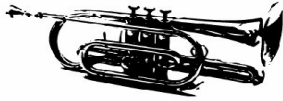
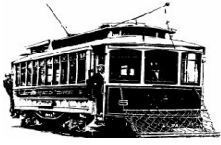


NEW HOLLAND

Area Historical Society



Volume 17 Issue 3

Summer 2021

Extreme Winter Weather in New Holland

Submitted by Brian Frankhouser

When you get tired of the warm weather this season and are looking forward to the winter and some snow, be careful what you wish for! This is what happened in New Holland after someone must have made that wish in the summer of 1898:

The winter of 1898-1899 started like many other winters with occasional snow and below average temperatures, but the bad weather “went to another level” the last week in January. There were several light snows that week with total accumulations of about six inches. At the end of the week on Saturday evening, February 4, it snowed through the night into Sunday. It snowed again on Monday. It snowed again on Tuesday. It snowed again on Wednesday. Then the cold weather hit. On Thursday morning, February 9, the temperature on the New Holland Clarion’s thermometer was 8 degrees below zero. Then it got really cold the next morning! The Clarion recorded 16 degrees below zero, but there were others in town with colder temperatures. Amos Rutter, Isaac Kachel, and James Diller reported 20 degrees below zero or colder. Diller’s mercury was not above the bulb on a thermometer that displayed 20 below! For three days in a row, from Thursday (Feb. 9) through Saturday (Feb. 11), the temperature never reached zero. Then the snow began falling on Saturday evening.

It’s a rare event in New Holland to see very much accumulation of snow when the temperature is hovering around zero, so when it started snowing on February 11, not much was expected. However, it continued to snow all night. It continued all day and night on Sunday, February 12. It continued all day on Monday, February 13. Throughout the entire blizzard, the temperature never exceeded 5 degrees. There was so much wind and blowing snow that it was difficult to measure how many feet had actually fallen. The best estimate was four feet, but there were drifts of eight feet or more on Main Street before the clean-up started.

On Tuesday, February 14, there was a great calm after the storm. There was no travel within our town without a shovel. By the end of the day, many had cleared their sidewalks by piling the snow into the streets. A group of 30 horsemen rode back and forth along Main Street, the horses

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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.

plunging into the drifts until the snow was packed down enough for the passage of sleighs. It was days before the main roads were opened and weeks before the back roads were passable. Still wish it was winter?

Following this article are some photos from the Stauffer family collection that I believe were taken while New Holland was recovering from “blizzard of 1899”.



Looking west on Main Street from the Styer House after the snow storm in February of 1899. Date can be confirmed based on three identified signs: (1) Sign in front of the New Holland House shows Lytle Skiles as the proprietor; (2) Sign in front of 149 East Main Street displays “Leaman’s Green Grocery” that was only in business from April 1, 1898 until April 1, 1899 (later became Stauffer’s drug store); and (3) Sign in front of 145 East Main Street belonged to Sensenig’s shoe store that went out of business on April 1, 1899. Note that the first three buildings on the left are still standing. On the left in the distance is a house that protrudes into the street. It belonged to Dr. Samuel Zell and was removed in 1903.



Looking east on Main Street from Brimmer Ave. after the big storm of 1899. Houses shown from left to right belonged to: (1) Dr. Henry C. W. Showalter at 301 (built in 1882); (2) Isaac Sprecher at 305 (built in 1891); and (3) John Kohler at 309 (built in 1892 and later purchased by Kohler's son-in-law, William Mearig, who manufactured the famous throat lozenges). Note that there is a photo of these houses taken at the same time on page 138 of "100 Years of Camera Scenes" except from a different angle. It is mislabeled "December 1900". New Holland did not have a white Christmas in 1900!



Looking east on Main Street from Luther Ave. (North Railroad Ave.) after the blizzard of 1899. There are three factors that confirms this to be a very early photo from this period: (1) Stauffer's drug store on left side of photo has a plain façade as it did when Wm. M. Stauffer bought the business in 1897; (2) The Solomon Diffenderfer house (that was razed in 1903) is shown in front of the Lutheran Church; and (3) There is no path cleared in the street for the trolley that ran through this section of town starting in 1903.



Remembering Connie

Connie Greer passed away on March 24. She dearly loved the New Holland Area Historical Society and as a member of our board of directors provided valuable guidance to our organization. In addition, she served as our chief docent, a position that she handled with great skill. Her responsibilities included scheduling and training and she was an outstanding communicator. Connie volunteered her services every Thursday for many years and it was no coincidence that Thursday was our busiest day for visitors at the museum. Connie Greer was a great human being!

NH Historical Website Unidentified photos

Submitted by Brian Frankhouser

Charles Stern has done it again! He identified the #6 photo on the New Holland Area Historical website. The farmhouse is located at 833 Weaverland Road, East Earl. The original photo is shown on a postcard that was postmarked in 1907. The date stone on the house is labelled "BUILT BY SAM.MARY WEAVER A.D. 1838". A more recent photo is also shown.

Please check out our website www.NhHistorical.com to see more unidentified photos like this and see if you can help the New Holland Area Historical Society Museum!



A huge thank you to the following donors listed below!

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

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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



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The capital campaign has reached 88% of the \$250,000 goal!

Looking For a Pleasant Way to Spend a Few Hours? With the easing of the pandemic our board has made the decision to resume museum hours two days per week, Thursdays and Saturdays, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. We have the luxury of maintaining this schedule because of the dedication of our volunteer docents who greet our visitors and provide information about our collection of pictures, artifacts and programming of the New Holland area. If you would like to serve your community, broaden your horizon and meet new people give Wilbur Horning a call at 717-575-3148 to inquire about the possibility of giving two to four hours per month as a volunteer with the New Holland Area Historical Society.

Museum Is Now Open! Because of improving conditions with the coronavirus pandemic, the New Holland Area Historical Society Museum is pleased to announce that it will open during July, August and September. The Museum is open on Thursday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Also, off-hours private tours can be arranged by calling Don Horning at (717) 538-3079, or Wilbur Horning at (717) 575-3148. 207 E. Main St. in the former Kauffman's Hardware Building, second floor. The entrance is in the rear of the building and there is an elevator for those who need it. 207 E. Main St..

Historical Society meetings 2021 Meetings are held in the chapel at Garden Spot Village on the third Thursday of the month, 7 PM. Programs are free and open to everyone

September 16, 2021 - Adam Zurn founder of uncharted Lancaster will share ghost stories and tales of adventure and local legends and seldom see places that you can visit in Lancaster County

October 21, 2021 - to be announced