

Wheeling Historical Society & Museum



Wheeling Historical Society and Museum Newsletter

Spring

April 2018

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The Wheeling Historical Society and Museum celebrates the link between the past and the present. The museum is a cooperative effort of the Village of Wheeling, Wheeling Park District, Indian Trails Public Library.





Have you ever wanted to take a guided tour through the Wheeling Cemetery on Dundee Road? Now is your chance, but you can do it from the comfort of the Chamber Park Community Center on Wednesday, April 25 at 6:30pm.

A few months ago, the Indian Trails Library program coordinator suggested that I lead a cemetery walk. Not feeling comfortable with the risk of bad weather, I counter-suggested a "virtual tour" by way of digitized photos of the graves combined with records. She agreed. What next, then? I had to do some quick research to find some interesting stories about the individuals buried up there on the hill just east of Wolf Road. Over 700 of the gravestones have been photographed and uploaded to Findagrave.com and Billiongraves.com. That gave me a start, especially since attached photos and obituary records have enhanced some of the entries. My next step was to make use of any information in the collections of the Wheeling Historical Society and Museum. There I found a binder of Wheeling Cemetery Association information, a large map of the plots, and vertical files of clippings and photos of Wheeling people and places. And let's not forget two key books: Wheeling Through the Years and Records Left Behind. During my talk I will be highlighting the stories of over 30 people. Picking the intriguing stories was not difficult. How can you not be curious about the inscription on this stone? It took a little digging, but I did uncover the story behind the untimely demise of Albert G. Zimmer. Are you curious? Mark your calendar for "Digging Up the Wheeling Cemetery" on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 6:30 pm. at the Chamber Park

How many psychologists does it take to change a light bulb?

Community Center.

Just one, but the light bulb really has to want to change.

A man ran into a doctor's office and said, "Doctor, Doctor, you've got to help me. I feel like a deck of cards!"

The doctor replied, "Please sit down and I'll deal with you later."

A Message From The President — Terry Steilen

With the election in April this will be my last letter as President. It has been very rewarding serving as the President for the past two years. Helping make decisions and understanding the inner workings of the Museum has been very insightful.

The upcoming elections are Wednesday the 25th. The positions up for re-election are:

President: Elaine Simpson

Director: Joan Wiener

Director: Darlene Husch

Director: Linda Reading

Joan has been a director for 2 years and two terms as President

Darlene has been refreshment coordinator and working on maintaining files and projects in the basement

Linda was the Curator in the early 2,000's

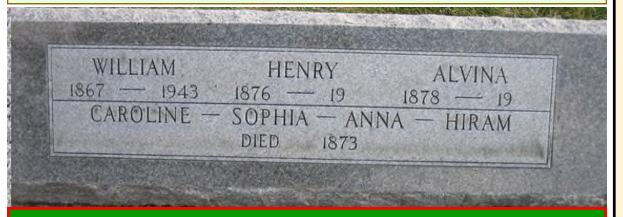
TWO DIRECTORSHIPS ARE OPEN



The Museum is now open on Sundays. We've had a few visitors and are hoping for better weather on upcoming Sundays so we can serve the community.

In May we have the installation dinner and in June we are hosting a bicycle program in conjunction with the police department and a bike decorating contest. We are hoping to reach out to the community and encourage more interest in the museum campus.

Over this summer we will be changing some of the displays. We would like to have a 50's and 60's display. If anyone can loan any items from these decades it would be greatly appreciated.



We are looking to donate the organ in the museum. If anyone has any interest in it, please contact Patti at 847-537-7287. We are planning on reconfiguring the museum and need to open more space for different displays.

WHEELING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Campus is Located in the Wheeling Park District's Chamber Park 131 N. Wolf Road Wheeling Illinois

2016-2017 OFFICERS

President:
Terry Steilen
Vice President:
Elaine Simpson
Treasurer:
Marilyn Chromy
Secretary:
Christine Brady

DIRECTORS

Celeste Kuta Bill Hein Joan Wiener

Curator

Patti Steilen

Web Site:

Terry Steilen

Newsletter Editor

Patti Steilen

Communications

Celeste Kuta

Program Events

Joan Wiener

Wheeling Park District Liaison

Terry Steilen

Cooks Corner: ZESTY BROCCOL

4 cups broccoli florets

1/4 cup water

2 teaspoons olive or

vegetable oil

1 to 2 garlic cloves, minced

1/2 teaspoon salt, optional

Dash crushed red pepper flakes

In a saucepan, combine the first five ingredients; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer until broccoli is crisp-tender, about 5 minutes. Drain; add red pepper Rakes and toss. Yield: 4 servings. Nutritional Analysis: One 1/2-cup serving (without salt) equals 44 calories, 22 mg sodium, 0 cholesterol, 4 gm carbohydrate, 3 gm protein, 3 gm fat. Diabetic Exchanges: 1 vegetable, 1/2 fat.

COMING EVENTS Apr 25 **Cemetery Talk by** Celeste Kuta 6:30PM May 17 12:30 **Board Meeting** PM May 23 6:00 **Installation Dinner** PM June 9 Children's Bike Pro-10 AM gram NO MEETINGS July Aug 16 12:30 **Board Meeting** To Be Determined **Board Meeting**

Q: Which king of beans grow in the Easter Bunny's garden?

A: Jelly Beans

LIFE IN THE 1500'S

In those days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme: Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old.

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat.

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the Next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered Poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got The burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the Middle, and guests got the top or the upper crust. Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The Combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a wake..



Monthly Meeting Wednesday, April 25, 2018 6:30 pm

"Digging Up the Wheeling Cemetery" Speaker: Celeste Kuta, MLS, Indian Trails Public Library

Who is buried in the cemetery on Dundee Road? Learn the stories behind the inscriptions on the tombstones of Wheeling residents and military veterans. Ms. Kuta will highlight the resources of the Wheeling Historical Society and Museum and Indian Trails Library that helped her bring these people alive!



Celeste Kuta, MLS, Genealogy and Local History librarian at Indian Trails Public Library has been practicing librarianship for over 40 years in a variety of libraries: corporate, academic and public. She has spent the last 5 years of her career learning and honing her skills in researching family history, and achieved a goal she once thought unattainable: identifying her great-great grandparents in Poland.

Chamber Park Community Center 251 N. Wolf Road Wheeling, IL 60090 847.537.3119

