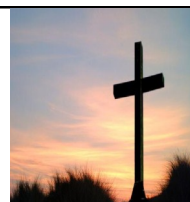


## Requiescant in Pace

**BUEHNER, Joseph John** - December 8th, 2013 at the Residential Hospice Grey Bruce in Owen Sound, age of 77. Husband of Joyce Buehner, father of Wayne, Greg and Anne. Dear brother of Hubert, Fred ( Angela), Mary (Russ) Lacombe, John (Lesley) and the late Claus.



**KLEIN, Phyllis (nee Hignell)** - February 21 at Guelph General Hospital, age 67. Wife of Howard Klein, mother to Karen Bertrand (Kelly), Kevin Klein, Kendra Klein, Kristopher Klein, and Kellianne Klein, sister to Margaret Ann Gouthro and Nancy Oliver. Predeceased by her parents Anderson and Margaret Hignell, sisters Shirley Curtis and Betty Larson.

**SCHIPPANOSKI, Kathleen (nee Tschirhart )** March 18 at St. Mary's General Hospital, age of 92 . Mother of Ralph (Wilma), Karen Schantz (Jon Woudenberg), Robert (Colette), Janet Kauk (Fred), Barbara Mende (Jim), Mary Evans, Richard and Kathy Metcalfe (Gary). Sister of Rose Lehman and Madeline Guth. Predeceased by her husband Gerald Schippanoski, sons Ronald and Brian, her parents Simon and Tekla Tschirhart and her siblings; Frank, Ray, Stewart, Stanley, Peter and Ralph.

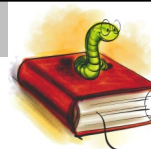
**MAGNUS, Donald Lawrence** - March 25, 2014 at the Norfolk General Hospital, Simcoe, age 80. Husband of Shirley (Schram) Magnus, father of Rosanne, Mike (Belinda), Steven (Val) and father-in-law of Christine (Isaac). Predeceased by his son Dan Magnus and parents Andrew and Minnie.

**FRONCHAK, Ted Stanley** - March 24, 2014 at the Owen Sound Hospital age 80. Husband of Irene (Boshart), father of Kathy and Erwin Kemmer, Sandy Green and Louis, Ted and Marge Fronchak, Jeannie and Bill Bousfield. Predeceased by his parents Stan and Julia (Fitz) Fronchak.

**Dessler, John Jacob** - April 13 2014 at the Fairview Mennonite Home, in his 100th year. Husband of Norma, father of Nancy Boadway (Ted), Shirley Lewis (Jerry), and Joanne Rush (late Gary). Predeceased by brother Emerson and sister Mabel.

## Book Feature

**Title: From a Horse-Drawn Hearse to Studebakers, Packards and Cadillacs: Dreisinger Funeral Home Vehicles**



**Author: Marion Roes** The history of vehicles used by Dreisinger Funeral Home in Elmira and some history of the business. Marion's Great Grandfather Christian (Christ) founded the business, along with a furniture store, in 1905. This book is in our library at the Halter House or can be purchased from Marion at \$20 mlroes@sympatico.ca or 519 883-1448 or at the Waterloo Region Museum Gift Shop.



**Pages: 84 Price: \$20 Soft Cover**

## The Last Word

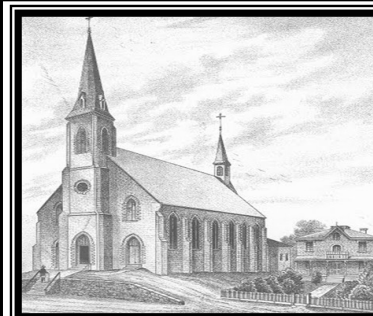
New Germany wasn't the only local place to change its name! The City of *Berlin* changed its name to *Kitchener* on September 1 1916. With the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 came anti-German sentiment. The name of the city was changed to Kitchener after Herbert Kitchener, a British Secretary of State who had just lost his life on a diplomatic mission to Russia. In 1906 Berlin had a population of just over 12,000. The town had 20 churches, an orphanage, 2 hospitals, 5 banks and 3 public parks. A souvenir booklet, "*Busy Berlin*" published in 1901, stated that "one policeman patrols the streets and his duties are extremely light". This meant one policeman looked after the peace and security of approximately 10,000 people!



**Heritage Day**  
Sunday September 21 2014  
More details to come in our fall newsletter and on our website.

**Contact Us:**  
Historical Society of St. Boniface & Maryhill Community Inc  
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**



**The Historical Society of St. Boniface & Maryhill Community Inc**  
1338B Maryhill Rd., Maryhill ON N0B 2B0 [maryhillroots.com](http://maryhillroots.com)

Summer 2014

Editor: Susan Motz



## Canada Day Tuesday July 1 2014

**Join us for Birthday Cake in Maryhill at The Edward Halter House,  
1338B Maryhill Rd from 1pm to 4pm on Canada Day.**

We have a number of activities planned including walking tours of the Old Walled Cemetery, antique tool display, and tours of the Halter House with all of our local artifacts. It is an opportunity to review our archives and family trees. No need to register, but feel free to contact us ahead of time if you are looking for something specific.

## Fundraising Raffle:

Once again, we will be raising funds to support our society. Proceeds pay for the printing and mailing of our newsletter. If you live in Ontario, we may have enclosed tickets in this newsletter for you to sell. Please help us by selling what you can and return the money to us by September 21 2014. Our contact info is on the back page.



**Open House:** Come visit us at the Edward Halter House  
(across from St. Boniface Church Parking Lot in Maryhill).

We're open on Sundays from 1:30 to 4pm from June 1 through September 21.

## Item from our Past: A Vacuum Tube Radio

Before Transistor Radios and iPods, before TV's and computers, the family gathered around the large vacuum tube radio for entertainment. At the back of the radio, you could see the bright glowing tubes that brought the adventures from the outside world into our homes. Most can remember the local Kitchener station AM 645 CKCR that originally launched in 1929. In 1934 the frequency moved to 1510. Some of the local celebrities that aired on the radio include Marie Rider, Catherine Seifried, Gordie Tapp, Nettie Lerch, and Mary Drexler (read more about Mary on the inside!)

Do you remember requesting a birthday song to be played for someone special on the Daily Birthday Song Requests? Or listening to the "Happy Half Hour" on Sunday afternoons featuring the children from the village of Doon? Perhaps your morning was brightened by the "Breakfast Club with Don McNeill", an NBC programme that aired on CKGB radio at nine o'clock. At 10, the serial "Road of Life" aired. In the afternoon "The Happy Gang" from Toronto, played with Bert Pearl, Kay Stokes and Bobby Gimby. Later in the day, if the lady of the house had finished her chores, she would often listen to The Proctor and Gamble Hour that played 15-minute segments of soap-operas including "Ma Perkins", "Pepper Young's Family", "Life Can Be Beautiful", and "The Right to Happiness". During the War, families listened the Daily Toronto News on CFRB at 6:30pm for updates. Monday nights were reserved for "Lux Radio Theatre" with radio dramatizations of popular films. Other evenings were spent listening to "Ozzy & Harriott", "Red Skeleton", "Milton Bur", "The Grand Ole Opry" and "The Shadow" - "Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? The Shadow knows!" One of the most notable broadcasts of the 1930's was Orson Welles' broadcast on October 30 1938 of The War of the Worlds, which caused mass panic in some US cities. Radio station CKCR said many people called, worried about the alien threat. The Record newspaper had a man burst into its office saying the world was ending and a family from Kitchener had their car packed and were ready to leave for the west!





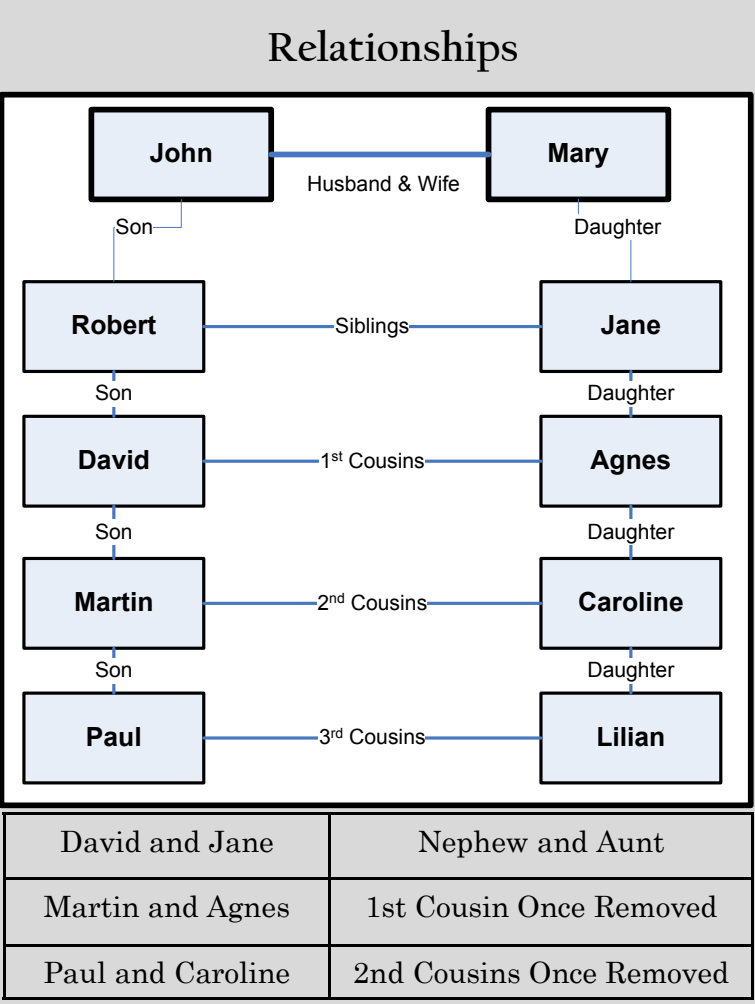
Ask Diane

Dear Diane:  
*At a recent family reunion, someone introduced themselves as my "second cousin once removed". What does that mean and how are we related?*

Dear Readers:  
Family reunions are often filled with confused people scratching their heads and wondering, "If my mother's aunt was her father's grandmother, then that makes us..." If you can't keep your third cousins and your first cousins twice removed straight, you are not alone. The trick to determining the actual relationship between two family members is to start with the ancestor they both have in common. First cousins share the same grandparents. Second cousins share the same great grandparents. Third cousins share the same great great (or 2X Great) grandparents, and so on. "Once removed" indicates that two people are one generation apart. Twice removed indicates that two people are two generations apart. Your first cousin's children would be your first cousins once removed, however, your children and your cousin's children would be second cousins. So, your second cousin once removed indicates that you share the same great grandparents but you are from different generations.

Dear Diane:  
*When and why did New Germany change to the name Maryhill?.*

Dear Readers:  
Maryhill was formerly named *New Germany* (Neu Deutschlandle) and according to the early church records it was Little Germany for 5 years. In January 1941 following Sunday Mass everyone voted and the decision was unanimous to rename the village to Maryhill. The name had to be changed because of the increased mail from our many soldiers stationed in Europe during WWII. The mail was getting mixed up with the mail from New Germany near Niagara Falls, Ontario. The villagers wanted to place the village under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Mary on the Hill: Maryhill. Other names considered included Newman (Cardinal Newman) Wavell (British General in Egypt) & Gort (Former commander of the British Forces.)



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.

**Are there any Harry Potter fans out there?**  
Have you ever thought that you may be related to J.K. Rowlings? Does anyone have a family member with the last name of "Schuch" anywhere in their family tree? Joan Bruder, one of our members sent us a note to tell us that J.K. Rowling, the famous author of the Harry Potter series, had a great-great grandmother from Brumath, a village about 20 KM from Soufflenheim. Salome Schuch, the daughter of a stone cutter who died when she was 12, left her small home town at the age of 17 after the German empire annexed the area in 1871. She endured a tough life as a domestic maid, having one child out of wedlock (Rowling's great grandfather) before marrying, producing a large family and climbing the ranks to become a dressmaker.

Do you have an idea for our newsletter or would like to nominate someone to be featured in a future edition of the newsletter?  
Send us a note and we'll certainly consider it!

We love to hear from our members!

Who's This from Our Community?

**Meet Mary Lorentz,** This edition features Mary Lorentz (Drexler) and she hardly needs an introduction. My bet is that most of you already know her, and if you don't think you do, well read on! Mary is the famous piano player at the Maryhill Hotels and the Maryhill Knights of Columbus Hall during the 1970s, 1980s and into the 1990s. Yes, she's the lady that entertained us all with her great musical talents. The two hotels, The Sherrer and Halter Hotels, across the street from one another, would be packed with patrons that would come far and wide to socialize and sing along with Mary.



But we're going to turn the clock back even further to when Mary was just a little girl. Born February 17 1919 to Bernard and Theresa Kloepper, she was the youngest of 8 children. Mary remembers many parties at the Drexler homestead located on the outskirts of Ariss, near New Germany. The farm house was huge with a very large kitchen and 8 bedrooms. Many weekends the family would host large gatherings with entertainment from family musicians. Mary's aunt Margie from Florida taught her to play the piano. Mary went to SS#6 Grade School; and it was common practice for the school teacher to stay with a local family. Teachers Theresa McGrath and Sara Brohman, stayed with the Drexlers.

*The Drexler family often hosted parties on Saturday nights with neighbors and family. Mary recalls there was always a group playing cards, and dancing to live music.*

Mary told me an interesting story that happened when she was about 10 years old. Her parents went to play cards at their friends house and while there, Mary drank pop for the very first time. The next day, she had a very sore stomach. Her parents called the local doctor to come to the house. The old family doctor had died, and a new doctor arrived at the house and diagnosed Mary with appendicitis. Mary was in the Guelph Hospital for six months from October to April. Later, it was discovered that the new 'doctor ' was not a certified doctor at all. Mary believes the "appendicitis" she had was really just a sore tummy from her first taste of pop! Mary went on to high school in Maryhill . Yes, St. Boniface school had Grade 9 and 10 then and Mary walked to and from it each day. In her teens, Mary would travel to the CKCR radio studio in Kitchener to sing on the radio. Eventually Mary met Jerome (Scotty) Lorentz, they wed and purchased the Maryhill Chopping Mill and the house beside it. They had 5 sons and one daughter (who passed away as an infant). Scotty passed away in 2010. Mary's older sister Emily lives at Cambridge Country Manor in Kossuth and will celebrate her 100th birthday this summer. Today Mary is just as beautiful as I remember her when she sang in the Sherrer Hotel. As a treat, Mary sat at her piano in her Kitchener apartment and played a song for me, for old times sake!



More on our Forefathers The Drexler Family

The roots of the Maryhill Drexler Family tree are found in Soufflenheim. Sebastian Drexler and his twin brother Fabian were born to Marguerite Dreschsler, however there is no father listed on their birth certificates. Fabian died at 7 days of age, and Marguerite died when Sebastian was only 15 years old. At that point, the mayor "adopted" Sebastian. This was a common practice for orphaned children and different than today's adoption. The mayor most likely ensured Sebastian was educated and cared for. Sebastian came to Canada in the spring of 1857 and married Francesca Sauer that summer. Sebastian and Francesca had 12 children, however three died as children and one died as a young adult. When Sebastian arrived in Canada, he went to work for Bernard Schmuck Sr as a well digger. They drilled wells for farmers throughout a large area and were

often gone for days at a time. The Drexler Family and Schmuck family were good friends and god-parents for each others children. Sebastian's daughter Maria Anna Drexler married Bernard's youngest son Albert Schmuck. (Note: These are Ron Schmuck's grandparents.) Sebastian died in 1917 and Francisca 1918. Records show both are buried in the Old Walled cemetery in Maryhill, although no grave markers can be found. The wooden crosses that most likely marked their burial place have disintegrated over time but the memories of the Drexler family, and their hospitality live on. We can't help but smile when we think of Mary and the fun times we had listening to her musical talent!

