



Tales & Trails

NEWSLETTER OF THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- New speaker program for 2019
- 2019 Ghost Walk
- Berlin history makes it in two magazines
- This year's special exhibits



**Jean Paul Pauquette & Jacques Largilliar
aka Glen Gorsuch & Jerry Disterhaft
explaining the meaning of the pictures on
their paddle**

17TH CENTURY FUR TRADERS VISIT BERLIN

The Berlin Area Historical Society have invited several speakers to Berlin to present a series of free programs for the public.

The first in this lineup was held on April 24th at the Berlin Public Library. Local voyagers, Glen Gorsuch and Jerry Disterhaft talked about what life was like for the 17th century fur traders who traveled up the Fox River and beyond.

The pair, appearing in period costume, brought along a number of fur pelts of the kind that would have been traded with Indian tribes etc. and helped the enthusiastic audience identify each animal. Tools and weapons also used by the traders and their crews were on display after the talk.

Gorsuch and Disterhaft are the proprietors of *Fox of the River Voyageur Canoe Trips* and are busy all summer with their very large, hand-built wooden canoe.

Groups get to paddle along and experience this unique adventure.

The next program will be presented in June by Pat Grahn, date, time and place to be announced later.

Plans for an August program have not been finalized.

The final program will be held in November and presented by JoAnn Carr. She has recently written a book featuring letters from Wisconsin women written during the Civil War. The book even includes letters from a woman from Berlin. It is due to be published in October and the author will bring along copies for purchase and autograph if desired. This program will again be held at the Berlin Public Library on November 7th.

Dates, times and locations will be listed on our website as they are finalized or check our Facebook page.

Ghost Walk for 2019 Presents 'Giants of Berlin Industry'

The 2019 Oakwood Cemetery Ghost Walk will be held on Saturday, October 19th starting at 6:30 p.m.

This years theme, 'Giants of Berlin Industry' will feature such notables as Thomas Hamilton, Jacob Fuhrman, Frank Chapman, Jacobina Shunk, and DeWitt Palmeter, entrepreneurs all who helped shape Berlin's industrial history.

This is BAHS only fund-raising event and the community's support is greatly appreciated. Watch our website for further information. We are always happy to welcome volunteers to help with this project.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Lucy Morris award now at the Berlin Library	2
Necessary Repairs	2
Berlin history in two specialty magazines	2
Additions to our collection	2
New Displays for 2019	3
Membership & Meetings	4

**LUCY MORRIS AWARD FROM
THE
WISCONSIN LIBRARY
HALL OF FAME**



This beautiful crystal award will be on display at the Berlin Public Library next to Lucy's formal portrait on the mezzanine.

The Berlin Area Historical Society purchased a display case to house the award.

We likewise submitted an article about Lucy to the published in the *Berlin Journal* during 'Women's History Month' in March.

The article was repeated in State Representative Joan Ballweg's online column also.

**BERLIN HISTORY BE-
COMES
FEATURES FOR TWO
SPECIALTY
MAGAZINES.**

It was recently learned that some of Berlin's history has appeared in two specialty magazines.

The November-December 2018 issue of *American Breweriana Journal* has a six-page feature article about the Berlin Brewing Co. It also includes photos of the former brewery buildings and a number of the lithograph labels that the company used over the years. It will be a great resource for people looking for this company's history. We thank author Bob Pirie for his efforts.

The other publication is the First Quarter 2019 edition of *The Milwaukee Railroader* which has a feature story about **The Berlin Bullet**....Berlin's last passenger train. This glossy magazine's story is 17 pages long with multiple photos. We even made the cover showing Engine 5900 - lovingly known as *The Berlin Bullet*.

The Berlin Historical Society was one of the resources assisting author Reid Van Slays with verifying and sharing information and photos from our collection.

Anyone interested in railroading will find the article interesting and informative. Berlin's passenger trains stopped running in 1958 and freight shipping stopped totally in the 1970s.

Necessary Repairs

Our museum buildings needed a little TLC over the winter and getting ready for spring.

We discovered last fall that the rear wall of the Blacksmith Shop was losing bricks making it easy for "critters" to find a home inside. In order to secure the wall we had a 'sister' wall constructed inside that covers the entire length of the first room and closes off the back door and other openings. This is a temporary solution but will work for now.

Then as we prepared for a special showing this month we found the toilet in the bathroom sprang a leak so the water could not be turned on and repairs were made to the unit before our season starts in earnest. We also replaced the faucet on the sink in the bathroom.

Member Dave Olson is rebuilding and replacing the back screen/storm door on the main building. The old one just got tired.

We are hoping to get all the exterior trim on both the main building and the Bottling Works building repainted sometime soon. Looking for volunteers for this project.

And finally Clark School has been basically surrounded by water since last September with the Fox River overflowing its banks several times. We have not had an opportunity to check out the interior for several months due to the water levels and now mud.

The school building also needs to be refreshed with new exterior paint. Again hoping to find a volunteer crew to help with this project.

**ADDITIONS TO OUR
COLLECTIONS**

Folks have been remembering the Berlin Historical Society with family heirlooms and treasures. We have received a number of photographs from various families including several of Clark School classes of the 1950s. Other additions include: a framed original 2nd addition to Berlin map dated 11/20/1850; a framed poster showing Indian tribes of the U.S. ; two colored postcards of Steele's Eat Shop; two cookbooks; an ink blotter card from Kolpin Bros. Co.; 3 maple chairs with hand needlepoint seats; an alarm mechanism for locking a bank vault door; outside fire alarm bell; a hand made wooden wheel barrow; a tin fuel can; and a 2 -pelt mink fur collar; a token from Berlin Billiard hall and a wicker baby bassinet.

We appreciate each and every addition to help us tell the Berlin story. If you have something to add or know of someone interested in donated just give us a call at 920 361 2460.

**2019 Tools of Imagination
Display**

Each year we try to feature items from our collection (or our member's collections) that don't have a permanent home. Two years ago we started with 'Hand Tools of Creation' tools for woodworking/carpentry, forging, metal work etc.

Last year we featured 'Domestic Tools' - tools used to make a home - cooking, canning, sewing, knitting etc.

For 2019 we present 'Tools of Imagination.' - Let's pretend. This is what kept youngsters busy and entertained before the advent of computers, Ipads, video games etc of today.



The 4 Buildings of the Berlin Historical Society

Our picture display in the main museum building this year features our four buildings with a little history about each. We'd like to share those histories here;

CLARK SCHOOL

Our first museum building was the Clark School. Built in the mid 1860s on the Volney Mason farm in Waushara County, it was part of a rural school system that peppered the State of Wisconsin. For efficiency of materials and low numbers of students, most of these schools were built with only one room.

Area farmers would deed a portion of their land to house the school and area residents built them. No one knows for sure how our school came to be called "Clark" school but the Clark farm was next door and Benjamin Clark was on the original school board. The early teachers also boarded with the Clarks.

All grades were taught here. Classes were held each year until 1961 when students were transferred to the larger school systems and the rural one-room schools were closed.

BAHS acquired the building in 1963 and with local help and the City of Berlin, it was moved to its present location in Riverside Park. After renovation, the school was opened to the public in September of 1966. A new belfry was built in 1968 to mimic the one that was originally erected in 1891 and later dismantled. The bell in the belfry was given by the Lyle Krebs family.

The building is furnished with period student desks, a teacher's desk, a pump organ, and other items used by teachers in the past. For a number of years former students of Clark School helped with open houses and tours.

The Mlodzik family donated and recently refurbished a vintage merry-go-round on the grounds near the school.

Museum of Local History

Our main museum building, located at 111 S. Adams Ave. was ac-

quired from the Kroll family in 1984.

This Berlin-brick two-story building was built in 1889 by Ernest Petruschke to house the Petruschke Model Laundry. Ernest was a master bricklayer in his native country of Germany. The business occupied the main floor with family living quarters on the second. After a few years the laundry, run by his wife and later his sons, was moved to a larger building on Huron St. (which Ernest also built) and his family lived in the entire house.

Steve Kroll purchased the property with the adjoining carriage house/garage and moved his bottling works business here in the early 1920s. The soda factory closed in 1958. The Krolls kept the property as a rental until 1984 when BAHS acquired it to use as a museum.

Exhibits on the two floors contain artifacts collected and donated over the years pertaining to Berlin's history.

BERLIN BOTTLING WORKS

The first substantial producer of soft drinks in Berlin was Herman Stater. In 1907 Mark May purchased the Stater Bottling Works, renaming it the Berlin Bottling Works.

In 1909 P. J. Bartol and his brother, Frank, opened a bottling works on the west side, located on the corner of southwest Ceresco and Pierce Sts. In August, 1911, P.J. purchased both businesses and consolidated the operation. He operated until about 1917 when it was purchased by Steve Kroll. Kroll was familiar with the soda business having been affiliated with the Princeton Bottling Works.

The first few years of ownership were rough and he was down to his last five dollars. He chose to spend most of it on sugar to produce more soda. After years of saving and doing without a lot of life's pleasures, he was able to build up his clientele

and move the operation to S. Adams Ave.

Around 1954 Steve's son, Melvin, took over the operation, running it until 1956. The business ran for another year under new ownership, but the need to replace the aging equipment and the fierce competition from Coca-Cola and 7-Up closed the Berlin business. The Krolls, bottled under the name 'Sun-Bow Soda.' Some of the flavors were grape, orange and root beer.

Exhibits featured on the 1st floor of the building include a early 20th century living room and kitchen, early laundry appliances, a print shop, ice harvesting equipment and Berlin business advertising memorabilia.

BLACKSMITH SHOP

The building known as the Blacksmith Shop, located on E. Franklin St., was acquired by BAHS in the 1980s. It was donated by Marvin Knecht, owner of LakeState Slipper Co. and had been used for warehousing for the Slipper Co. for a number of years.

Little is known of the history of this hardworking Berlin-brick one-story building. There is a record of H.W. Dies, blacksmith having his business in the larger section in 1898.

George Huser moved into the building in the mid 1940s and ran Huser Welding Co. It became Huser Implement in 1954.

Sometime in this timeframe another stall was added to the east end.

Over the years it has served as a blacksmith shop, carriage repair, garage repair, weld shop, implement store and warehouse.

Today it holds BAHS transportation related artifacts including a buckboard, cutter sled, practice racing sulky and its life-size manikin horse, Spirit, along with the tools that made the tools that carved Mt. Rushmore.



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