
Skipping Village Gazette



Anna District
Historical Society
Anna • Kettlersville • McCartyville

Kindred and Poppe General Store

Written by Carol Went



Early postcard showing the original general store on the right.
Notice the saloon right beside the store.

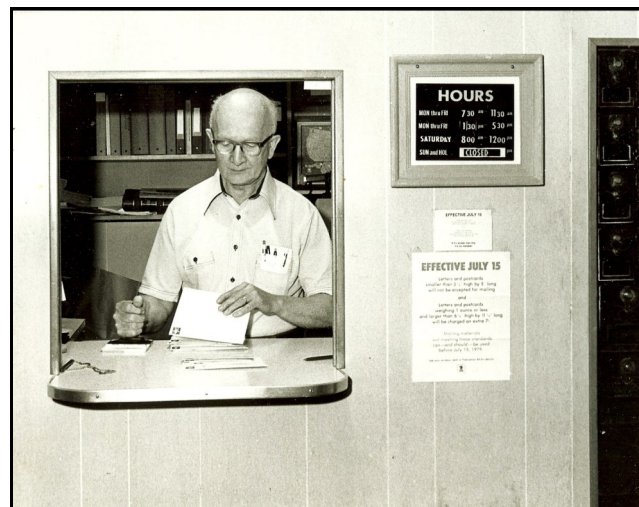
In the early 1900's general stores which seemed to sell everything from soup to nuts were unique to many small towns and villages. Groceries - including fresh meats and cold cuts, fruits and vegetables, baking supplies, canned and boxed foods. Hardware - including bolts and nuts, tools, window glass, paint, and flooring. Sewing notions, workclothes, pocketknives, canning supplies, summer and winter underwear, handkerchiefs, socks, and women's hosiery. The list of what could be purchased was almost endless.

The Kettlersville version of this kind of general store was established in 1899 and soon purchased by Herman J. Althoff, formerly of New Bremen. At that time the store ran under the name of J&H Althoff's.

Mr. Althoff and his wife, Dorothea, set up housekeeping in the eight room house that was attached to the back of the store and also in the upstairs rooms. They were the parents of twin daughters, Hermine and Araminta, and another daughter, Rose, who died at age six.

Prior to the Althoff's living there, the upstairs of the store was a dance hall which was handy since the town saloon was next door. This dance hall predated the Althoff store by thirty years or more and acted as a social center for the village. There are several unverified stories of a stabbing (perhaps, fatal) that took place at one of the dances.

In addition to running the general store, Herman was also appointed the postmaster of Kettlersville. He held that position from 1908-1921. The post office was located in the northeast corner of the store, and since there was no home delivery, the Kettlersville residents had to come into the store every day to pick up their mail. The post office at the general store became a good place to see neighbors and friends each day. The postmaster position that began with Herman Althoff carried through three generations of the Althoff/Poppe family with Herman's son, William Poppe, serving as postmaster from 1921-1951, and William's son, Paul Poppe, taking over that position for another 33 years.



Paul Poppe at work in the Kettlersville Post Office, the third generation of his family to act as Postmaster.

New Yearly Memberships...

**Lindsey, Dan, & Benjamin Riethman
Mark and Lori Elsass**

***Thanks for your generous support of the
Anna District Historical Society!***

Herman Althoff was known as a keen and fair minded businessman. He was also a leader in the affairs of the Kettlersville church and was known for giving freely of his time and money to further the religious life of the community. One of his last acts on this earth was to pledge \$1000 to be used for erecting a new church building.

A few years before Herman's death in 1924 during an operation at a Lima hospital for a ruptured gall bladder, he had already turned the general store over to the two Poppe brothers who had married his twin daughters. William married Hermine, and Edward married Araminta. Herman handed over the store to his sons-in-law rather than his daughters, since it was still very difficult and socially unacceptable in those days for married women to own a business. At this time the store was renamed Poppe Brothers General Store. However, Herman didn't forget his daughters. He arranged for two large and beautiful homes to be built for Hermine and Araminta in Kettlersville as gifts to them. Hermine and William's house was directly across from the store, and Araminta and Edward's house was built on Easy Avenue. Both are still in use today.

In 1946, the store was once again handed down to the next generation. William's son, Paul, and son-in-law,

George Kindred "inherited" the business. The name changed once again to the name most of us remember, The Kindred & Poppe General Store.



Wedding day picture of Myra Poppe Kindred and George Kindred, April 12, 1941. Poppe Brothers General Store is seen in the background.



HELP US PRESERVE OUR HISTORY

Please consider becoming a member of the Anna District Historical Society.

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Mail to: ANNA DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. Box 133, Anna, OH 45302

Contact Susan Bertsch at 937.394.3072 for more information on leveled giving.

In the mid 1960's George Kindred left the business to take another job in Sidney. From that time on, until the store was sold to the Bower family in 1981, Poppe ran the store with the help of his wife, Doris. Two long-time employees, Elfrieda Fogt and Irma Shroyer, also worked at the store as clerks.



Paul and Doris Poppe bagging groceries and figuring up the customer's bill.

Those of us fortunate enough to have shopped and picked up our mail at Kindred and Poppe General Store, know that the Christmas season officially arrived in Kettlersville every year with the arrival of the bulk candy counter and live Christmas trees at the store. And we can still see in our mind's eye the wooden ledger book where we could ask one of the clerks to "put in on my bill." We can still see the meat counter in the back of the store and remember where the penny candy, complete with candy cigarettes, was located. Many of us remember seeing Paul coming across the street from his mother's house every morning with a kettle full of steaming hot water probably to be used somehow at the meat counter.

For 80 years three generations of the Althoff clan successfully ran a general store that became part of the fabric of the lives of those who shopped and picked up their mail there. The Kindred and Poppe General Store provided several generations of the community with many wonderful and lasting memories. Kettlersville has never been quite the same without it.

Anna Third Grade Field Trip

Anna Elementary third grade teachers, Diane Egbert and Lauren Burch, along with assistance from the ADHS planned a local history learning unit that culminated in a field trip in early May. Prior to the field trip, students learned about each point of local history that they would see in person.

The four classes of third graders on two busses made eight different stops to see and learn more about area local history.

The twelve points of interest included:

- ⇒ Lockington Dam
- ⇒ Buckeye Trail
- ⇒ Wilderness Trail Museum in Fort Loramie
- ⇒ Sacred Heart Catholic Church in McCartyville
- ⇒ Elsass One Room Schoolhouse
- ⇒ Rumley Church and School
- ⇒ Pearl Cemetery
- ⇒ Old St. Jacob Lutheran Cemetery
- ⇒ Bell Tower in front of Anna High School
- ⇒ Anna St. Jacob Lutheran Church
- ⇒ Homes used for classrooms after the Anna Earthquakes of March 1937
- ⇒ Path of the Interurban Tracks in Anna
- ⇒ Location of Interurban Ticket Office
- ⇒ Lois Lenski Childhood Home



Third Grade Students at the Elsass One Room Schoolhouse



Teacher Brett Ziegenbusch instructing students about Pearl Bretches, Pearl Cemetery's Namesake

Anna District Historical Society

112 West Main Street

P.O. Box 133

Anna, OH 45302

**POSTAL CUSTOMER
ANNA, OH 45302**



Pitcher given to customers in 1942 by
Poppe Brother General Store



Third Graders at Sacred Heart Catholic Church learning more
about the church and McCartyville area history

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112 W. Main Street, P.O. Box 133

Anna, OH 45302

Phone: 937-646-0011

**The Packer Center is now open by appointment
only. Call 937.646.0011 to schedule
a private tour.**



Mark Elsass instructing students