

Historian



Established 1984

www.nktelco.net/historical_society

Our Focus and Goal Is to PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE

Spring 2009



The Heritage Center complex now includes five buildings—the main house, the doctor's office, a summer kitchen, a barn and a log cabin. All contain displays of local items. Individuals, school, scouting, community, church and class reunion groups continue to enjoy touring the five buildings at the Heritage Center. They are awed with the displays, which give an inspiring and accurate view of the past. Tours are available by appointment. Contact any board member.

Below, secretary Diane Fledderjohann gives a tour to New Knoxville students. This annual tour of Mrs. Janet Eshelman and Mrs. Kim Crow's third graders is shared by Fledderjohann and vice president Myron Fledderjohann.



Society Celebrates 25 Years

Our New Knoxville Historical Society is 25 years old. The first public meeting was held March 29, 1984. Time passes so fast.

Our main focus continues—to discover, preserve and restore historical items relating to New Knoxville and the rural area. We have accomplished so much these past years because of your faithful support and efforts.

A sincere thank you.

Kirk Stienecker, president



BRICK PROJECT

Commemorative and 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 at 219-753-2142 or 101 Hanover Ct., New Knoxville, OH 45871. Thank you for your support.

MEMBERSHIP: Single - \$10/Year \$50/Lifetime
Couple - \$18/Year \$100/Lifetime
Student - \$1/Year

Checks may be mailed to Vernon Feldwisch, 09350 Bay Rd.
New Knoxville, OH 45871

ANNUAL MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2009 - 7:00 P.M.
AMERICAN LEGION HALL IN NEW KNOXVILLE

Mr. Bradley T. Lepper will speak on the archaeology in Ohio. Mr. Lepper is a curator of archaeology for the Ohio Historical Society and an occasional visiting professor of sociology and anthropology at Denison University. His primary areas of interest include North America's Ice Age peoples, Ohio's magnificent mounds and earthworks, and the history of archaeology. Noteworthy research includes excavation of the Burning Tree mastodon and discovery of the Great Hopewell Road, featured in a recent documentary. He is the author of the book *Ohio Archaeology*. Mr. Lepper is appearing under the auspices of the Auglaize County Historical Society.

Monthly open houses begin in May

Sunday, May 24, will be the first open house of the summer season. Please join friends and family to celebrate the life of locally born author Dr. Dean R. Hoge.

Dr. Hoge, who graduated from New Knoxville in 1955, was a well known religious scholar and wrote over 25 books and many articles on religious life in America. His writings have given an historical contribution to our community and many others nationwide.

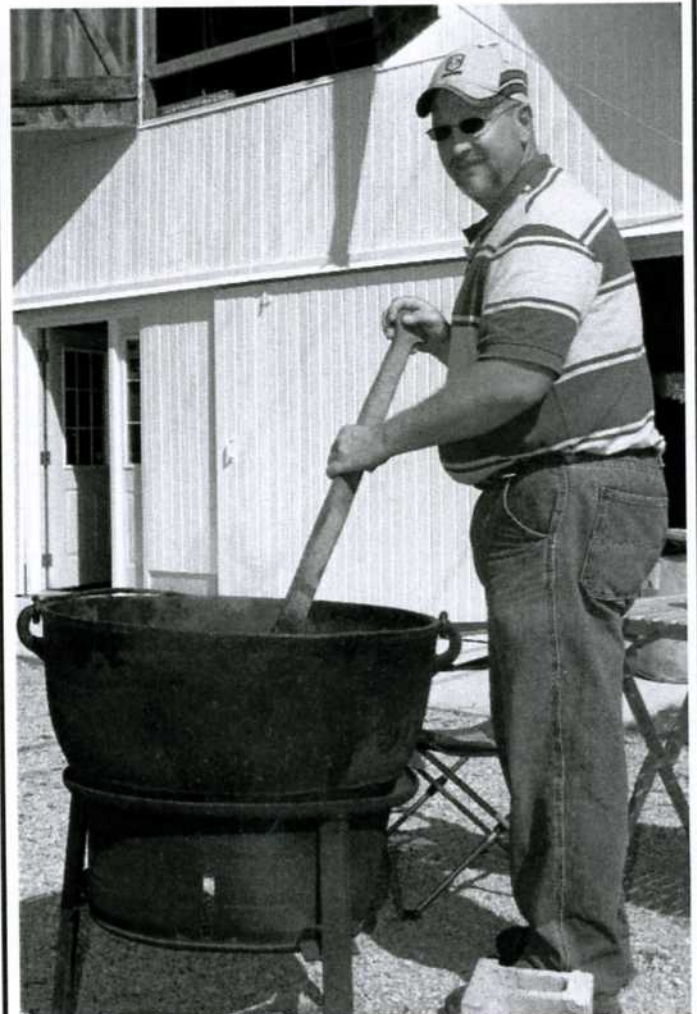
His most recent book, *From Ladbergen to America: The Heritage and Migration*, is available for sale at the Heritage Center, the New Knoxville Community Library and the Southwestern Auglaize County Chamber of Commerce.

The remaining open house dates are the last Sunday of the month: June 28, July 26, August 30, September 27 and October 25. Please join us for these enjoyable events. Everyone is welcomed.



The school room is one of five rooms in the Heritage Museum available for viewing during the open houses.

This past year our heritage was viewed and honored by many. Everyone who attended the Autumn Heritage Day open house in September enjoyed Mike Neuman's delicious open kettle chili soup, pumpkin doughnuts, cider and lemonade. Below, Neuman stirs his homemade chili in front of the barn, filled with agricultural and business displays.



Recent school renovation continues to provide quality education for New Knoxville children

An eight million dollar renovation of New Knoxville school was recently completed. This is just one of many changes made to local schools in the past 170 years.

The first community school was a log building originally erected around 1840 for use as a church. The location was the so-called old cemetery, located east of the New Knoxville Telephone Company. Both church and school used this log building until 1853, when a one-room frame building was built on West Bremen Street. Again it served both as a school and a church.

In 1885 a four-room brick school, costing \$5000, was built on East South Street and used until 1914, when a modern fire-proof building was erected with additions coming in 1920 and 1926. This building still stands and is occupied by Hoge Brush.*

The construction of the present school began in 1938 and was completed in 1939. An elementary wing and industrial arts and vocational agriculture



rooms were added in 1958. In 1976 a new gymnasium was added to the rear of the school, paid for and built by alumni and community contributions. A media center and six additional classrooms were completed in 1999.

The recent renovations will preserve our rich heritage and benefit our future education. The two mottos on the front of the school express the purpose and goals of our educational commitment: "Enter to Learn, Go Forth to Serve" and "Religion and Education Safeguard a Nation."

*Information taken from 1936 New Knoxville Centennial book

The following passage was taken from *History of Western Ohio and Auglaize County*, written by C. W. Williamson in 1905 when the 1885 structure pictured to the left was in use.

"The first school houses in the township were of the then prevailing style, built of round logs, with huge fireplaces, clapboard roofs, and other peculiarities not known to builders of the present day.

There are no schools in the county under a better system of management than the schools of Washington township. The Board of Education have always been liberal in the expenditure of money for the improvement of their school. The Washington township board was the first-one [sic] in the county to pay the tuition of the advanced pupils from the district schools, and no township has sent larger numbers to the annual Boxwell examinations than this one. The nine school buildings are modern in their structure, and in most instances are surrounded by beautiful lawns, ornamented with shade trees."



Last August we acquired a lighted trophy case from New Knoxville School. We are still trying to find out who crafted this beautiful piece of workmanship. The top of the display case credits the Senior Class of 1944 for this gift to the school. Just recently we've also received 20 sport trophies—some dating back to the 1920's. What a perfect way to preserve our heritage! These are a must-see. Go, Rangers!

Memorial Plaque honors those who died during past year

The following names will appear on our Memorial Plaque in our Heritage Museum. We are grateful for your memorials honoring your loved ones.

Donald Schrolucke	May 12, 2008
James L. Meckstroth	August 5, 2008
Carol "Bud" Ireton	August 24, 2008
Trina Gast	August 25, 2008
Robert Schrolucke	September 10, 2008
Dean R. Hoge	September 13, 2008
William Hoge	October 6, 2008
Richard Watson	November 8, 2008
Onolee Piehl	November 12, 2008
Ruth L. Niemeyer	December 11, 2008
Ralph Hoelscher	February 6, 2009
Louisa Schrolucke	February 23, 2009

Willkommen

New Lifetime Members

Wayne & Kim Fledderjohann, New Knoxville, Ohio
Orville & Bonnie Heidt, New Knoxville, Ohio
Jim & Jean Meckstroth, Elroy, Wisconsin
Carol Kuhlman Ramey, Akron, Ohio
Marvin & Mary Deerhake, Bicknell, Indiana
Richard Meckstroth, Aiea, Hawaii
Daniel Fledderjohann, Indianapolis, Indiana
Willis & Ruth Henschen, St. Marys, Ohio
Anne Menter, Jamesville, New York

Yearly Members

Robert Kelley, Mansfield, Ohio
Cynthia Eversman, David Eversman, and Hayley Eversman, New Bremen, Ohio
Ned Wibbeler, Wapakoneta, Ohio
Dale & Jackie Kuck, Merrill, Wisconsin

Our historical society is proud to have 21 states and Canada represented in our membership. All of you are helping to preserve our heritage.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Notify Karen Niemeyer of a change of address in one of the following ways:

P.O. Box 301, New Knoxville, OH 45871 or phone at 419-753-2215 or e-mail at niemeyer@nktelco.net.

SOCIETY OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

President - Kirk Stienecker

Vice President - Myron Fledderjohann

Secretary - Diane Fledderjohann

Treasurer - Vernon Feldwisch

Trustees

2009-2012 - Mike Neuman and Lloyd Kuck

2008-2011 - Allen Schroer and Janean Oberlander

2007-2010 - Lillian Wierwille and Mary Metzger

Display Curator & Cataloging - Rusty Elsass

Farm Items - Myron Fledderjohann

Membership, Web Site, and Historical Records

Larry and Karen Niemeyer

Historians & Memorial Plaque

Myron Fledderjohann, Kirk Stienecker, Roberta Tanzini

Co-editors of *Historian Newsletter*

Janean Oberlander and Roberta Tanzini

Photography - Larry Niemeyer

SPEAKERS AVAILABLE

Myron Fledderjohann - Genealogy and History
 Glenna Meckstroth - Author of *Tales from Great Grandpa's Trunk*, *Surviving World War II*, and *Giggles and Grins*.



This photo of Roberta Tanzini (circa 1937) was taken in front of a house located on what is now the north lot of Katterheinrich Motor Sales. The pony was provided by an itinerant photographer, who passed through the town, took photos and then sold them to those interested.

BOOKS AND GIFTS

Books and gift items are available from our society and also the community library. See our website for available items.

www.nktelco.net/historical_society