



Established 1984

www.nktelco.net/historicalsociety

Our Goal Is to PRESERVE AND SHARE OUR HERITAGE

Spring 2017

Dinner, annual meeting set for April 20

Ohio University professor to share knowledge of early German migration

An expert on German immigration will be the speaker at this year's historical society's annual meeting.

Tim Anderson, an associate professor of geography at Ohio University and a member of the Ohio Humanities speakers bureau, will be making his second trip to New Knoxville. He traveled here in October to speak to two groups at the school and then gave a presentation in Wapakoneta. This was all part of Auglaize County's grant program to promote tourism in the county with the theme "In Motion." (See related article on p. 5).



Dr.. Tim Anderson - from www.ohiohumanities.org

SITE AND MEAL

First Church's Ministry Center will be the site for the dinner meeting on April 20 at 6:00 P.M. The meal for the evening, catered by Main Street Station, is beef or chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, California blend, 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 15. 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.

DR. TIM ANDERSON

Timothy Anderson is an associate professor of geography at Ohio University, where he teaches courses in cultural and historical geography. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Oklahoma and a doctorate from Texas A & M.

He has been on the staff of Ohio University since 1996 and has done extensive research into German immigration from northwest Germany and spoken across the state on the topic.

Dr. Anderson's topic will be "German Immigration to the United States in the 19th Century: Patterns, Processes and

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Cultural Landscapes." This will provide an overview of the major patterns of German immigration in terms of numbers, locations, reasons behind the immigration and some of the cultural landscapes that German immigrants produced. This includes some research from his doctoral dissertation on Westphalia, Missouri, a German Catholic town founded in the mid-1830s by immigrants from just east of Münster and also just down the road from Ladbergen, from where the New Knoxville folks hailed. Dr. Anderson noted there are many similarities between these two immigrant communities, and he can provide some details regarding land and life in northwest Germany at the time of the immigration.

Dr. Anderson's interest in Germany stems from his ancestry. "One of my paternal great-grandfathers was a German immigrant who came to the US in the late 1870s," he said, "so I always had an interest in his genealogy."

"I'm also a Germanophile at heart and have always had a love for all things German and have visited many times."

Dairies, dairy farming focus of August open house

The August open house paid tribute to dairy farmers and two important dairies near New Knoxville. In addition, the Frankenberg family was instrumental in providing complimentary ice cream for those in attendance and a mechanical cow for children to practice old-style milking.

SOME HISTORY

During New Knoxville's early days, every home in the town had at least one cow to provide milk and butter. Achieving the status of village for New Knoxville meant the cows and pigs disappeared, and by 1911 people in the village wanted access to milk.

MECKSTROTH DAIRY

That's when Charles Meckstroth began delivering milk to the residents. The dairy south of town grew, and by the mid-1930s it was delivering milk to as many as 100 families. He was joined by



Some of the items on display at the August open house included pictures of dairy farms in the area, many of which were aerial views taken in the 1950s and '60s.

his son-in-law Ferd Wellman, and the dairy became known as Meckstroth-Wellman Dairy.

BROOKSIDE DAIRY AND LAB

Another prominent dairy outside New Knoxville was Brookside Dairy, owned by E.R. Kuck. During the late 1930s and 1940s Kuck's dairy delivered milk, but Kuck also began a laboratory on his farm that tested soil, feed and water and provided extensive testing to enhance milk pro-

duction and reduce disease for local farmers.

In 1951 Brookside Farms Laboratory was established when Kuck moved his farm laboratory to Main Street in New Knoxville.

Kuck first owned pigs, chickens and cows, but later dealt with only Guernseys.

He was not unlike many small farmers around the village, and during the second half of the twentieth century, dairy farms prevailed.

THE FAMILY FARM

The open house paid tribute to those family farms and the dairy herds that helped sustain the families who lived on them and often brought recognition to the dairy farmers.

In addition to pictures of the farms and information about some of the farmers, antique equipment and tools were on display.

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



2016 Auglaize County Dairy Princess Joanna Frankenberg was on hand to share information about her family's computerized milking system. Joanna is the 16th county dairy princess from New Knoxville (that we can document). The community also boasted three Ohio queens in 1985: Cheri Schroer, Ohio Holstein Queen; Kim Schrolucke, Ohio Brown Swiss queen; and Jill Schroeder, Ohio Jersey Queen.



In addition to historical displays and information at the August open house, Kathy Frankenberg helped to arrange for the Farm Bureau's mechanical cow to be present so children could practice milking the old-fashioned way. **Above**, Evan Fledderjohann takes his turn.

Right, Dick Elsass waits for Lee Frankenberg to serve ice cream. The Shelby County Dairy Boosters provided the barn and four flavors of ice cream: chocolate, vanilla, strawberry and butter pecan.



The New Knoxville High School band has made an appearance at the Autumn Heritage Day an annual event. Directed by Cory Canan, the band has increased in size since its first appearance and usually presents a concert of their pep band songs, which come from a variety of years. The band ends their concert with the fight song.



Above, curator Rusty Elsass, seated, organized a variety of items that are duplicates of what the society has and offered them to attendees for a donation.

Right, the maker of the open kettle chili, Mike Neuman, talks with German teacher C.J. Brown during the September open house.



Zella's organ comes home

According to *Our Times*, New Knoxville's sesquicentennial book, "a deed to a property owned by Zella Eversman was presented to Mayor Stanley Wietholter on July 12, 1985. The property included the lot and original office building of her father, Dr. H.E. Fledderjohann. The property is to be used for historical purposes."

An auction of Zella's goods ensued, and one of the items sold at auction was her pump organ. Now Douglas Kuck, who purchased the organ, is returning it to the historical society. It will be housed in the doctor's office.

Zella was an accomplished pianist. In an interview with Dean Hoge in 1981, Zella said she had just 12 lessons from Flora Bachman, the minister's daughter.

Zella said her first lessons were on a reed organ, also known as a pump organ. According to Zella, reed organs were much more common than pianos. "People didn't have pi-



anos. A piano was a rare thing," she said

"Then she (Bachman) got married, I got a new dress, and that was the end of my musical career."

Not quite.

Zella claimed her older sister Fran had learned much more from Bachman, so Zella asked her for help if she had

trouble.

Enter Ferd Eversman, Zella's future husband. He apparently was the boyfriend of Fran, but he thought Zella had more musical talent and told her she should take lessons at Wapakoneta from two German girls, the Kaisers. Two other well-known local pianists—Esther Holtkamp and Alice Kuck

joined her.

It was Ferd who took Zella to Chicago after they married, the fall after he came home from the army.

Both studied at Bush Conservatory. Already owning a college degree, Ferd went for schooling in music, and Zella got her bachelor's in two years.

Ferd then took a teaching job at a teacher's college in South Dakota. After six years they returned to New Knoxville to care for Dr. Fledderjohann.

Ferd first gave voice lessons and then became head of the music department at Findlay College for two years. He then began a music program in the county schools and continued with Zella at his side the rest of his career.

Later Ferd organized the Community Singers in New Knoxville, a choral group that performed at several venues and even made a record. Zella was the accompanist.

Hoge's complete interview with Zella is available in the historical society's library.

Roberta Fledderjohann Tanzini retires post on board

Since she returned to New Knoxville in 1988 with her husband Umberto, Roberta Fledderjohann Tanzini has played an active role in promoting the historical society.

The society was only four years old when the couple returned to Roberta's childhood home as new retirees.

When the Eversman property was deeded to the village for historical purposes, much work lay ahead, and Roberta and Umberto worked together planting flowers, edging, mowing, adding storm windows to the doctor's office

and doing whatever else was needed.

"We enjoyed every minute of it," said Roberta.

The Tanzinis joined the board in 1994 as historians, and Roberta continued to serve for the next 22 years, keeping scrapbooks, writing newsletters and press releases, keeping up the memorial plaque and always seeking new members for the organization.

The Tanzinis have also donated numerous items for the historical society's collection.

Umberto died in 2010 and left a big hole in Roberta's heart, but she continued her work with the society for the next seven years.

Thank you, Roberta, for maintaining your positive attitude and for all your contributions to the society.

Right, Janean Oberlander and Roberta Tanzini serve drinks at an annual meeting.



Message from outgoing president

When I signed up for the job of president five years ago, I did not realize all the responsibility that went with it.

Not only did I preside at meetings, but I was the person people called when they had a problem or concern or needed input on something.

Without the help of all the members of the board, I would not have survived. Each person is unique and has his or her own strengths that helps to make the New Knoxville Historical Society successful.

Thanks to citizens in both the town and the country, we now have an ample supply of items and memorabilia that more than fill the buildings we have on the grounds.

Over the past five years, we have worked carefully with our money to make improvements. All the buildings in our

complex are old and need our constant care.

OAK TREE

One of the salient features at the Heritage Complex is the old oak tree. Tree expert and trustee Mike Neuman estimates it may be 300 years old, which would put it here before any of our settlers arrived.

The tree, however, has been under stress for some years now. This fall trustee Todd Spieles met with an expert from the Department of Natural Resources, who suggested clearing out the grass around it, aerating the area and mulching. While this process is not guaranteed to solve the problem, we have at least made an effort at preserving this piece of history.

SUMMER KITCHEN

One important decision we made was to side rather



Local construction expert Jack Schrolucke and his partner Roy Holtzaple side the summer kitchen the week of

Feb. 13. The board voted to side rather than paint one of the original building on the premises.

than repaint the summer kitchen. Jack Schrolucke and Roy Holtzaple have covered the peeling paint with an exterior that matches the wood siding perfectly.

A thorough cleaning of the summer kitchen and its displays was done following the siding. The summer kitchen is one of the three original buildings on the property. Its name identifies its purpose. Cooking there kept the house as cool as possible on those summer days before air conditioning.

When you visit it, you will find the front room filled with historical items used by cooks from earlier days.

LOG CABIN

In addition, we have added spouting to the log cabin be-

cause the wood on the side was becoming soft, believed to be caused by water from the roof.

DOCTOR'S OFFICE

We are still working on a system that will help maintain proper heat and humidity in the doctor's office. A donated window air conditioner last summer helped with the heat.

DISPLAYS

With the help of our curator Rusty Elsass, we are attempting to reorganize our displays. You might want to check out the center room of the doctor's office at one of our summer open houses. Using a donated wardrobe as the centerpiece, we now showcase a variety of clothing from different eras.

Janean Oberlander



Neuman taps keg at Hofbräuhaus

Donned in German attire, trustee Mike Neuman taps the keg of the beer of the month at the Hofbräuhaus in Newport, Kentucky, on Feb. 22. The monthly event was preceded by a ceremonial keg-tapping parade. As the historical society's liaison with the German-American Citizens League of Greater Cincinnati, Mike was asked to do the tapping. Mike also got to sample March's beer, Märzen.

Auglaize County: In Motion

Last year the county, through the Auglaize County Historical Society, was given a \$64,000 heritage tourism grant from Ohio Humanities.

The "In Motion" theme came about as a result of planning meetings with representatives of historical and tourism agencies in the county.

The final step has been developing printed materials and banners. These will include photos of our own historical society related to the movement of our ancestors from Ladbergen, Germany, to New Knoxville.

The program will begin with a roll-out on April 30 for all county historical groups and tourist attractions. You can visit any of these places from 1:00-4:00 on that Sunday.

2016 annual meeting attendees enjoyed delicious dinner, entertainment and information

The 2016 annual meeting proved both entertaining and informative for those who attended.

The venue returned to the First Church Ministry Center to accommodate more people and the entertainment.

The evening began with a dinner catered by Main Street Station. This year's dinner included homemade cabbage rolls, a new addition to the menu.

Dick Valentine, aka local resident and historical society member Gerald Wolfe, entertained the audience during the last part of the dinner, between the two speakers and after the meeting. Listeners enjoyed his Sinatra-style repertoire.

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

about the work of the chamber in promoting southwestern Auglaize County, including New Knoxville.

New Knoxville teacher C.J. Brown enlightened members about the German program at the school. Brown was in his first year at the school and shared some of his background as well as his goals for the German program.

For the past few years,



Jim Egbert of Cincinnati and Myron Fledderjohann, trustee, visit at the annual meeting.

the historical society has co-sponsored a scholarship for an outstanding senior in German. Last year's winner was Rachel Hawkins.



On display at the annual meeting were items donated during the past year. The uniform and other military items belonged to the late Leon Smith.

SLATE OF OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

President - Allen Schroer
Vice President - Janean Oberlander
Secretary - Diane Fledderjohann
Treasurer - Edythe Henschen

Trustees

2015-2018 - Mike Neuman and Todd Spieles
2016-2019 - Leslie Krieg and Doug Hoelscher
2017-2020 - Myron Fledderjohann and Kirk Stienecker

Other 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, Kirk Stienecker

SPEAKER AVAILABLE

Myron Fledderjohann - Genealogy and History

Tours available upon request.
Contact any board member or officer.

Need a site for family pictures? Consider the Heritage Museum



Last fall the Schrolucke and Dirksen families gathered at the historical society grounds for family pictures. Here, Jack and Sarah Schrolucke pose with their three children, Chris, Matt, and Angie in front of the doctor's office.

They also chose the old oak tree and the log cabin as

backgrounds for pictures with the children's family members and Jack and Sarah's grandchildren.

The pictures were taken by Hayley Dillon Miller.

If you are looking for a place for family pictures, the grounds of the Heritage Museum are available any time.

Memorial Plaque honors members who died during the past year

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

Margaret Smith Henschen	March 12, 2016
James Ritter	March 18, 2016
R. Jay Stauffer	May 9, 2016
Addis Katterheinrich	July 17, 2016
Rev. Dr. Armin Kroehler	July 31, 2016
Edith Schroer Maurer	August 16, 2016
Freda Pohlable Kuck	August 27, 2016
Lee Kattman	September 25, 2016
Lucille Johnson Spring	October 16, 2016
Arthur P. Bode	November 11, 2016
Casper Hoelscher	February 28, 2017
M. Jean Hurlburt Prueter	March 2, 2017

New Lifetime Members

Becky Cook, Madison, South Dakota
Dave Cook, Madison, South Dakota
James Deerhake, Columbus, Ohio
Patsy Deerhake, Columbus, Ohio
Ann Henkener, Columbus, Ohio
Devin Kuck, New Knoxville, Ohio
Beverly Reineke, New Knoxville, Ohio
James Reineke, New Knoxville, Ohio
Janet Wellman, New Knoxville, Ohio

*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 2017.
They will be the fourth Sunday of the month,
May through October from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Sunday, May 28	Sunday, June 25
Sunday, July 23	Sunday, August 27
Sunday, September 24	Sunday, October 22

Your Valuable Donations Make Our Historical Society an Active Museum

2016-2017 Partial List of Acquisitions

- *various old pictures
- *New Knoxville yearbooks
- *class play program from senior class of 1959
- *Collection of stories by junior high students - *Who We Were* and
As It might Have Been
- *various old books
- *handmade throw rugs
- *two *Successful Farming* magazines from 1956
- *Boy Scout items from 1950s
- *Girl Scout items
- *two oil cans from Eversman Oil
- *Auglaize County Cemetery Inscriptions: Vol. 4, Book 1
- *Handmade children's jacket with tails
- *Picture of young Fred Grewe in a New Knoxville baseball uniform
- *Framed picture and 1957 calendar from Haberkamp Jewelers
- *Framed picture and 1941 calendar from Eversman Oil Company
- *Framed picture of *Birth of Old Glory* and 1929 calendar from
The Peoples Savings Bank
- *Framed aerial view of New Knoxville
- *American Legion hat owned by Adrian Haberkamp
- *"A Commemorative Collection of German Recipes" from Adolph's -
1986
- *New Knoxville phone books from recent years
- *audio tapes from Kiwanis musicals - 1982 and 1983
- *video tapes from 1986 sesquicentennial celebration
- *video tape from 1992 New Knoxville Christmas celebration
- *video tapes about Ladbergen and German immigration
- *T-shirts related to New Knoxville
- **Settler Lines: Ancestors and Descendants - 1808-2005*
- **History of Auglaize County - Vol. II - 1923*
- *FFA sweater and other school memorabilia belonging to the late
Richard Schwabero

VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED

The historical society can use your help.
Let any officer or trustee know if you are
willing to help mow lawn, clean inside or
outside at the museum, or help with open
houses. We could use your help.

New Knoxville Historical Society

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New Knoxville, OH 45871

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Editor of Historian

Janean Oberlander

Photography

Larry Niemeyer

HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, April 20, 2017 First Church Ministry Center

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

Speaker: Dr. Tim Anderson

“German Immigration to the United States in the 19th Century:
Patterns, Processes and Cultural Landscapes”

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%20society)

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