



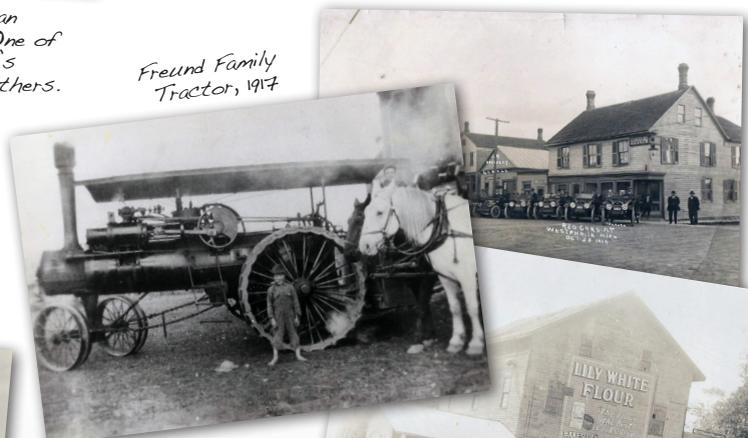
Westphalia founding fathers and the first St. Mary church built in 1836,



John Herman Hanes - One of Westphalia's founding fathers.



Platte's Candy Store, 1950



Freund Family Tractor, 1917



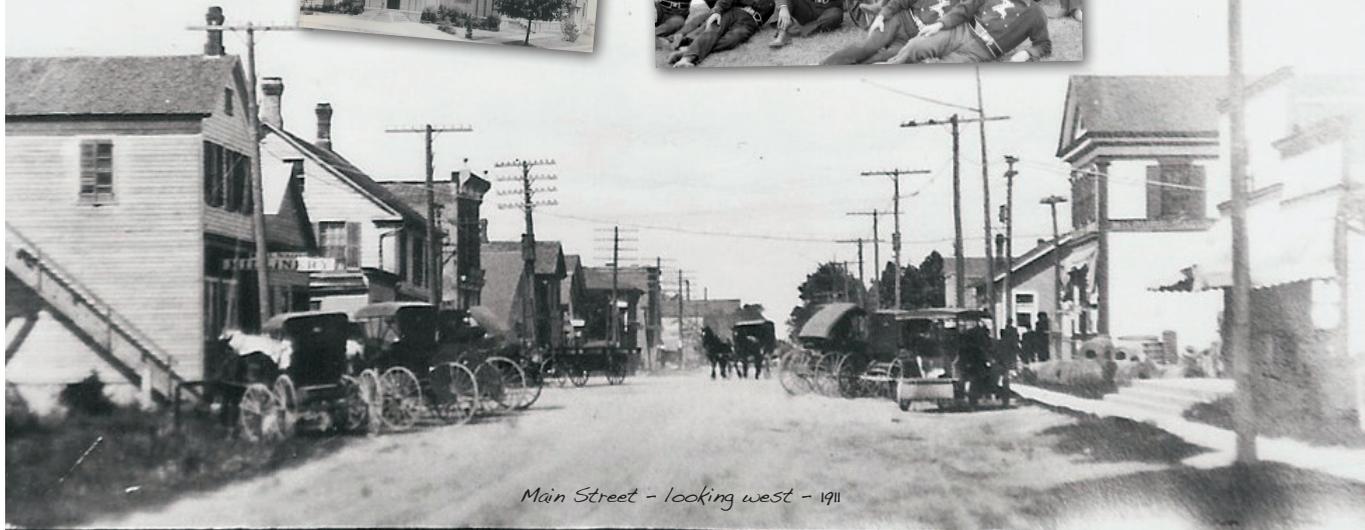
Old St. Mary Church, build in 1869. Destroyed by fire in April, 1959



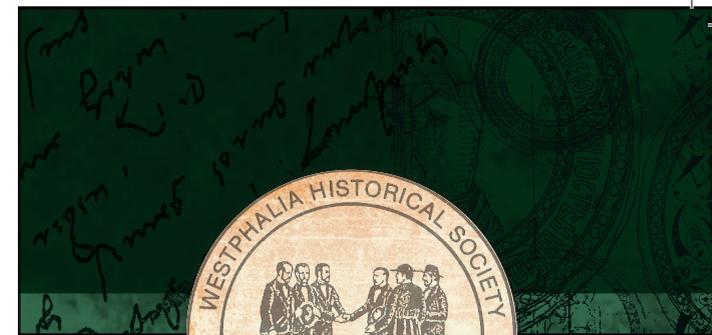
Westphalia Fire Fighters



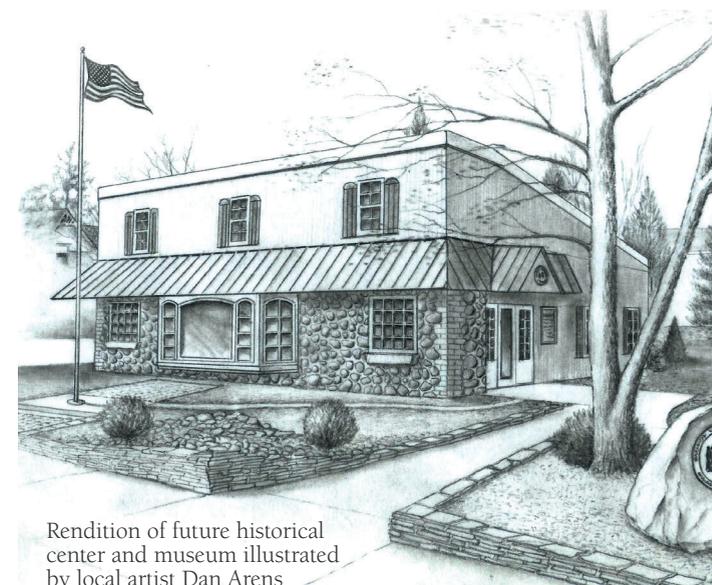
Westphalia Milling Co.



Main Street - looking west - 1911



# MAKING THE Westphalia Area Historical Center and Museum A REALITY



Rendition of future historical center and museum illustrated by local artist Dan Arens

Westphalia Historical Society  
PO Box 163  
Westphalia MI 48894-0163

The Westphalia Historical Society has long had the dream of securing a location that could serve the Westphalia area as a local “Center” for celebrating our rich and proud heritage. The Society envisions a place where...

- Area historical artifacts can be preserved and displayed for current and future generations to view, enjoy, and learn from.
- People of all ages can gather to reflect on the interesting history of the Westphalia area.
- Children, parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents, can come to research the past and learn together in a fun, relaxing, and peaceful atmosphere.



Well, that dream may finally become a reality!

The Society has been presented with the opportunity to purchase the building on the corner of West Main and North Heyer Streets in downtown Westphalia. This is the current location of Plannescapes Nursery & Landscape Design.

Accomplishing this dream requires a major fund raising effort on the part of the Society. However, with the help of area residents, businesses, and other donors, the Society is confident we can make the Westphalia Area Historical Center and Museum a reality!

Before getting into the fund raising details, let us provide some information about the Westphalia Historical Society.

#### What is the Westphalia Historical Society?

The Westphalia Historical Society is a non-profit corporation established in 1985. The Society is licensed by the State of Michigan and is currently securing IRS 501(c)(3) designation. Governed by its bylaws, the organization is comprised of a President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Board of Directors in addition to its regular membership.

#### What is the Society's Mission?

The Society's mission is to promote an awareness and appreciation of the rich and proud heritage of the Westphalia area and its people and to preserve this heritage for current and future generations to enjoy and learn from.

#### What are the Society's goals and future vision?

- To acquire a property to house and display historical artifacts from the Westphalia area such as books, videos, antiques, pictures, etc., for all to enjoy.
- To provide a historical “Community Center/ Museum” where people can gather to celebrate our rich and proud heritage. Where generations can blend in a peaceful and relaxing atmosphere.
- To enhance research and educational opportunities (genealogy, history, etc.) for area residents and students.
- To eventually provide research tools such as computers, software, and WiFi access.
- To pursue potential grant money to help fund the Society's goals and visions.

#### Why do this now?

The Society views this as an opportunity that may not present itself again. The downtown location is excellent. The building is in good shape and easily accessible to the physically challenged – no steps! Lastly, the property is being offered to the Society at a very reasonable price by the current owners.

#### Making the Dream a Reality – Fund Raising

The Westphalia Historical Society's goal is to raise \$75,000 to purchase, renovate and maintain the building. You can rest assured that all money raised will be spent wisely. If sufficient funds to purchase the property are not raised, registered donors will have the option of requesting a refund of their donation.

The first priority will be to secure the financial resources necessary to purchase the building and establish a maintenance fund. Although some initial updates (bathroom, security, etc.), will be needed, structural renovations will be done only as funds allow.

#### Pledge Drive/ Donations

Funds to purchase the building and do the initial renovations/maintenance will be done by way of a pledge drive. A plaque honoring donors in the Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze categories will be prominently displayed in the Westphalia Historical Center and Museum. Pledges of \$1,000 or more can be paid over two years.

You may consider making a donation in memorial of a loved one who has passed. Remembering the Westphalia Historical Society in your estate planning (wills, trusts, etc.) is also a great way to help secure our heritage for future generations to appreciate and enjoy. Donations from businesses, groups, and organizations (ABC Company, Class of 1961, Boy Scouts, etc.) are also greatly appreciated. Please use the attached donor card to make your pledge.

“Friends of the Society” annual membership donations, which will be used to help offset the yearly operating costs, are also very important and will gladly be accepted. Contact the Society for information regarding annual memberships.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Evelyn Weiland at 989-587-6839 or Margie Wirth at 989-587-6984. You may also go to [www.WestphaliaMi.com](http://www.WestphaliaMi.com) and click on the Westphalia Historical Society link.

WESTPHALIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
*Westphalia Area Historical Center And Museum*  
FUND RAISING PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

The Westphalia Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. Your donation may be tax deductible; please consult your tax advisor. NOTE: Pledged donations of \$1,000 or more may be paid over a two-year period. Fifty percent (50%) of the pledged amount is due at the time of the pledge, with the remaining balance due within one year. Please check the box below if using this option.

#### Pledge Drive Donation

- Platinum Donation (\$5,000 and above)
- Gold Donation (\$2,500 - \$4,999)
- Silver Donation (\$1,000 - \$2,499)
- Bronze Donation (\$500 - \$999)
- Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check if enclosing 50% of pledged amount with balance due within one year (donations of \$1,000 or more).

**TOTAL PLEDGE AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to the Westphalia Historical Society, P.O. Box 163, Westphalia MI 48894-0163.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**