



Tales & Trails

NEWSLETTER OF THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Civil War Monument Rededicated
- Velocipede to be loaned out
- 2014 Chautauqua Series schedule announced
- *Picture at right The 1894 Civil War Monument in Nathan Strong Park. – story on page 3*

THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO HOLD REDEDICATION OF CIVIL WAR MONUMENT



The Berlin Area Historical Society with the help of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, Old Abe Camp # 8 will be conducting a rededication of Berlin's 1894 Civil War Monument located in Nathan Strong Park on Saturday, August 23rd from 1 to 4 p.m.

The SUVCW will reenact a 1917 Grand Army of the Republic Service of Dedication. Pastor Joanne Schoblaski will offer the invocation. Dan Freimark will give a brief history of the monument. Mayor Richard Schramer will then relinquish possession of the monument to the SUVCW. They will conduct their service, at the end of which they will return the monument to the City of Berlin.

The BAHS will hold a free ice cream social after the ceremonies.

It was 1963 the last time a rededication was held here by BAHS. They held an ice cream social that year also.

The public is most cordially invited to this event.

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VISITORS TO THE MUSEUM

Berlin's museums continue to be popular in 2014. The monthly open houses are seeing a goodly number of visitors each week.

Mrs. Shannon Kuehmichel's History Fiction class at Berlin High School did research at the museum and the Berlin Public Library in preparation for writing their stories using Berlin history as background

for those stories. They were then posted on the school's website until the end of the term.

Ninety seven students from the first grades of Clay Lamberton school visited the Clark School on June 5th.

As in the past the students 'walked to school' from Clay and spent some time learning about one room schools.

Students attending the UMO program will again come to the Adams St. Museum in August.

This year they will include the kindergarten, first and second grades who will visit Clark school.

Students from Ripon College have visited the museum doing research for class projects.

Museum tours are available by calling 361-2460.

BERLIN'S VELOCIPEDE TO BE PART OF TRAVELING EXHIBIT.



The Berlin Area Historical Society received a request from the Wisconsin Historical Museum and History Museum at the Castle.

This two-museum partnership is working to develop a traveling exhibit about Wisconsin's bicycle history. The

exhibit will launch in March of 2015 in Madison and then move to Appleton until it closes in June 2016.

The organizers of the exhibit feel that our velocipede is a good example of the early machines from the state's velocipede "mania" of 1869.

Our organization will get full credit as the owners of the machine at the exhibit.

This is the second piece from our collection that has garnered attention from Wisconsin's museum world. Our baptismal font was copied by Old World Wisconsin last year for their church restoration project.

Berlin's Monument continued from page 3:

residences in the city were decorated.

In August of 1963 the Berlin Historical Society held an ice cream social and band concert to commemorate that long ago event and remind Berlin's citizens of the principles of patriotism and sacrifice that it took to erect this monument.

In 1912, through the personal efforts of Col. George W. Morton, the city of Berlin was made a gift of two large bronze cannon and two pyramids of cannon balls for ornamental purposes. They stand on the right and left of the granite and bronze monument. For a number of years they sat on concrete pylons until reproduction carriages were purchased for them.

Now in 2014 the BAHS will again recognize and rededicate this monument on Saturday, August 23rd. (see page 1 for details).

2014 CHAUTAUQUA SERIES ANNOUNCED

The lecturers for the 2014 Chautauqua assembly have been announced. This year's program, to again be held at the Berlin Federated Church, will begin on September 18th and run each consecutive Thursday until October 9th starting at 7 P.M.

On September 18th Professor of Anthropology and Museum Studies, Emily Stovel, PhD of Ripon College will present "Think Like an Archeologist: Solve Modern Problems with Ancient Experiences." Allison Rainboth, of Sister's Choice in Berlin will present "Harriet and Pardon: Remembering Two Abolitionists" on September 25. Kathleen McQuinn of the Marquette County Historical Society will share her knowledge of "John Muir and His Marquette County Boyhood Neighborhood on October 2nd. "The Battle that Saved George Washington and the American Revolution" will be presented by Mike Bouchette on October 9th.

Tickets will be \$20 for the entire series or \$7.00 at the door. Members of the Federated Church will sponsor an 'Afterglow' after each lecture with refreshments for sale. It is a good time to continue the discussion started by the lecture and visit with each presenter.

More information about the ticket sales will be posted on the BAHS website at berlinareahistoricalsociety.com or by calling 361-2460.

BAHS was asked to put up a display at the Berlin Library during the month of June. We chose advertising pieces from the various businesses, past and present. Below is a photo of the case. We are told it got a lot of comments from visitors.



BERLIN'S FIRST WAR MONUMENT TOOK OVER 7 YEARS TO BUILD

Following the fall of Fort Sumter in April, 1861, President Abraham Lincoln called up the loyal states for 75,000 militia to enlist for three months to put down the rebellious Confederacy. In Wisconsin, as elsewhere, state militia companies eagerly volunteered, were mustered into the federal service, and embarked by train and steamship for the front. Many of these three-months volunteers re-enlisted for three years when their original terms expired. When insufficient numbers of men volunteered, a national draft was instituted.

In the village of Berlin, the seat of Green Lake County in Wisconsin, the early enthusiasm for enlistment never waned: of 192 residents who served in the Civil War, all but one was a volunteer. Twenty eight of them, or 12 per cent did not return: six were killed in action; four died of wounds and twelve of disease; one died in a Confederate prison; one was missing in action; and four deserted.

Of the 192 soldiers which Berlin sent to war, thirty-three, or 17 per cent, were foreign-born. Of these, twenty-eight had been subjects of the British empire; four were Germans; and one was Swiss. Of the 157 native-born Americans, seventy four or 47 per cent, were from New York State. Only 12 were born in Wisconsin and of these only 2 were actually born in the village of Berlin. (*Quoted from 'They Went South' by Joyce Stemler published 1966.*)

Over the years we have learned of at least 6 and maybe more men who fought for the Confederacy.

Following the end of the Civil War veterans gathered looking for a way to stay connected. Various soldier and sailor leagues formed and very quickly a National organization was formed and by 1866 the Wisconsin Department of the Grand Army of the Republic came into being.

The John H. Williams Post 4 was chartered September 8, 1866. The post was named after the first soldier from Berlin to be killed in the War. Through attrition Berlin's Post became "the oldest Post in the World" and proudly bore that title until April 1937 when its last member, Alexander Parsons passed away.

Sometime in the late 1870's the Women's Auxiliary (later called the Women's Relief Corp) and the G.A.R. started talking about erecting a monument to its veterans. It is said that early resident George McClelland gave the first \$10 gold piece to start the fund to build the monument. Banquets, concerts, card parties, and other entertainments were held to raise money. By 1887 the group had enough money to put in a foundation for the monument. The City Council of Berlin had a mound put in the City Park in the spring of that year. Granite steps were put in leading up to the base. The foundation cost \$200 which the fund had collected. A cornerstone was laid on May 31, 1887 with much fanfare. The cornerstone remained for a few months be-

fore money was raised to purchase the rough ashlar base. It is of unpolished Berlin granite about 6 feet square and 2 feet high. A year later the next piece, of Waushara county polished granite was put in place. The two groups continued to raise money and finally in 1894 the final pieces of the monument could be ordered. The cap is made of Montello granite and the shaft of Berlin granite. This was topped by a bronze figure of a standard bearer. The entire monument stands 40 feet, 3 inches from base to tip of the flag pole. It cost \$3,100 total.

An inscription on the die reads: "In Grateful Memory of the Volunteer SOLDIERS & SAILORS of 1861-5. Erected by John H. Williams Post No. 4 G.A.R. and Women's Relief Corps No. 12. Assisted by Loyal Citizens of Berlin and Vicinity. On the front side of the die, at its top, two crossed swords are cut and polished on the chiseled granite. Above the cap is the G.A. R badge. The monument faces to the south.

On Oct. 10, 1894 after a parade including visiting G.A.R. posts, distinguished guests, the Berlin firemen in uniform and many others, the Monument was unveiled to the community. Much fanfare and speeches by dignitaries of the day were reported. As the curtain dropped cannons boomed, church bells rang out and steamboat whistles tooted for a full five minutes. In the evening a grand banquet was held at the Rink (now Wiecki-Skipchak parking lot) and more toasts and speeches were offered. Even the stores and
(continued on page 2)

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BERLINAREAHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM

NEWSLETTER OF THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL

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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.....

Do you have an e-mail address? Or a new address?

Please let Lee Erdmann know so that we can keep our membership lists up to date.

lerdmann
@centurytel.net or
920-361-2460

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

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