



Volume 21 Issue 3/4

Late Summer and Fall 2025

History of the Feed Mill in New Holland

The Calendar Series – Part 4

Submitted by Brian Frankhouser

During the 19th century, the land along what is now Grant Street was owned by the Brimmers. In 1851, Adam Brimmer bequeathed a nine-acre tract to his son, Isaac. The eastern portion of the tract (where Musselman Lumber is now located) was occupied by the brickyard. The land to the west suddenly became very desirable when plans were announced in the 1870s that the railroad line would pass through it. Amos Rutter seized the opportunity. He originally moved from Intercourse to New Holland in the 1850s and was a merchant at Daniel Richwine's store. He bought the business with his brother but moved back to Intercourse after the Civil War. In 1874, Amos returned to New Holland.

Isaac Brimmer subdivided his property near the proposed railroad tracks and had four separate real estate transactions with Amos Rutter from 1873 until 1878. Rutter coordinated completion of his warehouse and coal bins with the opening of the railroad line in 1876. He sold all kinds of goods, ranging from coal to lumber to produce to feed, and was the ticket agent for the railroad. By 1890, Rutter requested that his customers stay away during the hours of noon until 1:30 because he had to attend to tickets, freight, and eat his lunch. This problem was solved in 1892 when the new RR station was built across the street to the west, and Thomas H. Hood was hired as agent for the railroad.

The year 1902 was an eventful and fateful time for the Rutters. During the night of February 21, the night watchman at the silk mill noticed a "glow" coming from Rutter's warehouse. He blew the mill's whistle and woke up half the town. What they saw was the old brick warehouse completely immersed in flames. The conflagration was contained, but the warehouse was a total loss. The cause of the fire was thought to be from an overheated telephone wire that was exposed to a trolley wire on Main Street. Rutter continued his business without interruption and immediately began planning and construction of a new warehouse. However, Amos Rutter suffered from a hip injury while at work during the summer and died on August 15. His son, Eugene, took over management of the business and renamed it "E. M. Rutter and Company." The new warehouse was completed and fully operational by October.

Story continues on the next page with photos

Eugene Rutter ran a successful coal yard and feed mill until his death in 1934. Shortly after, ownership of the business was transferred to five family members. However, Eugene’s sister died in 1935, and his widow died in 1938. In January of 1939, the business and properties were listed for private sale by realtor, John L. Hamaker. The new owner was Earl Sauder from Hinkletown, who had 14 years of experience in the business. Sauder owned both mills until 1945 when he sold the Hinkletown mill to Leroy M. Sensenig. For a brief time during 1945 and 1946, the business was renamed “Sauder & McCracken”. In 1947, Earl Sauder expanded his sales to include fuel oil. The business continued to prosper.

In 1985, the firm was sold to Leroy M. Sensenig, Inc. By this time, the business was managed by Leroy’s son, Ken. The third generation (Mike, Scott, and Karl) took over the management in 2003 when Ken retired. A fourth generation of Sensenigs is now working at the mill to perpetuate the enterprise.



1907 calendar compliments of the E. M. Rutter Company in New Holland. At this time, Eugene M. Rutter lived in a framed dwelling at 101 Railroad Avenue (now called South Railroad Ave.), almost next door to where he worked. In 1912, he built and moved to a house at 251 East Main Street that was later occupied by Dr. Wilson Foust, St. Stephen Church, and the Rec. Center before it was razed in the 1970s.

Real photo postcard of the E. M. Rutter Co. was taken in 1906 when the building was about four years old. The office for the current business is on the west side of this building. There is one remaining remnant from the original building that was salvaged in 1902... the cornerstone dated 1876 can still be seen on the southwest corner of this building!





Most of Earl Sauder’s customers were farmers, and this 1944 calendar catered to their needs. Like a Farmer’s Almanac, this calendar included weather predictions for every day of the year. However, there is a note included on page one that “Statements in this calendar regarding the weather are not to be construed as official Government Weather Forecasts.”

New Holland Area Historical Society, The Beginnings

A little over 22 years ago, on April 6th, 2003, Steve Loewen and Mitch Dissinger decided to host a New Holland memorabilia event at the fire company. They had no idea what to expect, but they attracted a lot of people with all kinds of historical artifacts. This level of public interest sparked the idea for the creation of a historical society and a museum to house and display these kinds of artifacts.



Many thanks to these two young men for taking a risk that led to what we have today!

“The Remarkable Mr. Deen” Exhibit

This rich collection of photographs, videos, and personal items that highlight Mr. Deen's life continues to draw visitors to the museum. A section devoted to the movie “Brave the Dark” is a part of our exhibit. More than 400 people have come to our museum to experience this exhibit. The stories and memories of these visitors have been wonderful to share and brought together classmates that have not seen each other in years. So why not become part of the story and see "The Remarkable Mr. Deen" exhibit!

Our museum is located at 207 E. Main Street, New Holland, and the hours are Thursday and Saturdays from 10am till 2pm. Private tours can be arranged, and you should call the museum at 717-354-2049 to discuss the details. If no one answers your call please leave a message including your request, and someone will return your call within a day or two.



The History of Victor F. Weaver, Inc.

The Mission Statement of the New Holland Area Historical Society says it all:

“To collect, organize and preserve information and historical materials that provide insight to understanding the life and times of the New Holland area, and to share this with others.”

Our efforts to present significant historical information include a focus on New Holland area businesses that significantly contributed to the life of our area. One such business was Victor F. Weaver, Inc.



Two special programs were presented at the Garden Spot Village (GSV) Chapel the evenings of July 31st and August 7th. (Once again, a huge thank you to GSV for allowing us to use this wonderful facility!) These events ended up being quite different than our original thoughts for celebrating the Weaver compound.

The beginning of the project occurred in mid-April over a lunchtime meeting involving 2 Weaver employees, Mike Good and Larry Shirk, and Bill Gable. We discussed the idea of the event being held on a Sunday afternoon in the museum's Steve Loewen Community Room (SLCR) like three recent programs. Mike and Larry moved forward and began reaching out to other Weaver employees to contribute to the content, and gathering documents, photos, and memorabilia to create an exhibit for the museum.

As this project started to come together, we began to question whether the crowd wanting to see the program might exceed the capacity of the SLCR of 50 people. GSV graciously agreed to provide a Thursday evening in July for the program, so it was full speed ahead!



Edith and Victor Weaver

Numerous conversations with individuals willing and excited to contribute to an ever-expanding trove of historical information. An agenda developed focused on 8 key topics for the presentation that broadly described the founding and maturation of the company. Now the concern was how we could fit all these speakers into a single 1½-hour program! Yet again GSV provided the perfect solution by allowing us to use the Chapel for a 2nd Thursday night program.

By the end of July, the programs came together, and on the night of July 31st our guess that the crowd might exceed the capacity of the SLCR was validated in a big way. A little over 300 individuals came to the program, proving an interest in the history of a local business that contributed so much to our community in many, many ways.



Left-to-right Larry Brown, Allen Tate, and Dennis Sharp

We were not sure of what to expect for the August 7th program, and once again you demonstrated significant interest in the history of the Victor F. Weaver, Inc. company. A little over 270 individuals attended this program.




Left-to-right Larry Shirk, Allen Tate, and Mike Good

We extend our sincere appreciation to our presenters, Larry Brown, Allen Tate, Dennis Sharp, Larry Shirk and Mike Good, and to those persons that attended these programs! Plans are under way to present similar types of programs in the coming months.

Please visit NHAHS' YouTube video channel to view this program and many others presented in the past 3 years. On the following page we'll display a list of the videos available to watch and some simple instructions to view them. Note that we are still struggling with technology problems for the July 31st Weaver program. If things go well that video will be added in the coming weeks.

NHAHS YouTube Video Channel





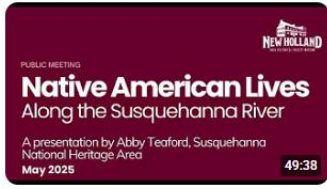


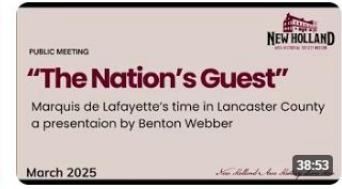


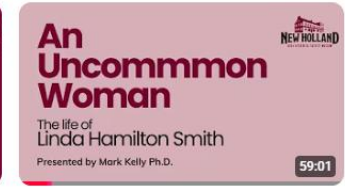
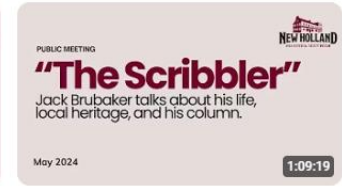
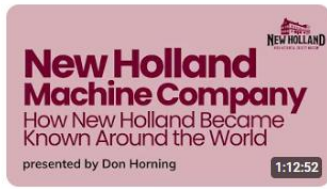





New Holland Area Historical Society
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The address for this site is:

<https://www.youtube.com/@NewHollandAreaHistorical-hd8ft/videos>

 <p>History of the Victor F. Weaver Poultry Company Night 2 August 2025 1:42:30</p>	 <p>NEW HOLLAND NH Machine Exhibit Tour 35:15</p>	 <p>New Holland Band Collection Dedication The New Holland Band Museum closed, but donated a significant New Holland-based collection of artifacts to the New Holland Area Historical Society Museum! This was the dedication. May 18, 2025 23:57</p>	 <p>Historical Overview of the New Holland Band NEW HOLLAND BAND Bringing Music to Life Since 1829 New Holland, New History Lives Here 26:20</p>
<p>Weaver's Chicken Program 2 - 250807 54 views · 13 days ago</p>	<p>NH Machine Exhibit Tour 5 views · 13 days ago</p>	<p>New Holland Band Collection Transfer to NHAHS Museum 58 views · 2 months ago</p>	<p>New Holland Band Historical Review Slide Show 15 views · 2 months ago</p>
 <p>Native American Lives Along the Susquehanna River A presentation by Abby Teaford, Susquehanna National Heritage Area May 2025 49:38</p>	 <p>"Blue Ball Hotel Bar" A video presentation of the dedication event. April 2025 1:58:57</p>	 <p>"History of the Mascot Roller Mill and the Ressler Family" - a presentation by James Landis, Executive Director Join us tomorrow! Garden Seat Village 1:16:35</p>	 <p>"The Nation's Guest" Marquis de Lafayette's time in Lancaster County a presentation by Benton Webber March 2025 38:53</p>
<p>Native American Lives Along the Susquehanna 15 views · 2 months ago</p>	<p>Blue Ball Hotel Back Bar 16 views · 3 months ago</p>	<p>History of the Mascot Roller Mill & the Ressler Family 34 views · 3 months ago</p>	<p>Lafayette Bicentennial Tour (march 2025) 24 views · 4 months ago</p>
 <p>"Our Town" A video presentation of New Holland in days gone by... 1:03:29</p>	 <p>DuPont The Family and the Company October 17, 2024 59:16</p>	 <p>An Uncommon Woman The life of Linda Hamilton Smith Presented by Mark Kelly Ph.D. 59:01</p>	 <p>"The Scribbler" Jack Brubaker talks about his life, local heritage, and his column. May 2024 1:09:19</p>
<p>Our Town 56 views · 5 months ago</p>	<p>The DuPonts 20 views · 10 months ago</p>	<p>Lydia Hamilton Smith 240919 EDITED 22 views · 10 months ago</p>	<p>The Scribbler 2024 May 16 views · 1 year ago</p>
 <p>New Holland Machine Company How New Holland Became Known Around the World presented by Don Horning 1:12:52</p>	 <p>Women of Amish History in Lancaster County April 2024 1:09:47</p>	 <p>History of Watt & Shand March 2024 48:56</p>	 <p>Leo Houck The Lancaster Thunderbolt February 2024 46:19</p>
<p>New Holland Machine Company 247 views · 1 year ago</p>	<p>Women of Amish History 70 views · 1 year ago</p>	<p>The History of Watt & Shand - March 2024 86 views · 1 year ago</p>	<p>Leo Houck - February 2024 26 views · 1 year ago</p>



The Lancaster-York County Historical Connection - Oct 2023
33 views • 1 year ago



The Welsh Mountain Series Part 1 - Feb 2023
90 views • 1 year ago



The Welsh Mountain Series Part 2 - Feb 2023
95 views • 1 year ago



Blue Ball Postcards - Sep 2023
53 views • 1 year ago



Abandoned America - Apr 2023
40 views • 1 year ago



Who Were the New Holland Buzzard Gang? - Mar 2023
253 views • 1 year ago



Famous Lancastrians - May 2023
24 views • 1 year ago



H. Clifton Thorbahn - Feb 2023
45 views • 1 year ago



One Room Schools
33 views • 1 year ago



The History of the Weaver/Weber Homestead - Oct 2022
62 views • 1 year ago

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We appreciate your support for our continued striving to flourish as a valuable resource for the New Holland area!

NHAHS Socia Media Sites

Please visit us on our Facebook and Instagram pages to stay up to date on recent happenings and plans.



And even some bonus content on our Facebook page where you can identify an artifact and win a \$25 gift certificate to Lickity Split, or help us to identify an unknown photo from the past.



Membership & Partner Application Form

If you are interested in becoming a member or partner of the NHAHS and being a part of efforts to preserve and distribute the history of the New Holland area, please complete the following form and return it to us. Read the instructions carefully to allow you to choose the proper level of support for your situation.

Member – individuals or organizations can be an annual or lifetime member, with both types receiving a copy of the NHAHS quarterly newsletter.

Partner - individuals or organizations that choose to make an annual donation to support NHAHS' efforts. Partners are listed on the next 4 newsletters after the receipt of their donation, and they will receive a copy of these 4 newsletters. Partners are not considered to be members of NHAHS.

Membership Type – please check the desired Member category:

- Annual Member - \$20 annual subscription
- Lifetime Member - \$500 one-time subscription

Partner Type - please check the desired Partner category.

- Partner - \$100 - \$499 annual donation
- Legacy Partner - \$500 - \$999 annual donation
- Heritage Partner - \$1,000 or more annual donation

Name of the individual or organization:

Address (city, state, ZIP):

Email address: _____

Telephone: circle one: home work cell

Please complete this form, include a check payable to NHAHS for the correct membership and/or partner amount, and mail to:

NHAHS, PO Box 464, New Holland, PA 17557

If you are currently a member or partner and have not paid your 2025 dues or partner donation, it is time to pay for 2025. Complete this form and send with your check to the address above.

Thank you for your support! The New Holland Area Historical Society is currently registered as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization in Pennsylvania



New Holland Area Historical Society
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Visit us on our social media sites:
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All 2025 programs will be held on the 4th Thursday of the month in the Chapel at Garden Spot Village at 7:00 PM.

- September 25 "The Mason Dixon Line"
- October 23 "History of the Bismoline Powder Company of Lancaster"
- November & December no programs.

Private tours of the Museum are available; however, you will need to call the Museum at 717-354-2049 in advance of your visit. If you get the Museum voicemail, please leave a message. Your call will be returned!