

PENDRAGON

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Fall-Winter 2013

The Newsletter of the Unadilla Valley Railway Society & Museum PO Box 751, New Berlin, NY 13411

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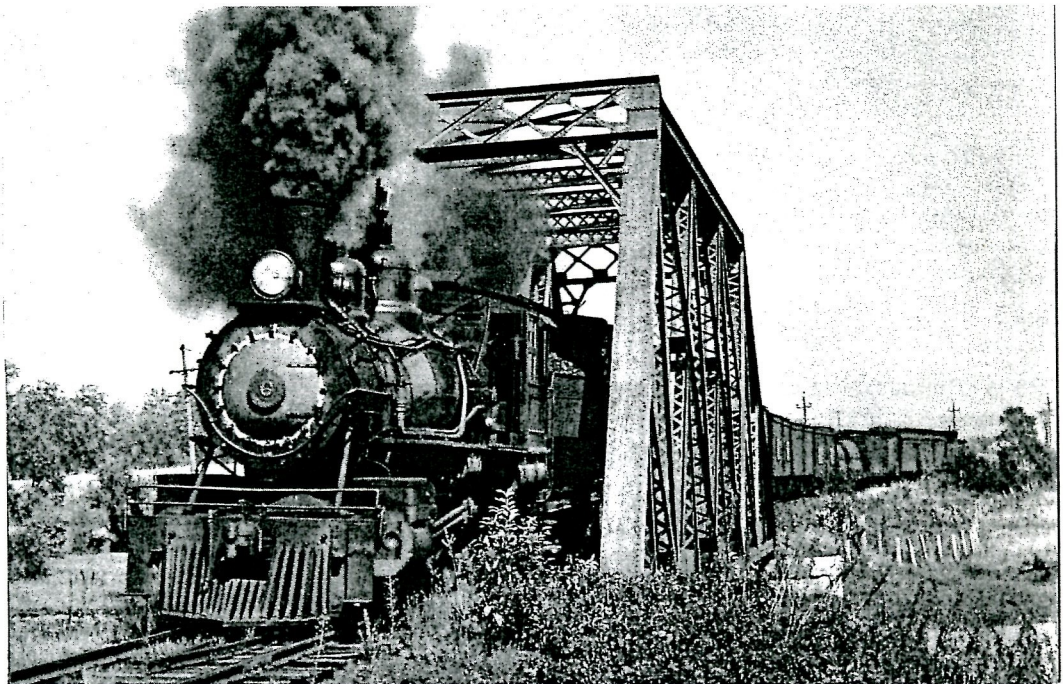
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The picture above was taken from the book MIXED TRAIN DAILY

By Lucius Beebe. A very generous donation from John Weber, of the Utica & Mohawk Valley Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society Inc. John writes "I'm donating this copy of this book to the Unadilla Valley Railway Society and Museum. When I attended high school in New York City in 1948, the school library had a copy of this book (originally published in 1947), which I read from cover to cover, until I bought my own copy years later." The book contains several pages by the author, Lucius Beebe (pages 246-253) on his visit to the UVRR when it was active, and has a number of photos taken in New Berlin at that time. Although I moved to central New York in late 1956, I have always regretted not railfanning the UVRR prior to its abandonment and scrapping, so I'm glad your organization is preserving its history. Sincerely **John Weber U&MV Chapter, NRHS.** Articles from this book on page 2

Notice from Peter Iorio, PR/Membership Chairman

At the last meeting of the Board of Directors the decision was made to raise the price of the yearly membership to the Unadilla Valley Railway Society and Museum. The dues have been \$15.00 since the first publication in 1995. Due to added cost over the past 18 years the dues will be \$20.00 per year starting 1-1-14. This raise will entitle you to all the benefits of belonging to the Unadilla Valley Railway Society & Museum. The benefits include free admission at the Museum, the **PENDRAGON** publications mailed to your home, the special events, picnics and attending the joint group activities etc.. We have scheduled 10 to 12 Speakers per year and meetings every month. To save money renew your membership today and for each year you pay for in advance before 1-1-14 you will save \$5.00. Family Membership dues will also go up so check page 5 for renewal information.

The Unadilla Valley Railroad in central New York has its commerce in farm implements, hay, grain, poultry, cheese, milk and other dairy matters, all the trafficking of a country side rich in the abundance of agricultural resources within overnight run of the all-devouring markets of New York City. One of the few railroads listed in *The Official Guide* with a Jewish president. The U.V. was once sold as junk but was reclaimed and operated for the benefit of the farmers and small industrialists along its fertile right of way.

Pictured on the first page is No. 6, a proud steam engine of the shortline railroad as it heads for the afternoon connection with the New York, Ontario and Western Railroad at New Berlin Junction.

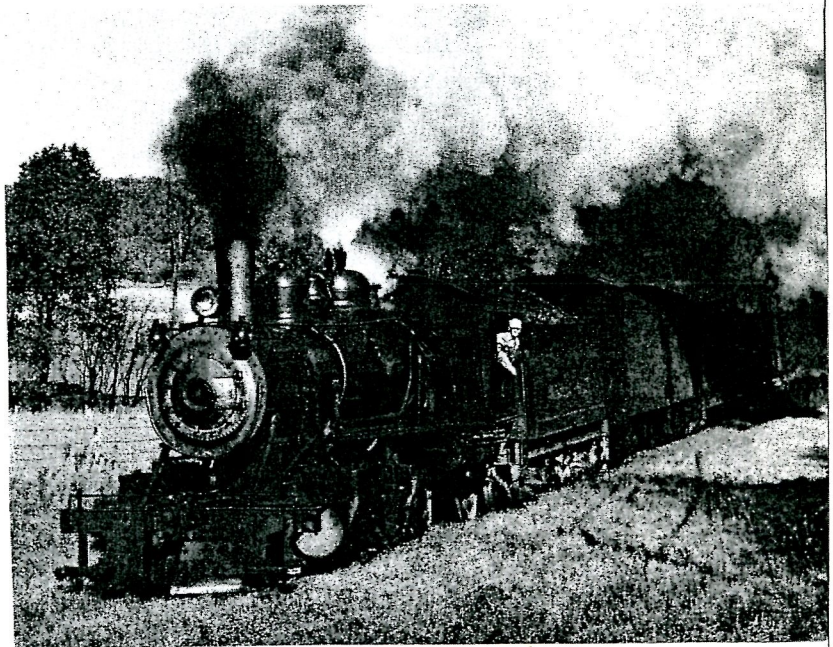
This picture is where the old iron bridge crossed the river just below Genesee Street. Several pages of interesting history is contained in this book. A few of interest to me are; "As this is being written the Unadilla enjoys a new distinction, that of having one of the few Jewish railroad presidents in the United States. After the death of Dr. Morris, in the middle thirties, the firm fell into the hands of H.E. Salzberg Company, Inc. professional dismantlers of railroads and vendors of secondhand equipment. Instead of scrapping the U.V., Salzberg has put the entire plant in working order. Trestles fixed and new track laid where the fifty pound iron and ties had almost disappeared into the elemental earth of the right of way made the good people of the Unadilla Valley very proud.

"Today an average day on the U. V is apt to include four separate train movements, each of them having their origin at the terminal point of New Berlin. The No. 4 Engine north to Bridgewater, No.6 to Edmeston, seven miles away then returning to New Berlin and joining the two trains and making a single train it meets the Ontario and Western at Sidney about four o'clock and fifteen minutes later its freight is started eastward for New York and New Jersey. At the same time No.4 has started north again on its second round trip of the day."

Many interesting facts are in this book about the Unadilla Valley Railroad to include "We now have a railroad and a doctor." announced the *New Berlin Gazette*, "now what we need is a shoemaker."

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THANK YOU JOHN WEBER for the donation of the book "*Mixed Train Daily*" by Lucious Beebe. The articles and pictures on pages 1 & 2 are from the book. John Weber is the Editor of the *Tower Topics*, from the Utica & Mohawk Valley Chapter of the NRHS Inc's monthly publication. Thank you for adding this to our Railroad Book Library. If anyone would like to attend the Utica & Mohawk Chapter meetings they meet at the Zion Lutheran Church, Corners of French & Burrstone Roads in New Hartford on the second Friday of the month at 7:00 PM.

Picture on the right is "Yard work at New Berlin, the Unadilla Valley's well kept No. 4 Steam Engine hustles off with a short train on the road's branch line which runs up to the dairy town of Edmeston, a daily movement in the upstate New York short line"



Calendar for Fall—Winter, 2013

October 19th Regular Speaker and short Business meeting at 2 pm- Methodist Church, New Berlin, NY

Guest Speaker is Mike Parsons, who will be showing & talking about his vast collection of Vintage Indian Relics in his HUGE Collection

November 5th Regular Board of Directors meeting 2 pm- Methodist Church, New Berlin, NY

November 16th Regular Speaker and short Business Meeting at 2 pm- Methodist Church, New Berlin, NY

Guest Speaker Dorothy Pierce Salute to Veterans

December 21st Christmas Party 2-5pm DEER PATH RESTURARENT Route 8 North of New Berlin, NY

Details about the Christmas Party on Page 3

Change of address or e-mail Please let us know to make sure you receive the Pendragons in 2014

Please Note the date changes, places and times, mark your calendars now. Notify Gladys Slentz or Office of the Aging 337-1770 if you will attend the Senior Luncheon at 12 the same day and place as the business meetings that are held the first Tuesday of each month.

Christmas Party

We would like to invite the Unadilla Valley Railway Society and Museum members, their families and friends to the Deer Path Restaurant (4 miles north of New Berlin on route 8), for the Christmas Celebration on December 21, 2013 from 2:00 to 5:00 PM. We will be holding our monthly meeting and an honorary celebration for our Executive Advisor. Dinner will be \$15. per person, please make your reservations before December 10th. The very special menu for this event will be Roast Pork with stuffing, Cranberry sauce, Mashed Potatoes and gravy, Chicken Cordon Bleu casserole, Pasta dish, side of Vegetables, Tossed Salad, Apple sauce, rolls with butter, coffee, tea, lemonade, iced tea, and deserts. Please RSVP to Julie Kupris at 315-246-5478 or Pat Gifford at 607-847-9484. Please do not forget to make the reservations by December 10th.

Special arrangements have been made to celebrate George Wolfangle's Dream
"KEEPING RAILROADING ALIVE" with a Museum in New Berlin, NY

Please tell your friends and families so we have a large attendance. The celebration is going to be very interesting. We will be honoring the new Executive Director and members of the Board of Directors for the coming new year as well.

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UNADILLA VALLEY RAILWAY SOCIETY & MUSEUM BY-LAWS need to be studied by our coming year slate of officers. The most up to date by laws were typed from the original documents by Bonnie Jean Bauer in Fall of 2011. The new changes by the vote of the Board are noted in Bold Red Italics.

Article # 1 is Membership and Dues; Article # 2 is Schedule and Quorum for Meetings; Article #3 is Duties of the Officers and Trustees; Article #4 is Committees; Article # 5 is Director; Article 6 is Parliamentary Authority; and

Article # 7 is Amendments to the Bylaws. The Constitution also needs to be studied as it has not been reviewed since Sept. 9, 1996 when the first meeting of the UVR Society was held. Records show that George Wolfangle was President and William Flidner, Secretary. Both are still very active and hold positions in this Museum. A new year and a new Executive Director with the help of the officers, all returning to fill out their required years in office should make for a helpful and productive year.

WELCOME JULIE A. KUPRIS

Our newly appointed Executive Director is Julie Kupris. Julie graduated from Wells College with a Bachelor of Arts in Art History and a minor in Anthropology in 2004. Her work experience consists of small historical societies, museums, and an art conservation business. One of her main areas of research/contributions was working with preservation and collections management hands on with museums such as the Cayuga Museum of History and Art, and the Chenango County Historical Society. During her five years working for West Lake Conservators she joined associations and participated in conferences or attended courses in art preservation and museum politics/ functions.

Julie would like to continue her active education of the museum business through the American Association of Museums and local outreach programs. With the assistance of the present director Pat Gifford and the Museum Board members she is looking forward to a new challenge of fulfilling the Executive Director's position through applying her experience and knowledge.

Julie would appreciate any articles of interest to be sent to her for the Pendragon's Publication. Her address is julie8kupris@gmail.com. She has a Post Office address of Box 337 in Sherburne NY, 13460.

Update on William S. Young's Book

Harry Simmrell, Ithaca, came by with about 20 boxes of the single pages, printed two sides and a pile of loose sheets printed for the assembly of the wonderful book, *UV THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A SMALL RAIROAD*; the copyright of which William Young left to us in his will. We are so blessed to also have other items of railroading memorabilia given to us by him as well as his family. Thank you Harry for the trucking of all these items. We will keep you posted on the progress of keeping this history alive for the generations to come. This was William's desire and dream proven by his life work.

A Note to Contributors

The Unadilla Valley Railway Museum & Society is a 501 ©3 tax-exempt organization chartered by the New York State Board of Regents. Checks payable to Unadilla Valley Railway Society & Museum may be sent to P.O. Box 751, New Berlin, NY 13411

STATION CALLS UP AND DOWN THE TRACKS

****I am the director of the Oneida County Historical Society in Utica, and a native of New Berlin. Earl Allen, one of our volunteers from Bridgewater who is also a railroad Enthusiast gave me your address, I am wondering if you might be interested in discussing the history of the Unadilla Valley Railway at the historical society some time? We try to schedule 2-3 programs per month and have yet to do one on the UVR. Please contact me at your convenience if either you or someone you know, would like to give a talk. Thank you for your consideration! Sincerely, Brian J. Howard, Executive Director, OCHS. Phone 315-735-3642.(Because of illness I have not responded, please would one of our members help with this?) I am sure you would enjoy spending time with the Oneida County Historical Society in Utica.**

****39th Annual Great New York State Model Train Fair Nov. 2(10-5pm) Nov.3(10-4pm), 2013 at NYS Fairgrounds, Syracuse NY. 30+ operating layouts, 100 vendors, Free Parking, sponsored by CNY Chapter, Nat'l Railway Historical Society. Adults \$8.00, Children 15 or under Free.**

****Cooperstown & Charlotte Valley Railroad to receive \$75,000.00 Grant from Governor Cuomo for track rehabilitation! This was sent to us from Mark & Harla Lazur. They are our friends who attend many of our meetings and also guest speak as well. Mark is a National Director and Harla is a Chapter Storekeeper, as well as many other titles with several railway organizations. Mark is also very active as Engineer and helper on the Charlotte Valley Railroad. Both have always welcomed us at the Utica Track Side Picnics of the Utica Mohawk members held each year at Utica Union Train Station. We always enjoy the best grilled meals as we watch the many trains go by. This year our members took up one of our Fund Raising Projects and one of their members, Brad Paulson won the beautiful train throw. This fun raiser, held by our Fund Raising Director, Dorothy Pierce was successful.**

****A Note of interest--My Dad, Harry Prentice loaded the coal tender at night during the early 1940's and I recall as a child riding in the Engine a few times for a very short distance—What a GREAT MEMORY! It was signed by Warren Prentice who lives with his wife in Waltherboro, South Carolina. They also have a summer place in Pittsfield, NY. This note was received in December of 2009 and upon receiving his many years renewals I wonder if I acknowledged it then??**

****Henry Sommers, a true Train-rail enthusiast writes your editor several times a month with the most interesting invites to go with him on his *RidewithmeHenry* trips. All trips are very reasonable and sound so interesting. This month I received a long e-mail from him with the following article. Thinking you might find this interesting. "Ever know of a location you were at once in the far distant past but never thought you'd ever find it again? Such was the case with me....an impression in my early youth days.....was of a New York City trolley line on a private right of way under an elevated train structure crossing a street; the family was driving through the area. Well, this past Wednesday's *RidewithmeHenry* trip revealed the location somewhat by accident...I say by accident because the location was so obscure in my mind I never thought I would find it. But thanks to John Garcia for joining us on the trip and suggesting we get off the subway property at Fresh Pond Road on the M train line for lunch I found just the spot I thought I would never find...under the M train structure was an overgrown field to the south and a MTA bus garage to the north. You can't say the right of way was abandoned because the M train uses it, but the ground level portion has not been used in decades...but this was the place I remember seeing years ago. I remember having rode the Myrtle Ave. open air cars before the Myrtle Ave. line was dismantled south from the BMT junction but don't know in which direction we might have ridden it...so I consider Wednesday's ride to Metropolitan Ave, my first ride on the line. But a line I do remember riding 60+ years ago was to Canarsie when the two tracks stub ended in a park line setting unlike the scene we encountered Wednesday on today's L train. A change at Broadway Jct. to the A train took us to both ends of the Rockaway Peninsula to review the lingering results of Sandy's stormy visit a year ago. Boarding of 1074 almost five minutes late and arriving Hoboken almost 10 late to the five minute notice to board #6651 and a late departure at NYP followed by a run 5 minutes behind schedule through Denville and further delay entering Dover. Then train 1009 was held east of Dover until after a late 6653 was run around him from Denville and our arrival back at Lake Hopatcong was almost 15 minutes behind schedule. It was a strange delay at Dover. As railfans, occasional riders, we probably minded it less than commuters. It was an extraordinarily good railfan day of finding memories of the past and experiencing railroading of today for *RidewithmeHenry* riders and we will have more adventures planned for the near future...hope you can join us soon. **THANK S...****

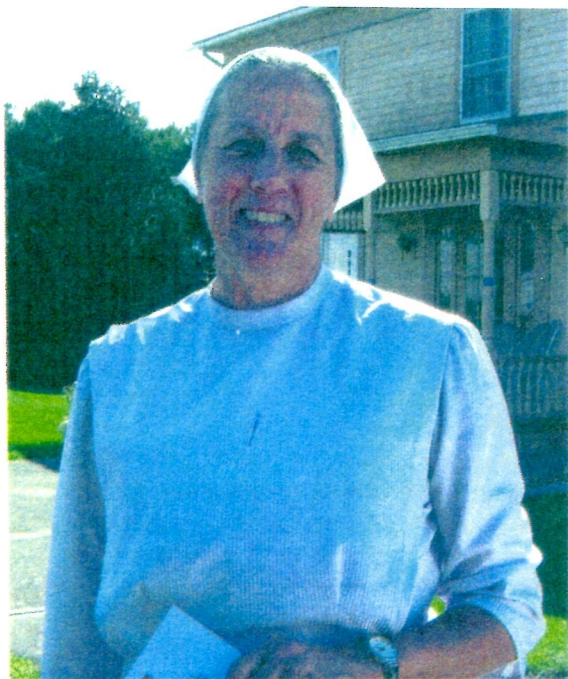
Henry's uses e-mail for communications his is hfsommers@hotmail.com

****A few years ago during the holidays I received a beautiful original Pen and ink Print called *"TRAIN WHISTLE & OIL CAN"* This was given to me by Vince Bauer PO Box 886 in New Berlin, NY, 13411 e-mail vjbauer@frontiernet.net. The art work is so exacting a photograph would not have been better. I have had it hanging in my favorite room, the computer room since. At this point in my life I just realized it was probably meant for the Unadilla Valley Museum walls. How could I have not been understanding?? Well at age over 75 years, maybe you can figure that one?? So Please look for this wonderful Train Whistle & Oil Can in a nice black frame in the Museum on your next trip. I will still enjoy it when I visit the front room of the museum. Please forgive me Vince for not sharing this before. Pat Gifford, Director.**

****Our last Pendragon told of the upcoming Christmas in July. It was a success and Many thanks go to all who helped. Another Thank you goes to Screaching Owl from the Trading Post at 11 West Street here in New Berlin. She accepted all the car loads of extra clothing that was not sold and has trucked it to needy Indian families in Canada. Stop by and thank her Please.**

****New Berlin Youth Days found our Parade Director, Alan Fairbrother's float receiving a trophy again this year. He sure does a great job with our entries. He is also known for the fabulous parties at his home. Today at this writing he is having a Halloween Party and a call 10 minutes ago revealed many people there in costume, bobbing for apples, having a hay ride, eating and enjoying the huge bonfire and many (scary) decorations. His parties attract almost all our members within 50 miles and our friends as well. Thanks Alan for your faithful help with the Museum.**

**** Pat Gifford spoke at the 92nd class reunion of the graduates from the South New Berlin Central School recently. While doing her research she found several interesting articles about train accidents in and near South New Berlin. One that probably few ever knew about was only published in the Syracuse Past Standard newspaper. It reads2 Hurt as Train Strikes Tractor...Norwich—Charles Gould 24, and Norman Gould, 17 brothers are patients in Chase Memorial Hospital, New Berlin, Chenango County Sheriff Brookins said. One brother has several leg injuries, the other brother is listed as critical with a fractured skull per Dr. Wm Elliott. Two others riding in the wagons being towed were not injured. The farm tractor was demolished by the train.**



Debbie Pugh member since March 1996

The members of the UVRS& Museum have enjoyed several guest speakers this year. The last few months has been no exception, with Paul Straney, our Web Site Director sharing railroad pictures and stories along with starting to teach us how to help get a Web-site started. He is very knowledgeable and by early next year we should have it up and running. This month we were honored to have Mike Parsons. He showed us some of his vast collection of ancient Indian artifacts along with his historical account of items he has unearthed to include arrow heads and projectile point hunting tools among other items. He lives in New Lisbon. See news articles, Gazette 10-25-13.

Our thanks to Debbie Pugh for all her help with sales and profit for the Unadilla Valley Railway Society and Museum over many years. Debbie is the widow of Fred Pugh, author of the famous book *DAYS ALONG THE BUCKWHEAT & DANDELION* "The Unadilla Valley Railway"

Debbie is a retired elementary school teacher of 36 years. She has 3 children and 3 grandchildren. She enjoys traveling, sewing, reading, substitute teaching and lawn mowing. Debbie attends the Madison Mennonite Church.

Fred passed away Jan. 1, 2001 at the age of 51. The third and last printing of his book was in 1997. There are very few books left. While they last you can purchase one from the Unadilla Valley Railway Society and Museum for a special sale price of \$40.00. The informative and beautiful book has approximately 225 pictures, some in color and several full page pictures. There are also several drawings, maps, newspaper clippings as well as quoting Fred Pugh from the 52 pages added on to the original book under his title *ADDENDUM* "we are blessed with letters from people with interesting tidbits. We decided to add some of the letters because of the interesting information given in them. Also added in them are a few newspaper clippings of interest. Our familiar request from most readers was for track maps, we did our best to document maps for all villages on the line, much of which was from my memory. Lastly you will find color pictures added, as well as more black and whites of historical significance. We hope you enjoy this added portion of the book He signed it Fred and Debra Pugh Joshua 24:15." This was added in the last printing that we have and you can purchase while they last.

Send your order to UVRS & Museum, P O Box 751, New Berlin, NY 13411. This book has been a favorite of all who read it. For questions or more information call Pat Gifford at 607-847-9484 or write Museum address above.

Unadilla Valley Railway Museum & Society Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

e-mail address _____

We now have 171 members on our mailing list. Some are on our LIFE TIME MEMBERS LIST. We have many on our SINGLE MEMBERSHIP LIST. The list of FAMILY MEMBERS has been increasing each year.

Donations are tax deductible and very much appreciated. For a tax deductible letter notify Margie Behnke, Secretary at UVRS&M PO Box 751, New Berlin, NY 13411

NEW YEARLY PRICE STARTING 1-1-14

Single member.....\$20.00 per year.....Renewal until 1-1-14 is \$15.00 per year. This Price is void after 1-1-14

Family Member...\$30.00 per year.....Renewal until 1-1-14 is \$25.00 per year This price is void after 1-1-14

Life Member (Single) ... \$225.00

Life Member (Family)\$250.00

Donation only.....\$_____ Thank You!

All joining now or renewing will cover you until 1-1-2015 A membership card along with the Pendragon Publications will be sent to you.

Unadilla Valley Railway Society and Museum

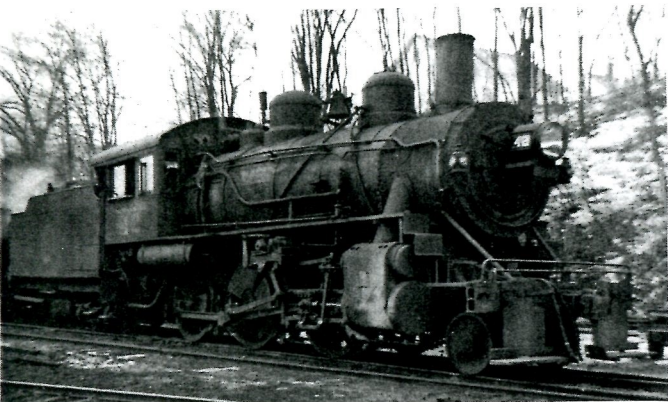
3 Railroad Street

PO Box 751

New Berlin, NY 13411

Happy Railing !

TO: _____



Do You Remember?

