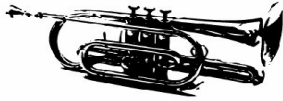
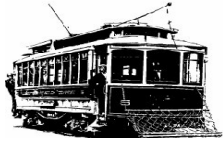


NEW HOLLAND

Area Historical Society



Volume 18 Issue 2

Spring 2022

Early Tonsorial History in New Holland

Submitted by Brian Frankhouser

During its first 100 years, the village of New Holland did not have a barber! Hair cuts were easy, but shaving was more challenging. The styles of the day encouraged gentlemen to be clean shaven. They were left to their own devices. The main “device” used, for those that could afford it, was a straight razor (invented in the mid-18th century). The razor folded into the handle like a pocket knife. Before each shave the blade was sharpened by rubbing it against a leather or canvas strap. This was called “stropping”.

In 1849, Charles Green wrote a letter from New York to one of our local merchants. He was visiting Lancaster a short time earlier and was told the town had no barber. He was interested, but needed some “encouragement”. No encouragement was provided. Finally, local resident, Bill Norris, recognized the need, and became the town’s first barber. He opened a shop on Main Street prior to the Civil War. The Norris family lived in the “Ark” (the town’s first school built in 1787) after 1845 when it was no longer a school. Bill moved to Lancaster to ply his trade the same year (1879) the “Ark” was razed. This site was later the New Holland House stables and in the mid-20th century became Dick Tshudy’s barber shop.

By the 1870’s, Norris ran the Witwer House Shaving Saloon in the basement of the building next door to the west of the Lutheran Church, and was soon to lose his monopoly. About that time, Phil Vogt opened shop in the basement of the Styer House on the southwest corner of what’s now Railroad Avenue and Main Street. Vogt sold his business to William Naisby in 1883 and moved to Philadelphia. Phil never forgot his friends in New Holland, and returned 27 years later to work at the same trade in the same building!

The most appropriately named barbers who ever practiced in New Holland were the Raezer brothers. Henry opened shop in the basement of J. L. Shiffer’s store in 1881. The building was located on the northwest corner of what’s now Railroad Avenue and Main Street, and was torn down in 1958. He later worked at the Styer House, and in 1902 moved to a Main Street storefront in the Showalter (Witwer) building and worked with his brother, Frank. Henry sold out to local baseball star, Joseph Erb, in 1914. Frank continued to work for Erb until 1918 when

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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.

they were forced to move out of the building when the post office had to expand into their shop (converting three storefronts in the building to two). Frank bought Erb's business and moved the shop to the Harner theatre building at 132 East Main Street.

Another early barber was Elmer Shreiner, who opened a shop at 145 E. Main St. in 1884 and sold the business to B. Frank Snader in 1889. Snader moved to 140 E. Main St. in 1896 and stayed until 1909 when he moved to the rear of the Eagle Hotel (123 E. Main St.). B. F. Snader was New Holland's "one eared barber". It was completely severed off in a buggy accident at Honey Brook in 1906.

During these Victorian times, a "wet shave" at the barber shop cost a nickel or less. Each customer would have their own shaving mug (etc.) at the shop because barbers believed sharing the same soap would cause "shaving rash". In 1895, King Gillette invented disposable razor blades and the shaving trade took a big hit. The business was further damaged after 1928 when Jacob Schick began marketing the electric razor. Attached photos are identified shaving mugs that sat on the shelves of our local barbers during Victorian times.



Left photo

This fancy pink shaving mug belonged to either E. C. Diller's father, who lived 1812-1895, or E. C. Diller's son, who lived 1872-1922. Both were merchants and worked in the building that now houses the New Holland Area Historical Society's museum. The Dillers lived about 2 ½ blocks west of where they worked.

Right photo

This white shaving mug with blue flowers and gold lettering belonged to Dr. Henry C. W. Showalter. The good doctor moved from Martindale to New Holland and took over Dr Yundt's practice in 1886. His office was located at 301 East Main Street. His older brother was J. W. Showalter, the hardware man who bought the Witwer building in 1898.



Most likely, this plain white shaving mug with gold lettering belonged to Roland Bowers. Roland lived at 88 Diller Avenue and taught in the local school district for 40 years. He was well known for his regular byline on page 1 of the New Holland Clarion, "Time and Tide", from 1935 until 1937.

The next two photos were passed down through the Henninger and Beck families and were recently donated by Cathy Eby to the NHAHS.



Neighbors relaxing on the front porch of the funeral home at 252 East Main Street in New Holland ca. 1905. Left to right is John Mentzer, George Geigley, and Nathaniel Henninger.



Arthur Brill and James Henninger posing with hearse on a winter's day circa 1915. In the background on left is the historic Hiester mansion that was razed in 1927. On the right is 301 East Main St. which is still standing along with the barn behind the house.



Thanks to our recent capital campaign, work is about to begin on re-pointing and replacing broken bricks on the former Kauffmans Hardware store. The building is now home to the New Holland Area Historical Society Museum. Watch for the scaffolding to go up in late April!

A huge thank you to the following donors listed below!

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This year marks the 100th year for the annual memorial day pilgrimage to 13 cemeteries in eastern Lancaster County. This was started by American Legion Post 662 in New Holland.

Historical Society meetings 2022

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

April 21, Bill Shirk will talk about the “Hammerhead of Pool Forge.”

May 19, Dick Hoxworth presenting “An Evening and Letters with Dick Winters.”

Blurb from page 1 of the April 5, 1879 edition of the New Holland Clarion:

If every dwelling house was supplied with a good bathroom, one where the temperature of the air could be as warm as summer heat, and water at any degree, people could be made many times healthier than they are now; for perfect health is an exception. Should these lines induce anyone to bathe, be careful and not bathe after meals, neither when very much heated by violent exercise. -- Anthony