WESTPHALIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

April 2017   **Volume 30**

The New Year Begins Soon For Us:
This year the main exhibit will concentrate on the town of Westphalia. We are looking for items that were used here, advertised here, made here, or sold here by past or present businesses. If you have something you think we could use in the display, please call Gladys Rademacher, 587-6958; Sharon O'Brien 587-3268; or Bernadette Thelen, 587-6885. Thank you! If all goes well we hope to open at the end of May. As we reorganize our space, there will likely be secondary displays as room permits.

Christmas Tree Ornaments:
We still have a few of the 2016 ornaments for sale. They cost $15.00 and can be picked up at our building or at the Little Flower Bakery. They are handmade by Glenn Fink, one of our members. Each ornament is numbered. Thus far we have sold 167, for a total of $2505. Glenn donates his time and all of the materials to make the ornaments for the historical society. Once again, Thanks Glenn!

Giving Tree:
Over the winter the donor "tree" (mentioned in the December newsletter) was set up in the museum to thank those who have donated $500 or more to the historical society. We are also creating a plaque to honor people and businesses who have contributed time and/or materials for our building. It should be up by the time we open in the spring. If you can't wait, please feel welcome to come to one of our meetings to see it. We meet the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm.

New Computer:
We now have a new computer and laser printer thanks to a generous designated donation last year from Dick Baker. Dick is the grandson of "Tinner" Bohr and resides in Missouri. You may remember him from last year's cemetery walk when he represented one of the Bohr family members.

Book Signing:
Kurt Thelen will be here again this year to sign his new book, *JA* as well as his first book, *When Boppa Was a Boy.* We will publish this date in the June newsletter.

Hubbardston Historical Dinner:
The Hubbardston Historical Society is having their annual fund-raising dinner April 21st at St. John the Baptist Parish Hall from 5-11:00 PM. The $20 donation covers a roast beef dinner with door prizes and entertainment. Contact Joan Heckman at (989) 981-6817 for more information.

Bake Sale:
We will have a popcorn/bake sale on Friday, April 28th to coincide with the area garage sales. If you would like to donate baked goods, they can be dropped off the night before or early morning on Theresa Quartermus's porch or at the Portland Federal Credit Union the morning of the sale. In the past this has been a very good fund raiser for us. Any questions, please call Margie Wirth, 587-6984. Thank you in advance for contributing to this cause. Any goodie is greatly appreciated.

Antiques Appraisal:
On May 2nd at 6:30 PM, Dennis Beard will be at our building to appraise items. However, Mr. Beard will be the only appraiser this year, and he will *not* be appraising quilts, nor coins or firearms. There is a *two item per person limit* on items to bring. Donations will be accepted.

Fall:
The Cemetery Walk has been hugely popular. To make this event a success, volunteers are needed to help with research, write-ups, props and costumes. Anyone interested in helping, please contact Evelyn Weiland, Margie Wirth or Leo Pohl 587-3843.

Winter:
The Light Parade has become a great community event and we look forward to another great showing in 2017. Get your imaginations rolling. Without participants there is no parade and lots of disappointed kids, both young and old. **Parade date: Saturday, December 2.**

Researching Westphalia? Check the Zip Code.
By Debbie Hengesbach

Often if a word is uniquely spelled or perhaps complicated to pronounce at first, people assume it's one of a kind. This is true with our own town. From time to time the historical society receives genealogy requests (or pictures) that relate to a Westphalia *other than ours*. We can only assume that because the word "Westphalia" seems unique to those far away, it must make it seem one of a kind as well. So because of some confusion in research and a curiosity about these other Westphalias, the historical society is taking a look at what Westphalia is like when it's not 48894.

Indiana, 47578 This locale is considered an "unincorporated' community, as it is not governed by its own local municipality, but by Vigo Township (Wacousta, Michigan carries the same label). It is located in southwestern Indiana and was established in 1881 by German immigrants who established a church ministered by both Lutheran and Reformed church leaders (one held services in the morning, while the other had the afternoon).

Iowa, 20774 Founded by German Catholics, this small town of 127 people (as of the 2010 census) was established in the early 1870s. It covers roughly .10 square miles of land. St. Boniface (patron saint of Germany) is the name of the Catholic Church. They too have a parish picnic each year on July 4th. This, along with other local places, such as their cemetery, shrines to St. Isidore and Our Lady of Grace, put this Westphalia on the National Register of Historic Sites.   The town also has an amateur baseball tournament, the Westphalia Harvest Tournament.

Kansas, 66093 This is another small town at .19 square miles and 163 residents/62 households as of 2010. It was settled around 1880 when a railroad was extended to that area. It was also settled by Germans. St. Teresa of Avila is the Catholic Church in this Westphalia; it was established in 1880. Three brothers from Westphalia, Iowa moved to Kansas and began this parish. It is much like ours: Knights of Columbus, fish fries, etc. Interestingly, their church became structurally unsound in the 1960s and was rebuilt using the bells from their first church. The parish now partners with three other parishes from the surrounding communities.

Texas, 76656 Westphalia, Texas is located about 35 miles south of Waco, and this too is an unincorporated community; it is part of Falls County. The Catholic Church is the Church of the Visitation and was once the largest wooden church west of the Mississippi River. This Westphalia is listed a historic district on the National Register of Historic Sites. The little town with a population of 186 in 2000 is known for the Westphalia Waltz and a church picnic.

Missouri, 65085 With .53 square miles and 389 residents/166 households listed as of 2010, they rank closest to us in size of the Westphalias in the US. They too have a strong German heritage; their street names are in German and English. This Westphalia was established in 1835. Their Catholic Church is St. Joseph and is on the National Register of Historic Sites. There is a local restaurant that looks to serve home-cooked style meals and there's a local vineyard. Interested in getting a bottle that says "Westphalia" without making the trip? You can buy it online.

Maryland, 20774 This Westphalia is a census-designated place in southern Prince George's County, Maryland. A *census designated place* is a locally recognized community, but there is no incorporation. The population for this area is over 7,000 and it covers around 13 square miles. This Westphalia is currently being developed into a luxury suburb of Washington D.C.

Michigan, 48894 According to the 2010 census, 48894 (town) covers 1.14 square miles with a population of 923 (the township population was 2,365 in 2010)...*You likely know the rest.*

Beal City, Michigan, 48858 (Mt. Pleasant) **or 48893** (Weidman) No, it is not a Westphalia, but it was settled by former Westphalians; this can sometimes make research a little confusing. This is a census designated unincorporated town that covers 4 square miles and has a population of 345, as of the 2010 census. It is located in Isabella County. Families with names like Fedewa, Fox, Gross, Hengesbach, Pohl, Pung, Martin, Schafer, Tillman and others moved north and established the town in the 1870-80s. Connections between the two have continued, as the Westphalia Vigilante group and a Westphalia band were in Beal City's centennial festival.

In the future, if you find yourself Googling "Westphalia", check that zip code and see which state you're in.