History of The Village of Botkins

Part II

Planning and publishing of the Botkins Founders Day booklet in 2008 was the result of contributions of time and information by many Botkins residents. Space limitations in the booklet and incomplete or lacking historical information prevented the entire history of the village including all of the businesses that thrived during the past 150 years, interesting stories, etc. to be related in printed form. The following is what we hope is the beginning of a continuing tool to electronically update the village’s historical events as they are learned or occur.

Family Owned
Over 70 Years

Brown Welding Shop was started by Lawrence M. Brown (L.M.) in 1936 or 1937 as a part time business in his garage. L.M. worked for the C.D. Beck Company in Sidney full time and worked at his own business in the evenings and weekends. He started by doing general repair work and making buck rakes. In the late 1930’s as the business grew, he quit C.D. Beck and worked full time at Brown Welding. Also during this time he purchased the building where Harrod Memorials is now located and moved the business into it. Around 1945 L.M. purchased the ground where Brown Industrial is currently located, put up a new building and moved into it.
Brown Welding continued to grow throughout the 40’s doing repair work, millwright work, building buck rakes, constructing buildings, and building grain bodies. In the early 1950’s Donald C. Brown and Laverne F. Brown took over the day to day operations of the business and continued the growth of the business. During the 1950’s Brown Welding started doing work for G.A. Wintzer & Son which got them the start in mobile rendering equipment which is their major product line to this day. Brown Welding Shop became incorporated in 1956.

During the 1960’s Brown Welding continued to do work for the rendering industry as well as millwright work, general repairs, building construction, platform hoists, installation of dump bodies and truck equipment. They also built the first automatic rubber bale cutter in 1969. In 1972, L.M. passed away and Donald and Laverne took over ownership of Brown Welding. The 1970’s were a period of rapid growth for Brown Welding. Brown Welding expanded in 1970 by adding on to its existing building located at 311 West South Street. The current building was added in 1975. Brown Welding purchased abutting ground and a building in 1977 that had belonged to a foundry. During the 70’s Brown Welding continued to grow all areas of its business.

Donald Brown passed away suddenly in February 1980. Laverne Brown and Donald’s wife, Ruth Brown, took over ownership of the business at this time and Donald and Ruth’s son, Chris, started doing much of the design work. During the 1980’s Brown Welding started building container grease trucks and trailers that are their major product line for the rendering industry today. 7200 square feet of manufacturing area were added in 1984. Brown Welding Shop ceased being the operational entity in 1992 and was changed to Brown Industrial, Incorporated. During the 1990’s Brown Industrial continued to refine and grow its mobile rendering equipment line.

Brown Industrial bought its first laser cutter in 2000 and started in the job shop market. This market has grown very quickly for Brown Industrial, with it now being fifty percent of annual sales. Brown has grown to three laser cutters and added another 6600 square feet of building in 2005. Chris and Craig Brown took over the day to day operations in 2002, and are the third generation of the Brown family to operate the business. Laverne F. Brown passed away June, 2007, and Chris and Craig Brown took over ownership of Brown Industrial. Chris and Craig both have a BSME degree and do the design work on all products manufactured by Brown Industrial. Brown Industrial continues to add state of the art equipment, with the latest being a 275 ton CNC Press Brake in 2008. Brown Industrial has over 45 employees and continues to strive to be the leader in the mobile rendering equipment market and metal fabrication job shop work.

Submitted by Ruth Brown

Listing of the Businesses Located in Botkins, Ohio
150 Plus Years

During the last 150 years there were many businesses in the village of Botkins. Some of the business names are successor businesses or the same business operating under a different business entity. The following listing, while extensive, cannot possibly include each business that has existed in the village. Additions to this collection will be appreciated.
A. Gutmann's Store
A. McEvoy's Store
A.E. Reinhardt
Adrian Marx General Merchandise
Agrona
Al Eyink Meadow Gold Products
Alphonso Roth Saloon
Andrew Gutmann
Anton Roth Sawmill
Argania Fruit US, Inc
Armour Agricultural Chemical Company
Aufderhaar & Dietz Construction
Auglaize Provico
B&B Café
Bank One
Barb's Beauty Shop
Beem Construction, Inc
Benj. Kuest Livery Stable
Bernard A. Steinke Blacksmith Shop
Best Door & Window
Best Western Botkins
Black Construction
Blakeley & Looker Millinery
Bob's Gulf Service
Bornhorst Printing Company
Botkins Auto & Truck Service
Botkins Community Insurance
Botkins Creamery
Botkins Electric & Plumbing
Botkins Fertilizer Co., Inc.
Botkins Fiberglass
Botkins Filling Station
Botkins Flowers
Botkins Food Shop
Botkins Foodland
Botkins Furniture Store
Botkins Grain & Feed Company
Botkins Hardware Company
Botkins Home Telephone Company
Botkins Insulating Company
Botkins Laundry
Botkins Liquid Fertilizer, Inc.
Botkins Lumber Company
Botkins Market
Botkins Motor Sales
Botkins Oil & Gas Company
Botkins Paint Company
Botkins Party Mart
Botkins Poultry Company
Botkins Product Company
Botkins Pure Oil Station
Botkins Seed Company
Botkins Service Station
Botkins Stave Factory
Botkins Stockyards
Botkins Sunoco and Carry Out
Botkins Taste Freeze
Gerber Locker Plant
Gerber's Hall
Gerber's Implement Sales
Gordon Slemmer
Grandma’s Restaurant
Gray & Ailes
Greve & Geyer
Greve Drywall & Painting
Greve Electrical & Plumbing, LLC
Gutmans House Hotel
H&B Furniture
H.A. Nuss & Son
H.M. Lehman
H.V. Taylor & Sons
H.W. Weigert & Company
Harrod Memorials
Harry Lentz Realty
Harry Lentz Realty & Auction Company
Harry's Paint Shop
Harry's Paint Shop & Paul Wilt Homes
Heckler Insurance Agency
Hemmert & Stetzler
Hemmert Oil & Fuel
Hemmert’s Service Station
Henry Brockman Blacksmith
Henry Sitzmann Saloon
Herald Printing Office
Herb Wical Stockyards
Hi-Style Beauty Salon
Hitching Post Bar
HJ&D Foundry
Home Bakery
HT Concepts, Inc.
Hubbard
Hunt & Greve Implement Store
I.M.C. AgriBusiness
Ideal Food Market
Industrial Steel Fabricating
Inn Between
J.B. Greve
J.B. Greve & P. Hunt
J.B. Hemmert Saloon
J.B. Hemmert’s Restaurant
J.B. Stolley
J.H. & P. Miller
Jacob Bonnoront Saloon
Jacob Hefner Meats
Jacob W. Zenglein
Jake's Bar
Jenny's Designs Flowers & Gifts
Jim King - Mel Marx Construction
Jim's Place
JoAnn Gieves Wedding Cakes
John B. Stolle
John Duckro Tin Shop
John R. Frische, D.D.S.
John Schars Wagon Maker
Jordon's Food Center
Pat's
Phil Loch Boots & Shoes
Phil Sheets & Son
Platfoot Café
Poppie's Barber Shop
Progreen Landscaping & Garden Center
Pro-Health Feeds
Provico
Provico Farm & Show Supply LLC
Provico Service Center
R&B Shaffer Insurance Agency, Inc.
R. Hasting Grain
Ryder Truck Rental
S.D. Baird Restaurant
S.W. Kuest Livery & Feed Stable
Samuel Kies General Store
Schaif & Kuhn Hardware & Warehouse
Schafer & Fisher Stockyards
Schafer Garage
Schab Grocery Store
Schipper Construction Company
Schneider Tool Sales
Schneider TV Repair
Schnippe Construction
Schnippe’s Service Station
Schurr Furniture Store & Undertaking Establisment
Shaffer Insurance
Sheets & Bush Café
Sheets Electric Company
Sheets Elevator
Sheets Grain Company
Sheets Manufacturing Company
Sheet's Sawmill
Sheets Spoke & Bending Factory
Sheets Store
Shelby Chemical Service
Shelby County Bank
Shelby House Hotel
Shell Service Station
Sherwood Motor Lodge
Sidney Grinding & Machining Service
Sitzmann & Mengal
Snyder's Soho Service
Snyder's Store
Sports Center
Stanfield's Foods
Star Bank
State Street Steak House
Steinke Garage
Steinke Insurance Agency
Steinke Oil Company
Steinke Shell Service
Steinke's Grocery
Steinke's Inc.
Steinke's Inc. Marathon Oil Products
Steinke's Marathon
Steinke's Oil Company
Steinke's Repair
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<th>Business Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Boyer &amp; Paul</td>
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<td>Joseph Miller Shoe Store</td>
<td>Steve’s Trucking</td>
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<td>Joseph Sheets</td>
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<td>Taylor &amp; Liams Furniture</td>
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<td>Kennedy Oil Company</td>
<td>Taylor &amp; Marx</td>
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<td>Kennedy’s Garage</td>
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<td>Thaman Milk Haulers</td>
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<td>Thaman TV</td>
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<td>Kinninger’s Taste Freez</td>
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<td>Koenig’s Drug Store</td>
<td>The Botkins Herald</td>
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<td>Christian Schurr</td>
<td>Koenig Equipment</td>
<td>The Botkins Telephone Company</td>
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<td>Kuest’s Hotel</td>
<td>The Crossing Tavern</td>
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<td>L&amp;H Restaurant</td>
<td>The Crystal Blues</td>
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<td>L. E. Blakely Radios</td>
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<td>Lawrence Hut Store Room &amp; Barn</td>
<td>The Restaurant</td>
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<td>Mac’s Place</td>
<td>Tillman’s Service</td>
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<td>Tillman’s Sunoco &amp; Carry Out</td>
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<td>Top Hat</td>
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<td>Trojan’s Den</td>
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<td>East End</td>
<td>Monger &amp; Cole Tavern</td>
<td>Village Salon</td>
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<td>Ed Brown Insurance Agency</td>
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<td>W.A. Bechtold Saloon</td>
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Elsass & Son Insurance Agency
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Evelyn’s Beauty Shop
F.G. Gutmann General Merchandise
F.G. Tate Insurance
Fertilizer Dealer Supply Inc.
Findlay Industries
Finishing Touches Flowers & More
First Border Savings Bank
First Federal Savings And Loan
First National Bank of New Breman
Food Shop IGA
Foodzi’s
Frank Monger Bakery
GABCO Construction, Inc.
George Loebrick Barber
Gerber Food Center
Monger’s Tavern
Mrs. P.W. Speker Millinary
Mrs. W.A. Stole Saloon
Nuss IGA Market
Ohio Oil Company
Ohio Spoke and Bending Company
Ohio Veterinary Supply
Omy’s Bar
Opperman Furniture Store
P. Sheets Saloon
P. W. Speker Druggist
Pace Equipment
Park’s Poultry Company
Patrick Heini Funeral Home
W.H. Brideweiser
Wapakoneta Products
Warren Botkin
West End Grocery
White Front Café
William Shere
Wm. Flaute Blacksmith
Wm. Keuthau Restaurant
Wm. Opperman
World Book, Alma Becher
Wreckers Bar & Restaurant
Zaenglein Bros.
Zaenglein’s Department Store
Zimpher Electric Service