

Mission Statement

The purpose and mandate of the society is to collect, preserve, exhibit, and publish the history of the area; to diffuse information relative to the history of the community; to encourage and develop within the community the study of history and to maintain a resource centre in the area.



OUR MISSION

Calendar of Events for 2017

Summer Sunday Open House

The Halter House Resource Centre is open from 1-4 pm in the summer on Sundays from June 11th to September 3rd. Please e-mail us ahead of time if you're are looking for particular records and families. During the fall and winter months, the resource centre is open by appointment only.



Canada Day July 1st

150th Celebration: 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Flag raising, recognize veterans, horse drawn wagon rides and tours, barbecue , antique displays, activities for children, entertainment. Mass at 5 pm.

Heritage Day

Sunday September 24

Annual General Meeting

Sunday November 19



We are always seeking new members and volunteers. Check out our website maryhill-roots.com for more information or speak to Mary Ann Stroh, Fran Vegh, Carol Neumann or Diane Strickler. Membership fees are \$10 annually for a single membership or \$30 for a single lifetime membership or \$40 for a lifetime membership for a couple.



The Last Word

Why aren't they smiling?

Ever wonder why people didn't smile in old photographs? We aren't real sure, but we do know that in the late 1800s and early 1900s camera exposure time was very long – meaning that everyone had to hold their poses for 30 to 60 seconds. People just couldn't hold a smile for that length of time. Having a photo made in those days was a serious thing. It required dressing up in the best clothes and, in some cases, it may have been the only photo taken in a person's lifetime. Some think that before the days of modern dentistry, most people had bad teeth (or no teeth) and therefore kept their mouth closed when having their photos taken. Others think that at that time, smiling for photos was considered undignified or frivolous. Showing emotion was not considered to be proper.



The Historical Society of St. Boniface & Maryhill Community

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Spring 2017

Editor: Susan Motz

Presidents Report Spring 2017 - Tom Schell

Greetings to all members! 2107 is shaping up to be a fantastic year for the historical society. Celebrate Canada's 150 birthday with us on July 1st. Heritage Day, in September will be extra special this year as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of our society. Thanks to a grant from the Township of Woolwich we have been able to update our website maryhillroots.com. The new site features details on upcoming events not only for our society but we will be posting events for other local groups. We welcome you to join us at our open houses this summer. We are open on Sundays from June to September. A board member is always there to give tours and help you with your historical research. Due to the high cost of postage, we continue to try to send newsletters via email. Please send your email address to maryhill-roots@gmail.com. We will continue to send newsletters by Canada Post along with raffle tickets, proxy vote and our annual calendar. As always, we seek to grow our membership and we are always looking for volunteers. If you are interested in either, feel free to contact me personally. I can be reached at 519-824-4074 or by email at tschell@sympatico.ca



Tom

Item from our Past: Mangles



Does anyone recall growing and picking mangles? In the early part of the 20th century many farms in the Maryhill area grew mangles in the fields. Mangles were originally grown in the Rhineland (Germany) in the late 1700s and most likely our forefathers brought them to Maryhill. Mangle beets, also known as Fodder beet or Mangel-Wurzel were grown extensively as a livestock feed on small farms. They were popular due to their drought tolerance, high nutritional value and excellent winter-keeping qualities.

Freiburg by Tom Schell

Freiburg was a thriving village in the mid 1800's . Also known as Rombach Corners it could be found just west of New Germany, at the crossroads of Shantz Station Road and St. Charles Street. In 1840, early businesses were a blacksmith shop, a wagon maker, a brewery, a cider mill, and a weaving mill. In 1847 a general store and a post office were added. The post office was moved to New Germany in 1852. The population of Freiburg declined as New Germany grew. As part of our 40th anniversary celebration and Canada 150 we are working with Woolwich Township to erect a roadside sign to recognize this historic village.

The Goetz Family Settlers of New Germany

By Ken Hanson There are two sets of Goetz families who were early settlers and appear in our records. They were cousins and immigrated at different times to New Germany.

One family is brothers Laurent (also known as Lorenz or Lawrence) Goetz and his brother Casimir. They originally came from Soufflenheim Alsace. Both had large families - Lawrence had the first hotel in the area and Casimir was instrumental in establishing the first school in the village. They came at different times in 1828 and 1834. Laurent was single and Casimir was married and his first child was born at sea.

The other family was their first cousins [once removed] brothers Martin and Matthew Goetz.

Martin (1827-1895) was a successful farmer in Woolwich and active parishioner who came in 1847 with his future wife Josephine Lehman. His son Joseph became the village blacksmith in the early 1870s. Joseph and his brother Martin Jr moved to Kenilworth in 1878 where they raised large families and were instrumental in building Sacred Heart Church in 1903.

Matthew (1826-1907) married into the famous Weiler family and was the village blacksmith before the family moved to Bruce County [Formosa area] in the 1870s and then to Upper Michigan in the 1880s. Goetzville in Chippewa County, Michigan is named after his eldest son Joseph.

We have family records as well as published family histories on the Goetz families at the Halter House.



Joseph Goetz (blacksmith) and wife Mary Brohman (daughter of Gottlieb)

Can anyone identify this Photo?

One of our members is seeking your help. See the note below from Jerry Kieffer:

This picture was given to me years ago by a relative., I am hoping someone can identify the people in the photo, the year it was taken and place. On the back of the photo is written “**Grandpa Knoe and Grandma Knoe.**” The Knoe I am sure is short for Knoepfler.



My Great grandparents, Joseph Knoepfler (born 3 Apr. 1842 & died 27 Mar. 1926) and Magdalena Vogt (born 10 Sep. 1843 & died 15 Jun. 1932) were married in New Germany and then moved to Bruce County, to a farm near Formosa. My Great Great grandparents Karl/Charles Knoepfler (born 1 Nov. 1806 & died 9 Nov. 1871) and Adelaid Halter (born Dec. 1806 & died 11 Aug. 1896) immigrated to New Germany area in 1845 from Soufflenheim. They farmed and died, in New Germany area. Two of their children married into the Gehl family. I am researching the Knoepfler family tree and appreciate any help. *Jerry Kieffer*

If you can help Jerry, please reach out to the Historical Society Committee or contact us at maryhillroots@gmail.com

Community Veterans

The Historical Society is looking for information on Veterans from our community. Do you have an ancestor that served in the military? Please reach out to us with information so we can record and honour these veterans.

We are looking for information such as:

- Name of Military Person – Last Name – First Name – Middle Name
- Picture in Uniform (if possible)
- Place and Date of Birth / Date of death (If applicable)
- Service – WWII – Korea – Afghanistan – Peacekeeper – Reservist – RCMP – Peace Officer
- Branch of Service – Navy – Army – Air Force – Merchant Navy – Other
- Service Unit – i.e. North Shore – Carleton York – CWAC –
- Date of Enlistment / Date of Discharge
- Areas Served – i.e. - Canada - High Seas –England – Korea
- Killed Service? Date of Death - Where Killed

Pictured here is Charles Brohman—Recruited in 1918 to WWI. Charles was the son of John Brohman and Francesca Scherrer.



WWI Veterans from the Community

Charles BROHMAN
Joseph Zuber ERTTEL
Frank FEHRENBACH
John FEHRENBACH
Charles HALLER
Vernon HUMMELL
Carl KLOEPFER
George KLOEPFER

George KURTZ
Lincoln MOYER
Gordon Clement REINHART
Leonard REINHART
Alfred J. RIDER
Frank C. RIDER
Albert I. SCHELL
Fred SCHEUERMAN

Leo SCHEUERMAN
William SCHEUERMAN
Alfred Andrew SEIFRIED
Herman Frank SEIFRIED
Michael Killian SEITZ
William Andrew SHERRER
Joseph Martin VAGLE
Edgar WILHELM

WWII Veterans from the Community

John BITSCHY
Flora BROHMAN
Clarence BROHMAN
George BROHMAN
Ralph BROHMAN
W.C. BROHMAN
Frank BRUDER
George BRUDER
John CLANCY
James CLANCY
Mary CLANCY
Fred DREXLER
Wilfred ELLIG
Joseph Urban FROMM
Francis GEHL *
Rev. Hubert GEHL
Gregory GOETZ
Stanley HARNACK
Henry MAY
Cyrinus HEINTZMAN
S.W. HEINTZMAN

Raymond A HERGOTT (Maryhill)
Raymond L HERGOTT (Winterbourne)
Kenneth HIPEL
Leonard HOUSE
William KIEFFER
Leo LAUBER
Henry MAY
John McMAHON
Elmer MOYER
Leonard OLINSKI
Lloyd NAULT
Frank PROKATOR
Bertram REINHART
Harold REINAHRT
Lorne L. REINHART
Kenneth ROTH
Keith ROTH
Clarence SEIFRIED
William SEIFRIED
Frank TSCHIRHART
Peter TSCHIRHART

Raymond TSCHIRHART
Stanley TSCHIRHART *
Stuart TSCHIRHART
Frank WAECHTER
Edward WEILER
Joseph WEILER
Leander WEILER
Norman WEILER
Simon S. WEILER
Frank YANCHUS
Alfred YANTZ *
Lincoln YANTZ
Anthony ZINGER
Cyril R. ZINGER
Elizabeth ZINGER
Emmanuel ZINGER
Harold ZINGER
Joseph ZINGER
Max ZINGER

* **Killed in Action**