

HERITAGE HERALD

The periodical newsletter of the Wright County Historical Society

PO Box 304, 2001 Hwy 25 N, Buffalo, MN 55313

www.wrighthistory.org

763.682.7323 (p) 763.682.7324 (f)

Only a genealogist regards a step backwards as progress.

September - October 2009

Polish Tuesday with Stephen Barthel

Recipient of the Wigilia Award, the highest award given by the Polish Genealogical Society of America, speaks at WCHS



Stephen Barthel with Walter Cronkite

Please join us as Stephen Samuel Barthel, an accredited genealogist since 1981, presents two topics on Tuesday, September 29th from 10:00am - 12:00pm at the Heritage Center. Barthel was an International Reference Consultant from 1983-2004 for the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and also worked in the Library's Public Affairs Unit. He has traced the genealogies that were presented to Presidents Clinton and Bush, the Queen of Sweden, Walter Cronkite, Barbara Walters, several Governors, Senators, and many others.

Admission is free but space limited; please confirm your attendance by calling 763-682-7323. Light refreshments will be served following the presentations.

Breaking the 'Sound' Barrier:

Working with Phonetics in Polish Research

Genealogical research is full of obstacles. Follow the step-by-step twists of methodology, using two German/Polish examples, to overcome phonetics issues often encountered in genealogical research. One of the examples is on the Wallace Secora Family of Delano, MN.

Publishing Your Family History?: Yes, You Can!

After publishing more than 26 personal family histories, I share 'tricks-of-the-trade' discovered through trial and error on how to boost interest, cooperation, and book sales. This is not your typical 'How-to' lesson on putting together a book (although the basics will be covered), but rather how to make your product a 'hot' item.

GenLine Experts to Provide Swedish Research Assistance

Have you hit a brick wall in your Swedish research? Let us help!

This special event has been organized with our Swedish researchers in mind! WCHS has a library subscription with GenLine, which allows on-site library patrons to access Swedish birth, death, marriage & census records online.

Genline representatives Jan Eurenus of Sweden and Kathy Meade of North America will be available to provide 45 minute, one-on-one assistance on October 14, 2009. Sign-up sessions will be available between 10 AM and 4 PM with sign-up available to WCHS members only until October 6th, 2009. Any remaining sessions will be opened up to the general public after that time.

For more information about this event or to sign up for a session with either Jan or Kathy please call Sally Stevens at 763-682-8945.

More info on the experts

Jan Eurenus is a sales representative for Genline Sweden. Jan has over 30 years of genealogical research experience and has been an active participant on the Swedish genealogical message boards helping Swedish-Americans with their research.

Kathy Meade is the North American representative for Genline. She provides individual Swedish research assistance monthly at the Arlington Heights Library in Arlington Heights, IL and the Swedish American Museum in Chicago.



WCHS Staff documented the demolition of the Munson Feeds Elevator July 29 & 30. Look for more pictures and information online and in our next newsletter.

1st Photo Contest Huge Success!

After dozens of entries and hundreds of votes, winning photographs are displayed online, in our gallery and archived



"Never Letting Go"
by Marie Hedtke



"Howard Lake Grain Elevator"
by Rick Wozniak.



"Wright County Cornfield"
by Madison Dircks

The Wright County Historical Society is proud to announce the winners of their 1st Semi-Annual Photo Contest! Our first theme was 'Summer in Wright County' and all entries were absolutely beautiful. This contest was designed to highlight our beautiful county and increase archival photos for future generations. Rules required photos to be taken within Wright County between June 25-August 7, 2009 and to include detailed location information. Four categories were offered with two entries allowed in each. Photos were displayed at the 2009 Wright County Fair between August 14-16 in the Welker Schoolhouse, with public judging choosing all winners through written ballot. First place ribbons, as well as inclusion in our upcoming publications and website (www.wrightshistory.org), were awarded in two categories, Adult and Youth (14 and under).

Thank you to all entrants and participants at the Wright County Fair for casting their ballots to determine our winners. The second photo contest is already being planned for this winter so watch our next newsletter for more details.

SUMMER 2009 WINNERS:

Recreation & Events

- 'Never Letting Go' by Marie Hedtke, South Haven (A)
- 'I Caught One This Big' by Madison Dircks, Maple Lake (Y)

Places & Nature

- 'The Start of a New Life' by Layla Koehler, Montrose (A)
- 'Pure In Heart' by Lily Hedtke, South Haven (Y)

Structures & Objects

- 'Howard Lake Grain Elevator' by Rick Wozniak, Dassel (A)
- 'Airport View-Maple Lake' by Madison Dircks, Maple Lake (Y)

Everything Else

- 'Horses Delight' by Marie Hedtke, South Haven (A)
- 'Wright County Cornfield' by Madison Dircks, Maple Lake (Y)

Voter's Choice

- 'Never Letting Go' by Marie Hedtke, South Haven

What Is It??

Recently Tom Mooney, Annandale, stopped by with this item he found while digging in his garden.

We're stumped. Do you know what this item is? If so, please contact us at 763-682-7323 or drop us an email at sally.stevens@wrightshistory.org.

Congratulations to Dan Olson, Monticello, for being the first to identify the building last month--now his insurance business!



Steam Engine Info

Check out this great online video (www.farministrynews.com) taken at the Nowthen Threshing Show.

John Wetter, son of WCHS's President Leander Wetter, gives an excellent explanation of how these amazing machines work. The Wetter family has often displayed their steam engines, both in our gallery and in working condition outside for special events.



The Wright County Historical Society (WCHS) is a public 501(c) non-profit organization whose purpose is the location, discovery, collection & preservation of historical artifacts and records and the dissemination of knowledge about the history of Wright County and its relationship to the State of Minnesota.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- PRESIDENT** Leander Wetter
- VICE PRESIDENT** Ray Schmidt
- SECRETARY** Karen Christofferson
- TREASURER** Dave Murray
- BOARD MEMBERS**
 - Melissa Brings
 - Pam Campbell
 - Herman Ernst
 - Clarence Eull
 - Claudia Menzel
 - John Norman
 - Kenneth Rudolph
 - Jeff Young

COUNTY COMMISSIONER Pat Sawatzke

STAFF

- ARCHIVIST** Betty Dircks
- CURATOR** Erin Endress
- BUSINESS MANAGER** Sally Stevens
- LIBRARY & RESEARCH STAFF**
 - Pat Cina
 - Kay Nordberg
- EDITORS**
 - Sally Stevens
 - Erin Endress
 - Betty Dircks