



March 17, 2026

President Bill Pfeifer called the meeting to order & led us in the Pledge of Allegiance

Rod Booker – God Bless America

Invocation – Katie Maholic

Sgt. At Arms – Mark Barnhart reported that we had 29 members in attendance and two guests: Alycia Hays hosted by Amy Hood and Judy Cross hosted by Kevin Thomas

Happy Bucks – Chris DeDiana (\$53 was collected)

TODAY'S PROGRAM:

Laura Churilla was our speaker today. She is the CEO of the Westmoreland History Society. Since it is St. Patrick's Day, she thought to share the history of the St. Vincent's Brewery. Saint Vincent Beer was a dark lager brewed by Benedictine Monks at the Saint Vincent Archabbey in Unity Township between 1856 and 1918. Archabbot Boniface Wimmer, who emigrated from modern-day Germany, is the founder of this lager. The original brewery was a small log building situated next to the gristmill.

There was much controversy over the creation and sales of this beer. The Bishop of Pittsburgh, Michael O'Connor, was a temperance supporter and objected to Monks being involved in this endeavor. After much pressure from Cardinal Franson and King Ludwig of Bavaria, the monks finally gained permission from Pope Pius IX to brew beer as long as "every disorder is avoided."

Throughout 1890's, there continued to be controversy regarding the manufacturing and selling of this beer, largely due to the growing temperance movement. In 1899, the monastery discontinued sales but kept brewing for their internal use for the next 18 years. It finally closed altogether in 1918. On January 13, 1926 the building burned down in the middle of the night.

This is a very interesting story and one you may want to read about further.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Vincent_Beer

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS:

March for Parks on March 28 at Twin Lakes Park

April 18th Walk a Mile in Her Shoes at St. Clair Park

May 12th Scholarship Dinner at Giannilli's II

May 13th Spelling Bee at Aquinas Academy

WESTMORELAND
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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