
Skipping Village Gazette

Village of Kettlersville Celebrates 150th Anniversary in 2023

Written by Carol Wentz



Village of Kettlersville, circa 1975

At the age of 17 William Kettler emigrated to the United States from Prussia, one of Germany's many states. He arrived in 1845 and settled in New Bremen where he first worked as a farm laborer, earning \$5 a month. After three years William found new employment in New Bremen first as a store clerk and later as that same store's owner. In the meantime, he had sent for his parents and the rest of his family, including Christopher and Gottlieb to join him in the United States.

He continued working in the store which packed pork and also dealt in the buying and shipping of grain for the next 13 years before selling the New Bremen store in 1865. At that time William and his father purchased 170 acres of "wild" land in Van Buren Township south of what is today SR 274. The land was purchased from the railroad which had been granted land for building tracks in the area. William built a log cabin where Gerald and Virginia Maurer's house is now located, and his parents built another cabin near what became downtown Kettlersville.

At the same time Gottlieb and Christopher Kettler purchased 230 acres on the north side of today's SR 274. Gottlieb built the first frame house near the present day residence of David and Julia Kettler. Gottlieb built a log cabin near the house where Phil and Joan Buehler reside today. The first seven lots of the new settlement were platted in March of 1873 by those two brothers. It was named Kettlersville, although as present day Kettlers will tell you, it could have been just as easily been named Watchmakersville. The original family name was Watchmaker, but then became Kettler after William Kettler's father married back in Germany. It was customary to take the wife's name if she had more wealth, and that's exactly what happened.

The biggest mystery of Kettlersville is why William and his father bought that particular piece of land in the first place. Since the land was located on a large peat bog, many areas were marshlands filled with "rabbits, rattlers, and blue racers." The foundations of the first buildings in town had were dug down seven or eight feet to reach firm ground. Logs had to be placed side by side down the main street to keep wagons and horses from sinking into the muck. Although they have been paved over many, many times since then, those old logs still remain under SR 274.

New ADHS Yearly Members...

John and Jennifer Holtzapple

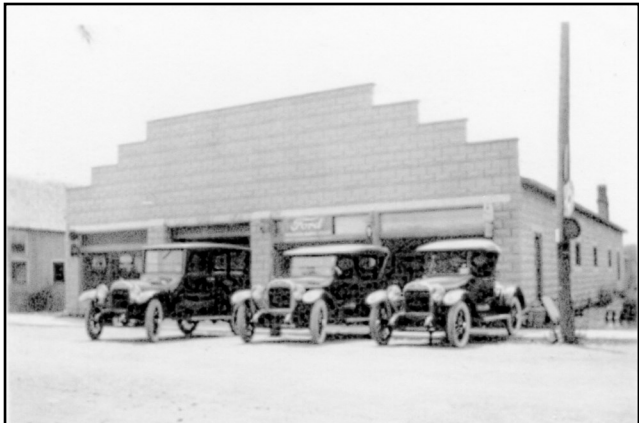
Jerome Pudlewski Family

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

The late Harry Fishbach who was the town historian and owner of the Fishbach Museum had this to say about early travel in the area. “Kettlersville was midway between the railroad in old Stringtown (Botkins) and the Miami Erie Canal in New Bremen. Used to be a 24-mile round trip for the old stage coach. Roads were terrible. This was all marshland, and the roads were filled in with logs. What with eight or nine passengers and all their trunks and things tied to the top of the stagecoach, the horses couldn’t take it both ways. There was a stagecoach stop and tavern in Kettlersville to give the horses some rest midway. Fresh horses had to be traded out in Stringtown for the trip back.”



Taken at Kettlersville church picnic around 1916. Picnics were first held at the Metz farm. Later picnics were held in Maurer’s woods.



A.G. Langhorst Ford Dealership in Kettlersville
Later became Holtkamp Implement

As with many small towns, Kettlersville was at one time filled with small businesses. A shoe store, two groceries, a saloon, a sawmill, a stockyard, and a Ford auto dealership were among those early businesses. In later years, Immanuel Church, the Kettlersville school, the Poppe and Kindred Grocery Store (which also housed the post office), and the K-Village Inn were important landmarks in town. It remains a peaceful, quiet place that many in our school district gladly call home.



HELP US PRESERVE OUR HISTORY

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

Name of member _____

Name of spouse (family memberships) _____

Children under 18 (family memberships) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Dr. Milliette Level _____ (\$50 per month)	Single Membership - \$20 yearly _____
Anna Carey Thirkield Level _____ (\$25 per month)	Family Membership - \$25 yearly _____
Lois Lenski Level _____ (\$10 per month)	Lifetime Membership - \$500 _____

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

Christmas on Main Craft Show

The annual Anna District Historical craft show will be held on Friday, November 11th and Saturday, November 12th from 9am - 4pm each day at the Packer Historical Center. Handcrafted items made by ADHS members and other district residents will be offered for sale. One change this year is that most items for sale will be priced instead of asking shoppers to make a donation for their purchases.



Some of the items ready to be sold at Santa's Workshop



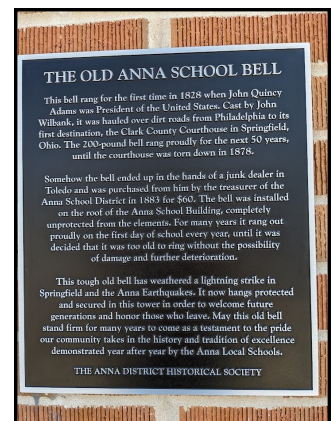
ADHS Sponsoring Santa's Workshop for First Graders

For the first time, the Anna District Historical Society members are planning a Santa's Workshop for all Anna Elementary first graders. The workshop will offer first graders a chance to purchase gifts for their parents and step-parents (one gift for each). First graders will have an opportunity to shop on December 19th in the art room. ADHS members and other volunteers will be there to assist and bag their gifts. All gifts will sell for either \$3 or \$2. So if you are the parent or step-parent of an Anna first grader, put Tuesday, December 19th on your child's calendar.



Small sampling of items for sale at Christmas on Main craft show!

New Sign Installed at Anna School Bell Tower



Anna District Historical Society

112 West Main Street

P.O. Box 133

Anna, OH 45302

POSTAL CUSTOMER

ANNA, OH 45302

Update on the Stair Lift Status

The new stair lift at the Packer Historical Center has recently been inspected by the State of Ohio and is fully operational and ready for visitors and members to use.

Anna District Historical Society

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.**



Early picture of Women's Guild from Immanuel Church in Kettlersville. Rev. Dietze in middle of back row.



Ford cars at the train station in New Bremen waiting to be assembled and driven to Kettlersville. (L-R) Ernest Counts, A.G. Langhorst, Charles Egbert, Si Katterhenry, Ed Sollmann, and Homer Kettler.