



WESTPHALIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 11 | Issue 5 | Number 63 | October 2022

www.westphaliahistory.weebly.com

www.facebook.com/westphalia1836



Veterans Day: November 11

At the 11th minute of the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, World War I ended. Every year on November 11th we celebrate and honor all veterans who have served this country: those that returned to us, and especially those that lost their lives serving.

Another Bus Trip Success

The Shipshewana Bus Trip, put together by Chris Piggott, was by all accounts very well done and a great and lively time was had by all. Rhonda Hengesbach won the drawing, winning \$108.00. The other half went to the bus driver as a tip.

Margie Wirth won the door prize pie given by the Blue Gate Theater during their intermission between acts of the play, "Soldier Boy". While she didn't share her pie with everyone, she did share her RumChata with her fellow bus mates. This may have explained how she managed to sell several tickets for the raffle prizes to be given at the Light Parade.

Good food, good friends, and a good time made for a perfect day. Thanks Chris!

Light Parade & Tree Lighting

This year's light parade is scheduled for December 3rd at 6:00 PM; the tree lighting to follow. This year's tree is being donated by Gary Lenneman.

Our honorary tree lighters are Nolan and Colin, children of Scott and Shelly Piggott-Napierala.

2022 Raffle

After the tree lighting, we will have our raffle. What could you win?

- handmade quilt, made by Westphalia's own "Peace by Piece" quilt group
- a jewelry chest handcrafted by Fred Martin
- a toy barn made by the inmates at Bellamy Reformatory in Ionia and donated by Andy Hengesbach

Contact a member to find out where to buy a ticket.

The most important part of the parade are its participants and entries. Please consider decorating your golf cart, side by side, business vehicles or putting together a family float to again make this a fun family (especially kids) event.

Remember the Kowatch family float and the Clintonia Road Neighborhood German Beer Garden float of years past? The more floats the merrier!

By the way, St. Nick has already given notice that he plans on being here.

Please call Leo Pohl at (989) 587-3843 for entry information.

It Takes A Village

The 2022 Westphalia Historical Society's Cemetery Walk was another successful event, and many thanks are in order to so many people. Thanks to the Cemetery Walk committee for all the time and effort it took to make this event possible: Evelyn Weiland, Glenn Fink, Margie Wirth, Karen Spitzley and Carol Simon.

Thank you to those who portrayed our notable ancestors: Dan Pung, Maria Klein Pennington, Ryan Eklund, Laurita Snitgen Showerman, and the Thelen daughters: Ann, GERALYN, Wanda, Darlene, Brenda and Bethany. Thank you to our docents: Walt and Bernie Thelen, Joe Kolp, Edith Smith, and Phil Hanses. Thanks to our parking crew of Phil, William, and Claire Hengesbach, Bob Strum and Dale Simon. And thank you to Eugenia Arens, who provided some musical entertainment. A huge thank you to Paul Smith and his crew for beautifully maintaining the cemetery, all to all of the golf cart drivers.

Big thanks to Albin Hengesbach Carpentry for some printing services, to Deb Hengesbach for the brochure, and to Nancy Bengel as greeter. Thanks to Jim Pivarnik for his beautiful photography work. Thank you to Brian Rehman, media instructor at PW, and Marissa Harp for videography. And a huge thanks to all of the WHS members who helped with set-up and take down and baking cookies! Finally, thank you to everybody who showed up for the event and for their continued support of the WHS; it truly takes a village.

More Genealogy Material

We were recently contacted by the family of Diane Schafer, who donated boxes of materials (family trees and histories) and correspondence Diane collected over the many years of doing research. We plan on making these things available once things are sorted out. Diane spent years doing research on families, as well as writing several family tree books. Her research will be of great interest to many people in this community. A special thank you to the family of Diane for this donation.

VIDUA/FEDEWA: LOOKING FOR PICTURES

We were contacted by a Museum visitor who is Looking for pictures of Johann George Vidua/Fedewa born 8/18/1825. He emigrated to America in 1841 with his parents, Adam and Katherine (Muller) Vidua/Fedewa and settled in Westphalia. He married Helena Firmerich on May 13, 1851. Johann died February 17, 1901. Both Johann and Helena are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

A photo of Johann would be appreciated and a bonus picture of Helena would also be wonderful. Please contact Rosemary Roundtree, rosaround62@gmail.com if you can help solve this puzzle. Thank you



Museum News

Don't forget our museum hours are the first Sunday and Third Wednesday of the month until we close down in December. That means you only have a few more chances to stop in this year! As a reminder, we have a new large photo (small portion at left) of downtown Westphalia and many other things to take a look at, including our Area Sports Exhibit. Stop in!

Sunday 11/6 ~ 1-4:00 PM

Wednesday 11/16 ~ 5-8:00 PM