



Established 1984

[www.nktelco.net/historical society](http://www.nktelco.net/historical%20society)

Our Goal Is to PRESERVE AND SHARE OUR HERITAGE

Spring 2020

2020 annual meeting will honor Post 444 of American Legion on its 100th anniversary

On May 3, 1920, a group of WW I veterans held the first organizational meeting of Post 444 of the New Knoxville American Legion.

One hundred years later the historical society board has decided to honor an organization that has contributed so much to the community.

One month after its founding, George Holtkamp was chosen commander for the 26 young veterans that met to join the Legion for \$3.50.

The evening of celebration, scheduled for April 16, begins with a buffet dinner at 6:00. A short business meeting and program begins at 7:00. Anyone who wishes to attend the program but not the meal is welcome to come at 7:00.

MEAL

The meal, catered by Main Street Station, begins at 6:00 P.M. On the menu is beef, chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, California blend, cole slaw, roll and cookies. Water, lemonade and coffee are available.

COST AND TICKETS

Tickets cost \$15.00 and can be

purchased at the Village Market by April 11. 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.

LEGION INFORMATION

Before the group even formed, members bought the old creamery (pictured below) from Kramer and Dickman on Feb. 17, 1920.



It wasn't until 1931 that the old creamery was renovated for the post. (See photo on the right.)

During the 1930's a public pond

was constructed on the grounds and proved to be a popular spot.



Ground was broken on Sept. 15, 1972, for the Legion as we know it today. It was dedicated May 13, 1973.

The last surviving charter member, Elmer Katterheinrich, died in 1985. He had been a past commander.

Today Legion members are joined by the American Legion Auxiliary, organized in 1932, and the Sons of the American Legion.





Left, a remodel of Dickman-Kramer creamery became the home of the American Legion until 1973 when a new facility was built in the same location, as seen above.

Restoring and decorating house after fire continues

While it has been over a year since soot covered all the items in the house from a fire in a dehumidifier in the basement,

restoring and redecorating the house is still incomplete. Curator Rusty Elsass worked on the two smaller rooms on the west

side of the house during the past year.

The goal is to display with more uniformity than in

the past.

On this page and the next are pictures from those two rooms.



Above and top right, the military is the focus of the south side of the room. Uniforms hang on the wall as well as the two above from WW I and WW II. In the display case is also a framed picture of the American Legion members taken several years ago.



Above, the north side of the room focuses on the churches in New Knoxville. This includes pictures as well as booklets and objects of the past. Most of the items in this picture focus on the larger church in the village—Evangelical and Reformed Church, later called the United Church of Christ, and recently called First Church.

LOOKING FOR DONATIONS

Board hopes to install air conditioner in house

It's been almost two years since the damage from a faulty dehumidifier spewed soot throughout the house at the historical society. While insurance covered the restoration of nearly everything in the house, and a new furnace was installed, a dehumidifier has not been used again.

During the past year the board has been exploring the possibility of air conditioning the house. The climate-controlled atmosphere would help with the preservation of both the house and the materials on display.

The board did approve the purchase of a new system, costing \$3100. An air filter system would cost another \$600. New Knoxville Supply has been awarded the contract.

According to Rusty Elsass, who is working on the project, the air system is applied through the existing furnace system. It is a separate system that channels through the fan and duct work.

While the historical society has enough money at this time to finance a new air conditioning system, our expenses have consistently been more than our income, and that is why we are seeking donations for the system.

Any amount will help. See any board member if you want to donate or send your donation to the New Knoxville Historical Society at P.O. Box 372 and note what your donation is for.



Top, the display case in the German/early business room shows early items that came from Germany. **Above**, the north wall shows a case from Adolph's as well as pictures and items from early New Knoxville. **Right**, the southeast corner of the room shows early fire fighting equipment and early barber items.



Board Member Retires

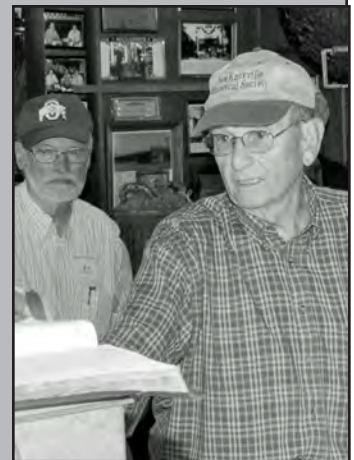
Long-time historical society expert, Myron Fledderjohann will retire from the board at the end of April.

Fledderjohann has promoted the historical society and its grounds over the years and is an expert on the history of the community.

During his 25 years on the historical board, he served as vice president for 10 terms, president for five and trustee for 10. He has always been available for tours and will still be in the future.

If there was an open house in the summer, we could be assured that Myron would be there to share his wisdom.

Everyone wishes Myron the best.



Shelby County celebrates 200th anniversary, brings traveling exhibit to August open house

A sign separating Auglaize from Shelby County lies only half a mile south of New Knoxville. Part of the village's telephone lines, mail route and school district lie in Shelby County. In fact, two of the 11 one-room schools in the district were in Shelby County.

At the August open house, a traveling exhibit from Shelby County, celebrating its 200th anniversary was at the only village in Auglaize County.

The exhibit went to several communities in Shelby County throughout the year and was available at the Shelby County Fair.

Right, Shelby County's traveling museum sits on the historical society grounds on August 25. Visitors to the open house had a chance to learn more about the county's history with a trip through the traveling museum.

Below, visitors could learn historical information on the sign boards about different subjects in Shelby County during the past 200 years.



Photos provided by Mike Neuman



Tilda Philpot spoke at the annual meeting, sharing how Shelby County was celebrating its 200th anniversary and notifying attendees of the August open house in New Knoxville where there will be a traveling exhibit.



Rev. Jim Egbert was the person who suggested the annual meeting include a dinner. He was key in planning a German dinner served by members of the German Club at New Knoxville. Rev. Egbert, who was a host at the Hofbrau Haus near Cincinnati and moved to Elmwood in New Bremen recently, died July 10. He was a regular at the annual meetings after 2013.

September open house once again features band, open kettle chili

Once again the September open house offered free chili, crackers, corn bread, and cookies to those who came out on a warm September afternoon to enjoy a band concert, tour the five buildings and see pictures of the former residents of the complex.

The band, directed by Cory Canan, performed about a half-hour concert that ended with the New Knoxville fight song.

Visitors could also partake of Mike Neuman's open kettle chili and spend the afternoon under the oak tree

visiting or touring the buildings.

Along the way, curator Rusty Elsass set up pictures and information about the Fledderjohanns, the first residents of the house and daughter Zella and her eventual husband Ferd Eversman.



Above left, attendees at the September open house sit under the oak tree as they eat chili and listen to the band in the background. **Above right**, visitors were greeted by pictures of the house as it appeared in the early part of the 20th century and by residents enjoying the grounds. These were strategically placed throughout the grounds.



Diane Fledderjohann and Edythe Henschen man the table with items visitors could take to accompany their chili. They were positioned at the doorway to the barn, so visitors could tour the barn, too, as they are in the background. Diane serves as historical society secretary. Edythe has served as treasurer for the past eight years and is retiring after the annual meeting. She also served on the board before that.

Recommended Slate of Officers

President	Todd Spieles
Vice President	Janean Oberlander
Secretary	Diane Fledderjohann
Treasurer	Teresa Bambauer
Trustees	
2020-2023	Kirk Stienecker Ron Weaver

Trustees and Board Members already serving

2018-2021	Mike Neuman Allen Schroer
2019-2022	Doug Hoelscher Devin Kuck (ap- pointed by board)
Curator & Cataloging	Rusty Elsass

Photographer & Historical records Larry Niemeyer

2019 annual meeting pays tribute to the first man on the moon

Gary Katterheinrich, former manager of New Knoxville's Neil Armstrong Airport, and Dante Centuori, executive director of Wapakoneta's Armstrong Museum, entertained attendees at the New Knoxville Historical Society's annual meeting held April 11, 2019, at First Church Ministry Center.

Katterheinrich, who knew Armstrong personally and who was there when he flew home and landed his plane at the airport, entertained the audience with stories he remembered from his encounters with either Armstrong or his father Stephen.

Katterheinrich also managed the airport when Armstrong surprised everyone by showing up at an airshow, celebrating the 25th anniversary of

the moon landing.

Centuori, who has now served as executive director for over a year, told attendees about changes in the museum and the week-long celebration

of the moon landing, held in Wapakoneta.

The museum now houses an educational wing for young people to learn about the space program.



Dante Centuori, executive director of the Armstrong Air and Space Museum, and Gary Katterheinrich, former director of New Knoxville's Neil Armstrong Airport, entertained the crowd with facts and personal remembrances of Neil Armstrong.



Two tables of Neil Armstrong newspaper clippings and memorabilia flanked the speakers' table at the annual meeting. This table also advertised the air show at the Neil Armstrong Airport in New Knoxville where Armstrong made a surprise visit.

After 35 years of helping with the New Knoxville Historical Society in various capacities, Karen Meckstroth Niemeyer decided to retire. Here, she receives a floral arrangement from vice president Janean Oberlander on behalf of the historical society as a thank you for her years of service.



Historical society president Allen Schroer presided over the evening. Schroer completed his third year as president. After three years as president, Schroer asked to step down and will take Todd Spieles's spot as trustee. Spieles agreed to take the president's spot.

Memorial Plaque honors members who died during the past year

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

Donna Eschmeyer Larson	March 11, 2019
Frieda (Sue) Hooper Hoge	April 28, 2019
D. Edwin Oberlander	June 15, 2019
Mary Mattes Deerhake	June 23, 2019
Rev. James Egbert	July 10, 2019
Ned Niemeyer	September 19, 2019
Adrian Kuck	October 12, 2019
Eldred Elshoff	November 7, 2019
Rev. Marvin Deerhake	November 27, 2019
Don Stienecker	December 4, 2019
Lela Schrolucke Van Leuvan	December 27, 2019

New Lifetime Members

Charles Braden; New Knoxville, Ohio
 Judy Braden; New Knoxville, Ohio
 Jayne Hoffman; River Falls, Wisconsin
 Diane Maxson; New Knoxville, Ohio
 Nicholas Maxson; New Knoxville, Ohio

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

Checks may be mailed to

Teresa Bambauer

09798 St. Rt. 219, New Knoxville, OH 45871

Visit us during our open houses in 2020.
 They will be the fourth Sunday of the month,
 May through October from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Sunday, May 24

Sunday, July 26

Sunday, September 27

Sunday, June 28

Sunday, August 23

Sunday, October 25

*Your Valuable Donations Make
 Our Historical Society an Active Museum*

2019-2020 Partial List of Acquisitions

- *E&R & UCC membership booklets from '48, '72, '94, 2000-2008
- *1951 *Life* magazine on "Great American Churches"
- *1860 German hymnals and 1876 book
- *Church Bibles and booklets
- *1938 E & R church centennial booklet
- *1968 UCC church Christmas cards
- *1954 NKYAA programs
- *1948 biology book
- *1902 geography book
- *1924 reading report booklet
- *1928 first grade reading certificates
- *1911 second grade and 1908 third grade certificates
- *1940's NKHS letterman's sweaters
- *1946 district champ patch
- *1921 reading diploma
- *1925 & '29 high school certificates
- *1926 Hoge Brush School yard picture
- *NKHS ceramic school building
- *1986, 1994, 1995 New Knoxville yearbooks
- *Multiple NK documents, papers and booklets
- *1957 Cheery Sunbeams 4-H booklet
- *Hoge Lumber Company sales booklet and nail apron
- *1940's Hoge Lumber Company envelopes and billings
- *Advertisement pieces from Eversman Oil, Peoples Bank, Henkener Pure Oil, Chic's Grocery, Brookside Dairy, Dr. Wolfe
- *1906 Farmers Home Mutual Fire Insurance ledger
- *1958 Lock Two Mills record report
- *Woods Gift Shop novelty gift item
- *1921 Eversman Meat Market sales slip
- *1910 photo of K & K Sawmill
- *Peoples Savings Bank Christmas Club Santa banks from 1870's
- *1957 Community Singers record and photo
- *1936 Centennial book and 1986 Sesquicentennial book
- *1976 village book published during country's Bicentennial
- *Grimes ceramic photo scrapbooks, pottery plates, pitchers, vases
- *Fall Festival parade photos; many vintage photos
- *2019 congratulations from Ladbergen on Neil Armstrong anniversary
- *Early wedding dress
- *Detjen Grain eggbox carrier
- *Very old electric meter
- *Old New Knoxville photo album and many vintage photos

Single - \$10/Year

\$50/Lifetime

Couple - \$18/Year

\$100/Lifetime

Student - \$1/Year

New Knoxville Historical Society

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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 16, 2020 First Church Ministry Center

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

Honoring 100 years of Post 444 of the American Legion

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 Teresa Bambauer at 419-753-2759 or
09798 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%20society)

ADDRESS CHANGE

Notify Janean Oberlander of a change of address in one of the following ways:

P.O. Box 372, New Knoxville, OH 45871 or phone at 419-753-2077 or e-mail at joberlander@nktelco.net.