



The Historical Society of St. Boniface & Maryhill Community

1338B Maryhill Rd., Maryhill ON N0B 2B0

website: maryhillroots.com

email: maryhillroots@gmail.com

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Editor: Susan Motz

Presidents Report

From *George Isley*

Greetings members! I hope you are all staying warm this winter. Our Historical Society Board members braved the chilly weather on January 20th and met to strategically plan our activities for 2019 and beyond. We recognized the strength of our local community—families that have deep roots in our village and area. In 2019 we plan to include local community groups in our Canada Day and Heritage Day celebrations. We hope to expand our membership and interest in our organization in 2019 and ensure we appeal to the next generation. Stay tuned for more information as we finalize our programs and plans for 2019!

Become a Historical Society Member

\$25 individual annual

\$50 for individual lifetime

Membership includes

- quarterly newsletters
- use of our resources
- annual calendar

Scrap Book Article

This column will feature articles found in family scrapbooks. If you have articles, or even an old scrapbook, please let us know and we may feature your articles here.

Found in the scrapbook of Angelina Brohman(Schmuck)

Date: November 9 1953.

PRIZE CATCH—Thirteen hunters from the Maryhill district bagged a total of nine deer during the four-day open season. All the deer were shot within five miles of Maryhill.

Left to right:

(Kneeling) Edward Bitschy, Fred Zinger, Mathew Zettel, Oscar Waechter, Max Zinger

(Standing) Monty Zinger, Leo Horne, Joe Zinger, Andrew Seblefski, Charles Hummel, Rupert Zinger, Albert Hummel, Albert E. Zinger



Mark Your Calendars:

July 1

Sept. 22

Open House

Canada Day—Halter House

Heritage Day

Sundays- Starting June 23

Halter House

At Heritage Day, we honour
50th Wedding Anniversaries and 80th Birthdays.

Having one in 2019?

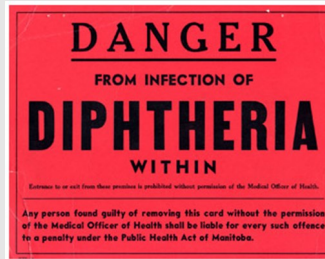
Or do you know of someone
from our community that is celebrating?

Please contact us!



Dear Diane:

What can you tell me about epidemics in our area over the past hundred years?



Dear Readers:

There have been several epidemics in the area over the years. An epidemic is an outbreak of a disease that attacks many people at about the same time and may spread through one or several communities. A pandemic occurs when an epidemic spreads throughout the world.

1834—Cholera Pandemic - said to have started in India and travelled west to Canada on immigrant's boats. In Galt a traveling circus brought the disease to the town of 200 and 33 died in one week. At that time there was only one doctor for the village and surrounding area.

1886—Diphtheria outbreak in Wellesley and Wilmot Townships affecting many young children of whom approximately 20% died. A sad note is that Catharina and Anthony Henhoeffler (a brother to Magdalena who married Nicholas Raitar (Rider)) lost 3 children to Diphtheria in a few days. Joseph (age 7) and six days later lost both Henry (age 5) and Matilda (age 1.5).

1918—1919—Influenza Pandemic that impacted almost 60% of the local population in October of 1918.

Locally, some of the family we lost:

- 27 year old Regina Steffler (daughter of George and Mary Ann Weiler)
- 2 year old Mathilda Rellinger (daughter of Phillip and Ellen Doll)
- 21 year old Teckla Weiler (daughter of Anthony B & Theresia Weiler)



From Our Community: The Kennedy Boys

After mass at St. Boniface on Sundays, a small group of parishioners head out to breakfast together. This group have been friends for many years, almost their whole lives. Two of the members of the breakfast gang include John and Ron Kennedy. They are referred to as 'The Kennedy Boys', brothers and life-long residents of our community. Born to Vera M Brohman (1922—2006) and J (John) Arthur Kennedy (1915—1976). The boys are the eldest of 5 children; the only 2 boys in the family with 3 younger sisters.

- John—born May 14 1943
- Ron—born Jun 19 1945
- Carol (Taylor)
- Marie (Elliott)
- Ann—deceased Dec 2018

Both boys learned and spoke only German at home. They learned English in school. The boys were raised on the family farm at 1312 Beitz Road. It is comprised of 100 acres—65 acres of workable land and 35 acres of bush.



Photo courtesy of Ron and John Kennedy

More about The Kennedy Boys

John

John, the eldest attended St. Boniface school in Maryhill for the first 3 years of his school life. During this time, he lived with his grandparents (John & Wilhelmina Berberich Brohman) on St. Charles Street West, in a house between where Anthony 'Doc' Zinger and John Zettel lived. After that he attended Victoria School—SS # 28, a one room school house for grades 1 to 8.



Both boys talked about how strict the teachers were when they were little. It was not unusual to receive a wack over the head with a book, or the strap on your hand.

After grade 8, John had the opportunity to attend KCI by bus, but instead chose to work as a labourer for a carpenter, Johnny Moyer, in Oakville. After that John worked at various jobs in construction. Eventually he was hired at Kuntz Electroplating and worked there for 36.5 years. At age 55, John retired. John has spent a lot of time in North Eastern Ontario with friends where he hunted for deer and moose.

Ron

Ron attended the Victoria school for grades 1 to 8. It was a public school. He recalled how Father Fischer picked up the Catholic children at Victoria school and drove them to catechism classes at the Weissenburg SS #10 school, also a public school. He noted that one day, on the ride home from Catechism class, the boys were acting up in Father Fischer's car. He pulled over and ordered them out of the car and made them walk home!

After Grade 8, Ron helped on the family farm. He worked at the Waterloo (now Woolwich) Township for a year and eventually landed at Kuntz Electroplating where he worked for 42 years. Ron collects model farm toys.



Both boys helped on the farm after their father died in 1976. They eventually rented the land and stayed on the farm with their mother until she passed away in 2006. The boys still make homemade cider and welcome our members to stop by for a glass and a visit!

The boys both continue to live on the Kennedy family farm. You can find them at St. Boniface church on Sunday mornings—and after mass, they enjoy breakfast with a small group of their friends at Frannie's Restaurant and Bakery at Shantz Station.

Article From The Past: The POT



This white enamel chamber pot, bed pan or, as some simply called it 'The Pot' was found in bedrooms before indoor plumbing. Each bedroom had a pot under the bed. The pot was used as a toilet (for liquids only) and if you had to 'do otherwise' you had to walk outside to the outhouse. The pot was kept under the bed so it didn't spill if someone got up in the dark. And it was emptied in the morning as part of the chores by whomever made the beds.

The History of Weissenburg

Written by Susie Motz and Frank Rider

When driving from Elmira/Woolwich to Guelph on Line 86, you will pass through the hamlet of Weissenburg. Today this little settlement is home to only a few houses and a few businesses including LP Landscape and Harry's Food Truck. It is also the home of some delicious locally made pork sausage! It is hard to imagine that years ago Weissenburg was the home of 2 hotels.

When we find references to Weissenburg from years ago, we must be careful with our facts; Weissenburg seemed to be confused with Ariss, a hamlet 3 km further east on Line 86. Most likely the confusion stems from the Ariss railway stop built in 1908 and named 'Weissenburg Station'.

With 2 hotels, Weissenburg was often a 'watering hole' for travellers between Guelph and Elmira/Woolwich where teamsters could water their horses and wet their whistle while on route. The hotel that stood into the 1960s was white with a large porch. It had rental rooms at the back and a separate livery to harbour the horses of overnight travelers. It was located on Line 86 at the north west corner of what is now Side Road 16. It later became a private residence for families such as Fischer, Hummel, and Schram. Sitting vacant for several years, it was torn down in the late 1960s when road work was done on highway 86.



Weissenburg Hotel

We know there was a second hotel in Weissenburg from Alfred Rider (1893 -1986). He told of a hotel, a post office and store but he noted that when he "returned home (after serving in WW1), the post office, store and hotel were all gone." (*Wellington County History - J. Hutchinson*)

Weissenburg hotelkeepers listed in early business directories include:

- 1884 – Joseph Seitz
- 1886 - 1893 – Joseph Zinger
- 1892 – 1893 – 1910 - Ignatz Schlosser
- 1899 – John Fischer
- 1900 - Joseph M. Fischer
- 1910 – Joseph Zinger
- 1914 – 1916 Alfred Hummel, Andrew Hummel

More About The History of Weissenburg

Written by Susie Motz and Frank Rider

Nearby was a little one room schoolhouse SS#10 Woolwich—about 1 km west of Weissenburg. Our ancestors may have attended another schoolhouse approximately 5 kms west of Weissenburg, just beyond Cox Creek and 1 Km east of Zuber's Corners. We know that Alfred Rider (born 1893) and John S. Seifried (born 1894) attended this school but we are sure many others did as well. The exact year it was closed is unknown. By the 1920s all children were attending Woolwich SS#10.

There were as many as 3 general stores operating in the hamlet at the same time. Storekeepers and grocers listed in directories include: Joseph Seitz, Joseph Zinger, Ignatz Schlosser, Thomas Roberts and Phillip Hummel. Most of these were also associated with a hotel or the post office.

In the 1950s Weissenburg was home to a Turnip Waxing Plant operated by Bill Rider. It employed many young men from the area who would head out to local farms and pick up turnips and bring them to the waxing plant where they would be waxed and sent to Ariss to be shipped on trains. Most of the boys employed there worked only for a few months in the fall until all the turnips were shipped. The Turnip Waxing plant burnt down May 15 1967.

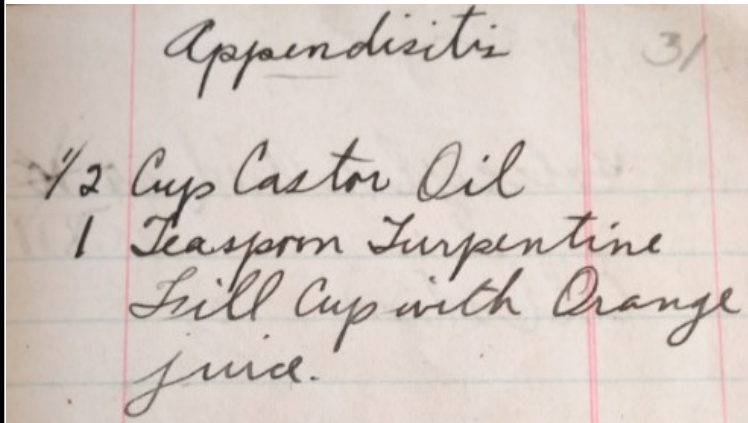
Weissenburg was also the home to the Hummel, Seifried, Zinger and Reiter (Raiter, Rider) families and just down the road lived Barney Schmuck and his pump business and the Beitz, Seitz, Goetz, Kirschner, Lehman and Moyer families. The Walter Brohman Cider Mill was nearby.

Postmasters	Date Appointed	Date of Vacancy	Cause of Vacancy
Henry Batte	Feb. 1 1875	Mar. 9 1878	Resignation
Joseph Seitz	April 1 1878	Feb. 3 1885	Resignation
Joseph Zinger	July 1 1885	Oct. 29 1888	Resignation
Ignatz Schlosser	July 1 1889	Sept. 18 1896	
Andrew Seifried	Oct. 5 1896	Feb. 24 1905	Death*
Joseph Zinger	May 15 1905	Mar. 31 1909	Resignation
Edward Foerster	July 22 1909	Aug. 31 1910	Resignation
Bernard Schmuck	Nov. 7 1910	1913	Rural Mail Delivery started Post Office closed

*A story about Andrew Seifried, the Postmaster (and Blacksmith) as told from John S. Seifried to his grandson Frank Rider: Andrew was an uncle to John. On the day of Andrew's death, he was to pick up John and his cousins from school. When the children came out of the school, the winter sleigh was sitting in the school yard. Uncle Andrew was dead, still sitting upright on the sleigh. Andrew had made a delivery to at least one farm along the way, but died en route. The horses knew their way to the school on their own.

Contact The Historical Society for more details on Weissenburg
and SS#10 school pictures!

Uncle Jim Weiler's Book of Remedies



This recipe found in Uncle Jim Weiler's Book of Remedies is said to cure appendicitis. In this recipe, Castor Oil and Turpentine are combined with Orange Juice to fight Appendicitis.

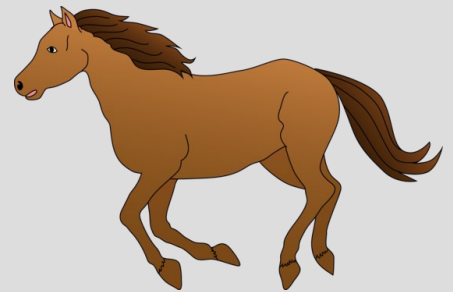
We suggest you visit your doctor or emergency room if you suspect problems with your appendix, however, that wasn't an option for many of our ancestors.

Today, the ingestion of turpentine would render a visit to the hospital for poison treatment!

The Last Word Horse Tales

Neighbours: George Zettel and Marcus Zinger

This story of George Zettel (1838-1914) and Marcus Zinger (1856-1943) of New Germany, has been passed down for many generations. (As an aside, George was our member Noreen Zettel's (Sherrer) great grandfather and Marcus was member Diane Strickler's great-great-uncle.)



George Zettel and Marcus Zinger were cousins and good neighbours. George loved his horses and took good care of them. But one Spring night while George was away, someone snuck into his stable and cut the manes, forelocks and tails off the horses and mutilated the horses' necks and shoulders with a jack knife. The reason for the assault was unknown, although the story goes that George had been known to be a rather sarcastic man. Neighbors learned of the attack, and try as they might, the culprits were not caught. It was spring, and seeding time. Without horses George could not do his planting. The neighbors pitched together and formed a working bee and helped George to get his early crop planted.

That fall, neighbor Marcus Zinger just happened to be in the Weissenburg hotel when he overheard 4 fellows at a nearby table who had drank a little too much. They were boasting about the New Germany farmer they had 'got even with' by disabling his horses. Marcus confronted the men and angrily berated them for their cruelty to the innocent horses. Marcus had recognized one of the men who had worked for a farmer who had an auction sale the previous month. Marcus declared he would see to it that the men were punished. The hotel keeper was aware of the assault, and asked the 4 men to leave his hotel. A half hour later, when Marcus left the hotel, he was ambushed by the 4 men. He was beaten with heavy sticks of wood, and left in the swamp, believing him to be dead. The next day a passerby sitting on top of a load on his wagon spotted Marcus about 25 yards from the road and summoned help. He was taken home where he was unconscious for 2 days. While Marcus regained his health, he permanently lost his hearing. About a month later, when Marcus was feeling better, he and George and the county constable went to the farm where the one hooligan had worked. The men were nowhere to be found. Most likely the four fellows had heard that Marcus was alive and fearing recognition, left the area. It was presumed they went north to hire out as woodcutters. The men seemed to be drifters with no relatives in the area.

This column will feature stories from years ago—often handed down by word of mouth.