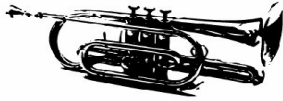


NEW HOLLAND

Area Historical Society



See important note on page 6 concerning the coronavirus!

Volume 16 Issue 2

Spring 2020

NEW EXHIBIT TO OPEN MID-APRIL

Submitted by Lou Ann C. Miller

Do you know what happened in 1895? Grover Cleveland was President, Jello Company was established, volleyball was invented and New Holland became incorporated as a Borough. "A Glimpse of Life in 1895, New Holland," our new display, will open mid-March, with items used during the late Victorian Period and highlight events that were happening in 1895. The Victorian Era lasted from 1837-1901. Both display cases and a parlor vignette are set up for visitors. The displays will be the backdrop for our Happy Birthday Party and Thank You Reception for our friends and neighbors. Our Museum would not have grown nor displays have happened without the generosity of community members. The following individuals and businesses have given us temporary custody of their possessions: Bonnie Blevins, Connie Greer, Brian and Ruth Frankhouser, Lou Ann Miller, Judy Maurice, New Holland Borough Manager, New Holland Band, Kaye Raffensberger, Mike Ressler, The Tannery, Village Doll Hospital, Nancy and Bob Weaver.

The displays were designed and created by Audrey Koller, Kaye Raffensberger, Judy Maurice and Lou Ann Miller.

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MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of the New Holland Area Historical Society is to collect, organize, and preserve information and historical materials that give insight to understanding the life and times of the New Holland area and to share these findings with others through Museum exhibits, lectures, and educational outreach programs.



Some of what the museum will have on display as we recognize the 1895 incorporation of town

NEW HOLLAND MACHINE COMPANY EXHIBIT REFRESHED

Submitted by Don Horning

This year the New Holland Machine Company (NHMC) turns 125! In 1895 Abram Zimmerman opened a small machine shop on North Railroad Avenue just north of the present Cemetery. Soon, success caused the shop to be outgrown and a new building was opened on Franklin Street. The New Holland Machine Company thrived and then met with difficult times as new methods and technology followed by the Great Depression ate away at their core business. Enter Ed Nolt and his new knotter invention on the hay baler and the NHMC changed forever. The Sperry Corporation, Ford Motor Co. and Case-New Holland took ownership positions but the name New Holland was and is the name known around the world when farm machinery is talked about. Honoring this milestone, the Museum has refreshed and renewed the NHMC exhibit. The exhibit features the 1895-1940 “foundry” period, the 1935/37 “Ed Nolt Invention Period” followed by the 1938/40 years of Arthur Young’s first production of the hay baler. Then on to the 1940 thru 1970 “Sperry Period” which continues to be the years of nostalgia NHMC is fondly remembered by. Many photos, historical New Holland Line magazines (which may be handled), and much memorabilia make the exhibit a “walk through history” of the NHMC. Also added is a public library section of NHMC information, pamphlets, brochures etc. which may be perused.

Stop by the Museum to see the new look and be sure to page through the binders on the library shelf to relive the 1940 to 1980 years that put New Holland on the world map.

Widening Main Street in New Holland

Submitted by Brian Frankhouser

When Michael Diffenderfer laid out 25 lots in the village of “New Design” in the 1750’s, each tract included land on both sides of Main Street (from Brimmer Avenue to Custer Avenue) with dwelling houses built on the north side of the street. All of the early deeds provided an allowance for the road (Main Street) to be one perch, or 16½, feet wide. The street was well traveled, especially from east to west, and it soon became obvious that it was too narrow to handle all the traffic. In 1795, a new proclamation reestablished the road width to be two perches (33 feet). Unfortunately, by 1795, many of the lot owners sold land on the south side of the street and houses were built close to the curb. It would take 130 years before Main Street was widened to what we recognize today!

At the beginning of the 20th century, the house at 112 East Main Street still extended into the street. Local dentist, Samuel Zell, was paid \$350 by the borough, \$50 by Conestoga Trolley, and \$50 by the Turnpike Co. to remove the house from the street.

The last widening project occurred in the 1924 on the south side of the 200 block of East Main Street. The following houses were razed:

220 East Main Street – The old frame cottage at this site was occupied by the Holl (later Hull) family from 1826 until 1910. Wendell Holl was a partner with James Darrow in the shoemaking business for many years. The last occupant of the house was local shoemaker, Cyrus Mentzer, who sold the property to Wright’s Bakery in 1924. Wright’s tore down the old cottage and it is now an empty lot.

226 East Main Street (numbered 224 in earlier years) – In the early years, this brick building was called the “Green Tree Hotel”. Local merchant, Gabriel Davis, lived here from 1832 until 1855 when he moved with a colony of local families to Sterling, Illinois. In 1891, Mary S. Storb

purchased the mansion for her daughter, Ella Kohler (wife of Dr. John Kohler). Ella lived here until 1924. Eli Hess bought the property after selling his store to Noah Trimmer. His new "retirement home" built on the site in 1927 still stands.

228 East Main Street – This old bungalow was most famous for being the home of Anthony Carpenter, Sr. for the last three years of his life. Ella Kohler purchased the property in 1924 and built the solid brick home for herself that still stands on the site. She died in 1940, and two years later the property was sold to Dick Brubaker. Many of us remember "Brubaker Sewing" in the basement.

After the old houses were razed, the south curb of Main Street was straightened between the Farmers National Bank at 210 East Main Street and the Roseboro house at 236 East Main Street.



1914 photo looking from east to west shows the obvious intrusion on Main Street of the old brick cottage at 228 East Main Street (left side of photo)



1924 photo looking from west to east shows the beginning stages of razing the shoemakers' house at 220 East Main Street



2020 photo shows (from left to right) 228 East Main St., 226 East Main St., and the empty lot at 220 East Main St.

ONE ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE PROJECT CONTINUES

Submitted by Lou Ann C. Miller

Our ONE ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE DISPLAY has been a favorite stopping place since it was first opened in 2015. Since the original idea, the project has grown and increased its influence into the lives of second graders in ELANCO School District.

Working with the School District, we produced a 20 minute video of a School Marm explaining life in schools 125 years ago. That time period corresponds to the incorporation of New Holland as a borough. The video is jointly owned by the Historical Society and the School District.

A team of Historical Society members visited each school to introduce the video and provide teacher-friendly lesson plans to all second grade teachers. The following year, the Schoolmarm visited Blue Ball Elementary to follow up the video with a personal visit. The students enjoyed examining a basket of artifacts including a school bell, slates, coal, lunch kettle, a dunce cap and more. Each child was given an apple, just like their counterparts would have enjoyed for lunch 125 years ago.

After a lapse of two years, the program is back and even more student-centered than before. All second grade classes in the District are now involved. After the visit, the artifacts are left in the buildings for two to three weeks for teachers to do learning centers with the students and allow each student time with the objects.

This year, if students write a letter to the Schoolmarm, she hand writes individual letters to each child and attaches a picture of Main Street circa 1906. The students were excited to learn about local history, handle the artifacts and receive a personal letter with the picture from the Schoolmarm, also know as Lou Ann Miller. With the excitement of the teachers and students, the program will continue next year. Building on the enthusiasm of the students and the teacher interest, a team of Historical Society members are contemplating a similar program in the intermediate grades, either fourth or fifth grades.

The Historical Society is not a staid institution, but an exciting organization continuing its outreach in the Community.



3rd grade teacher Susan Aldrich with students from Blue Ball elementary after watching and learning from our Schoolmarm Lou Ann Miller pictured on the right

NHAHS BUSINESS PARTNERS ALLIANCE

HERITAGE PARTNER CASE NEW HOLLAND – M & T Bank – Garden Spot Village

Ranck Family Heritage Society – New Holland American Legion Post 662

George & Nancy Weaver – Geoff & Cathy Class

John and Sharon Sheaffer – Chester County Solid Waste Authority

BUSINESS PARTNER Goodville Mutual Casualty Company, Good's Store Inc

BENEFACTORS Gene & Mary Lowry, Charles & Jane Zimmerman

New Holland Lions Club, New Holland Kiwanis Club, Don Horning, Elizabeth Hahn

Ray Bair, Wilbur & Bert Horning and Steve Loewen

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

Cut here and return to address below.

NEW HOLLAND AREA HISTORICAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Type of membership requested (please check one)

_____ Lifetime Membership (\$500) _____ Annual Corporate Membership (\$100)

_____ Annual Individual/Household Membership (\$20) \$_____ Other Gift

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone: () _____ E-mail: _____

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. Please make check payable to NHAHS and mail with this application to:

New Holland Area Historical Society, PO box 464, New Holland PA 17557

NEW HOLLAND

Area Historical Society



PO Box 464 New Holland PA 17557

www.NhHistorical.com



Thank you Don Horning for refreshing the New Holland Machine Company display. See the story on page 2

Important Update on the NHAHS Response to the COVID-19 Outbreak

In response to the public health concerns because of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak, the NHAHS Museum is temporarily closed. A reopening date will be announced based on guidance from federal and state authorities. We regret closing the Museum just as we were about to open a new and exciting exhibit celebrating our borough's 125th anniversary but the health and safety of our community is our priority. Please visit our website at nhhistorical.com for updates on the Museum's reopening and on our monthly historical programs held at Garden Spot Village.

When we reopen the Museum, watch for announcements of a "125" birthday party for New Holland celebrating 125 years of the date of incorporation of our town. This should not be confused with the original founding of New Holland in 1728.

SOCIETY MEETINGS - 2020

Historical Society Meetings are held in the Chapel of Garden Spot Village 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Here is the list of the upcoming dates:

These upcoming programs will probably be postponed because of the virus. Hopefully we will be able to reschedule them.

April 16, 2020 "A trip back to the world of tomorrow the 1939/1940 New York Worlds Fair" by Brett Snyder from the Salisbury Historical Society. Don't miss this one!

May 21, 2020 "Weaving and Tape Making" by Susan Weaver

June, July, August, no program at Garden Spot Village Chapel