

Wheeling -- name of

"...The name "Wheeling" is a corruption of an Indian word, of uncertain meaning, sometimes translated as "the place of the head." " 1

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1 p. 586, Vol. XXVIII, Encyclopaedia Britannica  
(under Wheeling, West Virginia) Eleventh Edition

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--HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ILLINOIS  
COOK COUNTY EDITION, VOL. II, p. 649

.....  
While upon the subject of the Indians, I recall the fact, that, by a treaty of the United States, the Potawatomi were to receive amongst many other things, as a payment for their land, \$16,000 annually, forever--payable at Chicago; 50 barrels of salt annually, forever, delivered at Chicago; and a blacksmith-shop for the tribe, at Chicago. Did the good doctor Holcott, the Indian agent who negotiated this treaty, really believe this was to be carried out, or did he know that it was a fraud upon the poor Indian? In a very few years they were driven away beyond the Mississippi River by a new treaty, forced upon them by unscrupulous agents of the Government."

by Fernando Jones

Potawatomi Indian Treaty

Wheeling Historical Data

Wheeling -- Historical Data

WHEELING, a town on the northern border of Cook County, on the Wisconsin Central Railway. Population (1890), 811;† (1900), 331.

†from HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ILLINOIS  
COOK COUNTY EDITION Vol. II p. 585  
edited by Newton Bateman and Paul Solby  
Hansell Publishing Company, Chicago  
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†Probably a misprint, no doubt should be 311.

WHEELING TOWNSHIP

by Dr. James Ellison Best +

The Township of Wheeling lies in the northern part of Cook County, bounded by Lake County on the north, Township of Northfield on the east, Maine and Elk Grove on the south, and Palatine on the west, containing thirty-six Sections. The soil is a rich prairie loam. In the main the surface is quite level, by sloping gradually to the east, and is drained by four unnamed creeks which empty into the Des Plaines River; the latter flows in a southerly direction along the eastern border of the township, its bed lying partly in Wheeling and partly in Northfield Township. A strip of timber about three-fourths of a mile wide lines its eastern bank, and is divided about equally between the two townships. The absence of timber upon its western bank was probably due to the annual prairie fires started by the torch of the aborigines, which destroyed all perennial plants. The river, serving as a barrier against the fires from the west, afforded protection to the timber on the eastern bank. The western border of the township reaches nearly, or quite, to the divide between the Des Plaines River on the east and Salt Creek on the west, its altitude being about seven hundred feet above sea level. All the water from Wheeling flows to the Des Plaines River, while the water from Palatine flows through Salt Creek, south, except that from the two northeast sections, which flows east through Wheeling to the Des Plaines.

Prior to settlement by white men this region was occupied for sixty four years--viz.: from 1769 to 1833-- by Pottawatomie Indians; previous to that by the Miami Confederacy, who occupied this region at the time of La Salle's first visit in 1681, which is the remotest period known to the historian regarding this section.

The first settler in what is now Wheeling Township, was a Mr. Sweet, who arrived in March, 1833, selected a claim on Section 13, and built a cabin in which he lived until the following September, when he sold his right of squatter's claim and his cabin to George Strong, who became the first permanent white settler in the township. At that time, his nearest neighbor on the north was a Captain Wright, who was said to be the only settler between the Strong place and Waukegan.

On September 26, 1833, the treaty with the Pottawatomies was ratified, after which settlers came in considerable numbers. Almost immediately afterward Timothy Yitcomb settled on Section 13, just north of Mr. Strong. In December General Peot located where his son, A. W. Peot, afterward lived.

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+ From HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY EDITION,  
Vol. II, pp. 795-797

In 1834 William B. Clay and his two sons, John B. and E. H., settled on Section 2. S. K. Salisbury also settled on Section 2, James Mackey on Section 24, Christopher and Daniel Stranger on Section 13, and Christian Stryker on Section 12. In 1835 came Peter Gobhart, who afterward sold out to Henry Miller. Joseph Filkins had located a claim in 1834, built his cabin and moved his family into it in 1835. The same year Isaac Martin, Matthew Chivol, Thomas Bradwell and other settlers arrived. About eighteen log cabins were built during the year.

In 1836 the well-to-do William Hopps located on Section 3. Into his house Satan afterward entered, and the first and only murder in the township occurred, Hopps being acquitted of the killing of his wife on the plea of insanity, through the exceptional ruling of Judge McAllister, at which the public was greatly incensed. Hopps finally died in the Poor House at Dunning.

In March, 1836, Asa Dunton and his two sons, William H. and James, came from Oswego, N. Y. They passed through what is now the site of Arlington Heights, selected their claims and went on to Deer Grove in Palatine Township, where they were among the first actual settlers. The next year they returned and located on Section 29.

Ephraim and Charles Morrison settled on Section 11, in 1837, Conrad Miller came the same year. George Metz located on Section 12. His brothers-in-law, Ludwig Fischer and George Graff, came soon after, together with many others whose names cannot now be ascertained. During this year the government survey was made, after which settlers came in more rapidly than before.

The population in 1900 was 3,010. Only three are now (1900) living in the township who came before 1837, vzs.: Luther W. and John B. Whiting and D. K. Drager, who settled in Elk Grove, but for many years have been identified with Wheeling.

In 1833 a territorial council was held in Detroit, of which Governor Doty was a member from Wisconsin. He made a motion that a mail route be opened from Chicago to Green Bay by way of Milwaukee. The motion prevailed and Juneau, the founder of Milwaukee, took the contract. The main was carried by stage coach, following an Indian trail which led northwest from Chicago, and probably extended to Green Bay, the former home of the Pottawatomie tribe. This road passes through the northeast corner of Wheeling Township, and is now known as the Milwaukee Road. The road was surveyed in 1835 as a post-route under direction of the War Department, and is on record at Washington, D. C. The first settlers in the township located along this road.

In 1836 a road was laid out from Sand Ridge crossing the Des Plaines River at Rand's place. This road passes diagonally, from southeast to northwest, through Wheeling Township, and is known as the Rand Road. It is said to have been an old military trail leading from Chicago to Fort Atkinson. Later, it was used for a time as a stage-line and post-route. This road was surveyed under direction of the War Department as a post-route and is on record at Washington.

By an act of the Legislature in 1839, a road was laid out from Naperville, via Babcock's Grove, Monahan's Grove, Elk Grove, and Buffalo Grove, to Indian Creek (now Half-Day), which is said to have been the extension of an old mail-route from St. Louis to Naperville. It passes nearly through the township from south to north, then east a mile and a half, then north, and is known as the State Road.

In 1840 Thomas Bradwell and others petitioned for a road leading from Wheeling to McHenry via Buffalo Grove and Long Grove. It was laid out by the Court Commissioners of Lake County in 1842. This road continues west from Wheeling. After it passes the branch to Buffalo Grove, to the point where it meets the State Road, it is not on record. The remainder of the roads in the township were laid out by township authorities, after organization, which occurred in 1850.

Improvement of the roads was made principally by the people working out the amount of road taxes under the pathmaster system. The work consisted largely of grading and building bridges. Owing to the level surface and sticky quality of the soil, in wet weather, the roads were nearly impassable.

In 1874 some gratuitous work of gravelling was done on the road leading west from Wheeling. The following year an organized effort was made by the County Commissioners and Township Highway Commissioners, viz.: Peter Beyer, Philip Hart and Henry Engelking; afterwards C. Schoenbeck and others were instrumental in continuing the good work, until there are now by three or four miles of ungraveled roads in the township.

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**--There are no records connected with the schools of this township of an earlier date than April 6, 1857. At that time there were ten districts, some of which have been united and, at the present time, there are but seven, besides one union district embracing portions of Wheeling, Waino, and Elk Grove Townships, the school house being located at Mount Prospect in the last named township.

**ST. MARY'S TRAINING SCHOOL.**--In the early 60's the first orphan asylum and reformatory for boys for the Catholic diocese of Chicago was incorporated and located in the southwestern part of the city, which was then a rich prairie. The institution pursued the even tenor of its way until the winter of 1871, when it was obliged to do heroic work in caring for hundreds of children left destitute by the great fire. The Christian Brothers were then in charge of the asylum, and many were the sacrifices they patiently underwent for the benefit of the boys.

In 1882 the asylum proving inadequate for its purpose, the late Archbishop Fochan, with the assistance of the diocesan clergy, secured the present site of Fochanville as a home for the St. Mary's Training School. It is situated on the Wisconsin Central Railway, in the southeastern part of Wheeling Township, on the Des Plaines River. In 1899 all of the buildings were burned. Immediately after the fire, steps were taken to rebuild on a much larger scale, anticipating an expenditure of \$800,000 and the accommodation of 1,000 inmates.

F. M. Crossman

F. M. Crossman, liveryman in Chicago for twenty-seven years, and stock farmer, Wheeling, Cook County, Ill. is descended from a Massachusetts family, both his grandfather and his father having been born in Sutton in that State, the former in 1779 and the latter in 1816. His grandmother, Olive Whipple, was also a native of the same place. On December 13, 1870, Mr. Crossman was married to Ella Kelley, of Brookfield, Mass, and has two children, Ella Annie and Frederick Kelley. In 1886 he became the proprietor of what is now known as the Spring Brook Stock Farm, located in the town of Wheeling, and embracing 440 acres of the farm formerly belonging to Hiram Kennicott. Here of late years he has made a specialty of breeding Wilkes horses, Poland China hogs, Dorset Horned sheep and Holstein cattle, and boarding city horses, in this line of business being especially successful.

--HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY EDITION, VOL. II, page 860

Mary E. Helm

Mary E. Helm, Arlington Heights, Ill., was born at Wheeling, Ill., June 5, 1855, the daughter of Thomas Allison, who was born in England in 1823, and came with his parents (Thomas and Mary Allison) to Illinois in 1832. The family remained in Chicago for a few months, but soon after located on a claim on the North Branch, three miles from Chicago. Three years later the senior Allison sold his farm to A. H. Fullerton and removed to Northfield, Cook County, where he died in January, 1880. The junior Allison attended the first school ever taught in Chicago in 1832, which was attended by a number of half-breeds. In 1852 he was married to Penthea H. Miller, a native of Ohio and daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Miller, natives of New York State, who settled in Wheeling Township in 1839. Mrs. Helm was educated at the Cook County Normal School and, on March 29, 1870, was married at Arlington Heights to Lewis G. Helm. She has had three children: Frederick W., Howard A. and Raymond B. Mrs. Helm is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

-- HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY EDITION, VOL. II, page 906-907

Nicholas Hinsberger

Nicholas Hinsberger, farmer, postoffice address Arlington Heights, Ill., is a native of Prussia, born September 20, 1840. His parents (John and Mary Magdalena Hinsberger) are also, like himself, of German birth. On January 25, 1870, he was married to Annie Walter and has seven children, named respectively, Mary, Andrew, Rosa E., Anna, Clara, Nicholas, and Joseph. Andrew Walter, the father of Mrs. Hinsberger, was one of the oldest settlers of Wheeling, Cook County, having located there

## THE VILLAGE OF WHEELING

by Dr. James Ellison Best

THE VILLAGE OF WHEELING is situated in the northeast part of the township on the Des Plaines River. Joseph Filkins built the first residence in 1834. The Post-office was established in 1836 with Joseph Filkins as Postmaster. He opened a hotel the next year and Wheeler and Daniels started a store. In 1838 two blacksmith shops were started, one by a Mr. Shepart, the other by Ascher C. Skinner. The second hotel was opened by James Parker in 1840. Prior to 1842 John Rothschild started a store. About the same time stores were opened by John M. Schaffer and Wm. Vogt. E. K. Beach opened a blacksmith shop.

The first public school building was very small; it was erected in 1845. The second, built in 1861, burned in 1870. The present one was erected in 1871. In 1845 Albert Paschbinder started a hardware store; two years later Jacob Filbert established a shoe store and Jacob Hausam another soon after. A brewery was started in 1850 by Henry Periolet. In 1851 Vitruvius Lodge, No. 81, A. F. & A. M., which had been organized at Miles in 1849, was moved to Wheeling, at which time a charter was granted.

A hotel was opened by Jacob Hunninger in 1856. The Congregational Church was organized in 1864, and the present building erected in 1866. Wm. Metz opened a blacksmith shop in 1865, and Samuel Reese a wagonshop, which he sold three years later to Louis Fischer. Fred Stryker opened a store in 1873; Martin Armbruster a hotel, and C. Wilflin a harnessshop in 1874. The latter sold out to R. Schnoider in 1885. John Behm's hotel was opened in 1877, and John Schminkie's store in 1878. In 1880 Henry Boehmer started a creamery which, later, Jacob P. Hausam superintended for eleven years. Sigwalt & Boilendach opened a store in 1888.

The village was incorporated June 19, 1894, including Wheeling Station on the Wisconsin Central Railway, one mile west of the old village. The depot was built in 1886. The population in 1900 was 331.

Medical History.--The pioneer physician of Wheeling was Dr. Julius Furmann, who came in 1849, and practiced medicine till his death, which occurred in 1856.

Dr. Francis R. Bergler located here in 1854, and engaged in the practice of medicine until 1875, when he removed to Palatine, where he died in 1880.

Dr. H. Moffatt practiced here from 1876 to 1890.

Dr. Henry Benz came to Wheeling in 1890 and is still practicing. In the meantime several others have come, but remained only a short time.

IN VETERINARY WORK.--Dr. John G. Schneider located here in 1852, and still holds the field.



in 1848, where he resided on one of his farms in the northern part of the town until his death on July 4, 1901, at the age of eighty-five years.

---HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY EDITION, VOLUME II, page 912

### George Kirchhoff

George Kirchhoff (deceased), farmer, Arlington Heights, Ill., was born in the town of Wheeling, Cook County, Ill. in 1855, the son of William and Sophia (Prelberg) Kirchhoff, who were natives of Germany and came to this country about the middle of the century. The father died September 17, 1881, and the mother died April 23, 1904 at the age of 76 years. Mr. George Kirchhoff was educated at Arlington Heights and in 1876 was married to Johanna Kenjes, of Elk Grove Township, eight children--William, Sophia, Henry, Edward, George, Ella, Ernst, and Rudolf--being the fruit of the union. Of these Sophia, George, and Rudolph died in their infancy. Mr. Kirchhoff was a member of the Lutheran Church, and in political views was a Republican. Mr. Kirchhoff died September 27, 1904. His widow, Mrs. Johanna (Kenjes) Kirchhoff still survives.

---HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY EDITION, VOLUME II, page 932

### Christian Wolfelin

Christian Wolfelin (deceased), Wheeling, Ill., was born in Alsace, France (now Germany), September 13, 1845, the son of Christian Wolfelin, also a native of Alsace. Mr. Wolfelin came to America with his father and sister, arriving at Chicago on March 1, 1854. His father enlisted at the beginning of the Civil War in Company K, Thirtieth Illinois Volunteers (Col. Ryan's regiment), serving from 1861 to 1865, and died of yellow fever in Memphis, Tenn., June 27, 1869. The son learned the harness trade in Chicago, afterwards worked for some time in Memphis, but in 1874 came to Wheeling and established himself in the harness business there. On September 9, 1880, he was married to Mrs. Cecalobin Ambruster (widow) of Wheeling, and has four children: Minnie, Edward, Frank and Flora. After his marriage he went into the Chicago House, at Wheeling, remaining until his retirement in July, 1893. In his later years he occupied a pleasant home just across the Des Plaines River and outside of the village corporation. Mr. Wolfelin died in 1901.

---HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY EDITION, VOLUME II, page 1022.

## THE INFANT WHEELING

by Joan Heuer  
The Wheeling Independent  
Wed. February 5, 1958

There must have been many men who could walk down the streets of Wheeling boasting that they once had been Village Marshal, for the resignation of the first Marshal, Jacob Hausam, was followed by a lengthy list of law enforcement heads.

Hausam left his post to assume his duties as Village President in April 1895. The following June he appointed Mr. Franz Klose Village Marshal. The Marshal was granted five dollars per month for his services. Franz Klose, however, failed to qualify for the office, and the Board was required to seek out another man who was able and willing to accept the job.

In July, The President tried again and appointed Mr. Jacob Arnold as Village Marshal for the municipal year, but in October he resigned. The monthly salary was then upped to twenty-five dollars and one of the trustees was appointed to take charge of the key to the Village hall, and to light the street lamps until another marshal could be appointed.

A week later Mr. R. Schneider resigned his office as trustee and was given the oath of office as Marshal. He was later forced to relinquish his post due to ill health.

Come December, Mr. William Peet moved in after his appointment was accepted by the Board. The salary was changed again--lowered to fifteen dollars a month. But in May it was recommended that the duties of the Marshal be expanded to include street-lamp-lighter and street commissioner, so that he may receive an adequate salary. The recommendation was passed, and the salary was raised to thirty dollars. Mr. Peet lasted until October 1897, when he was discharged.

There was a reduction in salary again, after the requested resignation, and when Mr. Henry Kipp took office, he was working for twenty-five dollars a month. Mr. Kipp remained in office for a number of years.

Law enforcement activities during this time can best be described by quoting verbatim from the old ledgers and communications such as:

Village of Wheeling to C. F. Metz	
For lodging and meals to three (3)	
inpecunious wayfarers @ 25¢	\$ .75
6 meals for 3 prisoners	1.50
To secure handcuffs	1.00
Total	\$3.25

The Infant Schooling -- by Joan Keuer  
pub. The Wheeling Independent  
2-5-58

Village Marshals

For serving papers on \_\_\_\_\_ and  
and conveying same to County "Jalo"  
signed W. E. Peet, Wheeling  
Jan. 30/99 \$7.50

+++

Wheeling Incorporation to Jacob Arnold--  
November 28th, 1895  
Served as Marshal 90 days at 16 2/3 cents  
a day \$14.70  
Killed five dogs Aug. 12th at 50 cents  
a head 2.50  
Total \$17.20

+++

Village of Wheeling to Frank Forke \$1.00  
John Rothling 1.00  
E. Hipp 1.00  
W. Kiswig 1.00  
for guarding prisoners

+++

Then too there was letter writing and form filling:

The Village Marshal reported that he had written  
to Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ in regard to the bill he owes the  
village for burying his mule, but had not  
received no reply.

+++

December 24, 1904

Sir:

Accompanying this letter you will find a blank  
form calling for some information regarding the  
prisoners in your charge during the quarter ending  
December 31, 1904.

This form is sent to every jail, lockup, calaboose,  
or similar institution in the United States, and you  
are respectfully asked to fill it out at your earliest  
convenience.

Very respectfully,  
Bureau of the Census  
Washington, D. C.

+++

The Infant Wheeling - by J. Heuer  
pub. The Wheeling Independent  
2-5-58

Village Marshal

And sign painting:

The Village Marshal was instructed to paint three signs warning swimmers not to bathe in the river unclothed, and to post these signs along the river banks.

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THE INFANT WHEELING

pub. Wed, Dec. 4, 1957  
The Wheeling Independent

by Joan Heuer

This is the story of the birth of Wheeling, Wheeling in diapers, Wheeling taking her first stumbling steps, Wheeling trying to find her rightful place in that large, sometimes frightening world called proper society. This is the story of the men and women who nursed infant Wheeling and guided her unstable feet and hands through the years of childhood.

When, and moreover why, was this little settlement organized into a village? To find the answer we looked into the first official records of the village -- dated 1894. We found the first meeting of the Board of Trustees was held in the District Schoolhouse on July 26th of that year. The Introductory to the Record of Proceedings revealed the reasons for incorporating. It stated:

INTRODUCTORY

For several years prominent citizens of Wheeling had seriously considered the advantages and disadvantages of Village organization; but, as to many the disadvantages seemed to predominate, the organization was not attempted.

Circumstances, however, changed and changed public sentiment. Necessary improvements were neglected; the regulation of dramshops became more lax; foreign elements settled and engaged in occupation that neither enhanced the material welfare of society nor improved its moral tone; citizens frequently suffered indignity and damage on their own premises from lawless strangers, and withal the Village appeared to be in a process of general demoralization. In view of this state of things prominent citizens of Wheeling renewed the agitation for ~~start~~ Village organization with more hope of success. The most progressive businessmen of the movement arranged for a mass meeting early in the month of June, invited an attorney at law to speak to the people on Village organization. Accordingly the mass meeting was held in Union Hall; the merits of self government were explained; a plat, showing the territorial limits of the proposed incorporation was presented by the assessor of the Township; a petition, praying for Village incorporation, was prepared in due form, signed by 42 legal voters residing within limits of the proposed incorporation, and addressed to Hon. Frank Scales, County Judge, Chicago, Ill. The County Judge took official notice of said petition, and the County Clerk ordered a special election to take place on the 19th day of June, 1894 in Union Hall, giving legal voters an opportunity of deciding for or against Village organization. The election was held on the date and in the place aforesaid with the following result: For Village organization under the general law-43 votes; Against Village organization under general law, 3 votes. The election returns having been duly canvassed the County Clerk ordered an election under the general election law to be held on the 17th day of July 1894 for the purpose of electing Village Officers, to wit:

continued

One (1) President; Six (6) Trustees; One (1) Police Magistrate;  
One (1) Village Clerk.

Accordingly the election aforesaid was held with the following  
result:

President: Henry Boehmer; Board of Trustees; John Forke, Jacob  
Schwingel, Emil Sigwalt, Reinhold Schneider, Wm. Passbinder, J. A.  
Schminke; Police Magistrate: Louis Fischer; Village Clerk: W. R.  
Mundhenke.

The votes having been canvassed and the organization papers  
entered in County Court of Cook Co., Ill. completing the organization  
of the Village of Wheeling, the officers duly qualified and entered  
upon their respective duties.

With the baby now born and in the arms of her proud and  
determined city fathers let's follow "The Infant Wheeling" through  
days of shaking decisions. Let's thumb through the first village  
Ordinances -- We'll find some good laughs there. Follow us next week  
when we review some more chapters in the life of "THE INFANT WHEELING".

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## WHEELING HISTORICAL DATA

### THE INFANT WHEELING

published Dec. 11, 1957  
The Wheeling Independent

BY Joan Houer

She left the newborn baby in the arms of the newly elected city fathers, but alas, she was destitute and without protection from the so-called "law-less Strangers". What now? What should be done to keep the infant financially secure and safe from harm?

The new government decided to hit the most logical place for funds -- the dram shops or saloons (cocktain lounges, to you); since undoubtedly this was where the gold would most likely be found. The president appointed a board member to secure necessary information concerning the passage of an Ordinance pertaining to the licensing of dram shops. On August 4th, 1894, the first Village Ordinance was approved and posted.

Upon examination we find it was unlawful to:

"--sell or give away any intoxicating malt, vinous or fermented liquors of any name, nature or kind, in any quantity whatever, without first obtaining a license so to do--"

"sell or give away, by himself, his agent or servant, or in any other way, directly or indirectly any liquors mentioned in this Ordinance to any minor, without the written order of his or her parents or guardian; any person intoxicated, or who is in the habit of getting intoxicated; any person on any general or special election day, or after 11 o'clock p.m. or before ~~5~~ 5 o'clock a.m. of any day--"

Licenses were issued every three months and the fee was set at \$500 per annum -- payable in advance. The first licenses were issued to the following applicants:

Curt Knoblauch at Chicago House  
C. F. Metz at Columbia Hotel  
Jacob Schwingel at His House  
John Behm at Union Hotel  
Norman Harming at Wheeling House  
Andrew G. Horcher at Wisconsin Central Hotel

The \$125 received from each made the grand total in the baby's piggy bank \$750.

Now to the problem of protection. Someone must be appointed to uphold the new laws and keep the peace -- and someone was. Mr. Jacob Hausam was made the Village Marshall and he would receive in exchange for his work a salary of \$15 for the first municipal year. Furthermore, the Board procured a statute, docket book and reference book for the use of the Police Magistrate and a Marshal's Star No. 1.

It was also moved that the Village Clerk be allowed a salary of \$25 for the first municipal year. And too, ~~xx~~ a new meeting place was decided upon -- Union Hall would serve as the regular meeting place; the hall to be furnished for \$1 per meeting, including fuel and light. Don't laugh. These boys met about five nights ~~xx~~ a week and this could add up to a sizable bill.

## WHEELING HISTORICAL DATA

### THE INFANT WHEELING

published Jan. 15, 1958  
The Wheeling Independent

by Joan Hauer

One may be led to believe that the problems in such a small, inconsequential community were very few and of no major importance. But considering the giant steps that have been taken in construction, medicine, and daily conveniences in the past 60 or 70 years, it is easy to understand that their problems were quite different from ours in many ways.

In the days before mass inoculations, anti-biotics, and other so-called "miracle drugs" the control of contagious disease such as diphtheria, typhoid and smallpox was a major problem. According to a Village Ordinance passed in 1894, it was the duty of every practicing physician who was attending any person affected with a contagious, infectious or pestilential disease to report, in writing, to the President or the Village Marshall, describing the locality of the patient, so that he may be readily found. The President or Marshall then posted a notice with the name of the disease printed or written in large letters in a conspicuous place on or near the building in which the disease was found. The sign could not be removed until a physician permitted its removal. Anyone could be fined from \$20 to \$100. Any person in contact with an infectious disease was required to change or purify his clothing before entering the world outside under the same penalty.

To further mitigate the threat of epidemic, annually during the month of May, a mass cleanup was ordered by the village. Residents were required to thoroughly cleanse and purify their ~~yards~~ yards, barn lots, pigsties, collars, privies, and adjacent streets of all trash, filth, manure and other substances likely to occasion disease. In July the Village Marshall and Street Commissioner made an inspection tour and anyone failing to comply was prosecuted.

The plank sidewalks that were first built in Wheeling presented several problems, a bit different from ours today. Almost a full page of requirements and specifications were necessary in setting up the Ordinance. This was not just a matter of setting-up forms, backing in a cement truck and troweling it out. The 6 or 8 inch boards, 4 feet wide were laid side by side on top of stringers fastened to one inch boards. Imagine the maintenance they must have required. According to the Ordinance, the property owners had to keep the sidewalks in front of their homes in proper repair at their own expense. If they failed to do so the Village made the repairs and ordered a special taxation against the property. All sidewalks built contrary to the requirements could be condemned.

On the other hand, some Village problems remain the same today as they were in 1894 -- take the age-old battle between dogs and neighbors for instance. In such a small village the cure was a bit different from the one presently in use. Annually in the month of May the Street Commissioner was to prepare a complete list of all dogs and their owners living in the corporate limits.

continued



The Village Marshall then went from dogowner to dogowner collecting dog tax, \$1 on every male and \$2 on every female. In return the owner received a metallic plate bearing the letters V.T.P. (Village Tax Paid) and the calendar year. Any dog found running at large through the village not wearing his plate could be destroyed.

The following fees were allowed for services rendered under this Ordinance:

Street Commissioner -- 5 percent of dog tax collected.

Village Clerk -- 15 percent of the dog tax collected.

Village Marshal -- 5 percent of the dog tax collected and 50 cents for each dog killed and buried under his supervision. An affidavit stating the time the dog was destroyed and where the animal was buried, was to accompany any such claims.

Apparently a "dog's life" was not so good in those days.

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## THE INFANT WHEELING

published Dec. 31, 1957  
The Wheeling Independent

by Joan Houer

Before continuing with the reports on activities of the village government, let's slip back to the year 1877 and the organization of the Wheeling Cornet Band (the WCB). During the days of the gay-nineties, and before, most towns and hamburgs had their own band to play for special affairs and Sunday afternoon concerts. For without radios, Hi-Fi systems and television, there was little music in grandmother's life.

A group of musically inclined, or at least enthusiastic, men set up a constitution and by-laws and chose three officers to head their musical organization. There was to be a Leader, a Deputy Leader and a Secretary. The constitution was complete to the finest detail, setting forth the duties of all officers and the band. It was run under a strict democratic rule, and it was prepared for every emergency including the "forcible expulsion" of members, the destruction of instruments, and disputes between the leader and band members. The first band was made up of the following:

E flat Cornet, C. Welflin  
B flat Cornet, C. Statler  
B flat Cornet, C. A. Fassbender  
E flat Alto, C. Periolat  
B.flat Tenor, Adam Weber  
B flat Tenor, Emil Sigwalt  
B Flat baritone, J. H. Nicolai  
E Flat Tuba, A. G. Zimmer  
Snare Drum, Y. Kimsich  
Bass Snare drum, and cymbals, Albert Weber

For the government of the Band in public, the following rules held good:

- a. No member shall leave his place in the ranks without permission from the Leader. Penalty 5 cents.
- b. No member shall play upon an instrument during the silence of the band. Penalty 5 cents.
- c. Any member appearing late at a place of rendezvous or failing to appear shall, in the discretion of the Leader, pay a fine of 25 cents.
- d. Any member appearing in a state of intoxication or becoming intoxicated after appearance, the question of this intoxication to be decided by a vote of the other members in case of dispute. Shall pay a fine of 1 dollar.
- e. Any member leaving the ranks while on duty outside of band room will be subject to a fine of 1 dollar.

The conduct for rehearsals was equally as strict and evidently the penalties paid off for during a three month period there were 21 fines for profane language, 4 for non-appearance and 3 for late appearance. Making a total of \$2.60 paid.

continued

~~xxxx~~

But there were other difficulties. Consider this letter from a  
 miffed member:

To the Leader and Members of the W.C. Band.  
 Gentlemen,

After considering since the last meeting of the band (May 17)  
 I have made up my mind that it is better (or in other words  
 that it is a case of suspension at present) that I should not  
 appear at the rehearsal tonight. I think it will be better  
 for all that I do not appear. Then you can talk over matters  
 plainly and I will not have to overhear some of the conversa-  
 tions, which probably would be distasteful for all parties  
 concerned. In the first place I think some of the members  
 made remarks that were wholly uncalled for. Secondly, if I  
 am subject for a fine I hope you will do your duty. Thirdly,  
 if you think of changing the instrument, (that lays in the  
 power of the Leader). Fourth, in case of expulsion, I hope  
 all of the members of the Bank know what that means!

It is much different than a resignation. I have been informed  
 since the last meeting, there there is another member that  
 wishes to play the Bass Drum, as he thinks he will not learn  
 the instrument he has at present.

Now if the Bank thinks that they will better themselves by  
 doing so -- Do so by all means.

I want the organization to understand that I think of the  
 Bank as I ever did and will harbor no ill feelings against them.  
 Act as they will.

I await your decision through your secretary, but shall not  
 meet with you again (As a member or otherwise) as to your  
 decision to-night.

O yes, problems there were many, but undoubtedly there were  
 also a lot of good times, according to some of the debts they paid.  
 These statements for instance:

From J. Schwingel -- 300 cigars at 2½ cents a piece for \$7.50

From Rynhold Periolat -- Hall Rent \$15.00, 1 bottle of wine and  
 3 3/4 bottles of whiskey, \$1.75, and 6 one-quarter barrels of beer, \$9.00,  
 and 2 suppers for 5 men, \$2.00. Lest we forget the barkeepers, \$10.00.

Other bills included the purchase of instruments like these:  
 One Cornet, \$19.00, one E flat Alto / \$14.00. And then there were:  
 300 Concert Programs \$2.25.

From all this effort the ocha-pa-pas were heard throughout the  
 Village. Such tunes as the "Solitude Schottische", "We shall sin  
 Quick Stop", "Hail Soldier and There'll be Rest By and By Quick  
 Stop", "Mox Nix Ouse Quick March", "Festival Polka", "Con. Garfield's  
 Quick Stop", and Gen. Sherman's and Gen. Arthur and Gen. Hancock's  
 "Phonograph Gallop", "Debutant Quick Stop", "Annie Laurie", "Ole  
 Black Joe", and "The Tuba's Terror Polka Di Concert" filled the air.

SHERLING HISTORICAL DATA

THE INFANT WHEELING

published Jan 8, 1958  
The Wheeling Independent

BY Joan Heuer

With all the business being handled by the Board, and with the ~~annual~~ report from the committee appointed to provide for a place of custody for offenders, the need for a Village Hall became more acute.

The committee, Mr. E. Sigwalt and Mrs. Jacob Hanson, Village Marshall, offered in the name of Mr. Wm. Wille, a piece of ground 30 by 100 feet, north of and adjacent to Mrs. Unternor's lot, for \$100. Further negotiations resulted in an offer by Mr. Wille to sell a piece of ground 40 by 13 1/4 feet for the sum of \$150, with the condition that the Village erect a building on the property within 1 year.

The preliminary plans for the building provided for a Hall 20 by 3- by 12 feet, with two cells in the western end of the Building 7 1/2 by 9 feet each. The building was to stand on posts. Three sealed bids for its construction were submitted by H. P. Montzer, H. Hans and Wm. Wille. The contract was let to Mr. H. P. Montzer, providing he agreed to use no. 1 common pine lumber and suitable wainscoting. \$750 was appropriated for the hall. The date was December 3rd, 1894.

On January 12th, 1895, the following statement was received--

H. P. Montzer  
Shermerville, Ill. (Northbrook)  
Undertaker, Contractor and Builder  
Ice Box and Hearse Furnished when Desired  
House Raising a Specialty

Hall by Contract	<u>\$467.00</u>	
Entry Work		
922 feet flang	13.83	
1 door 7 foot 13/4	2.75	
181 feet "Maple" floor	5.79	
2 blankets	1.20	
18 pcs. 2 by 4 -16 foot long	2.97	
22 pcs. 2 by 6-16 foot long	5.28	
192 feet 3/4 round	1.34	
1 Lock and Butt	1.10	
H. P. Montzer 8 hours	2.00	
N. Roehenbach 16 hours	3.68	
John Montzer 6 hours	1.50	
E. flagg 3 hrs.	.69	
	<u>509.13</u>	509.13
Extra painting	1.00	
	<u>510.13</u>	
Extry work	42.13	
Extry on Painting	1.00	
	<u>\$ 43.13</u>	

continued

This was followed by many more bills for a variety of things ranging from spittoons to mattresses.

On December 31st there was a bill for \$7.50 for 8 new stars (1 for ~~marshal~~ the marshal and 1 for each Board member)

J. A. Roehenbach presented his bill for \$1.50 for making bunks in the Village Hall and delivering lumber.

Four new blankets were purchased from E. Sigwalt and Co. for \$9.00 and 35 cents for express.

February 15th Mr. Roehenbach brought forth another statement for hanging two cell doors in the Village Hall. This one was for \$1.00.

Mrs. Henry Hipp sent her bill to the Board of Trustees. She collected 50 cents for sewing two cell mattresses.

Later, in June, an assortment of hardware, including two slop pails, a broom, two jail locks, two small spittoons, and two larger spittoons (for those with poor aim) was purchased from Fassbender and Arnold (Dealers in Stoves, Ranges, Tin and Hardware).

The original furnishing included 1 Gold Coin Ventiduct No. 19 Stove, 1 dozen chair, 2 Rochester Lamps, 1 Table and one business desk.

With all this excitement, the Board was kept hopping while they continued to write, pass and accept new Ordinances. They passed several during those months. Let's review them next week.

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THE INFANT WHEELING

pub. The Wheeling Independent  
Wed, March 12, 1958

by Joan Heuer

Certainly all of us would be lost without our telephones in this day and age. Of the many mechanical slaves that do work for us, the modern communication system is high on the list of indispensables. This is the story of how the telephone got its start in the ~~Village~~ Village of Wheeling.

In September of 1900, in answer to a request from the Chicago Telephone Co., the ordinance committee under the chairmanship of F. D. Schmidt prepared and introduced an ordinance concerning the installation of a telephone system here. It was read to the Board for information at the September 3rd meeting, and after considering, the Board decided to secure legal counsel before its passage. A special meeting was called four days later to again consider the approval. Upon the second reading, it was moved by Mr. Wm. Fassbender and seconded by F. D. Schmidt that the ordinance be passed as read. And so it started.

The ordinance granted the Chicago Telephone Company certain rights in the village. They were to "erect, maintain and renew, upon and along the streets and alleys of the Village of Wheeling, for a period of fifty years, lines of poles, wires and to use the same for supplying to the general public means of communication by telephone or other electrical device."

Lines and poles were to be located under the supervision and direction of the chairman of the committee on streets and alleys. They were to be so placed as not to interfere with ordinary travel, or any water, sewer or drain. The village was to be held harmless from "all damage resulting to any person, or persons, or corporation, from the erection or maintenance of these structures."

The telephone company was to furnish the village with telephones with local exchange service free of charge in the Village Hall and ~~and~~ in the Firehouse as soon as an exchange was established. Just how many Wheeling farmers, dram shop keepers, store owners, etc. would pay to have one of these electrical talking gadgets in their place remained to be seen.

(Continued next week)

# WHEELING HISTORICAL DATA

## TIDE INFANT WHEELING

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Wed., Feb. 26, 1958

By Joan Houer

Remembering "the good old days" oldtimers probably hold their heads in dismay when they take a look at the present village budget. In the first years the whole village could have been run on taxes now paid by only six homeowners. Of course we get more for our money these days, (I keep telling myself) but it does appear that as the town grows, more experts must be hired to help iron out new problems, more new equipment must be bought and insured, and bigger and better improvements must be made in public works.

In 1896 the total budget for the Village of Wheeling was \$1870.00 -- less than what is now allowed for office supplies, including postage and stationery. The streets and bridges fund was \$50 less than what is now set aside for janitor's supplies. What was allowed then for the marshal's salary was less than what is now paid out for premiums for surety bonds on village officers. The amount now appropriated for street lighting expense, repair and installation, is 100 times greater than the total used for that purpose in 1896. Salaries paid out to village officers and employees has been multiplied 120 times in the past 62 years. And although the fire department was paying for an engine at that time, their expenses still amounted to only what the department is now allowed for telephone expense and gas, oil and maintenance of equipment.

Compare for yourself. Here are five of the first budgets set up for the village:

Streets and Bridges -- 1896 - \$350; 1897 - \$475; 1898 - \$137.92;  
1899 - \$350; 1900 - \$350.

Marshal's Salary -- 1896 - \$360; 1897 - \$360; 1898 - \$327.34;  
1899 - \$300; 1900 - \$375.00.

Street lighting -- 1896 - \$60; 1897 - \$100; 1898 - \$60.87;  
1899 - \$75; 1900 - \$100.

Attorney: 1896 - \$50; 1897 - --; 1898 --; 1899 --; 1900 --.

Officer's Salaries -- 1896 - \$200; 1897 - \$175; 1898 \$70.85;  
1899 - \$150; 1900 - \$375.

Fire Department -- 1896 - \$700; 1897 \$300; 1898 - \$250;  
1899 - \$100; 1900 - \$50.

Contingencies -- 1896 - \$150; 1897 - \$100; 1898 \$60.87;  
1899 - \$ 75; 1900 - \$1500.

(continued)

Total Appropriations -- 1896 - \$1870; 1897-\$1410; 1898 =  
\$1174.50; 1899 \$1225; 1900 - \$2575.

And here are the total for the various departments in today's budget:

General Administrative Expenses	\$67,560.00
Police Department Expense	55,000.00
Fire Department Expense	6,450.00
Streets, Bridges & Highways Fund	37,000.00
Water Fund	81,700.00
Sanitary Sewer Fund	353,500.00
Grand Total Appropriations	601,210.00

When you know the taxes collected by the village in 1896 was only \$600 and the estimated number of families was between 60 and 60 at that time, you know in a moment no one's back was broken by high taxes in those days. True, this budget came before the addition of a sewer or water system, but then when you consider once a fellow sunk a well he could pump all the water he wanted for years and years without water bills, water ~~xxx~~ meters, or meter-readers and the installation and maintenance of a Chick Sales was hardly worth mentioning, you wonder if maybe you weren't born too late.

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