



WESTPHALIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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REMIINDER: Our monthly meetings are suspended until March.

2020 EXHIBIT

We have decided that next year's display will be Sports! Steve Hanses and his son Kyle, along with Warren Hengesbach have volunteered to coordinate this exhibit. Feel free to contact Steve if you would like to help them out.

Bear in mind that the word sport does not have to include a ball; it could be soap box derby, boxing, archery, shooting, tractor pulls, bowling, running, horseshoes...you get the picture. The display will be put together in April and early May, with the opening of the exhibit after Mass in the cemetery on Memorial Day.

Start thinking about pictures and other memorabilia that has been hiding in the attic or basement that you would be willing to lend to us and share a story!

ELECTION OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

As always, we will "take off" the winter months and resume our monthly meetings in March. We will hold our election at the March meeting. All positions are open, so throw your hat into the ring if you are interested. There are four officers and five director positions. It's a good time to get involved in saving our community's history.

See our website and Facebook page for more pictures and information about our organization and events.

www.westphaliahistory.weebly.com

www.facebook.com/westphalia1836

LIGHT PARADE

Mother Pauline smiled down on us with perfect weather. St. Nick made his annual appearance. It was a good night!

A big THANK YOU to those who participated in the parade and another big THANK YOU to the raffle donors: Fabiano's, Ox's, Charlie's, Pohl Oil, Simon's Flower Shoppe, Little Flower Market, Glenn Fink, Schafer's Bar and to Diana's for her donation from the hot chocolate sales. We would also like to thank Steve Miller and Alex Hanses for setting up and decorating the tree, Debbie Weber for lighting the tree, Leon Theis for the announcer's platform, Mitch and Taylor Feldpausch for the sound system and Bill Hengesbach for the fine job announcing the parade entries and raffle winners.

All and all we hope those who attended the parade and tree lighting enjoyed themselves. We hope you might think about putting an entry into the parade next year. Your interest keeps the parade and the evening events going in the future!

See our Facebook page or blog for more pictures!

westphaliahistory.weebly.com/blog/light-parade-2019



ANCESTRY ASSISTANCE

We received an email from a descendant of the Dorothy (Bohr) Baker family who now resides in Germany. His name is Eric Armstrong. He has been working for the US government for the last twenty-seven years in Germany. He attended one of our cemetery walks. He lives very near to the location where many of our ancestors emigrated from. He is offering his services to us in obtaining family member historical records, pictures, translating, etc. He has a genealogical interest in our German history. The best part is...he is willing to offer his services for FREE within reason. His contact information is earmstg@yahoo.com if you are looking for a bit of history of your family; this is an opportunity of a lifetime.

BOOK SIGNINGS

As many are aware, on the night of the Light Parade, Rick Harr was selling and doing a book signing in the Museum of his children's book, *Red the Cow*. If anyone would like to get in touch with Rick, go to www.thereharellc.com or call him at 989.855.3668.

On **Sunday, January 26 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM**, Dean Feldpausch will be at the Museum with his book *Batman and the Ballerina*. He has researched the life and death of former Fowler resident Clem Sohn. Clem died in Vincennes, France April 25, 1937 during an air show when his parachute did not open. He is buried in the Most Holy Trinity Cemetery in Fowler. He was 26 years old at the time of his death. Dean has built an exact replica of Clem's Batman suit, which he will have on display during the signing. For more information about Clem, you can Google him to find videos.

GENEALOGY CLASS THIS WINTER

One of our newer members, Judy Thelen (from Lansing) is into genealogy big time and has offered to put together a class on genealogy. She has been doing this for over 40 years and knows where and how to get information. Judy has researched her Thelen, Pung, Halfmann, Tilmann, Bauer, Pohl and Schafer ancestors.

Judy is going to lead genealogy sessions this winter for beginners and intermediate level researchers. She plans to offer about eight sessions; they will be held Thursdays at 7:00 PM in the Historical Society Museum. The first session is January 16, 2020. The cost is FREE but she would like people to register so she knows how many people are interested. For questions or to register, contact Judy at judycem@aol.com or call 517.323.2817. You do not have to be a member to attend.

OUR NEIGHBORS TO THE EAST: 150 YEARS!

Dave Bengel has shared a good website for St. Peter Church in Riley www.stpeterriley.org. If you get a chance to look up their history, it is very informative. Germaine Miller has written this nice article...thank you, Germaine.

St. Peter Lutheran Church Continues to Look Forward

St. Peter Lutheran Church (8990 Church Road) celebrates its 150th anniversary of ministry this year under the theme "Celebrating God's Blessing Past, Present and Forever."

St. Peter was established in the farm lands, 5.5 miles east of Westphalia in 1869 and it continues to move forward 150 years later.

St. Peter is part of the history of Riley Township in Clinton County. Initially the church was established to serve German immigrants. Although located on a gravel road, the church continues to minister in meaningful ways to the Clinton County community and the congregation has found its rural roots to be a blessing throughout the years. The members of St. Peter recognize the pioneering spirit of those who have gone before them.

Pastor Timothy Sayer notes that the country atmosphere coupled with a changing ministry that speaks to today's families makes St. Peter truly unique. The age of the congregation does not keep it from looking forward. While there have been many changes in 150 years, the message is still the same and that is of the only true God who would save all people through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. Confident of the unchanging truth, St. Peter's celebrates God's blessing past, present and forever.

Congratulations to St. Peter's on their 150th Anniversary!