

## Requiescant in Pace

**FOX, Anne K**—October 10, 2014, in Scottsdale Arizona, age 89. Sister of Marie Tilik. Predeceased by husband, Theo L. Fox, parents Grace and Bill Kloepfer, brother Ken (Carol) Kloepfer.

**LAUBER, Leo**—May 14, 2015 at Twin Oaks, age 96. Father of Barb (Keith) Gingerich. Predeceased by his wife Reta (Brohman). Brother of Mary Ann, Brother-in-law of Marjorie, Margie and Pat Brohman.

**BRUDER, Gertrude (Gertie)**- July 9, 2015 in Ariss, age 92. Mother of Jack (Donna), Theresa (Tom) Pickering, Dorothy (Jerry) Hinchberger, Fred (Liz), Francis (Barb), Charles (Sharon), the late Wilfred Jr. (Cathy) and Gloria (Dave) Bolger. Sister of Robert Fehrenbach, sisters-in-law of Patricia Fehrenbach and Helen Kurtz, Predeceased by husband Wilfred, sister Lorraine Weiler, and her brothers Herb, Lorne, Jerome, and John.

**HEFFERNAN, John (Jack)** – July 18, 2015 at the Guelph General Hospital, age 85. Husband of Mary (Bragagnolo), father of John (Fran), Carrie (Tom) Nethery and Cathy Heffernan. Brother of Marjory, Joan, and Dori, and predeceased by Rita, Helen, Mary, and George.

**OLINSKI, Lenard** July 26, 2015 in Buffalo, N.Y. He is survived by his brother Ivan Olinski of Nantcoke, Ontario and sisters Loretta (Robert) Donald of Kitchener and Sr. Eleanor Olinski SSND of Waterdown.

**HICKNELL, Maurice**—August 13, 2015 at Freeport Hospital, Kitchener, age 84. Father to Denise (Tony), Kerr, Doug (Maryann), John and Jo-Ann (Mike) Heller. Brother to AnnaMae Pierce and Marjorie Zinger. Dear friend of Arlene Beitz. Predeceased by wife Jannet (Cooper), parents Augustan and Angela (nee May) Hicknell and brother Joseph.

**REINHART, Bertram (Bert)** - August 13 2015 at Riverside Glen, Guelph, age 94. Father of Carol, Linda, Susan, Mary and John. Predeceased by wife Georgina (Jo) (Percival).

**STEFFLER, Marjorie** - August 31, 2015 at Twin Oaks of Maryhill, age 86. Wife of the late Alvin Steffler (1985). Sister-in-law of Pat Brohman and Margie Brohman. Predeceased by parents Ted and Laura Brohman and siblings, Marie, Reta, Bert, Edwin, Jack and Violet.

**SCHNURR, Marie** September 6th, 2015 at St. Mary's Hospital in her 103rd year. Predeceased by her husband Francis Xavier (1984). Mother of Mary Carey (Kevin Berry), Justine Argay (Geza) and Rose Anne Sander (Wally).

**SCHMIDT, Anna (nee Moyer)** September 8 at Twin Oaks of Maryhill. Predeceased by husband Alvin (Smitty) (2012). Mother to Wayne (Nadia 2012), Pat (Gloria), Jackie (Glenn) and Jo-Anne (Rob). Predeceased by parents Albin and Caroline Moyer and siblings Alf, Clarence, Eddie, Laura and Florence.

**McDONNELL, William "Ross"** September 14 at Guelph General Hospital, age 79. Husband of Marlene, father of Kelly Burwood, Kim MacDonald (Al) and Tracey Thornhill (Danny). Predeceased by his parents Mildred and Albert McDonnell.

## Book Feature Unsuitable Treasure

**An Ex-Jesuit Makes Peace with the Past**

**Author: Ronald Wendling**

**Price: \$8**

**Available on the Web: [oaktreebooks.com](http://oaktreebooks.com)**

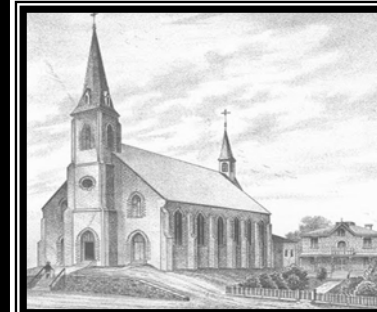
The memoir was written by a member of our society - Ronald Wendling. Ronald lives just outside of Philadelphia and is a direct descendant of Joseph Wendling, his great-great-grandfather from Alsace who was among the founders of New Germany.



## The Last Word

**The mini skirt turns 50!**

Fashion designers shocked the world with the introduction of the mini-skirt in 1965. This year marks the 50-year anniversary since its debut and taking the fashion world by storm. The mini-skirt, introduced in London, England quickly caught on as a fashion statement by young women. Women started to wear their skirts shorter, and left their hats and gloves at home.



**GREETINGS  
FROM  
NEW GERMANY  
CANADA**



**The Historical Society of St. Boniface & Maryhill Community**  
1338B Maryhill Rd., Maryhill ON N0B 2B0

Fall 2015

Website: [maryhillroots.com](http://maryhillroots.com)

Email: [info@maryhillroots.com](mailto:info@maryhillroots.com)

Editor: Susan Motz

**Please attend our Annual General Meeting**

**Sunday November 22 2015**

**Maryhill Heritage Park  
Community Centre**

2 to 4 pm

**Guest Speaker: Marion Roes**  
local historian & author



Photo courtesy of the Waterloo Region Record



## Item from our Past: Treadle Sewing Machine

Hats off to our mothers, grandmothers and their mothers. Not only did they raise a whole slew of kids (a dozen was not uncommon), but they also did all the cooking, cleaning, gardening and canning. As if that wasn't enough, they typically sewed their own clothes. As a little girl, I remember my mother sewing matching dresses for my sisters and me. She learned to sew on her mother's treadle sewing machine. Prior to electricity, the machine was powered by a foot pedal. It would purr, interrupted only when the leather belt flew apart. The belt would be fastened together, often with a bent nail and string. Mothers sewed everything from clothing and curtains, to doll clothes and zippered pencil cases. There were many manufacturers of sewing machines in Canada, but none better known than Singer. Founded in 1851, Issac Singer went from a poor child living on the streets in New York City to a wealthy man. When he died, he left a fortune to his 24 children, many wives and mistresses. The Singer Sewing Machine Co. in its heyday was bigger than General Motors. They had their own ships that went across the ocean. It is said that no single invention was as eagerly accepted by people on all four corners of the planet as the humble sewing machine.



**The Historical Society of St. Boniface & Maryhill Community would like to thank the following sponsors for their donations to our Heritage Day Silent Auction:**

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## Ask Diane

Many residents from the Maryhill area have been called to serve the Roman Catholic Church. Tony Mancini, a former President of the Historical Society and a retired priest writes about these individuals.

### Father Aloysius Beechey Written by Tony Mancini

Fr. Aloysius Beechey was born in Kossuth on November 19, 1891 to Louis Beechey and Appolonia Reinhardt. The name "Beechey" in this case is synonymous with "Bitschey". His birth name was Isaac A. Beechey and was the youngest of 4 children. His parents adopted 3 younger children. His oldest sister Ottilia married John Goetz. Isaac entered the Resurrectionist Fathers' novitiate Sept. 16, 1910, and professed vows on April 16, 1912. He presumably was ordained in Rome on April 28, 1918 (all Resurrectionist ordinations took place in Rome at that time). He ministered in Kitchener (St. Jerome's), Chicago (Weber High School) c. 1931 with Fr. Clayton Hergott, C.R., also a Maryhiller. Since he had a doctorate in Sacred Scriptures, he was appointed as professor of Sacred Scripture at the newly formed St. John Cantius Resurrectionist Seminary in St. Louis Missouri in 1933. Later that year he left the Resurrectionist order and became a diocesan priest in the Archdiocese of Regina, Saskatchewan. He wrote to his cousin, John Beechey, that he was taking care of an area the size of the Hamilton Diocese. The place Minton (south of Regina) gave way to more mission churches under his direction. It was very cold in Minton, Moose Jaw, Bergfield and Lake Alma. He was pastor of St. Ignatius Church in Kendal, Saskatchewan, built in 1919. Unfortunately, Father Beechey died on June 1, 1951, in his 60th year from smoke inhalation, the result of an electrical fire in the church rectory. His remains were brought back by his sister for interment in St. Boniface Cemetery in the priests' plot in the Old Walled Cemetery beside Fr. Foerster, Fr. Wey, and Fr. Joseph Halter, C.R.



#### Dear Diane:

When our ancestors arrived in this area, there was no church and we know they were very religious. What did they do to celebrate their faith?

#### Dear Readers:

It is believed that in the earliest days of New Germany, Mass was celebrated in the homes of the early settlers. The first Mass was celebrated in 1832 at the home of Christian and Barbara (Allgeier) Rich. It is thought that a priest named Father Meriatte, S.J. came from Guelph to offer this mass. In 1977, to honour this first Mass, a special stone was erected at the end of the lane at 1065 Foerster Road, presently the home of Frederick Verne Drexler.



Diane Strickler is our archivist and a local historian with a wealth of knowledge on genealogy regarding St. Boniface and Maryhill families. eMail your questions to [info@maryhillroots.com](mailto:info@maryhillroots.com).

**Anyone remember eating homemade sticky buns in The Grill Room inside Goudies Department Store?** Owned by A. R. Goudie, Goudies was the known as 'the largest store outside of the biggest cities in Ontario' with staff of 100. The store opened in 1909 at 42 King E but fire swept it away in 1918. Five years later Goudie purchased the former John Querin hotel property facing King and Queen Streets. It was enlarged in 1934 to more than 50,000 square feet.

#### Dear Diane:

I've heard mention of a 'beef ring' in the area. What was it?

#### Dear Readers:

In February 1900, a 'beef ring' was formed by 10 local farmers. Before electricity, when the weather was hot, it was impossible to keep unrefrigerated meat. Each member of the beef ring was responsible to contribute one steer. Pigs were small enough that a smoked pork carcass could be consumed by a single farming family before the meat spoiled, however the same was not true of cattle. A farmer with the last name of Kurtz, from Ariss, slaughtered and dressed the animals. (If anyone knows the name of the Kurtz farmer, please let me know!) In 1940 Simon and Gertie Zinger installed lockers at the general store in Maryhill, where the members picked up their meat after church. In hot weather, the farmers would keep their meat in sawdust in the cellar or ice house or often it was lowered into a cool well.

### Mail order Catalogues

The mail order catalogue started in Canada in 1884 when Timothy Eaton produced a 32-page catalogue listing items and prices and distributed it to visitors at the **Industrial Exhibition** (now known as the **Canadian National Exhibition**) in Toronto. It wasn't until 10 years later that Simpsons produced their first mail order catalogue. The earliest mail order catalogues had no illustrations or colour. Illustrations began to make an appearance by 1887 and colour was introduced on selected pages, such as those advertising clothing, fabrics and toys. The 1919 catalogues used a combination of photographs and line drawings, such as photographs of heads placed on illustrated bodies. This often created very awkward effects. In 1953, Simpsons merged with Sears and the first Simpsons-Sears catalogue was issued. In the 1980s, the company changed its name to Sears only.

## Who's This from Our Community?



### This fall the Historical Society features a lively 99 year old from Maryhill: Mary Drexler (Kieffer)

Mary was born April 17 1916 to Louis Kieffer and Abbie Bitschy. As a little girl, Mary's family rented a house / hotel from Frank Sherrer. At that time, people referred to the house as the 'Louis Kieffer Hotel' and in some cases 'Kieffer's Hall.' Mary lived there until 1923 when her parents bought a farm from Stephen Lauber, on the corner of Village View Road. Like most little farm girls in the area, she helped with the dairy cattle, the garden, cooking and cleaning. She remem-

bers picking mustard in the fields on what is now Notre Dame Drive. And Mary remembers hearing the Jesuit priests singing and walking in their robes from Guelph to New Germany. The Jesuits would eat lunch in her orchard.

Mary attended St. Boniface grade school and finished Grade 10. The Kieffer family attended St. Boniface faithfully and Mary sang in the choir. It was at church that she met Charles Drexler, and married at age 22. They lived in Guelph for a short time but settled in Elmira where they raised their 7 children: Joyce, Deanna, Elizabeth, Margaret, Helen, Charles and Robert. Charlie was a traveling insurance salesman for a while and then worked at Singer Sewing Machines in Kitchener. This gave him the experience to open his own sewing machine store. In 1951, the couple opened "Drexler Sewing Machines" at 9 Arthur St North Elmira and the Drexler family lived on top of the store.

Mary and Charlie were known far and wide for repairing and selling sewing machines. Charlie would even make house calls to local farms to fix a machine.

**Ironically, although Mary's livelihood was based on sewing machines, she never learned to sew!**

The couple later opened a Simpsons Sears Catalogue Order depot in Elmira. This was the longest running order office in Canada—54 years. After Charlie died in 1997, Mary kept the Sears store open for a while. Mary is back in Maryhill once again, now living with her son Charlie and daughter-in-law Jan.

## More on our Forefathers - The Kieffer Family

The Kieffer family originated in Soufflenheim, Alsace. Mary's grandfather, Adam Kieffer (1851 – 1929) immigrated to Canada in 1852 with his parents and three brothers. They settled in New Germany. Adam married Theresa May and had four children: Mary, Louis, Ida Caroline (Edith) and Catherine. They also raised Theresa's niece, Mary May, after her mother died. Records show that Adam worked in a felt factory as a machinist and was a farmer. His only son Louis married Abbie Bitschy in 1910. Census records list Louis as a pathmaster (someone who was responsible to build roads) and a hotel proprietor (most likely when he rented and lived in the Sherrer hotel). Louis lost a leg in a car accident, but that didn't stop him from hard work. He was a farmer and also harvested ice and sold Christmas trees at the Kitchener market. They had 4 children: Adele (who died as an infant), Mary, Vincent and William. Mary, as the oldest child and last remaining family member spoke fondly of her brother Vincent, who was well known in the area for running dairy milk trucks and brother Bill who served in WWII and later worked at Eatons and Goudies Restaurant - *The Grill Room*. Until just recently, Mary had been a regular on Sunday mornings at the front of St. Boniface church with her daughter Dee and son-in-law Don Nimmo however mobility problems now prevent her from attending mass. We are pleased to have Mary living back in Maryhill where her roots are.