



Westphalia Historical Society

Volume 39 | October 2018

Cemetery Walk Success!

Our 2018 Cemetery Walk was very successful! We estimated 425 people in attendance. While the day was hotter than we would have liked it, it was better than the rain and wind we had our first year. Needless to say, our water stations and the shade trees were well used.

This year we had presenters who traveled great distances to participate in our walk. Nancy Fedewa Heubel was here from Paris, France to represent her great-great-great grandmother, Maria K. Fedewa. It also gave her an opportunity to visit other family and friends. Heidi Hengesbach Killion flew in from Colorado Springs Saturday to portray her grandmother, Elizabeth Hengesbach. She went back to Chicago Sunday after the walk, and flew back to Colorado Springs Monday. Thanks for traveling to make this happen!

We'd also like to thank our other presenters who did a tremendous job: Dan Trierweiler, who portrayed his father Robert Trierweiler; Trey Bauer, great grandson of Leo Bauer; and Brendan Fox, who portrayed his great uncle Corporal Ronald Spitzley.

Other out-of-towners: The Baker brothers were here again; one came all the way from Missouri. They are relatives of the Joseph Bohr family. They played "Tinner" Bohr a few years back at our walk and they return each year. Thomas Manning joined us from Kentucky. Ted and Rose Marie Hengesbach joined us from South Bend, Indiana.

Many thanks to many other people: Paul Smith and Cemetery Maintenance Crew, golf cart drivers, cookie bakers, docents, the families who researched and wrote the stories and the musicians who helped make this a special event.

If you are interested in purchasing a DVD of the event, which was filmed by Jon Nobach, the cost is \$15.00. You can contact Chris Piggott to order yours.

Upcoming Meetings

Our meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM at the museum. *New Time*

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!



westphaliahistory.weebly.com // Follow Us on **Facebook** // Email Us @ westphalia1836@gmail.com



Light Parade & Tree Lighting, December 1

This year's parade is on December 1st. Our small town parade begins at 6 PM on the corner of Willow and Main Streets (by Simon's Flower Shop). It heads west for two blocks, ending at the museum (the corner of Heyer and Main Streets). At that point the crowd gathers for the tree lighting. After that, stick around for community spirit and snacks. Many of the local businesses are decorated and some will have goodies available.

Tree Lighter and Special Features

The honorary tree lighter this year will be Erin Smith. St. Nick will be riding in on a one horse sleigh restored by Tony Hengesbach. The sleigh was his grandparents on the Fedewa side of the family. Sadly, this year we will be missing Don Theis and his decorated Jeep, due to his accident last May.

Will You Be In the Parade?

Last year we had 29 entries! We see all kinds, from golf carts to Rangers to tractors to fire trucks. Every year it's fun to see what new idea someone has come up with. So, we need entries! Will we see you in the parade?

Castle Playhouse Raffle

For those who haven't seen it...it's really neat. You can see pictures on our website, or stop by the first Sunday or third Wednesday of the month between now and the light parade. We are raffling it off the night of the Light Parade. Tickets are \$1.00. Tickets can be bought at the museum or (on November 4th) at The Little Flower Market.

The castle was built by the students/workers in the Building Trades Class at Bellamy Correctional Facility in Ionia. It was donated by the students and Andy Hengesbach, the Building Trades Instructor.

This group builds many different projects that they donate to non-profit organizations. The castle is made from materials left over from cabinets they made for Habitat for Humanity, making it solid and durable. The wood has been sprayed with 2-3 coats of lacquer to preserve the material.

The castle has two floors, several rooms, two thrones and even a dungeon with a squeaking door. The castle opens in half, but closes and locks so it can be carried to Grandma's house. It would work great with princess dolls, dragons or superheroes. Some lucky boy or girl will be the winner following the Light Parade on December 1st.

Do you recognize this picture or anyone in it? See our Newsletter page on the website for a closer look.



Shipshewana Bus Trip

The bus is full with 56 passengers, and a waiting list! We will be going once again to Shipshewana. Our day includes admission to the play "Stolen the Musical" at the Blue Gate Theater, a visit to E & S Sales, Heritage Creamery and dinner at an Amish home.

If this trip is anything like last year's trip Chris Piggott put together, we will have a "blast."

Exhibit Continues Until December 2nd

If you haven't yet been to the museum to see the artwork by some of our local talented people, you are doing yourself a disservice! We have paintings, stained glass work, wood carvings, needlework, pottery, photography and other forms of art on display. Altogether, we have over 80 pieces for you to view.

Dan Arens and Ann Nurenberg put the exhibit together, while Bernie Thelen and Mallory Simon have redone the Westphalia businesses exhibit. This includes artifacts from last year and ones new to this year, so stop in to see that, as well.

Did You Know? The Four Corner Stoplight

Did you know that Westphalia once had a fully functional traffic control signal light on the main intersection? Recently we were making some helpful (so we thought) suggestions to Jim Bierstetel regarding the Main Street renovations. We suggested removing the blinking red light and substituting it with a round about with a clock (or glockenspiel) or Civil War statue in the center.

This conversation made me think. I recalled being informed by Izzy Schmitt in the mid 1960s that at one time we had a complete traffic light on the main corner (green, yellow and red lights). According to Izzy, one day a rather tall truck came through town and not very gently removed the two bottom tiers of the light, leaving only the red section. Thereafter, we have only had the blinking red light.

In spite of much skepticism from my peers at the gas station, I decided to pursue the truth. I spoke to

Evelyn Weiland and Don Schafer, but they could not recall. Germaine Miller had some very vague recollections. I finally lucked out when I talked to Elvan Pohl. He pretty much recalled the same scenario that I had remembered. Elvan could not recall which year this took place, though.

In further pursuit, I started paging through our old church books and there it was, a picture of the intersection – stop light and all. All three tiers. The picture was in the 1936 Centennial Edition, which means that the light predates 1936.

Could you imagine what a complete traffic light would do to our after church traffic on Sundays?

~Rich Rademacher

