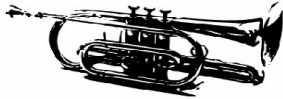


NEW HOLLAND

Area Historical Society



Volume 11 Issue 4

Fall 2015

The Tragic Kinzer Fire of 1911

Submitted by Brian Frankhouser

William Weidler Kinzer was a direct descendant of one of the earliest settlers in the New Holland area. He grew up on the family farm south of town and married Louisa Scott in 1856. The couple continued to farm until the birth of their youngest child in 1874. Maybe W. W. Kinzer became tired of farming or he just wanted to move his four children to town so they could attend the new school in New Holland, but either way the move was a step up for his family. The home they were moving into was one of the finest in town and was planned and built by W. W. Kinzer himself. In 1890 when his two sons, William and George, were ready to enter the workforce, W. W. Kinzer bought the lumberyard on the east side of Brickyard Lane (now Brimmer Avenue) from Theophilus Hiestand. The business was called "Wm. Kinzer & Bro." until 1898 when William left the firm. The lumberyard name was changed to "W. W. Kinzer & Son" until W. W. Kinzer died in 1900. The same year the business was expanded to the west side of the street. (Author's note: for a more complete story of the lumberyard, visit the research center of the NHAHS museum to access the "History of Musselman Lumber".)

In 1896, youngest son, George, married Mary F. Jessop of York, Pa. The young couple moved into the west side of the Kinzer mansion. This was where they started their family and where they would call home until March 7, 1911.

March 7, 1911 was a cold and blustery day. The widow, Louisa Kinzer, who lived in the east side of the mansion, spent the early part of the afternoon on the back porch with her domestic help cleaning a shawl with gasoline.

When she finished, she told her maid she was going inside to warm her hands by the stove. Minutes later the gasoline fumes from her hands exploded and burned over 70% of her body. She was rushed to Lancaster General Hospital by the fastest transportation possible... the 2:30 trolley. She died within several hours.

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OUR PURPOSE

To organize and preserve information and historical items that give insight to understanding the life and times of the New Holland area and sharing these finds with others.

The winds were blowing from the east that day, and fed the fire that quickly consumed the entire house. When George W. Kinzer arrived home from Philadelphia that fateful day, he found that he had lost not only his mother, but most of his personal possessions. By July, Kinzer sold the lumberyard to Samuel and George Musselman. The next year he built a new home at 315 East Main Street (this later became Beck's Funeral Home). By 1914, George Kinzer moved to Ephrata, and lived his final years there as a successful developer and building contractor.



Early photo circa 1907, looking east towards Kinzer Avenue. The Kinzer mansion was the first house on the right. The second house from the right was owned by W. W. Kinzer's brother, Benjamin Franklin Kinzer



View from the intersection of Main Street and Kinzer Avenue showing the remains of the home shortly after the fire was extinguished (burned out). The smoke still lingers and there are still walls in danger of falling.



After the smoke cleared, the walls that were in danger of falling were knocked down. Notice the size of the pile of bricks on the left compared to the first view. This is the most common photo of the aftermath of the tragedy because it was published on a postcard.

NHHS CLASS OF 48' REACHES MARKS A MILESTONE

The New Holland High School Class of 1948 recently held their 67th year Class Reunion at the Eden Resort in Lancaster. The graduating class in June of 48' consisted of thirty-five members. Nineteen of those graduates are still living. The recent Reunion was the final planned gathering of the class and all members present elected to disperse their remaining treasury by way of a donation to the New Holland Area Historical Society. The Board of Trustees thanks the Class of 48' for this contribution which enables the Society's efforts of preserving the history of New Holland and the surrounding area.

NHAHS BUSINESS PARTNERS ALLIANCE

HERITAGE PARTNER **CASE NEW HOLLAND – Fix My Computer 123
Garden Spot Village**

BUSINESS PARTNER **PowerPro Equipment - Goodville Mutual Casualty Company**

BENEFACTORS **Gene and Mary Lowry – Charles and Jane Zimmerman**

If you would like to become a Partner, please contact one of the Trustees. Thank You!

NHAHS TO PUBLISH BOOK ON ED NOLT'S LIFE

Submitted by Don Horning

Ed Nolt is a very familiar name around New Holland. He is thought by many to have invented the New Holland Baler. This is a partial truth since he did invent the first viable baler to be used in the field rather than in a stationary position. Stories abound about Ed's prowess and his quiet demeanor, some true, some partially true and some folklore. Additionally, Ed's retiring manner and desire for confidentiality resulted in misconceptions and misunderstandings by those close to him. Finally, Ed's legacy was fast fading. All these factors contributed to NHAHS decision to pursue the writing of a book about Ed. Enter Allen Shirk who as a senior at Eastern Mennonite College was instructed by his Professor to write a paper about a Mennonite entrepreneur. A young Allen boldly knocked on Ed's door and his request for an interview was uncharacteristically granted. Now, some fifty years later, Allen is the author of THE STORY OF ED NOLT'S NEW HOLLAND BALER – "Everything just went right". NHAHS is pleased to preserve this piece of New Holland history. Certainly without Ed Nolt, it is very likely the name New Holland would not be known around the world as it is today.

See following page for book release event. Books will be available in the Museum after October 22.

Self Tying

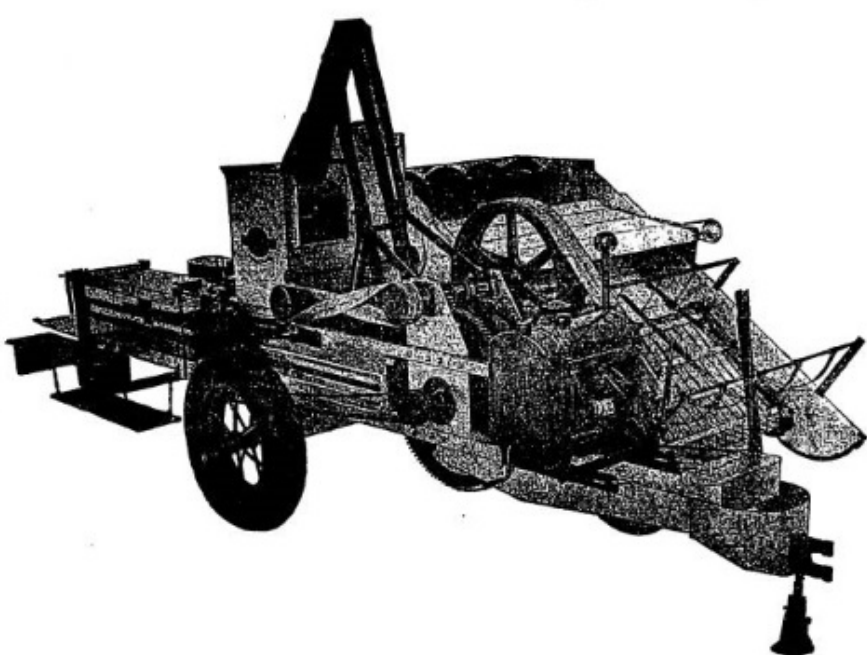
The 'New Holland' Pick-up Baling Press

Self Feeding

NO BLOCKS TO DROP

NO STOPS TO CLEAN FEED HOLE

LESS LABOR AND GREATER CAPACITIES



NO WIRE TROUBLES

USES STRONG CHEMICALLY TREATED TWINE

LIGHTER BALES. MORE EASILY HANDLED AND OPENED

LIMESTONE PULVERIZERS

JAW CRUSHERS

ROLL CRUSHERS

HAMMER CRUSHERS

ELEVATORS

THE NEW HOLLAND LINE INCLUDES

ENGINES—DIESEL AND GAS FEED MILLS WARM AIR FURNACES

BELTING—RUBBER AND CANVAS CASTINGS—GREY AND WHITE IRON

REVOLVING SCREENS

VIBRATING SCREENS

BELT CONVEYORS

VEE BELT DRIVES

POWER LAWN MOWERS

New Holland Machine Company

New Holland, Lancaster County, Pa.



Swiss Pioneer Preservation Associates
&
New Holland Area Historical Society

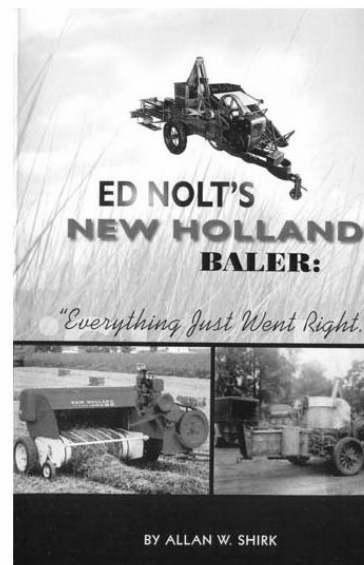
PRESENT

Author's Reflections of
Ed Nolt's New Holland Baler
"Everything Just Went Right."

Thursday, October 22, 2015 7:00 PM
Martindale Mennonite Fellowship Center
352 Martindale Road; Ephrata, PA 17522

Speaker: Allan W. Shirk

Book Release and Signing: New book:
"Ed Nolt's New Holland Baler, *"Everything just went right"*
Author: Allan W. Shirk



"Join us for an interesting presentation of Allan's reflections on the life of Ed Nolt, how his early life shaped him and the resources and relationships that allowed him to develop the baler. Learn why, in spite of the struggle, he summed up his life, "Everything just went right."

Also available: *Mr. Fisher's Company, History of New Holland 1940-1985* Authored by the late Ivan Glick
Other book Sales by: Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society

Public Welcome! A free-will offering will be taken for expenses of the meeting and further educational programs by SPPA and NHAHS.

For more information contact:
New Holland Area Historical Society, Don Horning (717) 538-3079
or Raymond Zimmerman (717) 354-7139

NEW HOLLAND

Area Historical Society



PO Box 464 New Holland PA 17557
www.NhHistorical.com



St Stephen Church Steeple is being partially dismantled before it's lowered to the ground for a complete renovation. In lieu of the cemetery tour this year, our program will focus on the Steeple and history of the building October 10, 6 PM at the church. 249 E Main St.

The New Holland Area Historical Society Museum is available for your class get together, baby shower, wedding shower or other similar event! It is a great venue with lots of ambience in the historic 18th century Kauffman's Hardware building. Contact Wilbur Horning for more information 717-575-3148 or by e-mail whorning118@Comcast.net

SOCIETY MEETINGS - 2015

Here is the list of the upcoming events:

October 10 – Saturday 6 PM St. Stephen Church. Program about the steeple history, renovation and a review of the building history and stained-glass windows.

October 20 – Tuesday 7 PM Garden Spot Village Chapel. “Kinship Concealed” A story of Jacob and John Mast, a presentation of the book by Dwight E Roth co-author, Professor from Wheaton College in Kansas. The event is also sponsored by the Caernarvon Historical Society [Churchtown]

October 22 – see page 4 and 5 of this newsletter for a very important event.

November, December – no program

The Museum is open weekly, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10 AM-2 PM. 207 E. Main Street. For those who have trouble with stairs, there is an elevator at the rear entrance of the building. There is no regular admission charge for the Museum [donations accepted].