

# Historian



Established 1984

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Our Focus and Goal Is To "PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE"

Spring 2007

## Local Man Chooses Medicine As His Profession

Dr. Henry E. Fledderjohann was this local man. He was the first one from our community to choose the profession of medicine. He was born November 12, 1855 one mile west of New Knoxville. He graduated from New Bremen High School and received a license to teach in our county. Young Henry also studied "pre-med" subjects and entered the University of Pennsylvania Medical College. He graduated in 1886 "with honors". This same year he married Emma Snethkamp. Henry's first office was in St. Marys. He moved to New Knoxville a short time later and opened his office

here in July 1888. Henry & Emma had 5 children. Wife Emma died in 1897. His doctoring skills continued, facing the challenges of the dreaded smallpox, scarlet fever, typhoid and cholera epidemics. This country pioneer doctor made his rounds by horse and buggy or horseback. Semi-retirement came in 1940. He continued to provide his special poison ivy medicine locally and to the World War II servicemen. He died in 1950 at the age of 94 and is buried at Pilger Ruhe Cemetery. Dr. Henry's brother Ferd had a medical practice in New Bremen.



**Dr. Henry E. Fledderjohann**

The three room ornate "Brick Office" was built by Dr. Henry E. Fledderjohann in 1890. The doctor's office was used over a 55 year span for patients of all ages.

Today the building displays old pieces of medical equipment and original birth record books from the late 1800s. Also on display is his 1886 Medical College Diploma from the University of Pennsylvania.



**Dr. Fledderjohann's Office**



**MEMBERSHIP: Single \$10.00 / Year - \$50.00 / Lifetime - Couple \$18.00 / Year - \$100.00 / Lifetime ~ Student \$1.00 / Year**  
 Checks may be mailed to: Vernon Feldwisch 09350 Bay Rd. New Knoxville, Ohio 45871





**Mother Nature complements the entire Historical Complex of five buildings with a white oak tree which is**



Far left - The hand-hewn log structure was a smoke-house for curing meat from farm animals. On display are primitive tools for butchering, a gun for hunting, and tools to hew logs for buildings.

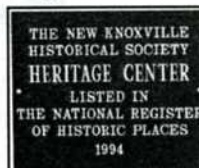
The "Barn" (originally owned by A. H. Stie-necker) was built in 1915. It was a typical village barn with a hay loft. It housed horses, chickens, buggies, garden tools, and outside toilet facilities. The gambrel roof gave ample storage space in the loft for hay and straw for the horses and family cow.

The barn displays rural primitive hand tools used to cut trees and small horse drawn wooden tillage tools used in the first decades when our German immigrants settled in this rural timber covered community. Many carpenter tools are on display with local business memorabilia, pictures, signs, and advertising handouts.

The white wood frame home was built in 1879 by Dr. Gustave Zuelch. The German doctor had placed an ad in an Allentown, PA newspaper called *Der Welt Bote* (World Messenger) saying he wanted to locate in a German community in Ohio or Indiana. H. W. Eschmeyer, resident of New Knoxville, was a subscriber to this publication and contact was made. With \$3.00 in his pocket, Dr. Zuelch met Mr. Eschmeyer who suggested he rent a room and hang out a shingle. Success and acceptability soon followed. Later this was the home of Dr. Henry E. Fledderjohann, daughter Zella, her husband Ferd Eversman and their two children. Henry's wife died in 1897.

Today the doctor's home displays historical items of the schools starting in the 1840s, vintage clothing, relics, toys, World War items, church history, and many pictures.

The "Summer Kitchen" served as an all season utility building for washing clothes, canning of fruits and vegetables, bread baking, and butchering of chickens. These were among the weekly chores necessary for all families in the early 1900s. Displays reflect items of daily necessities for healthy living.

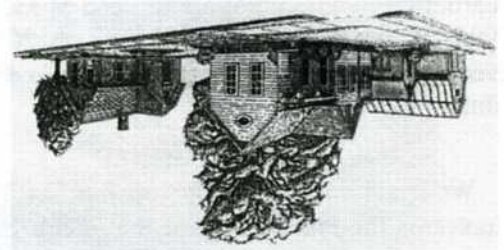


This plaque is displayed on the front of the Doctor's Office.









*New Knoxville Historical Society  
107 E. German St.  
New Knoxville, Ohio 45871*

### **President's Message**

Dear Members and Friends of the New Knoxville Historical Society,

This year we are looking forward to have Karen Miller Bennett speak at our 2007 annual Historical Society Meeting. Karen is a CERTIFIED GENEALOGIST and a member of the Ohio Genealogical Board of Trustees. She is also affiliated with many other genealogical and historic organizations. She will show and explain examples of tombstone art and symbolism, types of cemeteries, and the importance of this information in genealogical research. Everyone is welcomed to attend!

*Kirk Stienecker, President*

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Thursday, April 19, 2007 - 7:00 P.M.**  
**American Legion Hall In New Knoxville**  
**Karen Miller Bennett, Certified Genealogist will speak on**  
**"Rocks of Ages - Cemetery Research and Tombstone Art"**

#### **ADDRESS CHANGE**

Notify Karen Niemeyer, P.O. Box 301, New Knoxville, OH 45871 or call 419-753-2215 or e-mail her at [niemeyer@nktelco.net](mailto:niemeyer@nktelco.net)

#### **BOOKS & GIFTS**

Books and gift items are available from our society and also our Community Library. See our website for available items.

[www.nktelco.net/historicalsociety](http://www.nktelco.net/historicalsociety)

#### **BRICK PROJECT**

Commemorative & memorial BRICKS are available. This is our means of financial and visual support from the many families and friends that desire to "preserve our heritage". Contact Betty Henschen 419-753-2142, address 05679 St. Rt. 219, New Knoxville, OH 45871. Thank you for your support.

**Member of the Southwestern Auglaize County Chamber of Commerce**