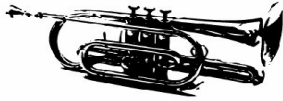


NEW HOLLAND

Area Historical Society



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The Jonathan Weaver House and Hollander Motel

Submitted by Brian Frankhouser

An article in the Fall 2019 newsletter described where the Esterle and Ayers tall case clocks were made in New Holland. This article identifies another clockmaker location at 316/320 East Main Street. Earliest recorded property owner (after Michael Diffenderfer) to hold a deed to this site was John Houser when it was part of a three-acre plot that extended to the east. He sold the lot to Andrew Brand on March 26, 1794. Brand, one of the first merchants in town, had a substantial (and very historic) stone dwelling on the east side of this lot, so he conveyed this western portion to Philip Heitshue on May 30, 1794. Heitshue was a skilled hatter whose work can still be found in some vintage textile museums (including Williamsburg). He sold the property to Godfrey Hoffman in 1795. John Davis purchased it from Hoffman in 1796. There was a workshop on the western portion of the property by this time (probably built by Heitshue), and Davis utilized it for clockmaking (mainly tall case clocks) and cabinetmaking. During his ownership, the earliest record of local Methodist worship was at the Davis property in 1797. He sold all the property to Abraham DeHaven in 1805, and the DeHavens lived at this site for 40 years. Lewis Richwine bought it in 1845. Richwine sold it to Emauel Sailor in 1849. Sailor was a well known cabinetmaker, who continued to use the workshop on the west side of the property and live in the house on the east side of the property. In 1861, Elam Rudy purchased the real estate and the cabinetmaking business. He formed a partnership with Levi Hull, and they sold furniture and provided undertaking services here until 1876 when Rudy died from typhoid fever. An auction was held to sell the real estate on December 1, 1876. It included 140 feet of frontage on Main Street and a depth of 720 feet. Daniel Myer was high bidder, and bought this property with the dwelling (320) and workshop (316) from the estate of Elam Rudy in 1877 for \$2,050. A year later, he sold it to Jonathan H. Weaver for \$2,225. Soon after, Diller and Ream opened a horse collar manufacturing business in the workshop (later was J. V. Diller & Co.). Benjamin Weaver (Jonathan's brother) started a tannery in the basement of the same building in 1879. In 1885, Jonathan Weaver tore down the workshop and built a new home. The Weavers lived in

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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.

the house at 316 and rented the house at 320 for many years. In 1920, they sold the old house at 320 East Main Street to A. B. Groff. This transaction also gave Groff a right of way to the 12 foot alley that ran between the two houses. Deed to 316 was conveyed to John F. Hope (Jonathan Weaver's son-in-law) in 1922 and Mary Weaver (Jonathan Weaver's daughter) continued to live there. After John Hope and Mary Weaver died within a week of each other, the house at 316 was sold to Oliver L. Davis, local tinsmith, in 1936.

When WWII started, the Davis family lived at 316 and the Groff family owned the very old frame house at 320. In 1953, the Davis estate sold 316 to Richard D. Ziemer (grandson of Oliver L. Davis). A. B. C. Groff (A. B. Groff's son) sold 320 to John S. Ewell in 1954. Ziemer acquired 320 from Ewell in 1957. In May of 1959, R. E. Whimore, Jr. bought both lots (316 and 320) from Ziemer. By this time, the old house on 320 had been razed. This transaction united the two properties together again! Whitmore built the Hollander Motel on the eastern portion of the site and used the old Weaver house at 316 as the motel office. Ownership has changed several times, but it is still called the Hollander Motel.

This house at 316 East Main Street was built for local carriage smith, Jonathan Weaver, in 1885. The dwelling was painted in different shades of olive green with slate roof, stained glass windows, and ornamental gable ends. It was considered the most beautiful house in town when construction was completed that summer.

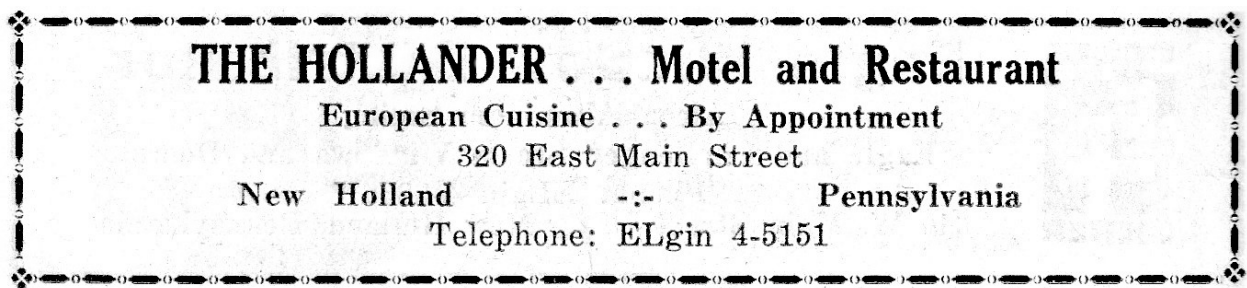


Photo taken circa 1910 that shows the original 18th century dwelling (on left at 320 East Main Street) that was razed in the late 1950's. Note the trolley tracks on Main Street.





Photograph, taken from the motel office in 1959, shows the brand-new Hollander Motel that was built for R. E. “Scoop” Whitmore, Jr.



Advertisement circa 1962 for the Hollander Motel and Restaurant.

Former Western School Holds Alumni Reunion

Submitted by Mike Ressler

Students who attended the former Western School that was located about one-quarter mile west of the intersection of Route 23 and Shirk Road, just west of New Holland, gathered on May 13, 2022 for a grand reunion and celebration of their old school. Built circa 1923, the school was originally comprised of two rooms. Two rooms were added years later and two additional rooms sometime after that, giving the building six rooms to serve its students. This building had been

preceded by a one-room school located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Route 23 and Shirk Road, where the Re-Uzit Shop stands today. This school existed at least as early as 1855, as it appears on the Map of the Three Earls, based on surveys by H. F. Bridgens and dated 1855. Western School was one of about 15 schools, mostly one-room buildings, that served Earl Township's rural population before consolidation in eastern Lancaster County.

The reunion, organized by Raymond S. Martin and Elaine Sensenig Freed and held at the Bareville Fire Hall, attracted 73 alumni plus more than 20 spouses. The alumni included about 15 Amish, nearly 50 Mennonites, and about 20 "English." The oldest person attending was 88 year-old Luke Martin who, after finishing the 8th grade at Maple Grove School, had to repeat the grade the following school year at Western School because he wasn't old enough to quit. He graduated in 1949. The youngest in attendance graduated from 6th grade in 1966. Despite the diversity of ages and religious beliefs and practices, the former students greeted each other with broad smiles, handshakes, and hugs. Groups of classmates gathered to share stories and look at class photos, which some had saved and brought to the event. They affectionately remembered many of their teachers including Ken Kauffman who was unable to attend but had sent his greetings. A buffet lunch was enjoyed by all.

Western School continued in use as a school until the end of the 1971-72 school year when it was phased out by the Eastern Lancaster County School District. Its students were sent to Summit Valley Elementary School (now New Holland Elementary). The plain families sent their children to their own private schools at this time. The building then housed several businesses until it was razed in the spring of 2006.

Former students of the school who would like to be added to the alumni mailing list are encouraged to contact Ray Martin at martinrs@aol.com or (703) 556-0123. Anyone interested in donating historical information about the school to the New Holland Area Historical Society may contact Mike Ressler at mikeressler2@gmail.com. Photographs of the building, class photos, papers (including report cards!), news articles, and small artifacts are welcome. Many thanks to Ray Martin, Elaine Sensenig Freed, and Pat Musselman who contributed information for this article.



Ray Martin addressing the large group that gathered during the reunion for the Western School.



Viewing old photos at the reunion.



A great photo of the Western School in its heyday.



Office or retail space is available at the historic hardware store starting in July 2022. 203 E. Main St., the window on the left is available for immediate occupancy. 205 E. Main St. with the double window on the right, may be available in September or October. Be part of this great location in downtown New Holland! For more information call Wilbur Horning 717-575-3148.

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PO Box 464 New Holland PA 17557

www.NhHistorical.com



New Holland Business Association meet and greet held June 28 in the Museum.

Don Horning conducted a walk through the museum with stories behind some of the multitude of exhibits that are always on display.

Brian Frankhouser educated the Business Association members about the history of the Groff-High-Eckenroth Funeral Home located at 145 W. Main St.



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

September 15, 2022 – History of the Rocky Springs Carousel formerly located just south of Lancaster, presented by Eileen Greg

October 20, 2022 – History of the Weaver Weber Homestead and the coming of the clan to the Weaverland Valley, presented by John Weber and Lamar Weaver

November, December – no program