

Brunswick History Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 2:00pm

Present: Dr. Wayne Allgaier (Chairman), Mr. Peter Wenner (Secretary), Mr. David McIntosh (Board Member), Ms. Jackie Ebersole (Board Member), Mr. Clair Ebersole (Guest), Mr. Tim Wilson (Board Member), Mr. Bruce Funk (Board Member)

The following topics were discussed:

- Business:
 - Dr. Allgaier moved that we make commemorative pins for this year's Distinguished Citizen honorees rather than wait until next year, which will be the 50th year of the program.
- History:
 - Period between 1785-1890 in Berlin.
 - Wenner lineage:
 - W.W. Wenner and C.F. Wenner were 1st cousins, once removed, as W.W. and C.F.'s father Jonathan were half-brothers. Their family lineage traces back to Elder William Wenner, who arrived in the Lovettsville area around 1720.
 - When Joseph Waltman died in 1870, he left 600 acres to his sister Elizabeth, W.W. Wenner's wife, which became the W.W. Wenner Annex in 1890. C.F. Wenner's son, Charles Malcolm, sold additional farmland for two annexes around N. Maple Avenue, known as "Wenner's Hill."
 - The original covered bridge over the Potomac River in Berlin was in operation in 1857, according to an article in "The History of Bridges in Frederick County".
 - Maps of Merryland Tract and Hawkins Merry Peep O Day were discussed:
 - John Hawkins and Benjamin Tasker received their land grants from King George, by virtue of being members of Lord Baltimore's inner circle.
 - We discussed Leonard Smith's acquisition of land on which he laid out the town of Berlin.
 - The original Methodist Church was built out of logs in 1851 at the bottom of S. Maryland Avenue across the tracks from where the railroad viewing platform is located. The church moved up the hill to its current location where it was originally a frame structure built in 1873. It was replaced by a brick structure in 1907 by Harry Funk. It was further enlarged in 1942 by John Funk.
 - Logs were also found in the side of the Newberry building.
 - "Town Between the Tracks": Sanborn maps of 1899 and 1910 show all the old businesses still standing. They were all gone by 1920.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.