



Westphalia Historical Society

Volume 35 | February 2018

Upcoming Meetings

Next Meeting:

March 20, 7:00 PM

Reminder: There are no meetings in January or February. We are always looking for new members to carry us down the road; we hope to see you there!

Museum Stats

We track our visitors! Don't forget to sign in when you visit.

October & November

62 people

Light Parade Night in December

65 people

THE BUILDING IS CLOSED UNTIL

SPRING 2018

CEMETERY WALK DVD

We still have Cemetery Walk DVDs (and other items) available in our museum. See us when we open this spring, or stop into the next meeting.

Exhibits for 2018: Permanent & Rotating

2018 brings new challenges to all, but to the historical society, we wondered what the new exhibit should be. During these cold winter months we are returning some of the 2017 exhibit items and consolidating other items. The intent is to keep part of the museum dedicated to Westphalia history as a permanent exhibit. There will then be a secondary exhibit that we can rotate different topics and themes to showcase. With that said, we will open Memorial Day weekend as we have done in the past. Doors will open after Memorial Day Mass at St. Mary's cemetery.

So what is the second exhibit? Local artists! Dan Arens and Ann Nurenberg have volunteered to coordinate this endeavor. When we say local artists, that does not mean paintings only; we want to also include sculpture, ceramics, stained glass, needlework, wood carving, etc. With our limited space, we will try to have examples of all types on display from our community. If you or someone you know would like to display, call Dan Arens (989) 587-6565 or Ann Nurenberg (517) 285-7780. The sooner Dan and Ann know what is available for the exhibit, the sooner they can begin planning the layout of the pieces.

Johann Fuchs Memorial Plaque

Johann Fuchs (1777-1847) was a featured person at the 2017 Cemetery Walk. He was presented by Kevin Fox, his great-great grandson. Johann is known as the Father of Emigration in the Eifel region of the Rhineland. If your last name (or you are related) to one of the following surnames, chances are that he influenced your family's immigration to this area.

ANDRES BAUER BERTRAM BOHR BRUECKER DOLL ESCH FREUND FUCHS (FOX)
GENSTERBLUM GROSS HALFMANN HORN KLEIN KLOECKNER LEHMANN MAUER
MINWEGEN MUELLER NURENBERG PASCHE POHL PUNG ROCKEY SCHAEFER SCHLICHT
SCHMITT SCHOMISH SCHUELLER SCHUMACHER SPITZLEY THELEN VIDUA (FEDEWA)
WIRTH ZIMMER

Because of his letters back to his homeland, over 90 families (some 269) people eventually settled in the Westphalia area. Others also settled in Minnesota and Wisconsin. For this reason the Westphalia Historical Society is placing a plaque at his grave site. We have several generous donations that will make it possible to have the plaque placed sometime this spring.



The Story of a Tree (found at the historical museum)

The slice of the Swamp White Oak (quercus bicolor) comes from a tree that started to grow around 1665.

It was 36 when Detroit was founded.

It was 175 when Westphalia was founded.

It was almost cut down in the 1930s but the saw was too small.

Our slice is not from the trunk...it's from one of the main branches.

You can find pictures in *Of Pilgrimage and Promise* (blue book) on page 132. Sr. Myra took a few students to Joseph and Agnes Arens' farm in 1985. At that time it measured 195 inches around.

If you haven't seen this monumental tree slice and its exhibit, stop by our next meeting or be sure to see it this spring.

Our Bookshelves

When you stop into the historical museum your eyes are naturally drawn to the exhibits, but there are other things there to enjoy and to study. Here's a run-down of a few items to consider next time you stop in.

-- 3 St. Mary High School Yearbooks

-- 48 PW Yearbooks

-- 5 St. Mary Pictorial Directories

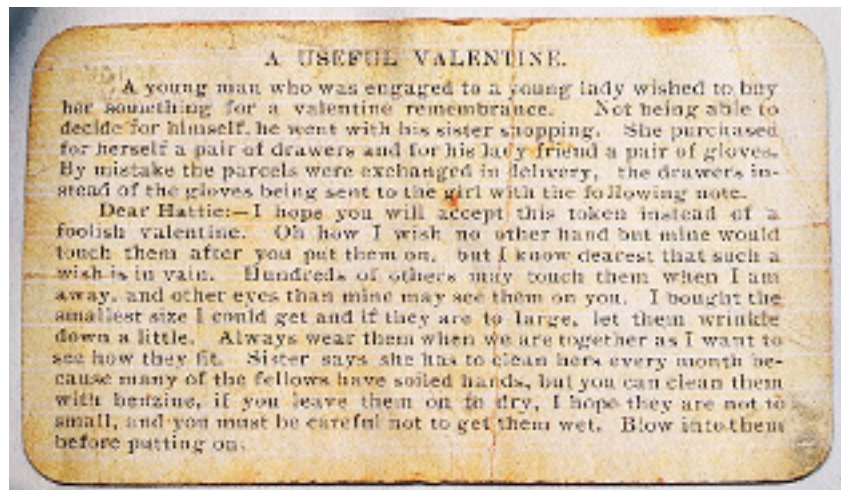
-- 20ish Mary Lite (newsletter of sorts from the 1950s St. Mary school).

Advertising

Throughout our lives we are bombarded with different forms of advertising, be it on TV, through the Internet, print media, etc. It's always the case of trying to get us to remember the product or services offered. An example is the business card below, which is from the turn of the 20th century. Peter Andrews sold liquor, so it is likely from before Prohibition, which began in 1917. I could not find anything about the business online, so it is more than likely gone. In any event, it was his whimsical way of getting people to remember his store. I wish advertising today were as creative and simple, not just annoying.

~ Leo Pohl, President

This was probably a little racy for the early 1900s! Since it's a little tough to read, we'll be sure to post it on our website!



Genealogy Corner

All my friends are posting weather updates and photos on facebook and I'm just over here like, "Hooray! I just found my 3rd Great Grandmother's maiden name."

Twisted Twigs
on genealogy branches



We see a lot of nameless people in pictures, so who better to help name them than our WHS community? We'll be featuring pictures and questions the RESEARCH page on our website. Let's pool our knowledge.

