



# Tales & Trails

NEWSLETTER OF THE BERLIN AREA  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- **IMPORTANT ALERT— WEBSITE HAS BEEN HACKED**
- Berlin Alumni Assoc. Display Window
- New Additions to Collections
- Print of Hiawatha painting acquired
- Berlin Gets Training School

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**Berlin High School Alumni Association Display**

**Berlin Alumni Association Display Window**

In the year 2021 the Berlin Alumni Association planned a big celebration for it's 150th Anniversary. Unfortunately COVID-19 happened and all plans had to be put on hold.

During the planning stages many artifacts and souvenirs had been collected to make up displays.

With the acquisition by the Berlin Historical Society of the Johnson-Fortnum Garage, we inherited a huge display window on Market Square

***Important Alert***

*Please be aware that our website had been hacked. It is now fixed and is up and running again. Be sure to check it out.*

This window was offered to the Alumni Association and Pat Grahn of the Association put up an extensive display. It was visible for the whole month of June and folks took time to reminisce or learn about the State's oldest Alumni Association.

Grahn also authored a book for the Association "*The History of Berlin High School and the Berlin High School Alumni Association.*" We assisted with the book with pictures, articles and other information from our files.

Currently there is road construction around the building but we hope to have other clubs and organization use the window in the future.

**OUR  
COLLECTIONS  
HAVE  
GROWN**

With people spending more time at home this past year they have taken the time to sort through attics, basements and closets and our collections have benefitted.

We received a number of 'Mascoutins' of various years. (if anyone is looking for information from these books we also have had them digitized making them more searchable).

Our lady's clothing collection received underthings and outerwear from several decades. A number of hats were added to our growing collection.

A large collection of needlework including crocheted doilies and dress trim, quilted pieces and embroidery was received just in time to become this year's main display. We also included a few of our 'First Lady' dolls to show off their crocheted outfits in the display.

Several military uniforms from the different branches were added to our collection.

Newly added pictures and slides are being inventoried and added to those collections.

We also added a number of books which increases our library. When we move to our new museum plans are to have them available for people to research or borrow.

Advertising items for current and past businesses have been added to that collection.

One of our members is recording all recent donations into a searchable program making them easier to find.

We appreciate everyone thinking of us.

Just a reminder, we only accept donations of items that pertain to Berlin's history.



**Receiving Check from Fortifi Bank employees**

**In June the employees of Fortifi Bank chose the Berlin Historical Society to donate their monthly donation to us.**

**Pictured above receiving the check from new member Fortifi Bank CEO Greg Lundberg is members Julie Boeck, Don Fink and Bonnie Nehring.**

The following appeared in the February 25th, 1988 issue of the Berlin Journal under the title, *My Favorite Recipe*. It was submitted by Joe Kryzaniak who owned a service station on Huron St. across from Brown-Wilcox Home.

"Joe's Sad Recipe."

I didn't have potatoes so I substituted rice —

I didn't have paprika, so I used another spice.

I didn't have tomato sauce, so I used tomato paste.

A whole can, not a half can, I don't believe in waste.

A friend gave me this recipe, she said you couldn't beat it.

There MUST be something wrong with her,

I couldn't even eat it!



**Print of Hiawatha donated by artist Erv Leigl, former resident of Berlin**

**Berlin Gets Training School**  
continued.

Mr. Kelley is ex-officio secretary and the board voted him a salary of \$300 per annum for the work he will be called upon to do in connection with this proposition.

Mr. Kelley was over Sunday and evidenced a very fine spirit. He is already well into the work of organizing the school and will no doubt help make as big a success of this venture as he does of most things he puts his hand to.

We are very glad that Berlin won and hope to see this school grow into a material institution in years to come.

*(Note: Green Lake County Normal School operated until the mid 1940s when it closed due to low enrollment and the fact that one-room schools were becoming obsolete. The building was acquired by the Berlin School system but remained vacant until the 1950s when elementary classes were held here. Some of the rooms were used for high school classes. It later was just high school classes and torn down in 1986 to make room for expansion of the high school).*



**Green Lake County Normal School**

**Berlin Museum Continues to Be a Popular Place to Visit**

Berlin's Museum of Local History has proved to be a popular place to visit this summer with open houses held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in June, July and August. Visitors have come from within the city as well as from other communities, including as far away as Milwaukee and Illinois. The last scheduled Open House will be on Sept. 5th from 1 to 4 p.m.

**After a Long Fight The  
County Board Decides  
Location by Lot  
Princeton Fought Hard  
Berlin Made Best Proposition by  
Far But Some Members of the  
County Board Could Not See It**

(The following article appeared in the July 8th 1909 issue of The Berlin Courant)

Last Friday the county board met at a special meeting to determine the location of the county training school; the attorney general having ruled that the committee of the board appointed for that purpose had no authority in the matter.

About 10 o'clock in the morning the first delegation of Berlin business men left here to see that the advantages of Berlin were properly exploited before the members of the county board. They were rather disappointed because at that time it seemed that not a single member of the local board of education would be able to get onto the grounds to present the proposition from the city of Berlin. About this time this party left, several members of the board of education made up their minds that it was possible to go after all and in all the haste the start was made in a three seated rig. Berlin's delegation was a good one and surely must have demonstrated to the county board that the town was in earnest in the matter.

In the social hour before the actual meeting of the county board it became quite evident that the only bidder for the school, Princeton, had not waited for the meeting to do its missionary work but had been right busy on the job as soon as it became known that the county board would have to decide. The cards had been stacked against us. Things looked pretty dark. At every turn it was mentioned that Princeton had a more convenient location.

The meeting of the board was called to order at 1:30. The first order

of the business was the re-election of A. L. Tucker of this city as chairman of the county board. Then came the business for which the board had been called together. For the county board of education, Mr. Kelley made the report of the work as it had progressed. He started out to say that he would attempt to report in an unbiased way, being fair to both Berlin and Princeton. We do not doubt that he tried hard to do that but Mr. Kelley is ardent in all that he attempts and it would have been a miracle had he been able to be as fair as he wanted to be. Some of the members of the party felt that he went even further out of the way than was called for from the most ardent patrician, when he dwelled on the Princeton proposition and stated that really no proposition at all had been made by the city of Berlin. We are willing to concede that Mr. Kelley may not have known that Berlin's proposition had been offered in writing.

Principal Olman made the proposition for Princeton. Mr. Olman is either a happy optimist or a (unreadable word) maniac depending on the degree of credence he placed in his own story. One not acquainted with the school conditions in Princeton would have been led to believe that it had the schools for the town of 10,000 and that Mr. Olman himself was in a very large part if not entirely responsible for that happy condition, that he would have had his listeners believe existed in the busy village up the Fox. He was not satisfied with telling the board with the wonderful advantages of his town but essayed to all present the conditions that prevailed here. His information he had evidently gleaned on his visits to the Berlin Fair, that he told of making. In brief, Princeton offered to give rent free, two rooms and an office for a period of five years. Besides this, the rooms were to be equipped with blackboards, seats, globes and such other appliances as are neces-

sary. If the city would not need the rooms at the expiration of the five year period it might consider an extension of this proposition.

Berlin had its proposition presented by Mr. Harry C. Truesdell. While schools may not be a subject with Mr. Truesdell is not intimately acquainted, he presented Berlin's proposition in a masterly manner and there was absolutely no question in the minds of any, some Princetonians even admitted that Berlin had doubled Princeton's proposition in practically every way.

Then came the vote, and on the informal ballot the vote stood nine to nine, nine for Princeton and nine for Berlin. The first informal ballot was taken at once and the same result obtained, Messrs Dixon, Hare, Kolpin, and McClelland voting with the five members from Berlin. The vote was repeated eight different times with an occasional recess in between to give the proselyters an opportunity but the results were always the same. Finally, Mr. Truesdell suggested that two slips of paper be thrown in the hat, one of the slips to have the word Berlin written on it and the other Princeton. The young lady clerk was then to draw one of the slips and the town whose name was on the slip drawn should have the school. Before the suggestion was acted upon another ballot was called for and taken with the same results as before. Mr. Truesdell's suggestion was accepted and the members agreed to vote for the town on the next ballot whose name was drawn from the hat. Berlin was lucky! Immediately after the slip with the word Berlin had been drawn another ballot was taken and Berlin received the unanimous vote.

The county board re-elected the same county board of education as had this matter of the county training school in hand thus far.

*(continued on page 2)*



WE'RE ON THE WEB  
BERLINAREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.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 three museum buildings with a fourth newly acquired. No exhibits are in this building at this time. The Museum of Local History, located at 111 S. Adams Ave includes a two-story brick house, and the former Kroll Bottling Works. 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.  
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