



Established 1984

www.nktelco.net/historical society

Our Focus and Goal Is to PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE

Spring 2010

## Historical marker recognizes village's chain migration

November 2, 2009, marked the dedication ceremony for an Ohio historical marker honoring New Knoxville's kinship with Ladbergen, Germany.

The process to erect a marker began nearly a year ago with a proposal for a grant from the state historical society. Exact wording was required, and after several revisions, the marker was cast, the arrival date set and the ceremony scheduled.

According to the marker, "the history of New Knoxville provides one of the best examples of chain migration to America."

The chain migration originated from families migrating from Ladbergen, Germany, directly to New Knoxville.

"All the people who first settled here had a strong connection to the Ladbergen community and the German Reformed Church there," said historical society vice president Myron Fledderjohann.

The local third graders, yearly visitors to the New Knoxville Historical Society, and their teachers, Mrs. Janet Eshelman and Mrs. Kim Crow, were invited. Two students, Tyler Schafer and Cassandra McGue, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Sixth grader Marcus Nitschke opened the day by singing the National Anthem.

Others on the program included New Knoxville mayor Keith Leffel, local historical society president Kirk Stienecker,

county historical society administrator Rachel Barber and Ohio Historical Society representative Jackie Barton.

Rev. Dr. Mitch Arnold, former pastor at New Knoxville, read a congratulatory letter in German from Ladbergen mayor Udo Decker-Konig.

The marker was unveiled by Lloyd Kuck, a founding member of the NK Historical Society, and Michael Kuck, representing the E.R. Kuck Family Trust, which helped to finance the marker along with the state, county and local historical societies.

The marker, the seventh in Auglaize County, can be seen in front of the town hall in the center of the village.



Rachel Barber, Auglaize County Historical Society administrator and ceremony organizer speaks to the New Knoxville third graders about the hardships the first settlers of the village faced. In the background Rev. Dr. Mitch Arnold and New Knoxville Historical Society president Kirk Stienecker listen.

Pictured above following the dedication ceremony: Lloyd Kuck, only living founding member of the local historical society; Michael Kuck and Jane Kuck Slavik, representing the E.R. Kuck Family Trust; Kelly Kill, vice president of the Auglaize

County Historical Society; Kirk Stienecker, president of the New Knoxville Historical Society; Jackie Barton, manager of the local history office of the Ohio Historical Society and Keith Leffel, mayor of New Knoxville.

**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

Attention, NKHS members!  
 Would you be interested in serving as a society officer or board member? Contact Kirk Stienecker at 419-753-2059



**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2010 - 7:00 P.M.**  
**AMERICAN LEGION HALL IN NEW KNOXVILLE**

Ms. Mary Ann Olding will be our guest speaker. She has spent her professional career researching and preserving the history of west central and southwest Ohio. Mary Ann has lived in New Bremen, Ohio, and co-founded the New Bremen Historical Association in 1973. She currently lives on the southern side of Lake Loramie. Her topic is "Searching for Your Genealogy." Please share the evening with us and enjoy refreshments afterwards.

Kirk Stienecker, President



At the 2009 annual meeting, held April 2, Mr. Bradley Lepper, curator of archaeology for the Ohio Historical Society, spoke about what mounds and earthworks and excavations in the state tell us about our Ohio past. The meeting also celebrated the 25th anniversary of the New Knoxville Historical Society, whose goal is to preserve our heritage.

## 1959 grad discusses his photography, art at August open house

New Knoxville native Larry Elshoff didn't sit back and take it easy following his 1999 retirement as an art instructor from Lake City Community College in Florida. His interest in still images, light and film photography became *The Illuminant Image*, a program he presented to a gathering at the historical society's open house on Aug. 30.

Elshoff uses still images and light to create his images. He told *The Evening Leader's* Katie Yantis, "I like the fun of setting it up and taking the pictures; the element of surprise. You never know what you are going to get."

Elshoff has won many awards for his work, including fourth place at the Spring Art Show in Valdosta, Georgia.

The Ball State University graduate was in New Knoxville for his class's 50-year reunion. He taught art at Lake City Community College for 32 years.



Larry Elshoff, a 1959 graduate of New Knoxville, shares his photography artwork with visitors during the August open house at the historical society.



# Mike Neuman's chili, ride on Gary Katterheinrich's Freedom Train highlight autumn Heritage Day

A sunny, pleasant fall afternoon greeted visitors to the Heritage Museum on Sept. 27. The afternoon included something traditional and something new.

The historical society's Heritage Day once again offered kettle-cooked chili, prepared by board member Mike Neuman, pumpkin doughnuts and cider.

Visitors this year could also enjoy a tour of the village aboard the Freedom Train. Built by engineer and owner Gary Katterheinrich and conductor Milo Keith, the train has become a familiar sight the



Historical society member Tom Fledderjohann shares information with St. Marys resident Roger Henschen about items in the barn, one of five buildings filled with local artifacts.

last few years at area festivals and the Auglaize County Fair.

The train's engine comes from an airport baggage tram and now sports a happy face on the front. Andrew Shroyer of McCullough Welding made the frame. Katterheinrich and Keith then made the seats and canopy.

Passengers for the tour were accompanied by local historian Lloyd Kuck, who shared information about locations and events in the village. One tour included a trip to the Oberlander home just west of the

village where a barn was being dismantled. Kuck noted that the tools used to build the barn could all be found in the barn located on the museum grounds.

Many visitors also enjoyed browsing through the barn and the four other buildings on the grounds.

*While open houses are held the last Sunday of each month from May through October, tours are available at any time. If you are planning a family or class reunion, consider a tour of the museum. Contact any officer or board member.*



Local resident Dick Elsass enjoys some conversation with Freedom Train conductor Milo Keith and engineer and owner Gary Katterheinrich.



The Freedom Train made four trips around the village at the September 27 Heritage Day.



## PICTURES FROM THE PAST

These photos are from a collection of glass negatives from the Norman Kuhlman estate, provided by his nephew Ned Vordermark. They date from 1900. The above photo, circa 1910, is Leroy Kuhlman, who later owned the People's Savings Bank. On the left three unidentified workers make casing sausage. The skill of manipulating the casing so that the ground pork didn't go in too fast and leave air pockets or too slowly and burst the casing was an acquired art. This task often fell to the matriarch of the family or butchering ring.



## 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.

Martha Kattman	March 14, 2009
Marcella Katterheinrich	April 15, 2009
Edna Kuck Vornholt	June 13, 2009
Norman Schnelle	September 24, 2009
Kermit O. Warner	October 27, 2009
Kermit Schnelle	January 16, 2010
Elois D. Wierwille	February 14, 2010
Umberto Tanzini	March 12, 2010

## Willkommen

### New Lifetime Members

Susan Aufderhaar, Edmonds, Washington  
 Tom & Sally Burden, Celina, Ohio  
 Alice Carpenter, New Knoxville, Ohio  
 Sheryl Meckstroth Clark, Houston, Texas  
 Larry Elshoff, Lulu, Florida  
 Rev. Karen Eversman, Avon, Ohio  
 Clark & Kathy Fledderjohann, Botkins, Ohio  
 Gregg Fledderjohann, Celina, Ohio  
 Phyllis Fraga, New Knoxville, Ohio  
 Ruth Henschen, New Knoxville, Ohio  
 Roger & Sharon Henschen, New Bremen, Ohio  
 Rev. Dale & Jackie Kuck, Merrill, Wisconsin  
 Tom & Lorie Opperman, Maybee, Michigan  
 James & Mary Jane (Meckstroth) Ritter, Sandusky, Ohio

### Yearly Members

Lana Bizet, New Knoxville, Ohio  
 Dr. Donald Elshoff, Columbus, Indiana  
 Cynthia, David and Hayley Eversman, New Bremen, Ohio  
 Ruth Kettler, New Knoxville, Ohio  
 Darrell & Mary Kuck, New Knoxville, Ohio  
 Dana Miles, New Knoxville, Ohio  
 Denise Testa, Leroy, New York  
 Ned & Barb Wibbeler, Wapakoneta, Ohio

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](mailto:niemeyer@nktelco.net).

### SLATE OF OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

**President** - Kirk Stienecker  
**Vice President** - Allen Schroer  
**Secretary** - Diane Fledderjohann  
**Treasurer** - Vernon Feldwisch  
**Trustees**  
 2010-2013 - Edythe Henschen and Ali Carpenter  
 2009-2012 - Mike Neuman and Lloyd Kuck  
 2008-2011 - Myron Fledderjohann and Janean Oberlander  
**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  
**Editor of *Historian* Newsletter**  
 Janean Oberlander  
**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*

### 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.

### BOOKS AND GIFTS

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

[www.nktelco.net/historical\\_society](http://www.nktelco.net/historical_society)

Member of the Southwestern Auglaize County Chamber of Commerce