

# 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	Gerber Locker Plant	Pat's
A. McEvoy's Store	Gerber's Hall	Phil Loch Boots & Shoes
A.E. Reinhardt	Gerber's Implement Sales	Phil Sheets & Son
Adrian Marx General Merchandise	Gordon Slemmer	Platfoot Café
Advanced Agri-Solutions CoOp.	Grandma's Restaurant	Poppe's Barber Shop
Agrona	Gray & Ailes	Progreen Landscaping & Garden Center
Al Eyink Meadow Gold Products	Greve & Geyer	Pro-Health Feeds
Alphonso Roth Saloon	Greve Drywall & Painting	Provico
Andrew Gutmann	Greve Electrical & Plumbing, LLC	Provico Farm & Show Supply LLC
Anton Roth Sawmill	Gutman House Hotel	Provico Service Center
Argania Fruit US, Inc	H&B Furniture	R&J Shaffer Insurance Agency, Inc.
Armour Argicultural Chemical Company	H.A. Nuss & Son	R. Hasting Grain
Aufderhaar & Dietz Construction	H.M. Lehman	Ryder Truck Rental
Auglaize Provico	H.V. Taylor & Sons	S.D. Baird Restaurant
B&B Café	H.W. Weigert & Company	S.W. Kuest Livery & Feed Stable
Bank One	Harrod Memorials	Samuel Kies General Store
Barb's Beauty Shop	Harry Lentz Realty	Schaf & Kuhn Hardware & Warehouse
Beem Construction, Inc	Harry Lentz Realty & Auction Company	Schafer & Fisher Stockyards
Benj. Kuest Livery Stable	Harry's Paint Shop	Schafer Garage
Bernard A. Steinke Blacksmith Shop	Harry's Paint Shop & Paul Wilt Homes	Schaub Grocery Store
Best Door & Window	Heckler Insurance Agency	Schipper Construction Company
Best Western Botkins	Hemmert & Stetzler	Schneider Tool Sales
Black Construction	Hemmert Oil & Fuel	Schneider TV Repair
Blakeley & Looker Millinery	Hemmert's Service Station	Schnippel Construction
Bob's Gulf Service	Henry Brockman Blacksmith	Schnippel's Service Station
Bornhorst Printing Company	Henry Sitzmann Saloon	Schurr Furniture Store & Undertaking Estblshmnt
Botkins Auto & Truck Service	Herald Printing Office	Shaffer Insurance
Botkins Community Insurance	Herb Wical Stockyards	Sheets & Bush Café
Botkins Creamery	Hi-Style Beauty Salon	Sheets Electric Company
Botkins Electric & Plumbing	Hitching Post Bar	Sheets Elevator
Botkins Fertilizer Co., Inc.	HJ&D Foundry	Sheets Grain Company
Botkins Fiberglass	Home Bakery	Sheets Manufacturing Company
Botkins Filling Station	HT Concepts, Inc.	Sheet's Sawmill
Botkins Flowers	Hubbard	Sheets Spoke & Bending Factory
Botkins Food Shop	Hunt & Greve Implement Store	Sheets Store
Botkins Foodland	I.M.C. AgriBusiness	Shelby Chemical Service
Botkins Furniture Store	Ideal Food Market	Shelby County Bank
Botkins Grain & Feed Company	Industrial Steel Fabricating	Shelby House Hotel
Botkins Hardware Company	Inn Between	Shell Service Station
Botkins Home Telephone Company	J.B. Greve	Sherwood Motor Lodge
Botkins Insulating Company	J.B. Greve & P. Hunt	Sidney Grinding & Machining Service
Botkins Laundry	J.B. Hemmert Saloon	Sitzmann & Mengal
Botkins Liquid Fertilizer, Inc.	J.B. Hemmert's Restaurant	Snyder's Sohio Service
Botkins Lumber Company	J.B. Stolley	Snyder's Store
Botkins Market	J.H. & P. Miller	Sports Center
Botkins Motor Sales	Jacob Bonnoront Saloon	Stanfield's Foods
Botkins Oil & Gas Company	Jacob Hefner Meats	Star Bank
Botkins Paint Company	Jacob W. Zaenglein	State Street Steak House
Botkins Party Mart	Jake's Bar	Steinke Garage
Botkins Poultry Company	Jenny's Designs Flowers & Gifts	Steinke Insurance Agency
Botkins Product Company	Jim King - Mel Marx Construction	Steinke Oil Company
Botkins Pure Oil Station	Jim's Place	Steinke Shell Service
Botkins Seed Company	JoAnn Grieves Wedding Cakes	Steinke's Grocery
Botkins Service Station	John B. Stolle	Steinke's Inc.
Botkins Stave Factory	John Duckro Tin Shop	Steinke's Inc. Marathon Oil Products
Botkins Stockyards	John R. Frische, D.D.S.	Steinke's Marathon
Botkins Sunoco and Carry Out	John Schar's Wagon Maker	Steinke's Oil Company
Botkins Tastee Freeze	Jordon's Food Center	Steinke's Repair



Boyer & Paul

Bridgeford Pharmacy

Brown Industrial

Brown Welding Shop, Inc.

Brown's Garage

Bubba's Pizza

Burnett House Hotel

Busch's Grocery

Bush Grocery

BZM Company

C.W. Brideweser Harness Shop

Carl's Barber Shop

Cartwright Brothers

Christian Schurr

Citizens Baughman National Bank

City Drug Store

Clarence Wilt Insurance Agency

Corner Video

Counts Barber Shop

Cowboys

Crystal Acres

Cynthia's Beauty Shop

D.W. Counts Masonary

Dan's Radio Shop

Dayton Pure Milk & Butter Company

Dixie Highway Garage

Dixie Lunch

Don's Print Shop

Dr. A. Mausky

Dr. Charles Tate Dentist

Dr. F.R. McVay, M.D.

Dr. G.M. Tate

Dr. Lingerich

Dr. M.A. Wiest Veterinarian

Dr. Marilyn McCorkle, MD

Dr. P.R. Clinehens

Dr. Raymond Paul, MD

Dr. Robert I. Curry, MD

Dr. F.H. Schroer Veterinarian

Dr. W.H. Wilding

Drees's Laundermat

Eager's IGA

East End

Ed Brown Insurance Agency

Joseph Gutman

Joseph Miller Shoe Store

Joseph Sheets

Keith's Service

Kennedy Garage

Kennedy Implement Company

Kennedy Oil Company

Kennedy's Garage

King Brothers Construction

Kinninger's Carry Out

Kinninger's Restaurant

Kinninger's Tastee Freez

Koehlinger's Drug Store

Koenig Electrolux Sales & Service

Koenig Equipment

Kuest's Hotel

L&H Restaurant

L&K Family Restaurants

L. E. Blakely Radios

L.J. Behrns Insurance

LaChalupa's

Larry's Barber Shop

Lawrence Hut Store Room & Barn

Lentz Auction Service

Little John Restaurant & Lounge

Lotridge Rubber Company

Ludwig's Upholstery

M.A. Marx Store

Mac's Place

Maner Direct Mail Service

Maner, Inc.

Marathon Oil Company

Marchal Tavern

Martin Alstaetter Millwright, Welding, Inc.

Marx & Nuss

Maurer Oil Company

Maurer Laundry

Maurer Oil Company & Pennzoil Service Station

Maurer Oil Co Laundrymat & Fleetwing Svc St

Mel's Fleetwing Service

Meyer's Tavern

Middendorf Stockyard

MK Construction

Monger & Cole Tavern

Steinkes Shoe Repair

Steve's Trucking

Stolle & Hemmert Meat Market

Subway of Botkins

T&K Laser Works, Inc.

Taylor & Liams Furniture

Taylor & Marx

Taylor Brothers

Thaman Brothers, Inc.

Thaman Milk Haulers

Thaman TV

The Beauty Nook

The Botkins Herald

The Botkins Telephone Company

The Crossing Tavern

The Crystal Blues

The First National Bank

The Footman

The Hairitage House

The Home Bakery

The House of Assurance

The Restaurant

The Shelby County Bank

The Shelby House

The Steering Wheel Gasoline Station

The Tavernm

Thomas Kennedy Implement Company

Tillman's Service

Tillman's Sunoco & Carry Out

Tip Top Beauty Shop

Top Hat

ToppNotch Photo

Towne General

Tri-County Veterinary Service, Inc.

Trojan's Den

Union Garage

Upper Cervical Health Clinic

US Bank

USS Agri-Chemicals, Inc.

USS Farm Service Center

V. Accuntius Refrigeration Service

Vigoro Industries, Inc

Village Salon

Vondy's Service Station & Restaurant

W.A. Bechtold Saloon

Elsass & Son Insurance Agency  
Engelhaupt Realty  
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 Heinl 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

