

## ST. MICHAEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES: March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Bob Zahler, president, called the board meeting of the St. Michael Historical Society to order at 6:59 PM in the Library Conference Room, Room 116. The directors present were Sheldon Barthel, Rose Ann Gindele, Brendan Sage, John Robeck, Stephen Barthel, Matthew Eiyneck, John Jaeb, Wayne Kessler, Lisa Marx, Harry Welter, Earl Vetsch and Crystal Sayen. The minutes from the February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as read except for one typo. The Gindele brothers, Joe and John, visited us for the meeting and expressed interest in speaking to a group. Bob recommended that they speak with Marla Scherber of the library as she may have better resources to promote them.

### Reports & Business

**President's Report** – Bob shared with the group a notice of a World War II soldier speaking at the library. Bob also showed the renewal form for the American Association of State and Local History, most of the members informally agreed not to renew with them but the decision was tabled until Bob brought back a recommendation.

**Treasurer's Report** – The balance was reported to be at \$7,431.64 with a total of \$80.98 in expenses, and \$60.00 in deposits.

**Website** – As of the evening of the 11<sup>th</sup> of March, our website visits numbered 467,859; over a 30,000 visit increase from the last meeting. There were an outstanding 2,300 visits on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> alone. Steve and Sheldon proposed to post the Gindele Brothers' book in the "links" and "store" tabs. The motion was made by Sheldon and seconded by Harry; the motion carried. Also, Steve got permission to post the biography of the nun, who was a St. Michael native, on our website. Steve also shared an interesting email he received from a Belgian man regarding an ancestor he found through the society's website. Eventually Steve learned that Gustaf Devue, the ancestor, died drowning in a lake near Melrose, Minnesota. No one knows why the 33-year-old was buried in the St. Michael Cemetery. Due to the incident, Steve inserted links to assist curious individuals regarding ancestry research.

**Media Specialist** – Crystal had nothing to report and is still working on the 1931 church jubilee photo.

**Newsletter** – The "Beulah the Buick" and Gustaf Devue "mysterious story" are planned on being published in the upcoming newsletter along with the "cemetery clean-up" event.

**Membership** – Sheldon shared that there were still a total of 104 members with 15 notices of suspension that were sent. Now 12 members are in danger of suspension on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Old Business** – The directors agreed on having the cemetery clean up on Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> (the Saturday before Memorial Day) at 10:00 AM and to advertise through the Patch, Wright Country Journal, etc. The ending time of the seminar will depend on how many show up. Bob reminded everyone again of board elections at the annual meeting in April. So far all current board members up for re-election have indicated a willingness to run again and are thus considered "self-nominated".

**New Business** – Lisa and Rose Ann decorated the display case very well with a "Bierstube" theme. They also discussed ideas of changes to be made to the book of farms. Lisa presented the hour hand of the south face of the clock on the historic Catholic Church. The members agreed that it is likely original which would mean the hand is 100 years old.

**Announcements** – The annual meeting will take place on April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Library Conference Room, Room 116.

**Adjournment** – Harry motioned to end the meeting. Wayne seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendan Sage, Secretary