

St. Michael Historian

May 2010

Volume 4, Issue 1

Official Newsletter of the St. Michael Historical Society, St. Michael, Minnesota

Special Interest Articles:

- Board Member Election results
- Barthel Ancestry
- Newsletter Notices

Individual Highlights:

Schumm Store	1
Barthel History	2
Election Results	3
Publication Notices	4
Acknowledge gift	4

Memories of the Old Schumm Store

By Sheldon Barthel



Even though the photo above was taken in the early 1900's, the store looked pretty much the same in the early 1950's, the only exceptions being the balcony in front of the store was gone and the lettering above the store was painted over. The store was located where T.J.'s sports bar is located now.

The Schumm family lived in the residence on the left, attached, but set back from the store. To the right of the store, in a one story annex was Vic's tavern.

Living a block away from the store in the early 50's, we, as children were often sent by our parents to pick up groceries. When we had finished shopping, the single checkout lady would add up the purchases by hand on a restaurant waitress-like note pad (with carbon in between), then give us a copy and place the pad upright in a drawer below the counter alphabetically. Once a month my dad would come in and pay up his grocery bill in full.

At the time there were three grocery stores in town; Schumm's Store, Blom's Store (located where the American Legion is now) and Halliger's Store which became Vern's Red & White Groceries (located in the Ditto's bar building).

Because St. Michael was predominately a farming community, many farmers would bring grain into town to have it ground into feed. One of the main feed mills in town was owned by my uncle Jerome Duerr, and was located one and one-half blocks north of the St. Michael Liquor Store on First Street Northeast on the east side of the street. When the farmers came in they would need to have a diversion while they waited for their feed to be processed and so, being German, many would walk up to the nearest saloon to pass time and catch up on the latest town news. Vic's tavern was one of the four saloons in town to choose from. I still recall the brass bar rail in front of the bar and the spittoons on the floor next to the bar. Of course, we only went into the bar (which had entrances from the grocery store), usually to buy a treat such as an ice cream cone as a reward for picking up the groceries. Because there was no air conditioning in those days, you would often see old Vic Schumm sitting on the front steps with his old reliable dog, Goldie, just resting and watching the traffic on old highway 152 passing by (now 241 or Central Avenue). The old dog was a huge, lazy, golden retriever (I believe) who seemed to make a better welcoming mat than a true watchdog.

The residence, store, and tavern were eventually torn down in the late 60's.



An Historical Account of the Barthel Ancestors of St. Michael -- Part I

by Stephen Samuel Barthel, Accredited Genealogist Emeritus

After many years of believing our lineage was German, it was somewhat unnerving for me to think we could be considered Luxembourgers. The Barthel ancestors clearly came from the district of Bitburg, Germany -- more specifically the villages of Niehl, Mettendorf, Oberweis, and Weidingen, but the area once belonged to Luxembourg. Even the Welters of Obersgegen, which is near the Luxembourg border, is part of the same history, as well as the Schirmers, Daleidens, and other families from nearby area villages. We are proud of our German heritage, or shall we say Luxembourg heritage? I guess I will need to further elaborate:

Language

Our Barthel ancestors spoke a dialect of German or, what some would say, Plattdeutsch or Luxembourgish. Luxembourgish belongs to the West Central German group of High German Languages and is the primary example of a Moselle Franconian language. My Dad, Norbert "Nubbs" Barthel, was brought up by his parents to speak German first, then English. When we visited the ancestral villages in 1979, Dad had no problem with the language. He loved to use his German, and did so fluently. I had a hard time understanding the dialect, as I could only speak the German that is generally understood throughout Germany today. I was proud of Dad and enjoyed listening to him converse, but knew he would fall off his 'high horse' once we left the area for other parts of Germany. I was afraid to tell him his German would not be easily understood outside of the Eifel. I wanted him to enjoy the moment, knowing he would find that out soon enough. Shortly after visiting the Eifel, we arrived in Köln, where Dad's German could no longer be understood by anyone. I then became the interpreter for other areas of Germany.

Kreis (District) Bitburg, Germany is on the western border of Germany, just east of Luxembourg. The people had centuries of being influenced by their neighbors, the Luxembourgers. Luxembourgish is spoken in the area around Bitburg and Trier. The Germans consider it not as another language, but as the local German dialect. After World War II, the dialect has not been taught in the German schools, so the Luxembourgish dialect is largely restricted to the older generation, like Dad's and older generations.

History

It is true that the language or dialect influenced the people of the district of Bitburg, but there is good reason for that! Historically, the District of Bitburg was once part of Luxembourg from the 10th to the 15th century. Then it became part of what was known as Seventeen Provinces. These Seventeen Provinces came under Spanish/Austrian rule. After the Napoleonic Wars this region was given to Prussia. Around 1815 Prussia established the three districts of Bitburg, Prüm and Trier. In 1970 the districts of Bitburg and Prüm were merged into Landkreis Bitburg-Prüm. On 1 January 2007 the district name was changed to Eifelkreis Bitburg-Prüm.

Naming Practice

Now that we have established an understanding of the language and history of the area of Kreis Bitburg, perhaps we can now view the rest of the story in its proper perspective. In tracing the lineage of our Barthel ancestors of St. Michael back to the Eifel Region of Germany, the surname did not follow the usual male naming pattern we would normally expect by today's naming standard. If we were to strictly follow the male lineage with the Barthel surname, we would actually run into the Hermes name in our male line, rather than Barthel. Our ancestor, Philipp Hermes of Geichlingen, Kreis Bitburg, married Catharina Bertel in Weidingen in 1759; the surname 'Bertel/Berthel/Barthel' is pronounced 'Bear-tul' in Plattdeutsch, although Barthel is considered the standard spelling today. Name entries in parish registers are often written phonetically until the mid-1800s. Weidingen was pronounced 'Vedisch' in the old dialect. Catharina's father, Wilhelm Bertel died before Catharina's 1759 marriage. Leaving Catharina the property of the Berthelhaus. Since she continued to live on the property with her new husband, her husband then took on the name of the family or name of the farm for inheritance purposes. The complex today still refers the place as the Bertelhaus. Her husband, Philipp Hermes, would be listed under her surname found in parish registers. Names of their children were recorded not only with the phonetic spellings of Bertel/Berthel/Barthel, the Latin terms 'alias' and 'modo' were found in birth and marriage records for some of their children. For example, it was recorded that my great great grandfather was born Mathias in 1762. His parents were listed as Philipp Bertel alias Hermes and Catharina.

The oldest portion of the Bertelhaus or Barthel house was known as the sheepstall. The sheep were kept in a room to the left of the entrance and the barn was attached to the rear of the complex.



The attached building complex consists of three homes. A plaque has been installed on side of the building, closest to the church, where it states the building was built around the 1670s. According to former Mayor, Nik Prinz, there were no records to verify the age of the building date, so they came up with an arbitrary date.

There is evidence in the village of Dasburg that a Kaspar Barthelen had property in Weidingen in 1628, but the church records do not extend that far back to trace his lineage back to his birthdate.



The Bertelhaus in Weidingen, Germany/ Courtesy of Stephen Barthel

Weidingen is the place or earliest known origin of all the Barthel descendant families that first settled in the St. Michael area. Today they have spread throughout the United States and beyond. If you run into anyone with the name of Barthel, that does not mean they are related. More than likely they are, if their ancestry can be traced back to St. Michael. There are also Barthel names in Stearns County, Minnesota. Some of their ancestors came through St. Michael, but the majority of these Barthels came from another area far from Weidingen. They are not related, as far as we can tell. Actually, Barthel is also an old first-given name, meaning Bartholaus/Bartholomew, which has the meaning, son of the furrows. Surnames have originated from occupations, as well as from first-given names. In my research I have found throughout the Eifel Region many surnames, such as Pauli, Jacobi, Arnoldi. So, surnames can stem from first-given names.

My database of pedigree charts and family group records takes us back to Adam, that is Adam Barthelen, born about 1675 of Weidingen. To date, my genealogy contains descendancy connecting more than 7,000 of Adam's family. I have spent more than forty years at this. When I am through tracing descendants, I would venture to say there might be more than 10,000 names. The total number of names in my database numbers nearly 29,000 names, which includes many other St. Michael families and their ancestors.

Part II in another newsletter will focus on a short history of Weidingen, including photos of the village, and the interior and exterior of the church.

Board Member Election Results/ Tribute to Rose Ann Gindele

Historical Society welcomes two new members to the Board of Directors

John Robeck Dan Lenz



We would also like to pay tribute to our outgoing president Rose Ann Gindele, whose term has expired, and who was instrumental in founding the St. Michael Historical Society. She was the Society's first president and helped lay the groundwork for our present organization. We thank her for her many years of dedicated service. At the same time we welcome our new president, Bob Zahler; vice-president, Sheldon Barthel; secretary, Stephen Barthel; and Treasurer, John Jaeb, who begin their terms this month.



St. Michael
Historical Society

3150
Lander
Ave NE
St.
Michael,
MN
55376

Phone:
763-497-
2041
Ext. 300

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.stmhistsoc.org

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

Newsletter Publication notices

In case you are wondering about the sequence dating of our Quarterly newsletter and are wondering what gives, we apologize for the inconvenience. If you were missing Volume 3, Issue 3, we want to let you know that it was not published; because last summer's special issue was an expanded issue with a supplement. This took the place of Volume 3, Issue 2 and Issue 3.

We would also like to encourage anyone, or any business, with a story that they would think would be of interest from a historical standpoint, to our readers, to contact us. If you have pictures to accompany the story, all the better!

Acknowledgement of Donation given

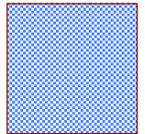
The Society wishes to thank the Bernard Hackenueller family for the recent donation given in his name. Bernard was a member of the Society since 2006 and was very interested in preserving the history of St. Michael.

Bernard passed away on December 16, 2009 and will be missed.

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, which includes a subscription to our Quarterly newsletter. Or mail us, at our address, a check, along with your name, address and phone number, and we'll process your request promptly.



**PLACE ADDRESS
LABEL HERE**