

## Brunswick History Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 2:00pm

**Present:** Mr. David McIntosh (Board Member/Acting Chair), Mr. Peter Wenner (Secretary), Ms. Jackie Ebersole (Board Member), Mr. Tim Wilson (Board Member), Mr. Bruce Funk (Board Member), Mr. John Faith (Board Member)

Dr. Allgaier was traveling

The following topics were discussed:

- Business:
  - The board reviewed the design submitted by Buck Musser for a commemorative pin to be awarded to distinguished citizen honorees at the ceremony and luncheon on September 14. It was unanimously approved.
- History:
  - Jackie came back to the board with two pieces of information she had committed to research:
    1. The Brunswick Volunteer Ambulance Company was chartered in May, 1958, and the women's auxiliary was established in 1960.
    2. Park Heights Cemetery was likely established in 1913, when the mayor and council approved the plan for a cemetery at that location.
      - The engineering and surveying work was carried out by Crum of Frederick, with a map dated February 1913.
      - Additionally, there were five reburials of individuals who passed away before 1913, which took place later in the 1910s and '20s.
  - Dave presented two new maps he created and shared a compelling theory, supported by research, that Leonard Smith chose to establish Berlin in its current location in part due to the increase in commerce in the Loudoun and Harpers Ferry areas.
    - In 1760, John Ballandine opened a passage on the Potomac River, allowing boats carrying flour from local mills in Virginia to travel from Knoxville to Seneca Falls.
    - As a result, the number of mills in the region tripled between 1760 and 1780, as it became possible to transport flour from Lovettsville to Alexandria.
    - Ballandine also built a foundry in Harpers Ferry to manufacture pig iron, which could also be transported via that passage.
    - After Smith purchased the land for Berlin in 1780, George Washington visited Smith and his son, who had fought in Washington's army. General Washington spoke about his vision of opening a port on the Potomac at Berlin.
    - Consequently, Dave believes it was the existence of increased industry and the idea of the river port that led to the establishment of Berlin in 1787.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.