



Westphalia Historical Society Newsletter

June 2015

Volume 19

Our Recent Donors

Russ & Shirley Manning
Gladys Rademacher

If you would like to make a donation, please send it to Westphalia Historical Society
P.O. Box 163, Westphalia, Michigan
48894-0163



Reminder: Our summer hours are the first Sunday of the month from 1-4 and the 3rd Wednesday evening of the month from 5-8. Also, if you know someone who will be in from out of town or here for a family gathering during non-posted hours, please contact us and we will try to open to accommodate.

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Upcoming Events

Cruise-In

Again this year, we will be selling pretzels at the Westphalia Cruise-In on Thursday, June 18th.

4th of July

We will have a float in the St. Mary's parade keeping with the Parade's theme: **The Roaring 20s**.

September 13 Plans are underway for another cemetery walk. This year's date is September 13, with a rain date of September 20.

Oktoberfest Plans are taking shape for this celebration on the 3rd of October. Check back later for more details.

Available Publications

Of Pilgrimage, Prayer, and Promise. The Story of St. Mary's Westphalia 1836-1986. \$23.00 each, or \$20.00 each when buying 2 or more.

Historical Film Footage 1936-1961. This contains footage taken by Fr. Gutha of the 1936 Centennial, and footage of the 125th Celebration taken in 1961. \$15.00.

Quiet Heroism. This book remembers the 87 Westphalia area women who entered the convent. \$6.00.

Sisters of Christian Charity. \$1.00 each.

Westphalia Area History, 1836-1976, 140 Years of Growth. \$40.00.

Westphalia High School Reunion, 1938-1950. \$3.00

If interested in purchasing any of these publications, please contact us at one of the following addresses:

www.westphaliahistory.weebly.com
westphalia1836@gmail.com

More Nicknames

"Fipps" – Joseph Wieber was the owner of Westphalia's Furniture store which was on the site of the current Historical Center and Museum. Some may remember "Fipps" as the snare drum player with the Westphalia Band.

"Tinner" – William H. Bohr was called "Tinner Bohr" because he was a Tinsmith. His Tin Shop was located on Main Street where Ox's Smoked Meats Shop is now.

"Izzy" – Isidore Schmitt was the faithful janitor at St. Mary's for many years. He also was a St. Mary's School Bus Driver.

1910 7th Grade Exam

Allan Pohl, son of Elvan & Mary Ellen shared his Grandma Dora Rademacher Pohl's 7th grade final exam. It would seem that the questions are much harder than what we may be asking of our current 7th graders. This is a portion of the exam given by Sister Alexis in 1910 at St. Mary's School. Imagine this as a 7th grade exam today!!

Orthography - 7th Grade Examination – May 5, 1910

1. Indicate by words and diacritical marks all the sounds of *o*, *c*, *s*, and *g*.
2. Give the uses for the apostrophe and illustrate.
3. Define syllable, prefix, suffix, and give an example of each.
4. Use the following words in sentences: pray, prey, course, coarse, main, mane.
5. Indicate the pronunciation of the following words: water, what, skein, accent, linger, goods, suggest, welcome.

Physiology - 7th Grade Examination – May 6, 1910

1. How is food changed in digestion? Describe quite fully the process.
2. What is the value of fruit, meat, water, and potato as foods?
3. Describe the ear. How do we hear?
4. Name and give examples of the different kinds of joints.
5. Give three suggestions for the care of eyes.
6. Describe the skin. What are the uses of perspiration?
7. What precautions should be taken in case of contagious diseases?
8. What is the effect of smoking cigarettes?
9. What is the purpose of respiration? Why should we sit and stand erect?
10. Name three injurious effects of alcohol.

History – 7th Grade Examination – May 6, 1910

1. What conditions in Europe led to the early explorations of America?
2. For what purpose were the following colonies founded: Pennsylvania, New York, Georgia, Maryland, and Rhode Island?
3. Give an account of life in Virginia colony.
4. How were the colonies governed before the Revolution?
5. What were the following: Ordinance of 1787, Stamp Act, Monroe Doctrine, and Missouri Compromise?
6. Name three important inventions, giving name of inventor and result of the invention.
7. When and how did the United States acquire Alaska? Of what value is it to the United States?
8. Write an account of the battle of Gettysburg, giving importance of battle and result.
9. Tell an important fact concerning the following: William Pitt, Henry Clay, John Paul Jones, Alexander Hamilton, and William T. Sherman.
10. Write a full account of the settlement and early history of Michigan.

Civil Government - 7th Grade Examinations – May 5, 1910

1. Of what is Congress composed?
2. When did Congress meet last? Tell about one bill that was passed.
3. What is the number of your congressional district? Who is your congressman?
4. Who are citizens? Are women allowed to vote in Michigan?
5. How does a foreigner become a citizen of the United States?
6. How is the President chosen?
7. What is the President's Cabinet?
8. Who has authority to coin money? Where is it coined? What is counterfeiting?
9. Tell what you can about the veto power.
10. Who is the chief executive of the State? When elected? For how long? What is his salary?
11. Name and locate five State institutions. (a) Name the county offices, (b) Tell the duty of one county officer

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

"WESTPHALIA HISTORICAL COMMITTEE"

- M I N U T E S -

A group of dedicated people met to organize a committee who will be responsible for the publishing of a book celebrating St. Mary's* Sesquicentennial in 1986. The meeting was held at the home of Leon and Evelyn Weiland at 7:30 p.m. on Monday evening, September 23, 1985.

Present were:

Shirley Wohlfert	Marvin Smith	Estelle Geller
David Witgen	Toni Schneider	Norbert Fox
Leon Weiland	Rose Schafer	Lilly Mae Fox
Evelyn Weiland	Susan Pohl	Marie Bengel
Bernadette Thelen	Lillian Pohl	Julius Bengel
Jeanette Spitzley	Sue Thelen	

Absent: Rita Witgen Cecelia Platte Dan Arens

Evelyn called the meeting to order and appointed Estelle Geller temporary chairperson. Estelle took charge of the elections.

Officers were elected by nomination:

President: Evelyn Weiland
Secretary: Bernadette Thelen
Treasurer: Rita Witgen

*General
Society
Westphalia*

It was decided to call the group the "WESTPHALIA HISTORICAL COMMITTEE". Official signatures required are those of the President and the Treasurer.

David Witgen reported that a fund of \$1940.00 is on hand. This is money collected from advertisers and donors. To subsidize the launching of the project, it was suggested that a request be made to the Village and to the Township. It was also agreed upon to sell books in advance.

Evelyn and Lillian plan on meeting with a publisher tomorrow. They plan to see two others in order to decide which would be the best company to publish our book.

Our photographers, Toni Schneider, Shirley Wohlfert, and Marvin Smith, were reminded to hand in their charges for film, developing, etc.

The title of the book is to be: -OF PILGRIMAGE, PRAYER, AND PROMISE-
Subtitle: A Story of Westphalia, Michigan 1886 - 1986

Marie Bengel was appointed Story Editor to be assisted by Lilly Mae, Rose, and Jeanette, *Cecelia Platte & Sue Pohl*,

The subject of a Family Directory in the back of the book was brought up. No decision was made at this time.

Meeting was adjourned quickly because of the threat of a tornado.

*Westphalia, MI

Approved by:

Evelyn Weiland, President

Evelyn Weiland

Respectfully submitted,

Bernadette Thelen

Bernadette Thelen, Secretary

This "copy" of the Westphalia Historical Committee's minutes from September 1985, literally the beginning of our Society, shows the group's foresight and dedication that has brought us to where we are today.

A Legend - Mary Bengel (1885-1972)

By: Bernadette M. Thelen

Mary grew up on a farm in Westphalia, a sister of my grandfather, Bernard Simon. On December 19, 1912 she married John T. Bengel, son of Bernard Bengel and Emma Pung.

In 1924, John built the Ford Sales and Garage, one block south of Main St. Mary helped out in the garage as needed.

In their early marriage, she worked part-time in the millinery store operated by Schuler's of Portland. This was in the front room on the second floor of the Snitgen Store. They sold ladies hats, gloves, scarves, and purses. Mom bought a small green bonnet there for me when I was a little girl. John and Mary lived in the house next to Schafer's Restaurant.

During some summers Mary and another lady chaperoned six or eight teenaged girls at Crystal Lake for a week or so. That was fun. She took me and Shirley Droste along once or twice. There was swimming, boating, roller skating and on weekends, dancing to "big name bands" at the Crystal Palladium.

When Rita Witgen and Aggie Stump were in grade school, Mary made each of them a new coat.

When I was in high school, I did Mary's hair. She was very proud and did not want anyone to know her age. My mother and Mary belonged to a card group who planned to surprise her on her birthday, but the plan backfired. The ladies parked in front of her house and knocked on the door. When she opened the door and saw them, she closed the door as mother and the group stood dumbfounded. As a result, they partied at Mom's without Mary.

John and Mary rented a room upstairs in their home to several people. A couple of recognizable figures were Leo Gross and Bob Trierweiler, the Westphalia Postmaster.

Meantime, Mary started cooking for weddings. Soon everyone who needed a cook planned on her for sure. Behind the hall, there was a small shed which housed a large, black kettle. Roast beef was browned and cooked on the kettle for hours at a time. Mmmm, so good! She also baked the best lemon pies ever. What a cook she was! Other ladies helped her too. In those years, china dishes and silverware were always used so young girls had to wash dishes.

At our wedding, Mary came to our home early to prepare dinner for the bridal party and our families. We were married at 8:00 a.m. and had a chicken dinner, biscuits, dressing and fresh lemon pie for lunch. Then she went to the hall to prepare the wedding meal for our guests at 5:00 p.m. What a woman!! Our mothers worked hard as well as did several other ladies to make our wedding dinner a success and memorable.

Mary was a worker with a smile and we loved her. After John passed, we included her at our Easter and Christmas family dinners. We always enjoyed her company.

In the picture: Marian Arens & Mary Bengel



