

Special Interest Articles:

- The Barthel Family History: Part II – second of a three part series.
- Anthony Haffner Story
- 2011 dues notice



South and east side, Barthel House



Door hinge

(Note the bake oven protruding on the east side)

The Barthel Family History: Part II **The Estate and Church in Weidingen**

By Stephen Samuel Barthel, Accredited Genealogist Emeritus

In the May 2010 issue of the *St. Michael Historian*, Volume 4, Issue 1, you read a brief history of the Weidingen area where the Barthel family originated. My focus for Part II is on the Estate and Church.

When I first visited Weidingen in 1972, the mayor informed me that the town consisted of three estates. One estate was called the ‘Bertelhaus’, which was Plattdeutsch for Barthel House. It was built in the 1600s and consists of three attached homes. To this day it is still known as the Bertelhaus.

The oldest portion of the Bertelhaus was known as the sheep stall, where the occupant, Frau Susanna Himpler, resided. Frau Himpler invited me to spend the night, as the last bus had already left the village. I was thrilled at the opportunity to spend the night in the house where my ancestors’ lived. After entering the house I walked up a steep, winding oak staircase to the upper floor. The floor was made of oak, but was not at all level, due to several hundred years of settling.

On the ground level, to the right, was her kitchen. I noticed bumps hidden behind plaster in the rafters of the ceiling and I asked what they were. Frau Himpler told me they were lantern hooks. I asked her if she ever thought of exposing the hooks to bring the house back to its original appearance. She said there would be too much dust and she did not have money to fix up the place, as she was living on her pension.

She proceeded to give me a tour of the house. Behind the kitchen was what she called a summer kitchen. In the corner I saw an open chimney, about a meter square at the bottom, tapering as it reached upwards. I could clearly see the sky from below. Within the chimney were rods that extended from one wall to the opposite wall. That was used in the past for smoking ham. Next to the chimney, along the same wall, I noticed a fire pit. A couple of feet above that was the bake oven. Frau Himpler showed me a long wooden paddle, which was used to take the bread out of the bake oven.

Individual Highlights:

Barthel History: Part II	1
Membership Dues Notice	2
Lake Charlotte, Anthony Haffner Story	3
This issue created by: Sheldon Barthel	



The Barthel Family History: Part II (cont'd)

The doors in each residence of the estate were short, due to the height of people in the 1600s. I noticed that the hinges in Frau Himpler's residence were forged by a blacksmith. She said they are the original hinges. Behind one door I expected to find another room, but was surprised to see an animal stall within the house. A long barn portion extended the full length of the south facing building. The barn's cobblestone floor appeared worn and snugly packed in. I asked Frau Himpler if I could remove one of the cobblestones to take home. She laughed and said ' If you can get one out, you can have it!' After failing the attempt, I saw an old hinge on a shelf and asked if I could have it, as it matched the hinges on the interior doors. She was happy to let me take it.



Weidingen roadside chapel

The longest portion of the estate faces the street. Frau Himpler's residence was on the far east side of the complex. There is a barn portion in the middle, and another residence on the left. Attached to the north side of the residence on the left is yet another residence. To the left of that is another attached barn. The barn burned down in the 1970s.

While visiting Bistumsarchiv in Trier, the archivist brought me a manuscript of the history of the church in Weidingen. The manuscript pointed out that the oldest portion of the church, the tower, was built about 1200 years after Christ. Two unequal naves and the sacristy were built on to the existing tower in 1541. In 1644 soldiers broke in and, because of war disturbances in 1667, the church's equipment was brought to Neuerburg and the castle in Schönecken for safekeeping. In 1662 the large crucifix, which was made around the year 1400, was re-stained. The building was struck by lightning, and the main altar had to be repaired in 1669. In 1670 the church received new windows. The sacristy was enlarged in the year 1687. The nave was rebuilt from 1771 to 1773. In 1776 they tore down the old choir loft and built a foyer on the west side of the building with stairs leading to the new choir loft. New windows were added that same year. The main altar was built in 1780. There were also two side altars. The church was known as a Pilgrimage Church. Stories extend back to the crusades.

Weidingen was known as Oberweidingen and Niederweidingen (Upper and Lower Weidingen), but became one village in 1969. In 1993 the village had 206 inhabitants. In the year 1254 it was known as 'Viden'. It once belonged to Luxembourg, but the feudal period broke and, on 5 June 1795, the area became the Département des Forêts in the French Republic. Weidingen became part of Prussia in 1816.

In part III you will be following specific Barthel families on their migration from Weidingen, and eventually to Frankfort Township in Wright County, Minnesota

2011 Membership Renewals are Due!

The St. Michael Historical Society is a non-profit organization, relying on volunteers to collect and preserve our city's historical artifacts and documents. All monies taken in are used exclusively for that purpose. By members promptly paying their dues, it saves postage and mailing costs, not to mention time involved sending out renewal notices. Please help us by sending in your dues for next year at this time. You may send a \$10 check (individual or family) to our address listed on page four of this newsletter, or send payment, along with any changes of address or phone number to:

**Sheldon Barthel
401 Butternut Ln., S.E.
St. Michael, MN 55376**

Below:

*St. Lucy's Altar at the
Church in Weidingen*



“On the Banks of Beautiful Lake Charlotte”

The Anthony Haffner Story

(Excerpt from the book “History of Wright County” by Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, 1915)

Anthony Haffner, the proprietor of a popular summer resort on the banks of beautiful Lake Charlotte, Frankfort Township, was born in the Rhine region of Germany, on July 6th, 1858. He was the son of Anthony Haffner Sr. and his wife Dorothea Zepp Hafner. The children in the family were Gertrude, Mathias, Kate, Anthony, Peter and Joseph.

In 1864 they came to America, and located in Hennepin county. Some 15 years later the father came to St. Michael in this county (Wright) and operated a sawmill and a threshing machine.

Cottages on the lake, left photo, main hotel on right



Anthony Haffner Jr. attended the schools of Hennepin County, and at the age of 23, struck out for himself. After working in the vicinity of St. Michael for a few years, he purchased forty acres of land in section 31, Rockford Township, in 1889. To this he has since added thirty-three acres so that now he has a good place of nearly seventy-five acres, with a splendid water line on the lake. When he arrived, the place was covered with trees. He cleared off the place, and with a grub hoe put in his first crops. His first home was a board shanty covered with tarpaper. For two years he had no horses or oxen, but did what he could with one cow. About eleven years after he settled on the place, he erected a large barn and a substantial residence. He raised several crops and good stock, and became a successful farmer.

From time to time his friends came to his place to fish in the lake. Gradually he received requests from strangers for board. Finally in 1907, he decided to go into the summer resort business. When his farm home became too small for his business, he erected a cottage nearby...but the house and the cottage were several rods back from the lake, so selecting a slope of land on the north bank of the lake, shaded with some sightly trees, and possessing all the necessary qualifications for a summer camp, he moved the cottage to the new location, and started on a larger scale. The main hotel houses the dining room, which is cool and airy, and well furnished. The food is the best and served in the best manner. Ten cottages give ample accommodations to a large number of guests, while the garage, the icehouse, the dancing pavilion, the well of pure water, and the large fleet of boats add to their comfort and pleasure. The lake itself is clear and sparkling, one mile and a half long, and a half-mile wide, 100 feet deep in the deepest place. The bathing beach in the front of the cottages is excellent, and the maple groves here and there make ideal spots for picnics. Year by year the place is increasing in popularity as a fishing, hunting and recreational resort, and the enterprise is assuming large proportions.

Anthony Haffner was married April 4th, 1884, to Katherine Droneck, a native of Hennepin County. Their children are Anna, Ted, Clara, Gertrude, Millie, Lena, Edith, Alvina and Albert. (Statistics below and photos provided by family not in book.)

Anton Haffner July 6, 1859 - June 22, 1967; Katherine Droneck October 23, 1860 - March 6, 1

(Their children below)

Annie December 8, 1883 - June 22, 1967; August Wagner October 11, 1877 - April 28, 1954
 Ted April 9, 1885 - May 1, 1972; Regina Bruska May 30, 1895 - November 19, 1982
 Clara September 16, 1886 - August 10th, 1950; Nick Duerr September 20, 1883 - May 11, 1912



St. Michael
Historical Society
*Collecting, preserving, and
sharing the history of
St. Michael*

Phone:
763-497-2041
Ext. 300

St. Michael
Historical Society
3150 Lander Ave NE
St. Michael, MN 55376

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.stmhistsoc.org

The Anthony Haffner Story (cont'd)

Gertie June 29, 1888 - June 3, 1986

Millie October 19, 1889 - June 19, 1987

Lena November 6, 1890 – November 16, 1975; Henry Lenneman July 14, 1891 – July 21, 1959

Edith March 9, 1892 – October 30, 1976; Carl Riefler October 8, 1899 – October 13, 1966

Alice born and died April of 1893

Alvina June 1, 1894 – June 6, 1970; Ernie Leubner August 23, 1891 – October 17, 1950

Albert July 1, 1896 – September 14, 1957

Upcoming Meetings

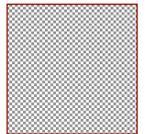
December 6th, 2010 – Monday 7:00 PM

February 7, 2011 – Monday 7:00 PM

About Our Organization...

The St. Michael Historical Society began with a meeting of general interest in April of 2005. Our mission is to collect, preserve, and share the history of the City of St. Michael for generations to come. Meetings are generally held on the first Monday of the month at the St. Michael City Hall. We encourage you to visit our website listed on the left for times and locations of upcoming events.

To become a member, please visit our website or call us at the number on the left. Single memberships and family memberships are \$10 per year; business memberships are \$25, all memberships include a subscription to our Quarterly newsletter.



**PLACE ADDRESS
LABEL HERE**