



Established 1984

www.nktelco.net/historicalsociety

Our Goal Is to PRESERVE AND SHARE OUR HERITAGE

Spring 2016

Dinner, annual meeting set for April 14

Entertainment, information headline annual dinner meeting

First Church's Ministry Center will be the site of the 2016 annual dinner meeting on April 14 at 6:00 P.M. The program will include Sinatra-style music performed by local performer Dick Valentine, better known to many locals as Jerry Wolfe, plus information about the Southwestern Auglaize County Chamber of Commerce and the New Knoxville School German program.

THE MEAL

The meal for the evening, catered by Main Street Station, is beef or a pork dish, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, cole slaw and roll. Water, iced tea, lemonade and coffee and cookies are included.

COST AND TICKETS

Tickets cost \$12.00 and can be purchased at the Village Market by April 9. 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 enjoy the program for the evening.

DICK VALENTINE

Gerald Richard Wolfe, born February 14 in Akron, came to New Knoxville in 1950 when his father, a former Army medical officer, opened his medical practice here.

A lifetime member and former trustee of the New Knoxville Historical So-

ciety, Jerry graduated from New Knoxville in 1965 and studied music at Miami University before joining the U.S. Army. He worked in several different civilian career fields after his initial enlistment ended and finally retired from the Army in 2005 after nearly 30 years combined military service.

In 2010, Wolfe began a vocal entertainment career focusing on the Great American Songbook and the styling of Frank Sinatra, performing as Dick Valentine. He also sings songs popularized by many other singers, including Dean Martin, Mel Torme, Nat King Cole, Bobby Darin, Ricky Nelson, Buddy Holly and Elvis.

His large range of songs should appeal to a wide audience. Dick Valentine will be singing during the dinner hour, between speakers, and following the speakers for as long as people want to listen.



Dick Valentine - From www.wolfeenterprises.org

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

View pictures, share stories, find out more about the happenings of the historical society on Facebook at www.facebook.com/newknoxvillehistoricalsociety.

LOGAN O'NEILL

Logan O'Neill has been director of the Southwestern Auglaize County Chamber of Commerce for two years.

A graduate of New Bremen High School and Bluffton University, O'Neill will be talking about the work of the chamber and its role in the New Knoxville community.

CJ BROWN

A graduate of Coldwater High School and Ohio Northern University, Brown is in his first regular year of teaching at New Knoxville after spending some years substiting, including for Kathy McClain, his predecessor.

Mr. Brown discovered his love of German when he was home schooled in grades 5-8 since his mother had taken the subject in school. A German major and math minor, he teaches four classes of German and as well as some math. He will share more about himself and the time he spent in Germany as part of his studies at Bluffton. He will also tell a little about his plans for the German program at New Knoxville.

For the past few years the historical society has matched the scholarship money given by the German Club to a graduating senior with connections to German class and the club. Members of the historical society board have chosen the recipient, who last year was Megan Kennedy.

First high school in the village erected in 1914 Hoge Brush moves out of building they bought in 1938

For 24 years the brick building that occupies the south half of the block from Mill Street to East Street housed students of New Knoxville.

The fire-proof brick building seen

below cost \$18,000 when it was built in 1914. At the time a three-year high school course was offered. In 1924 four years of high school were offered, and two years later an auditorium/gymnasium was added

on the west side for \$22,000.

With some of the township schools consolidating into the village, more room was needed. Although a levy for an addition failed, the next year with monetary help from the Public Works Administration, a levy passed

So just 24 years after it was built, what is now often referred to as the Hoge Brush School (Hoge Brush occupied the building next.) was abandoned for the current building, which today houses kindergarten through twelfth grade. Four major construction projects over the years have enlarged and modernized the current building.

The Class of 1938 was the last class to graduate from the old school. Of the 19 students, four are still living. Willis Henschen, who lives with his wife at Otterbein St. Marys, is the only male. Willis noted, there were only six boys in the class, so his odds of getting a date were pretty good.

Mr. Henschen attended Poppe School on Plattner Pike through Grade 8 and lived on a farm on Rt. 66, right on the New Knoxville-St. Marys school district border, so he spent two years of high school at St. Marys before coming to New Knoxville.

"I just didn't get too excited about school," Mr. Henschen said and couldn't remember too many teachers. Luella Wierwille (Eversman) and Martha Sheaffer (Haberkamp) came to mind as well as Ferd Eversman, the choir director. Mr. Henschen remembered practicing once for a performance and Mr. Eversman yelling that someone was not singing right. Willis turned to a sophomore, Howard Henschen, and told him he wasn't singing the right notes. Howard wasn't concerned.

Even though Mr. Henschen remembered little about school, the same wasn't true for one of his classmates, Martha Lambers (Hoelscher). In an interview for the *Memoir* in 1986, the year of the town's sesquicentennial, Martha said she remembered the prom when they decorated the gym, dressed up for the occasion, and enjoyed an evening of dinner, a movie and dancing.

Martha was also on the staff that published the first school newspaper. For one of the issues, she was the senior class reporter along with classmate Esther Shupp.



Please consider a membership

The New Knoxville Historical Society is looking for new members. This newsletter is mailed to all members, but maybe you know someone who would be interested in becoming a member, or you are receiving a complimentary copy.

A membership helps to support an organization that strives to preserve our community's heritage. Your membership also allows you to have a say in how this organization spends its money and how we celebrate our heritage.

Membership is relatively inexpensive, considering a single lifetime membership costs just \$50. Yearly memberships are also available.

One of the best ways to promote interest in our heritage is with a student membership—just \$1 for anyone in grade or high school.

Joining is simple. A request for membership and a check to Edythe Henschen (address below) is all that's required. So, please, consider joining the New Knoxville Historical Society.

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

The Historical Society has three copies of *The Windjammer*, published by the Commercial Club. Mr. H. L. Aldrich, who was also the basketball coach, was the sponsor, and Miss Martha Sheaffer was the

English critic.

Esther Henschen was the editor and Ruth Niemeyer was the assistant editor. The staff was made up of seniors, juniors and sophomores.

The newspaper included some news of school activities, thoughtful articles, sports news, gossip and even cartoons by Eugene Bielefeld. Below are some items found in those issues.

Some Items of Interest from the original *Windjammer*

February 1, 1938 - Issue 4

An extensive article on the basketball circus told about eight different games played that evening, including one between the girls' and boys' teams, playing the old girls' rules. The girls won 14-10.

According to the writer, Esther Henschen, a surprise of the evening came when

the bus drivers beat the faculty, 19-16.

Games were even played using a balloon and a football instead of a basketball.

Proceeds from the evening went toward purchasing a new mimeograph machine.

There were also notices to students to reserve their seats on the fan bus going to the Buckland game. Cost was 10 cents.

Here is one of several jokes in the issue.

Miss Wierwille: "It gives me great pleasure to give you 85 on your history test."

Howard K: "Why don't you make it 100 and get a real thrill out of it."

This recent photo of the entrance to Room 27 in the old school shows the artistic stenciling that remains intact in parts of the building.

February 16, 1938 - Issue 5

The home economics class decided to form a club. At a Feb. 5 meeting Louise Ruese was elected president; Melba Kuhlman, vice president; Byrdell Henschen, secretary and LaRue Eversman, treasurer.

One segment, called Dictionary, used words from A to Z to describe people in the school. Here are a few: Active - Willis Opperman, Bashful - Casper Hoelscher, Calm - Evelyn Harmeyer, Definite - the teachers, Economical - Miss Sheaffer.

March 11, 1938 - Issue 6

The senior play was advertised extensively in this issue. *Where's Grandma?* was presented Mar. 18. Tickets cost 15 cents. Grandma was played by Leona Rodeheffer (Peterman), who is still living. Winona Hemmert (Kleinhenz), also still living, played Lucy King.

An editorial in this issue noted that even though they would be attending a new school next year, they should still respect this school and keep it clean. The writer noticed this had not been done lately.



This may have been the last musical performance given in the Hoge Brush school. Not much information is available, but it appears to be a Thanksgiving-themed performance, and it includes students in grades 9-12 in 1937-38. This may have been the performance Willis Henschen was talking about during his interview because he is the fourth boy from the left in the back row and is standing next to Howard Henschen.



Although these three graduated from the new school in town, John Hoge, Roberta Fledderjohann (Tanzini) and Kermit Warner started first grade at the school on South Street. This was taken their first day.

Annual Heritage Day celebrated with activities for youth

Ideal weather greeted those who gathered under the old oak tree at the Historical Society complex on September 27 for Autumn Heritage Day.

Mike Neuman once again made his open kettle chili and the high school band returned for a concert of upbeat music, ending the concert with the Ranger fight song, "On Ye Rangers."

An added attraction this year was a scavenger hunt, organized by board member Leslie Krieg. Children in grades 1-6 were given several questions to answer. The hunt took them into every building in the complex. When they returned their completed sheets, they received a treat, and two winners were drawn from the 16 children that participated.

Ryan Tinnerman (pictured below), a graphic de-



signer, illustrator and New Knoxville graduate, displayed and sold his Halloween prints. Tinnerman has contracted with a company that will use his designs on items that will be found in stores nationwide this fall.

Visitors also got a chance to visit the old school gym



across the street, which housed displays of New Knoxville civic organizations and volunteer groups.

The displays were first available at the August open house and included pictures and uniforms from the earliest Boys Scout troop in the 1950's to the present, pictures of Girl Scout camping in the 1950's and memorabilia from Kiwanis Club, Garden Club, New Knoxville Youth Activities Association, which later became the Civic Association and the New Knoxville Community Singers. Records made by the group were even playing.

The first-ever children's scavenger hunt proved to be popular at the September open house. Right, children and their parents find answers to questions about the automobile garages in the community.

Below, Sadie Lekan uses the floor in the house to record one of her answers. Sadie's and Noah Pax's names were drawn as winners of the candy jars.



Board members were busy at the September open house. Above, Diane Fledderjohann, Rusty Elsass and Edythe Henschen stand behind the table with all the fixings that went with the chili, which Mike Neuman serves up in the photo at the right. In addition to chili, visitors could also enjoy pumpkin donuts, corn bread, cookies, cider, lemonade or water.



Board president Janean Oberlander plays a bean bag toss game with her grandson James Lekan at the September open house.

Far left, Dylan Koenig prepares to launch some pinewood derby race cars as part of the Boy Scouts display.

Retired professor shares his interest in early settlers in Auglaize County

Dr. Richard Grupenhoff, a retired New Jersey professor, shared the story of his German ancestry and its connection to Auglaize County at the annual meeting on April 9, 2015.

Following a dinner for over 100 people, Grupenhoff told the audience about how he came to find out about Auglaize County and decided to visit and

eventually write an article about the area and its early settlers.

Grupenhoff grew up in Cincinnati. He said he was an orphan to his past until the 1990's when a woman from Osnabrueck, Germany, contacted him.

Three years ago he visited the area where his orphaned grandfather and great-uncle were sent as teenagers to work on farms near Minster.

Grupenhoff has since continued to research and write about the early immigrants from Cincinnati to the western part of Auglaize County.



Historical Society library offers wealth of information

The library at the historical society has been organized and catalogued for your convenience.

Books, pamphlets and collections have been organized by subject matter.

A list of the contents is in notebooks in the barn and in the library, located in a closet area in the house. Sign-out sheets are located on the shelves.

Take advantage of what is there.

When you are in downtown Wapakoneta, stop at the Auglaize Antique Mall on Auglaize Street and check out the Historical Society's display booth. Books and other items belonging to the society are on sale there with proceeds going back to the Historical Society.

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
2015-2018 - Mike Neuman and Todd Spieles
2016-2019 - Leslie Krieg and Doug Hoelscher

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 or officer.

New post cards now available for sale



Thanks to the combined work of Larry Niemeyer and Ryan Tinnerman, the historical society has new postcards available.

The new postcards, which sell for 50 cents each, show the Heritage Center complex with the old oak tree in the background. Only the log cabin, which sits in the yard behind

the house, cannot be viewed.

A graphic artist, Tinnerman designed a new logo for the historical society after he and his family attended an open house in the summer.

Larry Niemeyer then worked with his pictures of the museum and Tinnerman's logo to come up with the new post card.

Memorial Plaque honors members who died during past year

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

Magdalene Warner Vohs	April 25, 2015
Audrey Shuster Wietholter	April 28, 2015
Roger Bambauer	May 6, 2015
Dr. Owen A. Hoover	June 6, 2015
Mary Kiefer Elsass	October 30, 2016
Donna Elshoff Brown	January 3, 2016
Richard H. Meckstroth	January 7, 2016
James H. Niemeyer	February 10, 2016

New Lifetime Members

Mark Kuhlman, Crescent Springs, Kentucky
 Ann Meyer, Sidney, Ohio
 Stephen Meyer, Sidney, Ohio
 Johanna Schroer, New Knoxville, Ohio
 Wade Schroer, New Knoxville, Ohio
 Randall Thompson, Upper Marlboro, Maryland
 Ryan Tinnerman, New Bremen, Ohio
 John Yahl, St. Marys, Ohio

New Yearly Members

Beverly and James Reineke

We would like this newsletter to reflect our readers' interests and knowledge of New Knoxville's past. If you have any pictures or other information to share, contact Janean Oberlander at 419-753-2077 or joberlander@nktelco.net or any board member. In addition, ideas for speakers for future annual meetings or themes for open houses are welcomed.

Visit us during our open houses in 2016. They are held the last Sunday of the month, May through October from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Sunday, May 29	Sunday, June 26
Sunday, July 31	Sunday, August 28
Sunday, September 25	Sunday, October 30

Your Valuable Donations Make Our Historical Society an Active Museum

2015-2016 Partial List of Acquisitions

- *letterman's sweater from 1944
- *Changing Times cookbook from 1976
- *1962 plate from the United Church of Christ
- *Old-fashioned threshing basket
- *Constitution of the Home Benefit Association of New Knoxville
- *FFA Queen jacket
- *Chalkboard on a stand from United Church of Christ
- *Child's bonnet
- *Child's rocker made by Howard Kuck in 1934 or 1935
- *Toy airplane made by Murray Toy Company in Cleveland
- *Toy red bus, made between 1929-1931
- *NKYAA basketball team picture
- *New Knoxville yearbooks from 1944-1996
- *New Knoxville afghan
- **Of German Ways* by LaVern Rippley
- **What Makes New Knoxville Special* by Cornelia Schroer
- *New Knoxville School Almanac 1989
- **Our Times* book
- *Two books of poems by Clara Bode
- *Wedding certificate from 1870, signed by Rev. Kuckherman
- * laminated letter written by Caroline Holtkamp to first grade parents in 1955
- * old basketball programs
- *1852 document and book
- * numerous pictures
- *pot holder from Fowler's when it had a store in New Knoxville
- * rain gauge from Neptune Elevator (NK Feeds)
- *1949-50 basketball player shirt
- *metal person bank with Peoples Savings Bank tag
- *Citgo thermometer
- *two postcards of the German Reformed Church, postmarked 1907 & 1908
- *Leon Smith's complete uniform from WW II, including discharge papers, dog tags, pictures, memorabilia cards & patches
- *1852 document from Molasses Kuck farm house

VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED

Spring is here, and Larry Niemeyer is looking for volunteers to help mow the lawn at the Heritage Center. The lawn mower is provided. If you would be willing to help with this project a couple times this summer, let Larry know.

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 14, 2016 First Church Ministry Center

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

Speakers: CJ Brown, German teacher at New Knoxville

Logan O'Neill, director of Southwestern Auglaize County Chamber of Commerce

Musical Entertainment by Dick Valentine

AVAILABLE FROM THE NEW KNOXVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COMMEMORATIVE AND MEMORIAL BRICKS

Bricks are available for \$50 each and provide financial and visual support from families and friends who 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. Visit the museum or see our web site for all available items.

[www.nktelco.net/historical society](http://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