



Established 1984

www.nktelco.net/historicalsociety

Our Focus and Goal Is to PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE

Spring 2014

Annual meeting set for April 10

Buffet dinner to be part of evening

Plan to join us Thursday, April 10, at the New Knoxville American Legion for the historical society's annual meeting. The evening will begin at 6:00 P.M. with a dinner, catered by Main Street Station. Following the dinner and a brief business meeting, Wayne York will speak on railroads of western Ohio.

THE MEAL

The meal for the evening is beef or chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green

beans, cole slaw and roll. Water, iced tea, lemonade and coffee and dessert are included.

COST AND TICKETS

Tickets cost \$12.00 and can be purchased at the Village Market or the New Knoxville Library by April 3. Anyone from out of town who would like to come for the dinner may contact Edythe Henschen by phone at 419-753-2104 or by e-mail at beep@nktelco.net.

Anyone not wanting to attend the dinner may attend just the business meeting and hear the speaker for the evening.

WAYNE YORK

Wayne York, the village administrator for New Bremen, is one of the two remaining founders of the Ft. Wayne Railroad Historical Society. He served terms as president, vice president, secretary and director for 28 years and helped reactivate Engine No. 765, which was made by the Lima Locomotive Works in 1944. York helps plan a variety of excursions throughout eastern United States aboard Engine No. 765, one of only six operating steam locomotives in the country and the largest operating locomotive east of the Mississippi River.

Visitors at summer open houses can enjoy Freedom Train, local artisans,

Mike Neuman's chili, art, music

Six open houses are scheduled for this summer. They are held the last Sunday of the month from May through October from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.

On May 25, July 27 and October 26, the five historical buildings at the corner of German and Mill streets will be open for browsing or for guided tours, but make sure to mark your calendar for June 29, August 31 and September 28. These three open houses will include special events.

Take a Ride on the Train

On June 29 Gary Katterheinrich's Freedom Train will be available for rides. One of the rides will stop at the German Reformed Cemetery at the end of West South Street. At 2:00 on that day, descen-

dants of the Fledderjohann family will be dedicating a memorial stone in honor of nine members of the family who died of the cholera in a matter of 12 days in three homes west of New Knoxville.

Local Artisans Celebration

On the last Sunday in August, we welcome local artisans to share their work as we feature the talents of our residents. Whether your work is a skill practiced years ago or one new this century, we welcome you to come and exhibit your work. In addition to touring all five buildings, we will have special displays of items made in New Knoxville or by New Knoxville natives. Notify President Janean Oberlander (429-753-2077) or a board member if you

would like to be a part of this living exhibit. The sale of any items you make is also permissible.

Look for details through flyers or in the paper in August, which will list some exhibitors.

Chili and More

September marks our Autumn Heritage Day, which we have celebrated the last few years with Mike Neuman's open kettle chili and a band concert by the local high school band. We are hoping to add an art display this year of student work. While you can't buy Mike's chili recipe, you can buy larger quantities of his delicious chili to take home.

(cont. on p. 2)

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

Checks may be mailed to Edythe Henschen, 07652 St. Rt. 219,
 New Knoxville, OH 45871

Attention, NKHS members!
 Would you be interested in serving as a society officer or board member? Contact Janean Oberlander at 419-753-2077.

Give Us Your Opinion

Dear Friends and Society Members,

In an effort to improve what we do at the New Knoxville Historical Society, we would like your help. Please complete the following survey and return it to us. You may tear this out and mail it to us at The New Knoxville Historical Society, P.O. Box 372, New Knoxville, OH 45871 or bring it to the annual meeting on April 10. If you would prefer to complete the survey digitally, go to our website at www.nktelco.net/historicalsociety, and complete the survey online.

1. Do you ever attend one of our open houses? _____ never _____ rarely _____ occasionally _____ often

2. If you have attended, what have you enjoyed about the open houses?

3. What programs or activities would you like to see at future open houses?

4. What suggestions do you have for stories that might appear in future newsletters?

5. Do you ever attend the annual meeting? _____ never _____ rarely _____ occasionally _____ often

6. If you attend the annual meeting, which of these would you prefer?

_____ dinner _____ no dinner, just refreshments _____ an outside speaker _____ local speaker

7. Would you be willing to serve on the board or in any other capacity? _____ No _____ Yes

8. If yes, in what way are you willing to help with the New Knoxville Historical Society?

9. Please offer any suggestions on how to encourage new membership.

10. If you are willing to serve the historical society in some capacity, please include your name and phone number.

County-wide Historical Open House

Last year the first weekend in May was designated "Be a Tourist in Your Own Hometown" by the Auglaize County Historical Society. The weekend will be repeated this year with most historical societies in the area open on Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5:00 P.M. The Armstrong Air and Space Museum, the Bicycle Museum in New Bremen, Bloody Bridge off Rt. 66 north of St. Marys and Ft. Amanda will also be on the tour.

So choose one Sunday or choose them all and join us to reminisce, learn and eat. And don't forget about the rest of the historical culture of the county available to

you May 3 and 4. We will be here waiting for you.



Mike Neuman will once again be making his open kettle chili at the September open house. Corn bread, donuts, cookies, lemonade and cider will also be available.

This eagle was spotted in early March, 2013, by Bill Katterheinrich. It had been flying close to the Heritage Museum. Katterheinrich snapped this photo when it landed in the oak tree at the center of the museum grounds.



Take a Tour

"Historical knowledge of New Knoxville equates greatly to leadership ability."

Title of educational tours given by Myron Fledderjohann

You don't have to wait for summer open houses to visit the Heritage Center. Guided tours are available for both groups and individuals.

The museum displays nearly 1000 items or pictures in its five buildings and includes authentic documents starting in the 1830's. All pictures are local and au-

thentic. Items in the barn upstairs were all used by human hands or pulled by horses.

Myron Fledderjohann, the most historically knowledgeable board member, has given several tours. Each year he shares his expertise with the VALU class, a leadership class sponsored by the Southwestern Auglaize County Chamber of Commerce. He also has regularly shown the center to the Way Corps class of The Way International.

Diane Fledderjohann joined Myron the past few years as they took the third graders through the muse-

um as part of their study of local history.

This past spring Mrs. Kathy McClain brought her large German IV class to the museum for a tour, which included a scavenger hunt for information either presented by Fledderjohann or found in the museum. Part of the tour was given by Fledderjohann in Low German and then translated by Bob Feldwisch into High German for the students.

Class reunion tours have been popular, and the museum was a popular destination when the First United Church of Christ celebrated their 175th anniversary.

If you would like a private tour, contact Fledderjohann at 419-953-8722.



Myron Fledderjohann (in the barn) and Diane Fledderjohann (in the school room) share their historical knowledge with the third graders during a spring tour. The third graders make an annual visit to the museum as part of their local history study.



With scavenger hunt sheets in hand, German IV students Tyler Shreve and Spencer Wolf listen to Myron Fledderjohann tell about Dr. Fledderjohann and his office.

The following poem appears on page 1 of "My Garden of Verses," a collection of poems by Mrs. Matilda Kiefer. The booklet can be found in the dining room of the house at the Heritage Center. The poem describes New Knoxville's first minister, F. H. W. Kuckherman.

Great Grandfather

In his arm-chair by the window
Great Grandfather still I see,
Shaggy eye brows, hair of silver.
Eyes too dim the page to see.

Grown too old the fields to wander,

Or peruse the Book he loved
Waiting only for his Maker;
To call him home above.

For the years had grown too many
Life for him became a care;
He spoke often of the grave-yard
Wishing he was resting there.

In the eve when twilight gathered
And the day was almost gone,
Standing by his shuttered window
I heard him pray loud and long.

The arm-chair now is empty,
But memory lingers on
Of an aged dear, old Pastor
Who at dusk prayed loud and long.

HELP

Information sought on
Friedens-Gemeinde Church

Trustee Mike Neuman is seeking any information or material regarding the Friedens-Gemeinde Church that once stood southeast of New Knoxville in Shelby County on the Botkins Road where the cemetery still exists.

Mike has some basic information and a list of the interments in the cemetery, but little else.

If you have any information, please contact Mike Neuman at vmneuman@nktelco.net or call most evenings after 6 P.M. (419-753-2194)

Local 4-H Clubs saluted at summer open house

Information for this story has been taken from news articles and documents provided by Anita Lukac, Sharon Lefel and Myron Fledderjohann and from *Our Times*, the sesquicentennial book.

Mention 4-H in New Knoxville, and you will find many residents who were part of one of the local 4-H clubs for at least a few years while they were growing up. 4-H and the junior fair are one of the major components of the Auglaize County Fair every summer.

At the August open house the historical society once more opened the door to the old Hoge Brush building, which set the stage for an extensive display of ribbons, trophies and projects of 4-H members from the last century to today.

It was in Clark County near Springfield that school superintendent A.B. Graham began the 4-H program in 1902, originally called the Boys and Girls Agricultural Club. Twenty years later Auglaize County had 38 township clubs.

According to an article in the June 25, 2002, Wapakoneta Daily News, the earliest records have been lost, so the exact date of the first clubs is uncertain, but according to a Kelly Kill interview done

with the late Walter Henkener, he was a part of 4-H in 1914 or 1915. Henkener said he started with potatoes, which garnered him a 25-cent premium.

Early 4-H members were on their own, competing with the adults. "They didn't have a junior fair like they do now," Henkener said in the interview, and added that the fair board wasn't supportive.

"It was something new, and they didn't think it would catch on. They were terribly bitter about 4-H in the beginning," he added.

But catch on it did, and one of the oldest clubs, founded in 1929, is the Cheery Sunbeams, which was organized alongside three Washington Township clubs, which began in 1920—the Brookside Needle Club, the Cleardale Mothers' Helpers and the Four Leaf Clover Club.

As a teenager, Emma Mae Stork, a member of the Four Leaf Clover Club, helped Mrs. Caroline Holtkamp form the Cheery Sunbeams. It was Edith Katterheinrich who submitted the name for the club. Edith was also one of six county delegates to the 4-H Club Congress in October, 1930.



In 1943 Mrs. Sue Hoge and Mrs. Bea Stauffer took over as advisers for the Cheery Sunbeams, pictured here in front of the school. **Front row:** Greta Binkley, Mary Ann Hoge, Edith Hoelscher, Shirley Stienecker. **Second row:** Mrs. Hoge, Arlene Phillips, Ruth Hoge, Eileen Schrolucke, Carol Meckstroth, Roberta Fledderjohann, Edna Kuck, Kathryn Thees, Mrs. Stauffer. **Back row:** Lois Montgomery, Ruth Schroer, Carol Henkener, Betty Lutterbeck, Wilma Koenig, Ruth Clausing, Lois Meckstroth, Irma Prueter, Dorothy Schroeder.



fabric is silk pongee, a fabric not seen today.

The first group of Cheery Sunbeams was made up of 10 girls.

One of the oldest pieces on display at the August open house was this 83-year-old kimono made by Sue Hooper Hoge for a 4-H project. The



Girls of the Brookside Needle Club, a one-room school club - **Front row:** Evangeline Holtkamp, **Second row:** Louise Kruse, Elda Hoge, Marilyn Feldwisch. **Back row:** Viola Aufderhaar, adviser, Charlyine Kuck, Velma Holtkamp, Eunice Lutterbeck.

In 1967 the number of members participating was 57. Nearly 40 women have served as advisers over the past 85 years. That includes current adviser, Mrs. Anita Lukac, who has worked as an adviser for 33 years, and the late Annabelle Hoge, who was an adviser for 40 years.

The early 4-H clubs were segregated. The girls' clubs focused on sewing and cooking and the boys had animal and crop projects. Over the years, of course, that changed and the projects became much more varied to keep up with a changing world and a variety of interests.



Siblings Amy, Craig and Keith Leffel pose with Keith's reserve champion hog in 1984. 4-H was a family affair for the Leffels. Their aunt, Jean Henkener, showed the reserve champion steer at the Ohio State Fair.

*My Head to clearer thinking
My Heart to greater loyalty
My Hands to larger service
My Health to better living
For my club, my community,
my country and my world.*
The 4-H motto, based on the characteristics
emphasized by founder, A.B. Graham

Brookside School, located at the corner of SR 219 and Bay Road, had a boys' club, too, called the Brookside Champs.

While the girls had the Cheery Sunbeams, just one year later E.B. Mahn started the Livestock Boosters for the boys. The seven original members were Paul Worthman, Paul Niemeyer, Calvin Katterhenry, Allen Rodeheffer, Robert Fledderjohann, Earl Prueter and Zelotes Eschmeyer.

The club grew so much that in 1973 the New Knoxville Milk Makers was formed from the Livestock Boosters to give special attention to dairy club members. From the initial 12 members, the club



Nine-year-old Skylar Hough, a member of the Horse and Pony Pioneers, practices her roping with a mock calf. This basic roping competition is judged on technique. Hough completed her first year in 4-H with the Horse and Pony Pioneers, which had 21 members last year. In addition to Western and English riding, Hough took photography of horses, another option to members. Various members of the club demonstrated their roping skills at the August open house.

The advisers for the group since 2005 have been Chris and Clyde Wessel. While the club has been a county-wide club since 1959, other New Knoxville advisers have been Cheryl Kuck in 1984 and Susan Stroh in 1985-86.

grew to 27 members in 1986, making it the largest dairy club in Auglaize County at the time. In the '80's the club boasted six club members who were county dairy princesses, three state dairy queens, and the Brown Swiss, Holstein and Jersey queens.

By the end of the twentieth century, however, many dairy farms in the area had disappeared and the chapter eventually folded.

Nevertheless, the Livestock Boosters is still going strong and the Cheery Sunbeams offers a wide variety of projects for its members.

The New Knoxville Historical Society salutes all those who have earned ribbons, trophies, trips to the state fair and other awards and to the many adults who have given their time to promote 4-H for the past 100 years.

Ted Lammers stands with his first 4-H project, a Holstein heifer, which took first place in the junior division at the fair in 1959.



Above are some of the 4-H pins Myron Fledderjohann earned as a 4-H member. Myron and his brothers, Vernon and Ralph, were all 4-H members and then advisers of the Livestock Boosters. Left, Myron stands with his first 4-H project in 1943—a Brown Swiss heifer.



MEMORIES

At the August open house, former 4-H members were asked to share their favorite memories

Sharon Prueter Stienecker: My first year I did a terrible job at modeling and never got a ticket to do the contest. The next year I practiced so much I won first place.

Christa Henschen Prenger: Winning Grand Champion Hog and being the Fair Queen.

Paul Bambauer: Met my wife Teresa in Junior Fair Board while in 4-H.

Carol Hoelscher Herbst: I remember most going to the county fair and the state fair. I enjoyed going to State Club Congress during their 50th year, to state leadership camp and counseling at county 4-H camp. I loved being Auglaize County Junior Fair Queen.

Roberta Fledderjohann Tanzini: My pot holder went to state fair. Made a red dress, and I had to overcast all the seams.

Diane Lammers Fledderjohann: Serving as a junior leader and a two-year member of the Junior Fair Board. We helped run the fair and made all kinds of decisions.

Dakota Koenig: Met Ted Strickland in 2009 while giving a health and safety skit at the state fair.

Natalie Thompson: Winning third place in walk/trot with my pony.

Bob Feldwisch: My fondest memory was of training and grooming the calves and heifers with my Grandpa Ducky and my brother. Grandpa saw to it that we did things properly and freed up my dad's time for the real farm work.

Anita Hoelscher Lukac: As an adviser, working with Annabelle Hoge and learning so much from her. As a member, learning so many different things and learning to be responsible and a leader. Winning the demonstration contest at the state fair.

Historical Society enjoys overwhelming response at its first-ever

German dinner/annual meeting

It was a proposal that came from former area resident Rev. Jim Egbert: with the speaker for the evening being a well-known expert on German history, why not serve a German dinner?

The response was overwhelming, forcing the board to decide to move the dinner from the American Legion to the Fellowship Center of the United Church of Christ.

With a great deal of planning by Egbert and much help from all the board members and local German students and their teacher, the evening was deemed a success.

Over 175 tickets were sold for the dinner, which included pretzels and cheese dip, soup, pork and various sausages, pickles, potato salad, cabbage and a pudding and berries dessert, all fixed with a German flair.

Serving the meal were a dozen German students under the direction of teacher Kathy McClain. Egbert even provided the girls with serving jumpers from the HofBrau Haus in Covington, Kentucky.

Because of their assistance, Egbert and McClain were given honorary memberships in the New Knoxville Historical Society.

The speaker for the evening was Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann, whose PowerPoint presentation showed the many German influences in the Cincinnati area, the stopping point for many of our ancestors who traveled on to this area.

After the success of the evening, the board voted to have another dinner meeting this year and to join the German-American Citizens League of Greater Cincinnati.



At the end of the meal, junior Becca Newton sang two songs in German a capella. Following the business meeting, the speaker of the evening was Dr. Don Tolzmann, former director of German-American Studies at the University of Cincinnati. Tolzmann showed pictures of the Over the Rhine district, originally a German neighborhood, which is being revitalized.



SLATE OF OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

President - Janean Oberlander

Vice President - Allen Schroer

Secretary - Diane Fledderjohann

Treasurer - Edythe Henschen

Trustees

2014-2017 - Myron Fledderjohann and Kirk Stienecker

2013-2016 - Bob Feldwisch & someone to be determined

2012-2015 - Mike Neuman and Bill Henschen

Board Members

Display Curator & Cataloging - Rusty Elsass

Farm Items - Myron Fledderjohann

Membership, Web Site, and Historical Records

Larry and Karen Niemeyer

Historians & Memorial Plaque

Myron Fledderjohann, Roberta Tanzini, Kirk Stienecker

SPEAKER AVAILABLE

Myron Fledderjohann - Genealogy and History

Tours available upon request.

Contact any board member.

Additional Historical Society Activities

- *Planting of flowers between the house and summer kitchen by Todd and Sylvia Spieles
- *Purchase of three rose bushes for the front of the house
- *Changed outlets in doctor's office and purchased an EdenPure to heat the office because the gas stove cannot be repaired
- *Outside painting done on doctor's office and roof repaired from June storm damage
- *Joined the German-American Citizens League of Greater Cincinnati at no cost to the historical society
- *Thorough weeding of area around the house, trimming of trees and cleaning of spouting
- *Co-sponsored German Club scholarship won by Rebekah Neuman



Local German students were the servers for the evening. Marcus Nitschke, Serena Hostetter, Ingrid Miller, Rebekah Neuman, Jace Kuck, Lydia Hoelscher, Lauren Albers, Jacob Shaw, Paige Lehman, Zach Lageman and Lydia Felty were directed by Mrs. Kathy McClain.

Following the successful dinner, Rev. Jim Egbert takes a breather and chats with trustee Bob Feldwisch and a friend from Cincinnati. Egbert planned the entire meal and set-up (shown far left) and supervised the cooking, which was done by members of the board with help from Dick Wateke of New Bremen. Marvin Topp was also helpful in transporting serving dishes and other serving pieces.

Memorial Plaque honors those who died during past year

The following names will appear on our Memorial Plaque in our Heritage Museum.

James West Meckstroth	March 15, 2013
David W. Arnett	March 17, 2013
Larry L. Leffel	April 25, 2013
Ella Hoge Kuck	May 16, 2013
Allen Spring Sr.	July 3, 2013
Virginia Buddemeyer Miller	July 27, 2013
Robert J. Rain	August 27, 2013
Marjorie Henkener Wellman	September 20, 2013
Rachel Berlet Hoelscher	October 16, 2013
Glenna Davenport Meckstroth	October 26, 2013
Jack D. Kuck	October 27, 2013
Walter A. Strayer	December 14, 2013
Vivian Fledderjohann Elshoff	December 24, 2013

We have author Glenna Meckstroth's historical books available for sale. She was a devoted supporter of our society.

New Lifetime Members

Jeffrey Davis, New Knoxville, Ohio
 Linda Davis, New Knoxville, Ohio
 Rev. James Egbert, St. Bernard, Ohio
 Brett Fledderjohann, St. Marys, Ohio
 Gary Henschen, Sidney, Ohio
 Shirley Huckeriede, St. Marys, Ohio
 Carolyn Leighton, Haslett, Michigan
 Jerry Lutterbeck, Quincy, Michigan
 Kathy McClain, Celina, Ohio
 Marcus Meckstroth, State College, Pennsylvania
 Donna Mosher, Grove City, Ohio
 James Niemeyer, New Knoxville, Ohio
 Larry Roettger, Sidney, Ohio
 Nancy Roettger, Sidney, Ohio
 Judy Smith, Wapakoneta, Ohio
 Deb Watson, Findlay, Ohio
 Rick Watson, Findlay, Ohio

Yearly Members

Debbie Eversman, Oregon, Ohio
 Jeff Eversman, Oregon, Ohio
 Denise Testa, Leroy, New York
 Barb Wibbeler, Wapakoneta, Ohio
 Ned Wibbeler, Wapakoneta, Ohio

Student Members

Lana Bizet, New Knoxville, Ohio
 Katelyn Lochard, Wapakoneta, Ohio
 Dana Miles, New Knoxville, Ohio
 Kyle Prenger, Minster, Ohio

Visit us during our open houses in 2014.
 They are held the last Sunday of the month,
 May through October from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Sunday, May 25

Sunday, June 29

Sunday, July 27

Sunday, August 31

Sunday, September 28

Sunday, October 26

A special county-wide tour of historical societies in Auglaize County is scheduled for May 3 & 4.

Your Valuable Donations Make Our Historical Society an Active Museum

2013-2014 Acquisitions

- *New Knoxville School yearbooks
- * numerous photographs
- *primitive painted chair
- *early wooden shipping trunk
- *watercolor painting of New Knoxville Creamery done by Dr. Richard Harbord
- *old communion wine barrel
- *1940's team school jersey
- *B.E. Cook and Red Kuck yardsticks
- *1940's photos of New Knoxville, including sky view photo
- *vintage table runners and table clothes
- *1950's Better Homes & Gardens magazine featuring a local home
- *Eversman letter opener, Pure Oil screw driver
- *Don's Union 76 ice scraper and butter dish
- *Warner's Garage hand brush and deck of cards
- *Ladbergen print in frame
- *Auglaize County Centennial pencil
- *Centennial paper and programs of E & R church
- *Poppe reunion photo - 1915
- *large number of recipe books
- *1963 Farm-o-Rama newspaper ad
- *local primitive painted cabinet
- *1988 logging photos from Fred Grewe woods
- *Methodist Church photo directory
- *Bambauer Fertilizer advertising
- *2013 logging photos from Richard (Dick) Kuck woods
- *1964-65 cheer leading uniform
- *large picture of a Delco electric light engine
- *1958 calendar from Chic's Market
- * book about Homer Kuck during World War II
- * *German Immigrants: Family Letters (1877-1950)* published and compiled by Paul Untiet

Do you have any pictures or stories of the past you would like to share? Contact Janean Oberlander at 419-753-2077 or joberlander@nktelco.net or any board member.

New Knoxville Historical Society

107 E. German Street
P.O. Box 372
New Knoxville, OH 45871

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Editor of Historian
Janean Oberlander
Photography
Larry Niemeyer

HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, April 10, 2014 New Knoxville American Legion

Dinner: 6:00 P.M. Business meeting & Program: 7:00 P.M.

Speaker: Wayne York
Railroads in Western Ohio

AVAILABLE FROM THE NEW KNOXVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COMMEMORATIVE AND MEMORIAL BRICKS

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 419-753-2142 or 101 Hanover Ct., New Knoxville, OH 45871.

BOOKS AND GIFTS

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

www.nktelco.net/historical_society

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.

Member of the Southwestern Auglaize County Chamber of Commerce