



Established 1984

www.nktelco.net/historicalsociety

Our Goal Is to PRESERVE AND SHARE OUR HERITAGE

Spring 2018

April 12 is date for annual event

Early homes in New Knoxville focus of annual meeting

A look at several homes then and now in the village of New Knoxville will be the focus of this year's annual meeting.

SITE AND MEAL

First Church's Ministry Center will be the site for the dinner meeting on April 12 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, lemonade and coffee and cookies are included.

COST AND TICKETS

Tickets cost \$13.00 and can be purchased at the Village Market by April 7. 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.

HOMES THEN AND NOW

The idea for this program stems from the September Open House. Through the work of curator Rusty Elsass and photo expert Larry Niemeyer, the two men developed a collection of 26 homes throughout the village that were at least 75 years old.

Posters with these homes and some brief information about them were available for viewing at the September open house and chili dinner.

From this collection, we have chosen some to focus on at the annual meeting.

One example is the home pictured below. Located on North Main Street, next to the post office, the home was originally owned by A. H. Stienecker and built in 1900. In more recent years, it was owned by Leroy and Rachel Kruse.

Do you recognize the 1910 home on the right? It is also located on Main Street and will be featured at the annual meeting. Turn to page 4 to see the home today.

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.



Autumn Heritage Day once again serves up Mike Neuman's chili

A warm, sunny September day greeted visitors to the Historical Society complex as they enjoyed tours of the five buildings, a band concert and Mike Neuman's open kettle chili.

This was the one major open house of the season, and visitors got a chance to see some of the homes in New Knoxville as they appeared years ago and as they appear now.

Twenty-six buildings, used at one time as residences, were showcased. Pictures of homes at least 75 years old were culled by curator Rusty Elsass, and Larry Niemeyer then took pictures of the homes today.

They were then mounted on three poster boards and showcased at the open house.



The New Knoxville High School band performed a concert in September at the open house. In the six years that the band has played at this annual event, the band numbers have increased considerably.



The main display at the open house was these pictures of 26 homes as they looked in their early days and as they appear now. While some were considered to be in the country at the time they were built, today they are all part of the village.

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**

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 is all that's required. So, please, consider joining the New Knoxville Historical Society.

Group tours available

Throughout the year various groups schedule visits at the Heritage Center. Last August visitors from Lienen, Germany, visited the museum on a tour led by Myron Fledderjohann. The visitors were guests of various people in St. Marys, Lienen's sister city. Lienen is located within 20 miles of Ladbergen, the home of many of New Knoxville's early residents.

An annual visit comes from the third graders, who study local history as part of their social studies. While they usually come in the spring, this year Mrs. Janet Eshelman heads just one class, and she chose to bring the students in early October.

While on the tour, the students were responsible for being observant and sharing that when they got back to the classroom. They had to list five artifacts they had seen and note what about New Knoxville had changed.



Top, Mr. Myron Fledderjohann shows the log cabin to guests from Lienen on this warm August day.

Above, Fledderjohann explains the upstairs of the barn, which showcases items used throughout the year by early farmers around New Knoxville.

Top left, teacher Mrs. Janet Eshelman poses with half of her third graders in front of the trophy case in the school room. The trophy case, which used to sit just inside the front entrance to the school was moved to the Heritage Center when the school was renovated.

Far left, Mrs. Janean Oberlander, who showed the third graders the house, doctor's office and summer kitchen, looks at a yearbook with some of the students. **Near left,** Myron Fledderjohann, who led the third graders through the barn and log cabin, talks about the hatchery business, which was a major business in New Knoxville at one time.

Memorabilia from Ben Cook's Store, Adolph's take center stage at museum



These two donated beer bottles were used at the AA Restaurant, operated by Adolph and Lydia Henschen. The couple took over Ben Cook's store in 1936 and offered food in addition to sundry items. They had previously run the Star Restaurant, located behind the Cook store, which can be seen in the photograph.

The two acquisitions pictured above were originally found in the Ben Cook store, built on North Main Street in 1903. The large Rx cabinet is housed in the German/early businesses room. The soda fountain table and chairs were purchased at an auction of local items. The ice cream sundae dishes and glasses for sodas were a donation. The table can be found in the main dining room, which focuses on Ben Cook's store.



This is the home pictured on page 1 circa 1910 as it appears today. Located at 207 S. Main St., it is owned today by Rusty Elsass. The original home lacked the dormer at the front and the large porch across the front. Learn more about how this home changed over the years at the annual meeting on April 12.

Much of year spent improving Heritage Center

Older homes take constant care, and the historical society spent donated time and money this year on improving both the look and the health of the Heritage Center.

A NEW STREET LAMP

The work of board members and other volunteers proved that everything old can be new again as one of the village's street lamps was refurbished and established next to the summer kitchen at the museum. Electricity still has to be hooked up, but once done, the light will be on a timer and provide extra light at night.

THE OLD OAK TREE

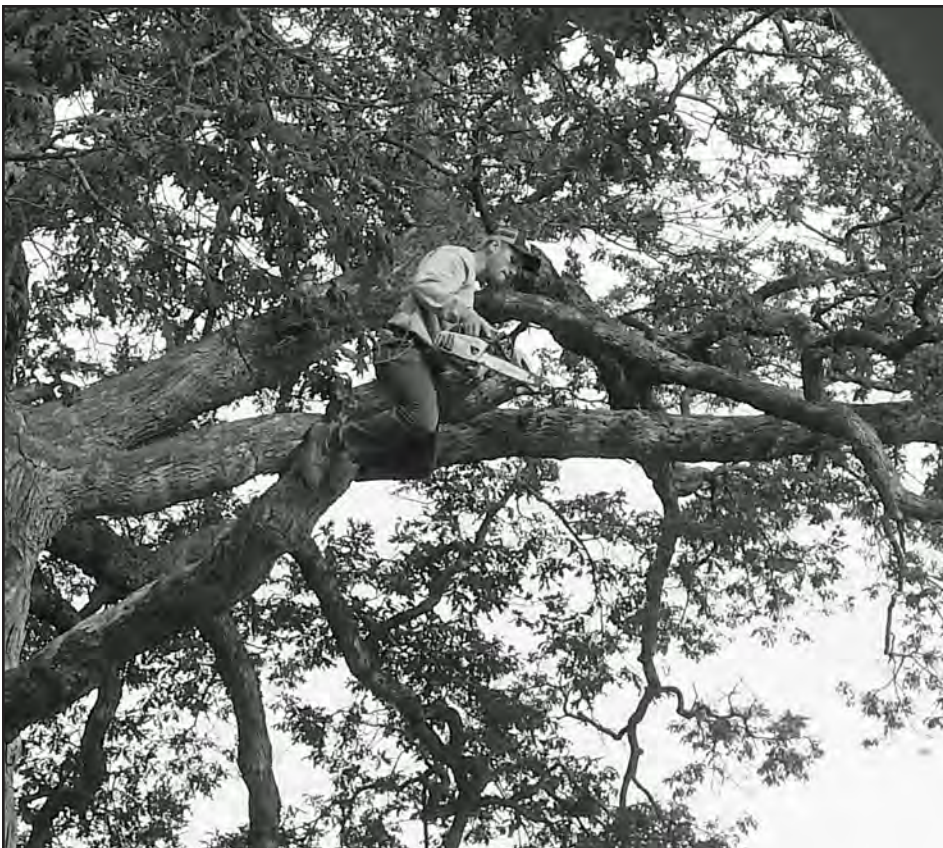
While an effort was made last year to save the tree through mulching and aerating around the trunk, last summer saw lots of watering and trimming as shown in the photograph below. Several dead branches, which caused concern for those who enjoyed the shade of the tree at warm, summer open houses, were removed.

A NEW FURNACE IN THE HOUSE

The old furnace in the house was replaced in the fall. A newer furnace was

purchased from Dick Elsass and installed. Dismantling the old furnace showed those who worked on the project just how badly a newer furnace was needed.

In February Vectren examined the basement for any leaks, and the house got a clean bill of health.



THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE

Concerns about the moisture in the doctor's office led to a good look at several issues. While we are still working on a heating system, we do have a donated heater, which needs to be hooked up to the gas.

Meanwhile, gutters were installed around the base of the roof. Tom Fledderjohann volunteered his time on this project. He also filled in dirt around the base of the office for better drainage. Right now, a window air conditioner will help with the humidity.



Above is one of the ?? banners that traveled to different historical places on the fourth Sunday of every month from May through October. The banners focused on the theme Auglaize County: In Motion, a program organized by the Auglaize County Historical Society and funded by a grant from Ohio Humanities. This particular banner focused on Neil Armstrong, the Auglaize County native who was the first to walk on the moon. New Knoxville's banner showcased the village's chain migration.

Ohio University professor shares knowledge of early German migration at 2017 annual meeting

The 2017 annual meeting brought a speaker to the community to share information about early German migration.

The venue was once again the First Church Ministry Center, and the dinner was catered by Main Street Station.

Dr. Tim Anderson, an associate professor of geography at Ohio University, spoke to the group about early German migration.

Anderson has done extensive research into German



dowment for the Humanities, which finances the Ohio Humanities Council.

At the time President Trump had proposed cutting

SLATE OF OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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

Trustees
2016-2019 - Leslie Krieg and Doug Hoelscher
2017-2020 - Myron Fledderjohann and Kirk Stienecker
2018-2021 - Mike Neuman and Todd Spieles

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, Edythe Henschen

SPEAKER AVAILABLE
 Myron Fledderjohann - Genealogy and History

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



The sign on the left, donated by Jeff and Linda Davis, came from the front of Kuck's IGA store, located on Main Street. The Davises bought the property and now use it for Davis's business. The sign served as a backdrop for items donated during the past year that were on display at the annual meeting on April 20.

immigration from northwest Germany, including a doctoral dissertation on Westphalia, Missouri, a German-Catholic town founded about the time New Knoxville was.

Anderson talked about the push factors and the pull factors that affected the migration of millions of Germans to America, especially in the mid-1800's. The push factors were the poor economy in Germany that led to barriers for Germans to own land.

The pull factors were the lure of land and land ownership.

Anderson's presentation was made possible through a grant from the National En-

dowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts and Public Broadcasting.

Anderson told Sidney *Daily News* reporter Art Barnes, "I understand that budgets are tight," but he noted that the three agencies' funds "account for such a small part of the budget. I can almost draw a parallel between the current rise of American populism being similar to the (economic and political) revolutions in 19th century Europe."

Congress voted to keep the funding, but the 2019 budget proposals again asked to eliminate funding.

Hummingbirds at the Museum



Stanley Wietholter captured this picture of two hummingbird fledglings before they left

their nest in the oak tree last summer.

Memorial Plaque honors members who died during the past year

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

Phyllis Grace Johnson	January 19, 2017
Eileen Fosnight Fledderjohann	March 13, 2017
Dale Grimes Sr.	March 14, 2017
Wilma Schmidt Lammers	April 6, 2017
Shirley Buesing Hoge	June 22, 2017
Norma Whetstone Poppe	July 1, 2017
Henry Lageman	August 12, 2017
Lola Kipp Shopp	November 25, 2017
H. Marie Rowland Haberkamp	December 7, 2017
Annabelle Herron Kuck	February 17, 2018

New Lifetime Members

Rosalyn Eschmeyer Black, Naples, Florida
 Richard N. Dawson, Cleveland, Ohio
 Kay Hoge, Flemington, New Jersey
 Patricia Settlage Isbell, Magnolia, Texas
 Benita Kuhlman, Avon, South Dakota
 Paul Kuhlman, Avon, South Dakota
 Paul Maurer, New Knoxville, Ohio
 Shirley Schafer Maurer, New Knoxville, Ohio
 Susan Henschen Stemen, Lima, Ohio
 Donna Hegemier Tinnerman, New Knoxville, Ohio
 John Wellman, Elida, Ohio

Do you live on a century farm—one that has been in your family for at least 100 years? If so, let us know. This year's annual meeting focuses on 100-year-old homes in the village, but we are interested in farms around the community for a possible future annual meeting. Contact any board member to share information about your farm.

Visit us during our open houses in 2018.
 They will be the fourth Sunday of the month,
 May through October from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Sunday, May 27	Sunday, June 24
Sunday, July 22	Sunday, August 26
Sunday, September 23	Sunday, October 28

Your Valuable Donations Make Our Historical Society an Active Museum

2017-2018 Partial List of Acquisitions

- *two framed pictures of Cook/Mahn wedding and confirmation
- *1907 Mahn Memorial Heart, framed, & 1913 Viola Mahn calendar
- *Venneman-Cook framed family photo
- *1920 Peterjohn Reunion material
- *1916 photos and graduation items
- *Bill Hoge's Army uniform
- *New Knoxville Detjen Grain feed sack
- *Framed class composite of the Class of 1963
- *Roll of school menus
- *Painting by Dr. Richard Harbord
- *Pieces from the Hall Store in New Knoxville
- *Kraut slicer
- *Handled basket
- *Holtkamp pen case
- *1950's flashlight
- *1945 *Evening Leader* with story about release of POWs Homer Kuck and Zelotes Eschmeyer
- *Kiwanis programs from 1983 & 1984 on VHS tapes
- *New Knoxville Historical Society grand opening on DVD
- *Large number of billing letterheads
- *Flat top steamer trunk
- *Wooden barrel marked Sanitite Barrels
- *1925 Wagner Ware waffle press
- *Silver-plated, aluminum and glass sundae dishes
- *Eight old beer bottles from Adolph's Restaurant
- *Various paper and other items from Haberkamp's Jewelry Store
- *1963 Farm-O-Rama brochure
- *June Jubilee 1984 program
- *Church and community booklets and brochures
- *1970's Stroh beer sign
- *Blue paint rack, paint boxes, cans, sticks, opener from Haberkamp Store
- *Early local kitchen utensils and crocks
- *Early local photos
- *Pyropak Employee Pamphlet from 1975
- *School newspapers and basketball programs
- *Numerous Memoirs

VOLUNTEER LAWN MOWERS NEEDED

The historical society is looking for volunteers to help mow lawn during the summer. All equipment is provided. Call Larry Niemeyer (419-753-2215) or Allen Schroer (419-953-0677) if you are willing to help.

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 12, 2018 First Church Ministry Center

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

New Knoxville Homes Then and Now

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 Edythe Henschen at 419-753-2104 or
07652 St. Rt. 219, 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.