

## Requiescant in Pace

**Busch, Fr. Arthur H** - Dec 14, 2014, at Pinehaven Retirement Home, Waterloo, age 87. Brother of Grace Strauss, Rita (Ted) MacLean, Gladys Martin and her husband Ron Berger and Mary Ament. Predeceased by parents Charles A. Busch and Isabella Schnarr and sister Ann Huber. Father Busch was the parish priest at St. Boniface from June 1990 to June 1995.



**MAY, Ken** - Jan 4, 2015, at Twin Oaks of Maryhill age 85. Father of Tom (Reta), Janet Niederer (Bruce) and Betty Hammer (Dave). Brother of Kay Steffler (Urban), Helen May (Laura) and Marg Rebellati (Frank). Predeceased by wife Amelia, daughter Brenda Steffler and a sister in infancy.

**ZARZYCKI, Genevieve 'Genny'** - Jan 14, 2015 at Trinity Village Care Centre age 91. Mother of Judy Zarzycki, Donna (Peter) Russo, Connie Zarzycki and Jeff (Melanie) Zarzycki. Predeceased by husband Joseph and daughter Rosemary Waechter.

**WEILER, James (Whitey)** - Jan 25th, 2015 at home, age 57. Father of Jamie, Nicole (Jason), Craig and the late Tina. Partner of Wendy "Red" Brevoort. Stepfather of James (Mandy) Brevoort and Rebecca (Jason) Bell. Brother of Charlie Weiler, Anna Liesemer (Jerry), Mike Weiler (Joyce), Mary Westphal (Mike), Pat Weiler (Gail), Helen Weiler (Davide) and William "Winks" Weiler. Predeceased by his parents Chester and Lorraine.

**STEFFLER, Paul William**—Feb 1, 2015 at home, age 59. Husband of Nancy, father of Jaylie, Bryan, Shelly and Mark. Predeceased by his first wife Brenda. Brother of Mary, Harvey (Colleen), Leo (Debbie), Harold, Jim (Laura), Robert (Cathy) and the late John.

**Schuett, Clara Catherine**—Feb 13, 2015 at Twin Oaks of Maryhill, age 99. Sister of Carl (Therese) Predeceased by parents Charles and Edith (Keiffer), brothers Clarence, Wilbert (Margaret) and sisters Marie Grundy (Ted), Loretta Daub (Joseph), Anna Zettel (Hugo) and Edith Schuett.

**Bruder, Eva**—Feb 15 2015 at Guelph General Hospital age 82. Wife of Arthur. Sister of Elzear Robichaud, Annette Gagne (Donald), Robert Robichaud (Janet), Gisele Corcoran (Don), Paul Robichaud and Anne Marie Robichaud (Craig). Predeceased by her brother Edger Robichaud.

The Historical Society of St. Boniface & Maryhill Community has numerous artefacts for you to discover in The Halter House. From family trees to pictures, books and antique items.

**Come discover your roots! We're open in the summer on Sundays.**

Mark your calendar: July 1st Canada Day at the Halter House / Heritage Sunday September 27th



## A Note from the St. Boniface Cemetery Committee

### Do you have ancestors buried in our "Old Walled" cemetery?

Many of the stones have deteriorated beyond repair. These stones have been photographed and graves documented. They will be moved to the back of the cemetery. We plan to install a single monument listing the names and dates of birth / death for each of those graves. The Cemetery Board from St. Boniface RC Church is looking for funds to help to pay to erect the Memorial Monument.

Cheques can be made out to: St. Boniface Monument Fund Questions or comments ?

Prefer to repair or replace your ancestor's stone? Please contact Diane Strickler at [\(519\) 648-2432](tel:5196482432)

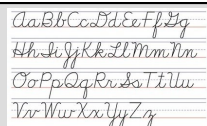
[dstrickler@continuum.org](mailto:dstrickler@continuum.org)

If you can help in any way it would be greatly appreciated.

## The Last Word

### Bye Bye Handwriting

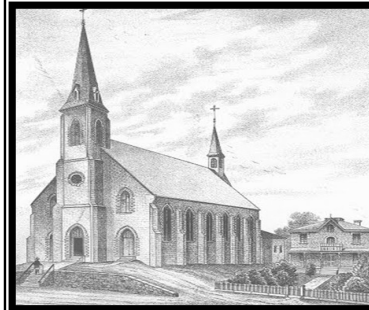
In grade school, we learn the basics of Reading, Writing and Arithmetic right? Well not so anymore. In 2013, the Ontario School Board dropped Cursive (Handwriting) Writing from the curriculum. I guess there is just too many other skills required in the 21<sup>st</sup> century including mandatory keyboarding and computer skills. Schools are free to teach cursive writing, however, it is not mandatory.



## Contact Us:

Historical Society of St. Boniface & Maryhill Community  
Edward Halter House  
1338B Maryhill Road  
Maryhill Ontario  
N0B 2B0

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



## GREETINGS FROM NEW GERMANY CANADA



### Historical Society of St. Boniface & Maryhill Community

1338B Maryhill Rd., Maryhill ON N0B 2B0 [maryhillroots.com](http://maryhillroots.com)

Spring 2015

Editor: Susan Motz

## Birthday Congratulations

Our members celebrating milestone birthdays this year include:

**95 Years:** Catherine (Reinhart) Kieffer, Noreen (Zettel) Sherrer, Gustavo (Brohman) McCreary, Cyril Zinger, Bertram Reinhart

**90 Years:** Helen (Bruder) Dorsch, Mary (Weiler) Filton, Isabelle Reinhart

**85 Years:** Bernard Brohman, Joseph Fay, John Heffernan, Maurice Hicknell, Clarence Hummel, John Wetzel, Helen (Bruder) Kurtz, Ann (Halter) Steffler, Mitzi (Tschirhart) Guth, Betty (Frank) Brohman



## St. Boniface School A Heritage Building

Late in November 2014, the Council of the Township of Woolwich passed a bylaw to designate the old section of St. Boniface Catholic School and its property to be of cultural heritage value under the Ontario Heritage Act. The school has been part of our community for 179 years!



## Item from our Past: Sausage Stuffer

Home made farmers sausage is a treat for us today, and has been enjoyed by local families for years. Years ago, eating meat at every meal was common, and most every farm family butchered pigs. Even people living in the village often kept a backyard pen with a pig or two. Butchering day was a family affair and often a few relatives or neighbours helped and each received a share of the bounty. Often the farmer's wife would wash the pig intestines and turn them inside out and then scrape off the finger-like projections that are used to move food through the digestive track. These intestines would become the sausage casings. Scrap pieces of pork would be ground up and seasoned with salt, pepper and a little sage and then placed in the sausage maker. Sausage was also made from blood, ground up meat, rice and seasonings. If the lungs were 'nice' those would be cooked and ground in and occasionally some of the liver. Turning the sausage grinder by hand was a tough job to grind it consistently. Homemade sausage would keep in a cool place for a while. Some of it would be smoked in the smoke house or canned by frying it up and putting it into quart sealers (similar to a mason jar) and covered with hot lard. A lot of work—but the result—Yummy!!!







## Ask Diane

**Dear Diane:**

*It is Spring, and someone mentioned this is the time of year when “Rogation Days” were celebrated. What can you tell us about that tradition?*

**Dear Readers:**

Rogation Days were three days of prayer asking for good weather for the newly planted crops. They took place between the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter and Ascension Thursday. The tradition occurred in most Catholic parishes and in Maryhill. A procession during the week day mass included all available altar boys, school children and parishioners. They held flags and burning candles. They walked about a half mile from the church going in a different direction each day. During the procession the priest chanted the litany of the saints and the school choir would answer. This prayer was followed by the recitation of the rosary with the left hand side of the procession answering, starting with the Glorious Mysteries. If the procession had not made its way back, they would chant the Joyful and Sorrowful if they had time.

On the day the procession went East, they would go as far as the Roadside Cross, pause and turn back to the church. Mass would then be offered by the divine praises. This custom continued on until at least 1953.

**Dear Diane:**

*When was the first burial in the Old Walled cemetery?*

**Dear Readers:** The first burial in the Old Walled Cemetery was John Gehl and occurred on November 28 1851. However, originally a cemetery existed across the road from the existing Old Walled Cemetery. It was blessed on August 16<sup>th</sup> 1836 by Father Wiriath. In 1851 the graves were moved by the Jesuits to a new cemetery across the road to allow for a school to be built. The actual oldest tombstone on record is that of Margaretha (Hauck) Weiler who died on December 21 1843.

*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.*

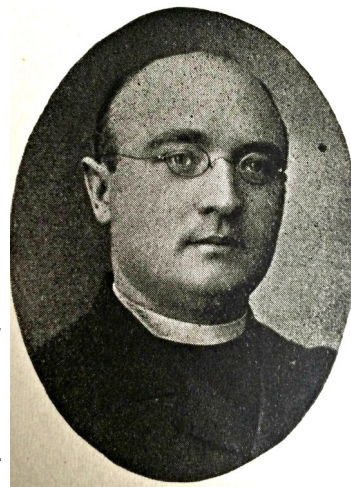
## FATHER JOHN FEHRENBACH C.R.

( 1857-1935 )

**Written by  
Tony Mancini**

Father John was born in New Germany to Matthias Fehrenbach and Mary Ann Halter. His father, Matthias, immigrated from Baden (1827-1830).

Fr John studied at St. Jerome's College (1869-1876) and in Rome (1876-1884), where he obtained doctorates in philosophy and theology. He was ordained in Rome 23 March 1883. He taught from 1884 to 1901 at St. Mary's College, Kentucky during which time he became president and from there until 1905 president of St. Jerome's. He continued his role as educator as president of St. Stanislaus College, Chicago ( 1905-1912). It should be noted that many of the early Resurrectionist Fathers, spoke English, German and Polish, as the first members were Polish and having studied in Rome, living with many Poles, they learned Polish and Italian not to mention fluency in Latin. The Resurrectionists were asked to assist establish Polish Parishes in Chicago as there were more Poles in Chicago than in Warsaw, Poland. Many Canadians assisted in the education apostolate. From 1912 to until the time of his death 22 April 1935 he was pastor of St. Agatha and was buried in front of the cemetery chapel. A very active and influential Resurrectionist, Fr. John served as a provincial councillor to Frs. William Kloefer and Fr. Anton Weiler, two of Maryhill's first Resurrectionists.



Diane Strickler is a local historian with a wealth of knowledge on genealogy regarding St. Boniface and Maryhill families. Send your questions to any of the committee members and we will feature questions in our newsletters.

## Who's This from Our Community?



**Meet Gertie Bruder (Fehrenbach)**, a descendent of one of the founding families of this area. Yes – today we go back to the days when New Germany was just a crossroad. Let me first introduce Gertie, our lifetime resident of the area. Gertrude was born September 29, 1922 on the Fehrenbach family farm, the same farm her father was also born on. That farmhouse is located down a lane behind what today is 1200 Maryhill Road – and in behind where her brother Bob Fehrenbach now lives. The Fehrenbach family had a mixed farm and Gertie, like most children in the area, was no stranger to hard work. Before school she would help to milk the cows and feed the chickens, help prepare breakfast and clean-up and then walk to the three room St. Boniface school where she attended Grades 1-8. Gertie remembers learning “*Fancy Work*”; Gertie explained this is a term for embroidery, something she learned in

school. After grade 8, Gertie was employed cleaning houses in Kitchener. She would walk from Maryhill to Shantz Station where she would catch the Kitchener bound bus. In her late teens, she attended a St. Boniface Garden Party where she met her husband-to-be Wilfred Bruder. Married in 1943, Gertie and Wilfred rented farms in Ariss and began their family. In 1948 they purchased their own farm from Mike Zinger – just outside of Weisenburg. The house on the farm had previously burnt down and so the couple and 4 children lived in a shanty while their house was constructed. Gertie was a stay-at-home mom for most of her life raising 8 children. She recalls Wilfred delivering mail by horse and cutter in the winter and horse and buggy in the spring and summer. In 1956 they began to deliver by car. Gertie helped Wilfred with the mail route for a few years until 1979. Coincidentally, Gertie's great-great-grandfather was also responsible for handling the village mail back in 1837. See below to read how vital the Fehrenbach family is to the founding and growth of Maryhill and surrounding villages!

## More on our Forefathers - The Fehrenbach Family

The Fehrenbach family is one of the very first families to settle in New Germany. Actually the village didn't even exist in 1826 when Gertie's Great-Great-Grandfather Mathias Fehrenbach, his wife Agnes Laule and Felix Scharbach came to Canada. They arrived in New York on September 4<sup>th</sup> 1826 on the ship Elizabeth from Reute, Biberach, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany. They settled in the area and called the settlement Rattenburg because of the high population of muskrats. They were employed by the Mennonite farmers that owned the land and were paid 50 cents a day in barter. In their spare time they cleared their own land, and hewed the logs for their buildings. They spent their nights sleeping in a tree house to protect themselves from the wild animals and the elements. They later slept in barns and traveled back and forth between New Germany and Bloomingdale. They saved their money and by 1831 Mathias owned his own farm – a total of 110 acres and had cleared 4 acres of it. He also had a two storey log house. He set up a partnership with Felix Scharbach, Christian Rich and Joseph Thoman to develop Bloomingdale and West Montrose. Mathias prospered as a farmer and helped build the New Germany school. In 1837, Mathias created a formal petition to have a local church. He was a leader in the community and responsible for much of the growth of New Germany. He died a very rich man. Mathias and Agnes had 7 children. One of these children he named Mathias Jr. Mathias Jr had 11 children, one became Father John (see the article by Tony Mancini) and one named Edward. Edward and wife Elizabeth Wilhelm had a son John who married Annie Ertel. And from this union came 7 children: Lorraine, Gertie, Lawrence, Herbert, Jerome, Robert (Bob) and John. Gertie will be 93 years of age this September. She lives independently and enjoys good health. Age doesn't keep Gertie at home - she is a regular at St. Boniface church and can be found trying her luck and supporting the local Bazaars and Bingo halls! She also enjoys passing time playing cards and putting puzzles together.

*When he first came to Canada, Mathias Fehrenbach lived in a tree house and in barns, working hard to save money to purchase his farm.*