



WESTPHALIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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CEMETERY WALK

We are getting ready for the next Cemetery Walk. We even put in an order for good weather. It's scheduled for September 22, at 2 PM.

Here's the line up:

Louis Bertram: owner of an early drug store in Westphalia

Leo Gross: founder of Gross Machine Shop

Johann Pohl: first person buried in the 4th (and current) cemetery in 1872

Izzy Schmitt: long time St. Mary Parish maintenance person

Carolyn Wirth: volunteer extraordinaire

FATE

Throughout our lives one simple mistake can memorialize our name forever. Such was the case of Johnny Huhn. John was born August 15, 1876 and died August 23, 1954 at the age of 78 years old. John had 9 children with his first wife, Bertha (Theisen), who died at the age of 40. He had one more child with his second wife, Anna (Rademacher), who died at age 61. He had no children with his third wife, Martha (Graham).

John was a career handyman. If something needed to be done, Johnny would probably be able to do it. One of his odd jobs was being the grave digger at our cemetery. At that time, he lived in the current home of Tammy and John Martin, which was rental tenant house owned by the parents of Evelyn Weiland back then.

As the story goes...he dug a grave at the cemetery one day and returned to the village. When he went to go home that evening, it was already dark. He decided to take a shortcut through the cemetery to his home, rather than go all the way west to Jones Road and then south to his house.

By now you may have already guessed what happened...yes, he fell into the six feet deep hole he had previous dug, and without a ladder, he was unable to get out. He remained there until the following morning.

And thus is the memorialized fate of Johnny Huhn (see his and Bertha's picture on page 2).

BUS TRIP

Chris Piggott is wondering if there is interest in doing another fun day bus trip to Shipshewana this October. We will have more information in our August newsletter.

IMPORTANT DATES & INFO

MEETINGS:

3rd Tuesday of the month at **6:00 PM** at Fabianos across the street.

Reminder: You need not be a member to attend; however, we are always looking for new members to carry us down the road; we hope to see you there!

July 4th Opening:

Join us between 1- 4 PM

Cemetery Walk

Sunday, September 22 @ 2 PM

OPEN DAYS & TIMES

1st Sunday/month 1 - 4 PM

3rd Wednesday/month 5 - 8 PM

'til December

Glass Negative Plates

Before digital photography and before the type of camera film some of us are familiar with (plastic type film that we dropped off at the grocery store), photographers used what's now commonly referred to as glass negative plates for photography. So why the sudden interest?

We recently received a donation of some glass negative plates from Paul and Carol Wohlfert. We also had gotten some from the days of Father Gutha (given to us by Clara Smith - thank you!). And now thanks to Paul Martin, these glass negatives plates were developed. Some were in tough shape and the image is unclear, but others are very clear. While some of the pictures turned out to be pictures that are in our "Brown Book," there are some that were new to us. So now the question is: who are the people in the pictures? To help us figure this out, stop into the museum.



2019 EXHIBIT: WEDDING ATTIRE

Have you see the exhibit? We have so many entries that we've had to move our monthly meetings to across the road (Thanks to Bill and Mary Nurenberg, as we are now meeting at Fabianos).

Filling the space are 48 dresses and 6 suits from 1950 and before, some dresses have their shoes or headpieces with them. One example of outfits we have is from Simon and Revella's wedding. They were married June 18, 1947 and we're lucky to have both Revella's dress and Simon's suit. When Revella unboxed these things to bring to our building, she noticed the pockets of Simon's suit were still sewn shut; that didn't matter when he wore it; you see, when they got married he didn't have any money to put in them anyway.

Four of the older dresses are not white, but various colors. The oldest dress is from 1887. We have several dresses that were worn multiple times within the same family; the Pung family dress was worn 9 times between 1909 and 1976.

There are other wedding items to see as well: cake toppers, cards, pictures and more! There are over 250 wedding pictures that predate 1970.



JOHN & BERTHA HUHN WEDDING PHOTO

Glenn Fink, Bernadette Thelen, Margie Wirth, the Geller sisters (Penny and Ruth) and others have put a lot of work into this display; do not miss it!

Bernie and Walt Thelen, along with Mallory Simon, have also revamped the Westphalia area display with a slide show of the 1959 Church fire.

Remember that we're open the first Sunday of the month from 1 - 4 PM and the third Wednesday of the month from 5 - 8 PM. We will also be open July 4th from 1 - 4 PM.