This Issue Commemorates the 175 Anniversary of the Prussian Migration to Western NY and the establishment of the congregations above.
Found in the Files – 2018 marks the 175th anniversary of our ancestors migration to America and the establishment of St. Peters, St. Martin's and “The German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Neu Bergholz in the Town of Wheatfield”, otherwise known as Holy Ghost Evangelical Lutheran Church. In honor of this event, Der Brief is reprinting selected pages of the 150th Holy Ghost anniversary booklet. Continued from last issue......

In 1884 Teacher F.W. Grade answered the call to teach at Holy Ghost and he served until 1892. Meanwhile Pastor Weinreich left in 1887 to accept a call to Sobrainge, Ontario. The same year Pastor Heinrich Koch accepted the call to serve Holy Ghost. In 1892 Teacher Grade was called to Soboygan, Wisconsin and Teacher Friedrich Brauer came to teach from 1892 to 1894.

The 50th Anniversary of the Prussian Lutheran migration to Wheatfield was observed in 1895. The event was celebrated jointly by the Bergholz, St. Johnburg and Martinsville congregations. Martinsville was chosen for the site of the observance because it could be more easily reached by rail and it was centrally located in relation to the surrounding congregations who were invited for the main service on Sunday, September 10. The District President preached in the 10 a.m. service. The afternoon service featured a presentation which dealt with the story and explanation of the migration to America. A combined brass choir provided the music.

In December 1895 the first church organ was purchased and dedicated. It was a reed organ operated by hand-pumped bellows. A church band or brass choir had accompanied the singing up to that time. When Teacher Schulz left Holy Ghost in 1899, Teacher Louis Wagner was called to serve in his place.
Since necessary repairs and renovations on the old church building were considered to be excessively costly and therefore impractical, plans were prepared in 1906 for a new church structure.

In 1901 a new frame teacherage was constructed, not built onto the school as the old one had been. Also in 1901, Teacher C.J. Gross came to serve at Holy Ghost until 1903 when Peter Schulz returned to again take charge of the school. Pastor Restin had just been called away from Holy Ghost early in 1903 to accept a position as missionary in the Emigrant Ministry in New York City. The Rev. Albert Dallmann from Braunschweig, Illinois succeeded him as pastor at Holy Ghost in 1903.
A frame building 80 feet by 40 feet with a 75-foot high steeple would be erected where the old 100-foot long half-timber church stood. In February 1907, the service observing the 60th Anniversary of the old church was also the very last service to be held in that building. The old half-timber building was completely dismantled, an excavation for a basement was dug at that site and the new church was built and dedicated in November of the same year, 1907. During the period of construction two services were held each Sunday in the school building. At the roadside in front of the new church was placed a sturdy concrete step to allow occupants of horse-drawn vehicles to mount and dismount more easily and gracefully.

Covered. They were also used to nudge those who fell asleep.

Interior of Second Holy Ghost Church

Three days of festival services to observe each of the main Holy Days (Easter, Pentecost, Christmas) had been reduced to two days shortly before moving into the new church. Mission festivals were special events celebrated annually on a specified Sunday and invitations were extended to all neighboring Missouri Synod congregations.

Second Holy Ghost Church

Most of the rigid customs observed in the first church were also carried over into the new church. Women were required to wear bonnets or hats in church and they sat in the right-hand pews facing the altar. Men sat on the left side. School-age children and young people up to age 16 were required to sit in the front pews and participate in "Christenlehre" (group religious instruction) conducted by the pastor each Sunday right after the sermon. Members who had fallen into sinful ways had to do penance publicly before the entire congregation. A "Vorsänger" (cantor or hymn leader) led the congregational singing in church. "Klingebutel" were used to gather the offerings. They were deep cloth pouches with broom-stick-like handles about four feet long, which the trustees reached half-way across each pew, first from one side and then from the other, so all

To be Continued............
Trip to the ancestral villages in the Uckermark

This year we have been celebrating the 175th anniversary of the immigration of our ancestors. The Heimatmuseum Brüssow commemorated this anniversary also, by having a program earlier this year on International Museum Day, May 14th. Don Schroeder, Cindy Sileo and I travelled to Germany to attend the program. Activities were led by Guenter Trester, who recently received an award for his 20th year as Director of the Museum. We received various gifts, saw the documentary “Little Uckermark,” had a nice lunch, and saw a homemade video by Benjamin Wende who visited our Das Haus Museum in 2004. Many people attended the event in the Brüssow Kino (village theater). The Burgermeister, Herr Rackow, presented us with souvenirs of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

There is interest in both the Uckermark and our area in preserving Uckermarker Plattdeutsch, an unwritten dialect used by our ancestors, at home and after they arrived in America. We were happy to receive copies of the work of Max Lindow, who documented Uckermarker Platt and a school book used to teach children around 9 years old. Later that day we attended a concert in the nearby village of Wollshow.

On the prior Saturday evening we were invited to a wildschwein (wild boar) dinner at the home of Roland Strate in Bergholz Uck. He and 2 friends will visit Bergholz NY this fall, and plan to attend our annual dinner. His Mom is a Hurtienne, who remembers visitors from many years ago (Lillian DuBois and Martha Haseley). We were told by Diana, who translated for us, that the boar was shot by Herr Haseley. Platt speakers from Bergholz Uck attended also, including Sabine Witthuhn, who we met in 2012. On another day we visited the Heimatmuseum Bergholz, and saw their updated displays. We visited a Plattdeutsch center in Prenzlau and the city history museum. Other days were filled with visits to many villages of the ancestors of our area families. It’s always fun to find the same family surnames on mailboxes, businesses and even in the cemeteries!

With the help of Frau Glowe in Brüssow, Cindy was able to locate and review the church records for the Reichert family of Grünz in the church in Penkun. While walking in the cemetery in Grünz, a local gentleman by the name of Wendt advised her there are still Reicherts in the village. On our return from Penkun, I missed a turn and we were on our way to Poland! We had talked about visiting the villages of Ognica (Nipperwiese) and Widdichowa (Fiddichow), so we made the most of it! We dipped our toes in the Oder River and I brought back a juice bottle full of it’s water.

On another day we took a train to Lutherstadt Wittenburg and saw the changes made for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, and stayed at the Old Latin School. One evening, the Pastor in Brüssow took us and a few others to the city of Szczecin (Stettin), Poland and showed us some sights, including the view from a 22 story building. We arrived at our Gasthaus every evening totally exhausted!

The Heimatmuseum Brüssow has a display of artifacts and information relating to the Old Lutherans, much of which I have provided. It was an Old Lutheran church, active from 1859 to 1914. It sat vacant until 1964 when 2 brothers decided to start a museum. The Uckermark area is rural and has been promoting itself as a vacation destination for relaxation for city dwellers and foreigners. As a result, the Heimatmuseum Brüssow and other area museums (including Heimatmuseum Bergholz) have formed an alliance to seeking funding to attract visitors, and for historic preservation. They and our museum have agreed to be ‘sister’ museums for the purpose of promoting the shared history and heritage of so many families.

Since genealogy has become such a popular pastime, more and more connections are being made. If you would like to visit the Heimatmuseums please contact them ahead of time to make arrangements.

Brüssow: museum-stadt-bruessow@t-online.de or Bergholz: heimatstube-bergholz@t-online.de

Elaine Timm
The Georg Heinrich and Christine Heuer Family

Back Row: Elsie Gombert, John, Henry, Julia Wittkop, George, Lewis, Louise Volker Front Row: David, Georg Heinrich (Father), Gertrude Dinger, Christine (Mother, nee Hoffmeister), Fred

Jim Heuer, a well-known resident and longtime member of our historical society came across these pictures recently and because of the story about Louie included in the issue this editor wanted to include these great photos. A few words about the folks pictured above……….. Elsie married John Gombert and they were parents to George and Marion. John married Esther Mueller and they were Jim’s and Lydia’s (Masters) parents (see picture below). John was a charter member and longtime chief of the Bergholz Fire Co. Henry owned a hardware and farm implement store on Niagara Rd. near Hunt St. in Bergholz. Jim remembers that his wife, Sophie, always gave him a new pair of shoes on his birthday. Julia married and moved to N. Tonawanda. George married Christine Voelker and ran the Bergholz fire company restaurant for several years. You will hear much about Louis in the following article. David ran Heuer’s market in Bergholz. He and his sons, Elmer and Louis, ran Heuer’s meat market on third street in Niagara Falls for many years. Gertrude ended up in Florida and Fred operated the Heuer dairy on Pine Ave.

John (Jim’s Father) and (Mother) Esther (Mueller) Heuer

Now, on to the story of Louis (or Ludovici) Heuer…….. The following address was delivered by Rev. William Kalk, Louie’s Son-in-Law on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of his Ordination ……….
A Resume' of the Ministry of Pastor Louis Heuer

"Louie's Lebenslauf"

It was in the 1830's when the then King of Prussia of the Hohenzollern Family, which was of Reformed Church background, decreed that the Lutheran and Reformed Churches in his kingdom should both use the same Agenda or Altar Service Book, which, in things where the two churches differed in doctrine or practice, went according to Reformed teaching. This was offensive to the Lutherans, particularly in regard to the teaching of the Lord's Supper. At this time Germany was not a united empire as it became in 1870, but a loose conglomeration of separate, small kingdoms, duchys, etc. each with its own ruler.

Pastor Johannes Grabau, a young, inquisitive pastor of a Lutheran congregation was jailed for refusing to go along with the king's decree and persisting in using the Lutheran Agenda. He led a group of followers to America in 1839, another group came over in 1842. They left their ships at New York City, took boats up the Hudson River to Albany, and then traveled via the Erie Canal to Buffalo, where they settled in the city and various areas near it.

These people came for religious reasons. Even the Pilgrims really came to maintain their English Mother-tongue. They had religious freedom in Holland, where they had settled after fleeing from England, but they feared their children would become Dutch, and they wanted them to remain English. Hence their decision to emigrate to America in 1620. Among those immigrants who eventually founded the Evangelical Lutheran Buffalo Synod, English was by far the least of their concerns.

Near the Niagara Falls area, various families settled in two communities similar to location to each other of two villages they had known in Germany. So they called these Neu Bergholz and Neu Walmow, which eventually became Bergholz and Walmore. For a century these remained ethnic enclaves - each congregation had its parish school and teacher, church and pastor. Plattdeutsch was the dialect in the homes, High or Book German in Church and School, along with a little English to speak with any foreigners who didn't know the beloved Mother-tongue, this was it.

In today's bulletin it states that I will give a history of the ministry of Pastor Louis Heuer, my father-in-law. However, I am assuming my brother-in-law, Pastor Heuer's son, will cover the more important and spiritual aspects of this ministry in his sermon today. My talk will be informal - I have chosen the euphonious-sounding title - "Louie's Lebenslauf" for my address. The German word "Lebenslauf" means a life walk or a journey thru life. Pastor Heuer was born near Bergholz to Henry Heuer and his wife Christina, nee Hoffmeister, and was reared in St. James Congregation, receiving his primary education in the Parish School.

At his baptism his mother wanted him named Louis Ezra Bernhard, but the rude old German, Pastor Grabau, a grandson of the founder of the Synod, realized she had overlooked the Germanized form of this name, so he baptized him "Ludwig". Later on his name was written "Ludovici" on his Buffalo Synod Latin Diploma. Despite this, his mother's wish was granted - Louis he remained!

There were two traumatic experiences for him as a young teen-ager. Despite being 2nd generation born in America, he heard his first English sermon during these years, Second, as a student at Martin Luther College he decided to get his first haircut at a barber shop, his father had always cut his hair. He paid 25¢ for this privilege. When he came home with this 'store-bought' haircut, his father didn't notice it at first. When he did, he called him a "Gruenschnabel" (greenbeak) and wanted to know what kind of a dude he thought he was to be spending his money so carelessly!

The total cost for one year at Martin Luther College was $75, tuition, room, board, clothes washed and mended - everything. The food donations of good-hearted people in the area, which included many farmers, helped very much to augment the supplies at the institution.
During his senior year at the Seminary, he received a call to serve St. John's Church near Zimmerman, Minn., about 30 miles from St. Paul. This was a congregation established by Pastor Albert Haseley of Lake Elmo, Minn. — father of our friend here today, Pastor Leonard Haseley.

This call, consisting of 5 pages — his longest and most explicit Call, all handwritten in German, in beautiful, easy-to-read Latin script, told what was expected of him. It also 'laid it on the line' — he was to conduct congregational meetings in "Furcht des Herrn" (fear of the Lord). Anyone who has ever heard of some of the robust meetings of our Germanic forbearers in days gone by, knows that this was good advice.

The Call said "eine freie, brauchbare Wohnung (a free dwelling with all things necessary) but this didn't include a sink in the kitchen. Also "an barren Geld" (cash money) $225. It also said "will pay for your travel cost to Synodical Conventions." This was surely an important item with the cash salary offered. An important P.S. in the Call, said that the Buffalo Synod Mission Board would supplement the salary with $275, making a total of $500.

The young pastor came to his congregation, found there was no one to play the organ. So he had to teach two of the girls the rudiments of playing the organ, sometimes he had to play the organ for the services himself. One of our family jokes is about Father changing the antiphonal according to the Old Buffalo Synod Liturgy — "Der Herr sei mit euch" (the Lord be with you) from the altar, and then rushing over to the organ to accompany the congregation while they sang their response "Und mit deinem Geiste!" (And with thy spirit).

These were the days of World War I, many German churches had a difficult time during those days, sometimes the churches were burned, doors were painted yellow, etc. So, the congregation thought it was very patriotic of the young pastor, and expedient too, when they saw an American Flag hanging in one window of the parsonage. (Where he secured an American Flag, is a mystery — it was certainly not part of his Bergholz Dowry!) What they did not know was that there were no curtains or shades in the parsonage, and this was the handiest thing to give him some degree of privacy in his bedroom! So the pastor served his people, teaching the catechumens in the rudiments of the German mother-tongue first, so that they would know what they were studying when they were taught the German catechism, visiting his people, performing the manifold duties which, especially in that day, accompanied the pastoral office.

In June of the following year he went home to Bergholz and married his wife, Wilhelmine Mueller, along with the customs of the times in their parish, a large reception for all members of the congregation, etc. Both the Church Band and the Town Band played at their wedding.

Here at Zimmerman they lived — with their horse "Midget" and cow "Daisy". Here their two children were born, and in 1923 they moved to Akron, New York, a two point parish which was destined to be the longest pastorate — 17 years, St. John's of Akron and Trinity of nearby South Newstead. There was one extra item on the Call "free local telephone service." Here he was choir director in both churches, in addition to all other things included in the pastoral work. Here Grandmother Mueller would come and hang the new wallpaper in the parsonage, purchased by the pastor, since many congregations in those days did not include redecoration along with the parsonage which was supplied.

In 1940 the family moved to Hollidays Cove, W. Virginia — later called Weirton, to serve Trinity Congregation, which built a new church during his pastorate. This Call included this extra "$10 per month car expenses."

In 1943 they moved to Martin Luther Church of Columbus, Ohio. Here there was a full schedule of German Services as in the first pastorate, along with a full schedule of English Services as well. This Call said "free water and telephone."
In 1949 they moved to Yorkville, Illinois, destined to be the last pastorate, serving Emmanuel Congregation, out in the country, where he had real sheep as well as his churchly flock. Here in 1957 his 40th Anniversary of Ordination was observed. Plans had been made to retire the latter part of 1960. Then the advice came out from the Pension Board, suggesting that since there had been a merger of several church bodies to make up the new American Lutheran Church, with changes in the pension system, it might be well for retirees to continue into the new year before retiring. I can still recall Father saying to me rather wistfully in regard to this - "And here I thought last year was my last Christmas Program."

The move to their retirement home at Grove City, Ohio was made in 1961. During the years here he served for a period of time as Visitation Pastor at Emmanuel Church of Columbus, helped out at St. Peter's Church, and did pulpit supply work in churches of the area. It was at Emmanuel Church that his Golden Jubilee of 50 Years in the ministry was celebrated in 1967, with Dr. Herbert Leupold, one of his seminary professors, preaching the festive sermon for the occasion. This turned out to be Dr. Leupold's last sermon, soon after a terminal illness forced him to discontinue preaching.

After 14 years of pleasant retirement in Grove City, the couple came to St. John's Home in 1975, where they have enjoyed another phase of retirement. Here Pastor Heuer helps out with Chapel Services, visits some of the residents, and is still able to render services in keeping with his training. We are happy to be able to gather together and celebrate this happy occasion today, his 60th Anniversary of Ordination. As they used to say in the old Buffalo Synod after the pastor read his text from the pulpit - "Das sind die Worte" - those are the words!

**Upcomming Events**

Saturday, Oct. 27th – 5:00 PM, **ANNUAL HARVEST DINNER**, at *Holy Ghost School*. Celebrating the 175th anniversary of our ancestor’s migration to America and the formation of Holy Ghost, St. Peter’s and St. Martins.

**November General Meeting** – 11/15/18, Wheatfield Community Center, 7:00 PM, Topic, Elaine Timm, Cindy Sileo and Don Schroeder discuss their recent trip to Germany

**December Christmas Hymn Sing** – 12/7/18, St Peter church in Walmore, 7:00 PM

Welcome to these new members, Ken Milleville, Dennis Sadelberg, James Heuer, Susan and Elinor Deeb, Heidi DuBois, Erin Jagow.

**Miscellaneous**

Let's remember our common table prayers for the upcoming harvest dinner:

Before the meal:
- Komm, Herr Jesu;
- Sei unser Gast
- Und segne was du uns
- Bescheret hast.

After the meal:
- Gott sei Dank
- Fur Speis und Trank
- Durch Jesum Christum
- Amen

- Come Lord Jesus;
- Be our Guest
- And let these gifts
- To us be blest.

- Thanks be to God
- For food and drink
- Through Jesus Christ,
- Our Lord, Amen

Der Brief is published quarterly by the Historical Society of North German Settlements in Western New York, Das Haus und Der Stall German Heritage Museum, 2549 Niagara Road, Niagara Falls, New York 14304. (716) 795-2890. We are a 501 c 3 organization. Email address: dashausmuseum@gmail.com, web address: www.dashausmuseum.org, © All Rights Reserved. The editor and President of the Historical Society is John Schultz. John Milleville is Vice President, Elaine Timm is Treasurer, Martha Haseley is the Secretary. Other board members are June Stenzel, Dianne Retzlaff, Dorthy Kew, Randy Warblow, Don Schroeder, Cindy Sileo, Richard Williams, Justin Higner, Ruth Voelker and Lois Wiseman.
Join our Historical Society and receive Der Brief every quarter!

The Historical Society welcomes new members! If you find our newsletter and our mission interesting we hope that you will make a membership contribution and join us. Our mission is to educate adults and children concerning the heritage of the nineteenth century settlements of North Germans in western New York, and thus to preserve that heritage. We do this by preserving the history, artifacts, documents, manuscripts, publications, photographs, Plattdeutsch anecdotes, crafts and customs of these hearty immigrants, their descendants and the communities in which they lived.

We maintain Das Haus und Der Stall German Heritage Museum, sponsor an annual dinner, hold informative monthly meetings with special speakers, offer for sale books and other items published by the Society, and distribute Der Brief, our quarterly publication to 29 States and 3 foreign countries.

If you would like to become a member of our society, please fill out this form and send it to the address indicated.

Membership Chairman
Historical Society of North German Settlements in WNY
2549 Niagara Rd., Niagara Falls, NY 14304 – 2020

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