gave their lives in the war, and more than 200,000 were wounded; and

WHEREAS, the tolling of bells is a traditional expression of honor and remembrance; and

WHEREAS, in November 2018 the world will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armistice that ended the fighting in World War I at 11:00 a.m., November 11, 1918 – the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month; and

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2018, the United States World War I Centennial Commission called upon all Americans across the nation to toll bells in remembrance of those who served in World War I on Armistice Day, November 11, 2018;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Berlin, Wisconsin does accept the request to toll the city's bells in remembrance of those who served in World War I, especially those brave men and women from Berlin and surrounding area, at 11:00 a.m. on November 11, 2018.

Mayor Richard D. Schramer



BAHS Holiday Tree in Nathan Strong Park. The theme is 'Happy Birthday Berlin' commemorating Berlin's 170th anniversary. The "cake" treetopper was crafted by Diane Olson. Thanks to Diane and her committee; Leone Seaman, Bonnie Nehring, and Ruth Gimenez. One hundred and seven trees were decorated and lighted this year. A great addition to Berlin's Christmas.

Over 15,000 different cities, counties, states, military organizations, places of worship, historical associations, institutions of learning and residential communities tolled their bells on this day. With encouragement from BAHS Berlin's bell in the clock tower among others tolled for this great nationwide movement.

Interested in History? Consider joining the Berlin Area Historical Society and help us preserve, promote and educate Berlin's history. Information on the back page of this newsletter for meeting times and how to join. Already a member? Encourage your neighbors & friends to join.

3 Honorees Added

On October 11th, 3 new Honorees were added to the 'Be Proud Be Inspired' wall at the Berlin High School. Dr. Jean Bruce, Richard (Dick) Brooks, and Gene Trochinski were selected to join the 23 others who currently make up the wall. Both Dr. Bruce and Gene Trochinski were able to join the festivities along with the family of deceased honoree Dick Brooks.

This is the fifth year for this program, started by the BAHS in partnership with the Berlin Schools.

All the Honorees and their short bios can be found on our website under 'Inspiration Wall.' The committee will soon be searching for the 2019 Honorees. Information about nominating and the nomination form are also on the website.



LUCY MORRIS NAMED TO WISCONSIN LIBRARY HALL OF FAME FOR 2018



Following are the comments from the nomination overview/narrative for Lucy Morris

Lucy Smith Morris should be extolled as Wisconsin’s own Andrew Carnegie. Although Carnegie donated funds to construct 63 library buildings in Wis. Mrs. Morris realized that a library is more than a building—it is a symbol of community, a source of culture, and a vital element in the social and intellectual life of all communities. Her leadership led to the development of three quarters of small town libraries in Wisconsin, the development of traveling libraries, and to the success of the Wisconsin Free Library Commission for the first 20 years of its existence.

A native of Berlin, Wis. Mrs. Morris demonstrated her support for libraries in 1896 by uniting women’s clubs in local Wisconsin communities under the umbrella of the Wisconsin Federation of Women’s Clubs. At their first meeting in 1896, the WFWC determined that their priority would be establishment of free public libraries. In the next year the women’s clubs in the WFWC established over 100 free public libraries in communities across the state.

Mrs. Morris efforts in fostering the growth of libraries resulted in her appointment as one of the founding members and the first chairperson of the Wisconsin Free Library Commission. Working closely with Lutie Stearns for the twenty year period from 1877 to 1917, Mrs. Morris supplemented the staff of the WFLC by recruiting volunteers in support of the work of Lutie Stearns from women’s clubs throughout the state. In additions, Mrs. Morris worked with the WFWC and the WFLC to initiate traveling libraries so that

Citizens in hamlets and rural areas would also benefit from access to a free public library. Mrs. Morris contributions to the development of libraries in Wisconsin also included service as the President of the Wisconsin Library Association from 1899-1900.

Mrs. Morris contributions to librarianship were recognized shortly after her death by the establishment of the Lucy Morris Memorial Membership. This honor was presented to the American Library Association on May 15, 1936 during their Friends of the Library Luncheon. This membership was funded by the Wisconsin Federation of Women’s Clubs that had been led by Lucy Smith Morris.

Lucy E. Smith Morris’ contributions to the founding of over 100 small town libraries, to the development of traveling libraries in Wisconsin, as a Past-President of WLA and as a twenty year member of the Wisconsin Free Library Commission should be recognized in our time by her inclusion in the Wisconsin Library Hall of Fame.

In her remarks at the presentation Jo Ann Carr, of Stoughton WI. who was the nominator of Lucy, stated:

“I think there are two lessons to be learned from Lucy’s nomination. One is the power of the written word. Lucy’s efforts led over 100 Wisconsin communities to establish libraries (one third more than Andrew Carnegie contributed to our state). These libraries brought the gift of the written word to small, rural communities throughout Wisconsin. I first learned about Lucy’s contributions through another form of the written word - a historical marker in Berlin.”

“The second lesson to be learned by Lucy’s life is the change that is possible by women working together for the social good. By bringing together the women of Berlin and then women’s clubs throughout the state, Lucy and her colleagues changed the face and history of Wisconsin. In this era of #MeToo and #IBelieveHer, I believe

spire another generation of civic minded women that we too can change the face and history of Wisconsin.”

“Lucy was also a leader in the women’s suffrage movement and in the Wisconsin League of Women Voters. Please continue to honor Lucy’s memory by voting in every election and by helping others to be able to access and fulfill their civic obligations.”

A formal presentation of the award will take place in Berlin during National Library Week in April.



Some of the over 50 persons attending the Mark Walczynski program in September.

President’s Report—2018 continued

promoted the nationwide ‘Bells of Peace’ a movement remembering the end of WWI. Mayor Richard Schramer signed a proclamation and the city’s clock bells were rung on Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. for 11 chimes in remembrance of our WWI vets.

Word was received that Lucy Smith Morris was chosen as one of the honorees for the Wisconsin Library Heritage Hall of Fame for 2018.

Almost 100 students and teachers from Clay Lambertson visited the museum during pre-Thanksgiving week. Thanks to Diane Olson, Leone Seaman, Gene Berlowski and Bobbie Erdmann for their help with the tours.

Merry Christmas to everyone!

President's Report

I wish to thank everyone for their help and support over this past year. It has been a busy year for the club. We had 175 visitors to the museum over the year. Twenty-seven were from other Wisconsin communities, five were from other States and even one from Berlin, Germany. The third graders from Clay Lamberton visited us in November. Below are some of the highlights.

January: Citizens were continuing to remember BAHS with donations to our collections. The club voted to make a donation to the Berlin Public Library for the use of their meeting room for our meetings. We asked for volunteers to help with several maintenance projects needed in our 4 buildings.

February: The club was asked to make up some "Berlin History" storyboards to be displayed in the Berlin High School Commons during the school's play performances, Feb. 23rd and 24th. The subjects chosen for the boards included: General Information (pictures included were from the cranberry industry, quarries, and the fur and leather industries). Other boards were steamboat scenes; Palmetter Stock Farm; volunteer fire department; trains; the telephone; Berlin High Schools; and the various churches. The boards were well received. Members of the club were on hand to answer any questions playgoers might have.

The club voted to partner with OCI (Oklahoma Correctional Institution) to digitize some of our Mascoutin Year Books. This is a free to the club project and will include books from the years 1950 to 1989. The Berlin Public Library agreed to loan us any we might be missing from our collection with some from their collection.

Dick Fortnum presented an idea for a project, an informational sign recognizing the significance of Market Square to the history of Berlin. The project was approved.

March: Several additions were made to our website including adding a link to the Wisconsin Federation of Museums. Applications to the Inspiration Wall were now being accepted. It was decided to feature "Domestic Tools" in our changeable cabinet for the 2018 season.

April: Our picture wall will feature Berlin's 170th Anniversary for the 2018 season. The Berlin Alumni Association asked to borrow our storyboards, made in Feb. for the school play, to use at their annual meeting. We were happy to oblige. The Millinery Shop got flooded again due to a plugged roof drain. The scheduled work day was used to dry out and clean up the shop and repair the drain.

May: New railings were installed on the first and second floor decks with help from club members and the Erdmann's grandson and his friends. The maple tree in our side yard was trimmed to just the trunk. The tree had been losing large branches from some time. The closet on the second floor was cleaned and all military uniforms in our collection were moved to that closet. With the donation of a shelf unit from the Klawitter family a new men's hat display was put together from the 'Millinery Shop.' A number of photos were donated to the club from Jeff & Mandy Lindeman of Heaven's Touch along with a number of other items. Ruth Gimenez volunteered to contact members to act as docents during the regular open houses starting on Memorial Day weekend and extending throughout the summer.

June-July-August: The club held their annual picnic in Riverside Park in June. The river was up and parts of the park were flooded including the area around Clark School. We received a number of donations for our collections over the summer. Members enjoyed meeting our visitors during our open houses.

Members of the Ottman-Spritka family visited the museum during their family reunion weekend. Teacher Michele Draves borrowed several typewriters from our collection for her 'Young Writers' workshop.

September: The 1st Nation monument sign was cracked and the club is looking for ways to repair or replace it. We arranged to have Mark Walczynski, author and amateur archeologist, present his program, *Completely Different, Exactly the Same*, comparing Indian culture to today. It was very well received with 55 people attending. A porcelain commode set was received from the Michael's family and put on display in the Bottling Works building. It was decided to postpone the Ghost Walk until spring of 2019. The Inspiration Wall committee chose three Honorees to be added to the Wall for 2018.

October: The unveiling and reception for the 2018 Honorees for the Inspiration Wall was held on Oct. 11 at the High School. New Honorees include Dr. Jean Bruce, Dick Brooks, and Gene Trochinski. Dr. Bruce and Mr. Trochinski were able to attend along with the family of Dick Brooks. The Honoree's picture and bios are now on our website. We put up a postcard "Happy Birthday Berlin" display at the library for the month. Berlin's Nathan Strong Park was included on a new website, Wisconsin Bandstands and Shells. We helped the web creator with vintage pictures of the park.

November: The club voted to participate in the annual 'Lighted Trees in the Park' again this year. The committee chose to continue our 'Happy Birthday Berlin' theme for this year's tree. BAHS (continued on page 2)



WE'RE ON THE WEB
BERLINAREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.COM

**NEWSLETTER OF THE
BERLIN AREA
HISTORICAL**

P. O. Box 83
Berlin, WI 54923 or
111 S. Adams Ave.
Berlin WI 54923

Phone: 920-361-2460
E-mail: contact@berlinareahistoricalsociety
Facebook:berlin area historical society

Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday during the months of Jan. through May and Sept. through Dec. at 6:30 p.m. at the Berlin Public Library, corner Park Ave and N. Pearl St. Guests are always welcome

The Berlin Area Historical Society is a fully recognized non-profit Educational Institute affiliated with the Wisconsin Historical Society. The Mission of the Society is to preserve and interpret the history of the Berlin Area.

Currently the Society owns and operates four museum buildings. The Museum of Local History, located at 111 S. Adams Ave includes a two-story brick house, the former Kroll Bottling Works and the former Huser Blacksmith Shop. This museum complex is open on the second and fourth Sundays from Memorial Day to Labor Day from 1-4 p.m. and always by appointment.

The one-room school house, Clark School is located at the entrance to Riverside Park on Water St. and is open by appointment.

Call 920-361-2460 for information on these museums or to make an appointment.

The Berlin Area Historical Society is maintained by DONATIONS and membership. All persons interested in history are encouraged to join.

**JOIN THE BERLIN AREA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Name.....
Street.....
City & State.....
Telephone.....
E-Mail.....

Individual Dues—\$10.00

Family —\$15.00

Make Checks payable to: Berlin Area Historical Society and mail to

P. O. Box 83, Berlin WI 54923

Do you have an e-mail address? Or a new address? Please let Bobbie Erdmann know so that we can keep our membership lists up to date.
bobbie
[@centurytel.net](mailto:bobbie@centurytel.net)
920-361-2460