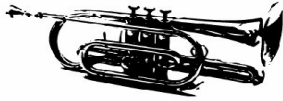


# NEW HOLLAND

## Area Historical Society



Volume 20 Issue 1

Winter 2024

## New Holland Saddlers & Harness Makers

Submitted by Brian Frankhouser

New Holland was the home to several notable saddlers and harness makers. During the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, Joseph Jones moved to the village. The story told by M. G. Weaver about Joseph was that he was employed as a saddler in Philadelphia in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and made the saddle used by George Washington during his term as POTUS. Jones owned a cluster of houses along Main Street around where Roberts Avenue is now located. For many years, this section of New Holland was called “Jonestown”. Joseph and his two daughters lived in a brick house where the school was built in 1875 (now it’s a community lot on the northeast corner of Roberts Avenue and Main Street). In the early 1820’s, his daughter, Hannah, was a lively and beautiful young lady who fell in love and was prepared to get married. Joseph disapproved of the young man, and Hannah was never the same. Hannah’s sister, Jane, spent her entire life taking care of her sister. Hannah died in the Lancaster Insane Asylum in 1885, shortly after Jane’s death. In 1843, Solomon Weaver purchased the south side of lot #14 of “New Design” (this would include what is now 112/108 East Main Street) and set up shop to manufacture and sell leather goods. His son, Richard, bought the property and business in 1860. Richard made the finest saddles in town for many years until his son, Fred, took over the business about 1890. The Weavers trained many apprentices during their tenure in New Holland. In 1880, local saddler, John H. Darrow, purchased the old Odd Fellows Hall on the south side of Main Street. He formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, Henry J. Besore, in 1886. Henry worked for Richard Weaver for 24 years, and the new union created the largest saddle and harness making business in town. Darrow & Besore became Besore & Bair in 1902 when John Darrow moved to Brooklyn and Charles F. Bair became the new junior partner. New Holland’s last (full-time) saddler was Marcus F. Becker. He was an apprentice at Darrow & Besore in the 1890’s and returned to manage the business, and then purchase it from

### OFFICERS 2024

**President**  
Steve Loewen

**Vice President**  
Mitch Dissinger

**Secretary**  
Susen Leary

**Treasurer**  
Bill Gable

**Newsletter**  
Steve Loewen

**Chairman of Trustees**  
Mike Ressler

**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.*

Besore & Bair in 1912. Becker opened a shoe repair shop in the new addition on the south side of the building in 1913, and managed the saddlery for a number of years before buying the property from Besore in 1919 for \$4,800. He maintained his saddle and harness making operation in the east side of the old Odd Fellows building for over 35 years, and retired in 1947.



View of 132/130 East Main Street in 1950. The building was constructed in 1850 to serve as a meeting hall for the newly formed local chapter number 413 of the Odd Fellows. There was a garage behind the building for many years that was used for various businesses, including Harry K. Storb's auto sales during the teens, and William "Buck" Dickinson's Auto Garage from 1933 until 1935 (after he worked for Wrights Garage, but before he moved to the corner of Franklin St. & Railroad Ave).

This extraordinary photo of the interior of 132 East Main Street (circa 1919) includes three local gentlemen who each worked at their trade for more than 55 years. Shown from left to right: (1) Henry J. Besore at the twilight of his career, having first worked for Richard Weaver in 1862; (2) Martin Hoffman at the beginning of his career, who was in charge of shoe repair in the back room and later set up business at the Styer House, and then 107 S. Railroad Ave; and (3) Marcus F. Becker, "New Holland's horse tailor" who served one term as the town Burgess. The windows on left facing east would have provided a front row view of the construction of the new Harner Theater next door that was completed in 1916.



Advertising ink blotter circa 1940's. Note that the popularity of the automobile changed the emphasis of Becker's business since 1912, when he only manufactured saddles and harnesses.



*Come to Our Hospital* ❁❁  
*We're Saving Soles Every Day*

→ *We mend the Rips  
 And patch the Holes;  
 Build up the Heels  
 And save your soles—  
 And do it very reasonable.* ←

MEN'S		WOMEN'S	
Half Soling .....	\$.95	Half Soles .....	\$.70
" " and Heeling .....	1.35	" " and Heels .....	1.00
" " and Rubber Heels .....	1.35	" " and Rubber Heels .....	1.00
Whole Heels, leather or rubber .....	.75	Whole Heels, Military .....	.75
Good Year Rubber Heels .....	.40	Good Year Rubber Heels .....	.30

**M. F. BECKER**  
 132 EAST MAIN ST. :::: NEW HOLLAND, PA.

## A Grand Christmas Tradition Continues

By Mike Ressler

On Saturday morning, November 25, a grand tradition continued as Santa visited New Holland, arriving at 11:00 am sharp at the Museum on Main – the former Kauffman's Hardware Store building. His return was scheduled to coincide with New Holland's "Christmas on Main" celebration. Santa had no problem finding the Museum as he has visited the building almost every year since at least 1948, beginning with the invitation of Clyde Kauffman, owner of Kauffman's Hardware Store. Although he decided not to climb a ladder and enter through a window as he had done for many years, he made his grand entrance right on time by climbing the stairs only to find the Museum full of excited children and their parents. Seeing the crowd, he went straight to his work, making his way to his special chair. Greeting each child with a big smile and a gentle handshake, he invited them to sit on his lap. For those who were a bit fearful of being in the same room with the big guy, he gave a wink of his eye to let them know that they had nothing to be afraid of. More than 200 visitors came to see Santa and kept him busy right up until he had to leave at 1:00 pm for his next stop. Special thanks to Lowell Parkes for helping Santa continue this grand tradition.





Above photo: Lowell Parkes [Santa] welcomes children of all ages to the Museum. This is his 43rd year!

Right photo: Brycen & Brinley Kopp  
Children of: Bria & Wes Kopp

Grandchildren of: Tom & Suzanne Kopp, Great-grandchildren of: Dot & Ron Bensinger



### THE TOWN TOBAGGON

Folklore and reports from former owners of Kauffman's Hardware report that this sled was made in the New Holland High School shop.

During the winter it was propped in front of store (this building) and during the summer it was kept in the attic of this building. Reports have the tobaggon being available for anyone to use. A possible site of use was S. Railroad (beyond Jackson) down the hill by Orlon and Wecaf streets to the open field

SITTING PHOTOS ARE WELCOME

PLEASE POST!

## A PERFECT UNION, HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND LIGHTER SIDE ENTERTAINERS

Submitted by Lou Ann Miller

On a sunny, but windy Sunday, October 15, 2023 two local organizations joined resources to reinstate the Cemetery Tour known as "Voices from the Past". New Holland Historical Society members, Mitch Dissinger, Don Horning, Wilbur Horning and Lou Ann Miller planned and coordinated the event. The Lighter Side Entertainers of Garden Spot Village were the reenactors. Both organizations provided additional workers to make it an enjoyable and informational afternoon. The tour covered both the Lutheran Church graveyard and the St. Stephen's graveyard. The characters portrayed were the following: Mrs. John Diffenderfer (Arlene der Kinderin) wife of the founder of New Holland; James Elliot (Fran Rapp) a Confederate soldier; Minerva Ressler (Nancy Dolan) National Spelling Bee Champion; Myrtle Tremblay (Lou Ann Miller) water color artist; Michael Kinzer (Tony der Kinderen) early settler and Revolutionary War Hero; Frederick Valentine Melsheimer (Charlie Hunsaker) Reverend, and botanist; and Stefenfrantz Wallich (David Givins) farmer. Scripts and research were handled by Mitch and Lou Ann. Over 300 people attended, with many visitors stopping in the Museum for refreshments and a visit.



Local artist Myrtle Tremblay portrayed by Lou Ann Miller



Early settler and Revolutionary War Hero, Michael Kinzer portrayed by Tony der Kinderen



Reverend and botanist, Frederick Valentine Melsheimer portrayed by Charlie Hunsaker

## The Ephrata Cloister Book Club Tour

Submitted by Ida Gall

On December 6th, the New Holland Area Historical Society Museum hosted 12 members of the Ephrata Cloister Book Club. The Ephrata Cloister Book Club purpose for the visit was to learn about local museums. Suzanne Fisher, President of the Club said the following, "What a marvelous collection you have and we were thrilled to hear about the passionate work that went into the gathering and curating of all things New Holland." After the tour, some of the group went to Lickity Split for lunch.

If you have a group who would like to tour the New Holland Area Society Museum, please contact us at [NHAHS@nhhistorical.com](mailto:NHAHS@nhhistorical.com).



Brian Frankhouser with the Blue Ball ball



Trustee Vice chair-Wilbur Horning

## NHAHS Supporters "What Sustains us"

### HERITAGE PARTNERS [\$1,000 and above]

Don Horning Brian & Ruth Frankhouser R. Douglas & Linda Good  
 Art & Kathy Loewen Wilbur & Bert Horning Brecknock Twp.  
 Garden Spot Village Fred & Robin Groff Gene & Mary Lowry  
 New Holland Kiwanis Club Stephen W. Loewen

### LEGACY PARTNERS [\$500 TO \$999]

Chester County Solid Waste Auth. New Holland Business Assoc.  
 Wild Bill's Welding Fabrication Robert & Christine Quinlivan  
 Thomas Wentz III New Holland Lions Club East Earl Township Supervisors

*Continued on next page*

### **PARTNERS [\$100 TO \$499]**

David & Rhoda Snider Ron & Renee Frederick Goodville Mutual Casualty Company  
 Liz Bicking Jay Marlin Hillard Violet Helenthal Robert Johnson  
 Kathleen Kreider Suzanne Fisher Barbara Weaver David & Kathleen Cormany  
 Good & Harris LLP Oasis Church Dr. Robert Owens Audrey Koller  
 New Holland HVAC Inc. Winross Collectors Club

### **NEW HOLLAND AREA HISTORICAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Type of membership requested (please check one)

\_\_\_\_\_ Annual Personal/Household (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_ Partner (\$100-\$500)

\_\_\_\_\_ Legacy Partner (\$500-\$999) \_\_\_\_\_ Heritage Partner (\$1000 and up)

\_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime membership (\$500) \_\_\_\_\_ Other gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**"All five memberships"** – Your name will appear in the newsletter for four consecutive editions regardless of when the membership is received. You may remain anonymous.

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to NHAHS and mail with this application to:  
 New Holland Area Historical Society PO Box 464 New Holland PA 17557

### **Enhancing our Social Media Presence**

By Larry Shirk

The New Holland Area Historical Society has begun a project to broaden and improve our social media presence. We understand this type of approach is increasingly necessary to

*Continued on the next page*

effectively interact with members, customers, supporters, and other groups who have an interest in our organization. To accomplish this, we have enlisted the help of the Taylor Brand Group from Lancaster, who offers a range of marketing and advertising services, to guide and support us. We are taking advantage of their experience with social media to deliver “a consistent brand experience and create content on the social media channels that make the most sense.”

Currently, we have a website, Facebook page and YouTube presence as well as this quarterly newsletter. We are not leaving any of these platforms but plan to use them more effectively. We have updated the website and if you follow us on Facebook, you should already be seeing more activity. Also, we now have our own YouTube channel that currently contains 10 videos. New to our social media toolbox is an Instagram account where you can find new posts at [nhhistorical](https://nhhistorical.com/). The Historical Society has accumulated an abundance of content regarding the history of the New Holland area but has struggled to develop a means of making this information readily available to our Members and the public. We are confident that our Facebook and Instagram initiatives will improve our ability to accomplish this objective. In the coming months you will see more activity on all the platforms listed above but the newsletter and a visit to the Museum will still be available for you to stay connected with us. As we continue this effort, we would welcome any requests or comments you may have. You can reach us using email as shown at the bottom of our website homepage.

<https://nhhistorical.com/>

**As always, thank you for your interest and support.**

## **New Holland Area Historical Society 2023 Annual Report**

Thanks to the wonderful support of our community, 2023 was another year of exciting events and experiences. This article is not intended to be a definitive recounting of the year, and merely serves as an attempt to identify some highlights from 2023.

Our hope is that more individuals become involved in our efforts to emphasize the legacy of the New Holland area, so we encourage you, your family, and friends to take that step. You can do so by visiting the museum during our business hours, visiting our website at [www.nhhistorical.com](http://www.nhhistorical.com) and submitting a contact form, visiting our Facebook and Instagram pages, or emailing us at [NHAHS@nhhistorical.com](mailto:NHAHS@nhhistorical.com).

### The “Kauffman” Building

NHAHS performed the ongoing maintenance needed to keep an almost 250-year-old building in shape. The brickwork on the west side of the building was repaired and repointed, and it was determined that no further brickwork is required at this time. You may have noticed that the green siding on the front of the building was cleaned and repainted. The major project for 2024 is the repair and repaving of the parking lot in the back (north side) of the building.

*Continued on next page*

## Day of Remembrance

On February 19<sup>th</sup> we celebrated six dear friends who made significant contributions to our society. Three founding board members were honored – Don Welsh, George Dissinger, and Bill Seitzinger. Two additional board members with longtime service were honored – Bill Snyder (treasurer) and Connie Greer (Head Docent). Also remembered was Allan Shirk, educator and author who wrote two books published and distributed by NHAHS. Later in the year the society recognized Shaun Seymour, an integral contributor to the efforts to convert the Kauffman Hardware building into the home of our museum.

## Public Programs

We are always appreciative that Garden Spot Village (GSV) allows us to hold our public meetings in their Chapel, a wonderful facility for these events. A series of programs focused on the history of the Welsh Mountains were quite popular, and a repeat of the program for the Buzzard Gang drew a significant crowd. GSV continues to record our programs and provide them to us to post on our website and YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/@NewHollandAreaHistorical-hd8ft](http://www.youtube.com/@NewHollandAreaHistorical-hd8ft)) . It's a new and exciting way to use technology to share our mission with an expanding number of supporters, and once again, we appreciate GSV's willingness to be a dedicated supporter of NHAHS' efforts!

## Museum Information

We are pleased to report that the number of visitors to the Museum continues to grow! Several unique events drew a crowd, and many of the participants elected to tour the museum. We also hosted several groups for special meetings and private tours of the facility.

- Garden Spot Village Business Expo – dozens of participants and 8 new members
- ELANCO Library Trivia Night
- Winross Model Truck Group – 30 participants
- Landis Homes Tour Group – 10 participants
- Cemetery Tour – 61 participants
- Ephrata Cloister Book Club Tour Group – 12 participants
- The 43<sup>rd</sup> visit of Santa to the Museum on Main (aka, Kauffman Building) – 240+ participants

The NHAHS continued our participation in the Lancaster County Historical Societies meetings that included a total of 17 historical organizations. The group serves as an opportunity to share the experiences, ideas, and concerns of our peers focused on preserving the history of our county. We continue to learn new and exciting ways to enhance our efforts to fulfill our Mission to the community. We appreciate the interest and support of so many residents and former residents of the New Holland area and look forward to our shared effort to honor and communicate the unique heritage of our community. Thanks!

## **2024 Dues Reminder**

It's time to submit your annual dues payment for 2024, use the form on Pg 7. Attach with your payment to indicate your desired member and/or partner level. Checks should be made payable to *New Holland Area Historical Society* or **NHAHS** mailed to: NHAHS PO Box 464 New Holland, PA 17557. If you have any questions concerning your membership or the status of your dues payments, please email [NHAHS@nhhistorical.com](mailto:NHAHS@nhhistorical.com) and we will get back to you with that information.

# NEW HOLLAND

Area Historical Society



PO Box 464  
New Holland PA 17557  
[www.NhHistorical.com](http://www.NhHistorical.com)



**The following programs are planned for 2024:  
Held in the Garden Spot Village Chapel 7 PM**

January – no program

February 15<sup>th</sup> – *The Lancaster Thunderbolt*, the story of champion boxer Leo Houck, Cory Van Brookhoven, presenter

March 16<sup>th</sup> *History of Watt and Shand Department Store*; Nancy Groff (Great -Granddaughter of Peter Watt), presenter

April 20<sup>th</sup> TBD