



# Tales & Trails

## NEWSLETTER OF THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- Two major anniversaries in 2017
- BAHS partners in two events to promote history and the city
- BAHS to recognize 100th anniversary of WWI at Ghost Walk
- Berlin's First Mayor

### Berlin Celebrating Two Major Anniversaries in 2017

In 2017 Berlin will be recognizing two major events from its history, the 160th anniversary of the incorporation of the city and the arrival of the railroad both occurring in 1857.

*"The people of the State of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

**All that district of country in the counties of Green Lake and Waushara, contained within the limits and boundaries hereinafter described shall be a city by the name of "Berlin," and the people who now inhabit, and those who shall hereafter inhabit the same, shall be a municipal corporation by the name of "The City of Berlin," and as such shall have the general powers possessed by municipal corporations at common law."** (taken from the Charter of the city)

The first mayor elected by the new city was Judge George Dwight Waring. (A bio on the first mayor can be found on page 3)

What Berlin needed was a railroad, and a plan was formed to build one. A company was organized, called the Berlin & Lake Superior Railroad Co., and a meeting was advertised "to be held at Wheeler & Swettings' office, in the village of Berlin, on Thursday, the 23th of March, 1854. Unfortunately this railway scheme did not materialize, but was the means of eventually getting a line into Berlin from Milwaukee. With much effort by a good number of people the area was finally served by the Chicago, Milwaukee and St.

Paul Railway Co.

The first train of cars came into Berlin on Aug. 8, 1857. This occasion was celebrated (like all other great events) by a dinner and a dance. The depot was then on the flat near the Ripon road, and remained there for several years, until it was moved to the corner of W. Franklin and S. Capron streets.

After a long run, the passenger service to Berlin was discontinued in 1957 and freight service was discontinued in 1977. The rail yard became South Capron St.

The Anniversary of the Incorporation is being celebrated with the July 1st festivities courtesy of the ABC Group, the event sponsors.

The Berlin Area Historical Society has a pictorial salute to the railroad at the museum this season.

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South Capron St. Rail Yard

BAHS  
Holds A Sneak Preview  
Event at

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY & THE  
BERLIN JOURNAL PARTNER  
TO HOLD A FUN CONTEST**

During the winter months the Historical Society and The Berlin Journal teamed up to hold a “*Look Up Berlin*” contest for all community citizens.

The six-part contest featured a rooftop photo of a downtown building. Participants were to guess which building the photo belonged to.

The following week the answer was published along with a short history of that building and/or their builder.

The two weekly prizes included a \$25 cash prize or a year’s subscription to the Berlin Journal.

The event sponsors thank all those who participated and hope they enjoyed looking at their hometown in a fun and unique new way!

REMINDER:

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN UNTIL July 1 for the 2017 HONOREES for the INSPIRATION WALL.

Nomination forms and instructions are available online at: [berlinareahistoricalociety.com](http://berlinareahistoricalociety.com); at the Berlin Public Library or by calling 920-361-2460

2017 Ghost Walk Theme has been chosen: Soldiers in Arms, Berlin Enlists

A look at Berlin’s involvement in the ‘Great War’

Oakwood Cemetery will again give up its stories as the Ghost Walk committee prepares the list of ‘residents’ to be visited for this October 14th event, joining the rest of the Nation in recognizing the 100th anniversary of this ‘war to end all wars.’

More information will follow as the

On April 9th Berlin Area Historical Society was given a unique opportunity. Businesswoman Deana Ceman was getting ready to open her women’s boutique at a new location—the 150 year old former Wright’s Mill.

She and her contractor husband, Steve had completely refurbished the old building while preserving much of its historic character.

BAHS members were on hand to point out these features and tell something about its long history.

Free will donations given that day to the Historical Society will help further the club’s purpose and projects.

Statewide Downtown Open House sponsored by City of Berlin, Chamber of Commerce &

Another event that BAHS partnered in was the Statewide 2017 Downtown Open House held on May 13th. On the State level the event was sponsored by Wisconsin Economic Development Corp; Wis. Historical Society; Wis. Arts & Humanities.

Since it was also Preservation Week, historic properties around the state were featured.

In Berlin, attendees could visit the Museum (built in 1888); House on Park (now a Guesthouse and Studio built in 1854); Saving Grace (former St. Joseph’s Church built in 1909) Berlin School Apartments (former high school built in 1918); and Violet & Co. (formerly Wright’s Mill built in 1867).

Many of the downtown businesses also offered special sales that day. BAHS created a number of storyboards for the windows of various businesses who will display them until after the July 1st celebration.

*Hon. Geo. Waring, continued*

several years with entire satisfaction to the company. (Also one of the people who helped bring the railroad to Berlin)

Left at a tender age to fight the battle of life, unaided by the influence of money or friends, he made the most of his opportunities and studied hard, both in and out of school, to fit himself for the intellectual profession of the law. Always a student and an indefatigable worker, he is well versed in the law and ripe in experience of court practice. In argument he is strong, clear and logical. Positive in his convictions, and tenacious in maintaining his ground, step by step he has won his way to prominence in his chosen profession until he is the acknowledged leader of the Bar of his own county, and takes rank among the foremost lawyers of the State.

Temperate in his habits, Judge Waring has led a very active and useful life. Physically and mentally, he is vigorous and in good health and is still ready and able to pursue the arduous career of a successful lawyer with a large practice.

\* \* \*

*Much of this article was taken from the Portrait and Biographical Album of Green Lake, Marquette and Waushara Counties, Wisconsin, published 1890.*



**Judge George D. Waring**

## BERLIN ELECTS FIRST MAYOR IN 1857

*Berlin was incorporated as a city in 1857 and chose as their first Mayor George Dwight Waring.*

### HON. GEORGE DWIGHT WARING,

an eminent lawyer of Wisconsin, who moved to Berlin in 1855, was born in Masonville, Delaware Co., N.Y. on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October, 1819. His parents were Ephraim and Sally (Brown) Waring. His father was a native of Canaan, Fairfield Co., Conn., and was of English descent. The family name is said to have been originally spelled Warren, and that Gen. Warren, who was famous at the battle of Bunker Hill, is one of its members. The paternal grandfather of our subject participated in the War of the Revolution and established the family in New York about the beginning of the nineteenth century.

Ephraim Waring was a soldier of the War of 1812, and was married in Masonville, N.Y., to Miss Sarah Brown. They moved to Bainbridge, Chenango County N.Y., when George D. was an infant, and there suffered the loss of the wife and mother, who died when our subject was but 5 years of age. From that time until his 10<sup>th</sup> year he was cared for by friends of the family. He then arranged with Avery Farnham, a farmer and lumberman of Masonville, to remain with him until he was of age. In 1836 Mr. Waring moved with the Farnham family to Angola, Steuben Co., Ind. and remained in their home until attaining his majority.

His education were limited to the common schools, with the exception of a short time spent in a select school; but he was ambitious to learn, and studied diligently in his leisure hours until, at the age of 20 years, he had made sufficient preparation to become a teacher, and secured a position in Branch County, Mich.

After teaching one winter he went to Kentucky, where he taught both summer and winter for the next 2 years. In the meantime he had formed the idea

of making the legal profession his life work, and returning to Angola, Ind., he entered upon the study of law in the office of R.L. Douglas and Daniel L. Palmer, and was admitted to the bar in Steuben County in 1842.

Mr. Waring celebrated Independence Day of that year by his marriage to Miss Harriet A. Hopkins, daughter of Stephen and Betsy Hopkins. The lady was a native of Hamilton County, N.Y., and 2 children were born of their union, but both died in infancy.

In the fall of 1855 Judge Waring came to Wisconsin and settled in Berlin, where he engaged in merchandising for 2 years. He then again entered upon the practice of law, which he has since pursued. At first he formed a law partnership with Mr. Caruth, who was killed in Vineland, N.J., after which Waring became associated with John C. Truesdell in business, and later was a partner of Judge Ezra Wheeler, who was the representative in Congress from this district. Death severed that relationship, and Mr. Waring then formed a partnership with T.C. Ryan.

About 1883 he became associated in business with L. Eichstadt, under the firm name of Waring & Eichstadt, lawyers. That connection continued until the death of Mr. Eichstadt, which occurred in Germany in the winter of 1888-9. In 1886 P. Niskern became a member of the firm, and has since continued his connection with Judge Waring, under the name Waring & Niskern, one of the leading firms on the Third Judicial District. In addition to his law practice Judge Waring has operated quite extensively in real estate, and served in many official positions.

While still a resident of Indiana he was elected and served 2 years as Sheriff of Steuben County, and **on the organization of Berlin as a city, in 1857, he was chosen its first Mayor, and held that office from 1857 to 1860, inclusive.**

He served 2 years on the County Board of Supervisors in an early day,

and during the past 2 years has represented his ward in that body. He has served 3 terms as District Attorney, at one time holding the office for 4 consecutive years, and afterwards for 2 years. He was Deputy Provost Marshall during the late war, and in 1868 was elected to the State Senate, serving as a member in the sessions of 1869 and 1870, during which time he was Chairman of the Judiciary Committee and of the Committee on Town and County Organizations.

Judge Waring was Whig in political sentiment in early life, and has been an active Republican since its beginning.

In religious opinion he is a Congregationalist, and for over 20 years was Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Union Church. He had taken an active part in promoting the cause of religion, and had aided liberally in support of the churches of the city.

In 1873 the Judge's wife died in Berlin on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February, of that year.

He was again married on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June, 1874, to Miss Luzelia, daughter of Thomas and Jane White, and a native of Hammondspport, Steuben Co., N.Y. One child, a son, George T. was born to them August 15, 1875.

Judge Waring, while an earnest Republican, has ever been in sympathy with all reasonable efforts in behalf of the cause of temperance, and when he was elected Mayor of Berlin it was on a temperance issue. He is a Royal Arch Mason. For 2 years prior to Cleveland's administration he served as Attorney for the Government for the Board of Commissioners of the Fox and Wisconsin River Improvement, and then was Attorney for the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Company, a position he had held

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BERLINAREAHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM

**NEWSLETTER OF THE  
BERLIN AREA  
HISTORICAL**

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Berlin WI 54923

Phone: 920-361-2460  
E-mail: berlinareahistoricalociety.com

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 Dave Olson know so that we can keep our membership lists up to date.  
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