

# "THE TOWPATH" – APRIL, MAY, JUNE - 1991

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY  
THE NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 73 – New Bremen, Ohio 45869  
Marjorie Lietz, Editor

SUPPORT YOUR MUSEUM: **Membership dues are \$3.00 per year.** Life Membership is \$50.00  
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"The Towpath" brings you some history of New Bremen - your article is welcome.

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**HOTEL CENTRAL – WEST MONROE STREET**

[Card dated August 31, 1908 – has a 1 cent stamp]

IN 1991, THE HOTEL ON WEST MONROE STREET IS UNDERGOING EXTENSIVE REMODELING. MANY OF OUR PEOPLE ARE ASKING "HOW DID THE HOTEL LOOK WAY BACK AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY - IN THE TWENTIES, ETC.?"

WE HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT THE THIRTIES AND EVEN THE FORTIES WERE THE "BIG DEPRESSION YEARS" AND THERE WAS NO MONEY FOR ANY REMODELING.

ON MAY 2, 1902, *THE NEW BREMEN SUN* STATED THAT AUGUST DIERKER, PROMINENT NEW BREMEN BUSINESSMAN, MOVED HIS STORE STOCK OF STOVES AND TINWARE INTO HIS OWN BUILDING, JUST ONE DOOR WEST OF THE HOTEL CENTRAL.

ON JULY 31, 1903, THE HOTEL CENTRAL, WHICH HAD BEEN CLOSED, WAS TO RE-OPEN UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT WITH HERMAN LAUT AND HIS SON, EMIL, RUNNING THIS PLACE OF BUSINESS. THE HOTEL WAS TO HAVE A NEW NAME - HOTEL LAUT.

DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS, FROM HOTEL LAUT, THE HOTEL BECAME KNOWN AS HOTEL HOLLINGSWORTH AND KEPT THIS NAME FOR MANY YEARS - THROUGH THREE GENERATIONS OF THE HOLLINGSWORTH / SCHNELL FAMILY.

IN 1977, THE HOTEL WAS SOLD TO DUANE HARTWIG AND SON, DEAN. THE HARTWIGS CHANGED THE NAME TO "HOTEL BAR".

JUST SHORT OF 13 YEARS LATER (1990), THE HOTEL CHANGED HANDS AGAIN, NOW OWNED BY CROWN EQUIPMENT CORP.

AS OF THIS WRITING (1991), THE INSIDE OF THE BUILDING IS UNDERGOING EXTENSIVE REMODELING. THE OUTSIDE FRONT IS BOARDED UP DUE TO CONSTRUCTION, AND AS TOWNSPEOPLE, WE ARE ALL GETTING ANXIOUS TO SEE THE FINISHED PROJECT!

THE LAST NAME THIS STURDY BUILDING CARRIED WAS "LOCK ONE". THIS WAS ONLY FOR A SHORT TIME FOR THE RESTAURANT, NOW NO LONGER A HOTEL. THE NAME "LOCK ONE" WAS VERY FITTING BECAUSE NEW BREMEN WAS KNOWN AS LOCK ONE IN THE BUSY TIME OF CANAL DAYS!

THIS EDITION OF "THE TOWPATH" FEATURES ARTICLES FURNISHED BY SOME OF OUR MEMBERS:

- 1) Pauline (Vornholt) Gilberg tells us about her father, Ben Vornholt.
- 2) Ruth (Mueller) Henning furnished us with material on W.W.I.
- 3) Alice (Schmidt) Wissman furnished material from an 1887 New Bremen directory.
- 4) Kenneth Fark wrote about his Grandfather Fark.

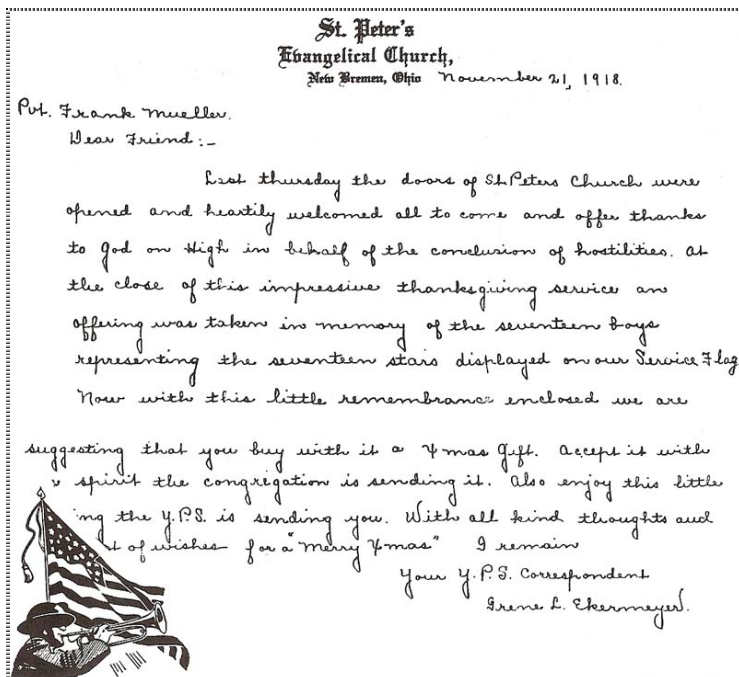
A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE PAID THEIR 1991 DUES, TO THOSE WHO HAVE PURCHASED LIFE MEMBERSHIPS, AND TO THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN DONATIONS. WE APPRECIATE YOUR KIND RESPONSE. WE ARE HAPPY THAT OUR MEMBERSHIP IS INCREASING.

Your articles are welcome. There are many people who helped make New Bremen the pleasant town we know now in 1991. There are many interesting events that took place in New Bremen maybe you would like to share.

AS SOON AS WE HAVE WARM DAYS, WORK WILL CONTINUE AT THE MUSEUM, INSIDE AND OUTSIDE.



Elsa Mueller, Viola Mueller, Hilda Huefe, Carolyn Neuman, Bertha Wierth, Irene Ekermeier (chair)



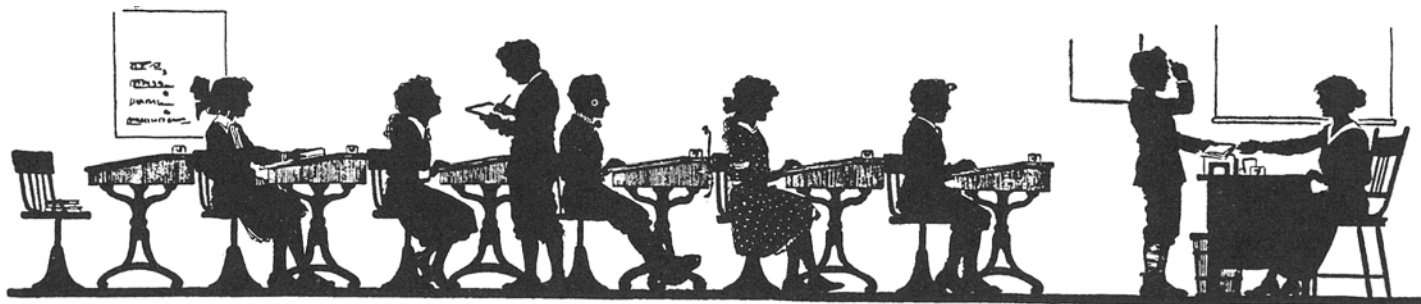
Mrs. Edgar (Ruth Mueller) Henning has given the museum a packet of letters, this picture, and a card signed "Best Wishes from the Correspondence Committee – Young People's Society of St. Peter's Church". The letters were written to her father, Frank Mueller, during World War I by a group of young ladies of St. Peter's Church called "The Correspondence Committee". The letters are written in "round robin style".

#### EXCERPTS FROM THE LETTERS:

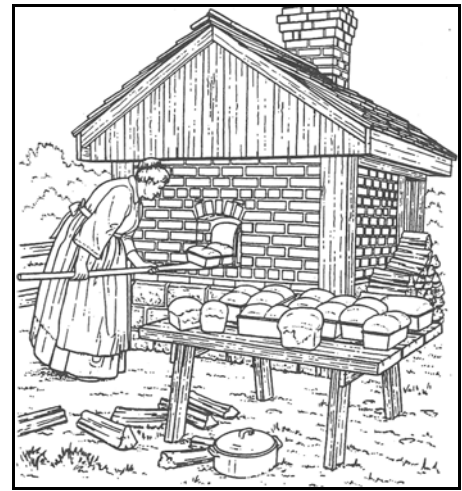
"We realize how anxious you boys are to hear from home." "Last Thursday evening we had a special patriotic service for Peace." "The Victrola was kept playing all evening and we certainly enjoyed the music." "I enjoy my work very much being a Sunday School teacher." "We had a good crowd of thirty-eight members." "Halloween party with lunch of 55 popcorn balls, salad salmon and the cakes we got at the bakery." "Whistles blew – the church bells rang."



**DID YOU KNOW?** - In 1965, sixteen American flags were presented to the elementary grades in a special ceremony on Veterans Day by the American Legion Post 241 Auxiliary. Mrs. John (Edith) Wissman, president of the auxiliary, opened the program. There were 500 students present from kindergarten through 6th grade.



"SCHOOL DAYS, SCHOOL DAYS, DEAR OLD GOLDEN RULE DAYS  
READIN' WRITIN' AND 'RITHMETIC..."



THE HOME OF MY GRANDPA AND GRANDMA FARK  
225 NORTH HERMAN STREET - NEW BREMEN, OHIO  
(Photo taken in January 1991)

GRANDPA ADAM HEINRICH FARCK/FARK was born in Halten, Germany on January 3, 1843.

GRANDMA ANNA MARIE ELIZABETH (KETTLER) FARK was born in Broxton, Germany on May 30, 1850.

The date is unknown when they came to New Bremen, however land was purchased at 225 North Herman Street and there Grandpa and Grandma's house was built in 1880. It was a 2-room house. After they had some children, Grandpa hired Henry Kuck, a local carpenter, to add another story to the house, a room on back, plus a summer kitchen and a small basement.

Fifteen children were born to them in that home. My dad, Charles Fark, said he never knew of all the kids being at home at the same time.

A 2-story barn was added to the lot a few years later, which housed straw and hay for the one cow they had, and chickens were housed in the rear. The cow was taken to a friend's pasture field just south of the present-day (1991) disposal plant and then brought home again at milking time. Grandma had an outdoor oven where bread, etc. was baked.

Sometime later, after Grandpa had passed away, Grandma sold the house to Fred Timmerman and went to a daughter's house to live. In 1929, Willis Holdren married Waneta Timmerman and they moved in the house with her folks. They lived there 61 years.

In the early 1990s, the house was sold to Crown Controls / Equipment Corp.

*[submitted by Kenneth Fark]*

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Most every early New Bremen family owned a cow and some chickens. And many families had an outdoor bake oven – it was a way of life in those days.*





BEN & ANNA (KUCK) VORNHOLT

MY DAD – BEN VORNHOLT

*by Pauline (Vornholt) Gilbert*

Ben Vornholt was born west of New Bremen on December 15, 1868. He was married to Anna Kuck from New Knoxville on the home farm and continued living there. They had nine children. Ben was a devout Christian and served in many capacities in Zion's Church.

Ben farmed until 1905, when he moved to New Bremen. He then hauled cream for the White Mountain Creamery which was located on the east edge of New Bremen. He used a large heavy huckster wagon drawn by two horses, "Bill and Pete". He covered a 35 mile area, twice a week, driving as far as Osgood and Willowdell. He would start at 3:00 A.M. and not return until early evening. In severe weather he would use a kerosene lantern and heated bricks to keep warm.

When the Case Motor Company started assembling trucks, he purchased one of the first ones. His had a top! It was very noisy because there was no muffler. The neighbors did not appreciate the noise at 5:00 in the morning. The maintenance was very expensive because many flaws had not been worked out. The truck also transported the family to Sidney to visit relatives once a year.

In 1919 Ben became custodian of the New Bremen Central School. He was immediately called Bennie by all the students. A gong was sounded for recess and dismissal. When recess was over, the bell was rung to call the students back into the building. Some of the students would sometimes talk him into ringing the bell at noon. All the students liked to slide down the banisters and he would sometimes warn them because he didn't want them to be caught by the teachers.

The furnace had no stoker, so in severe cold weather, he would get up at 3:00 A.M. to fire the furnace so it would be warm by 8:00. He often stayed all night.

Once a year, in August, the building would get a good cleaning. The desks were scrubbed with a brush and a paint scraper was used to clean the chewing gum from under the seats. The windows were washed to be sparkling clean. To wash the outside, one sat in the window using a long handled brush to reach the top. Ben hired boys to empty the waste baskets and help sweep, their pay coming out of Ben's pocket. When the four-room High School was built (1920), he also kept it clean.

In 1930, when the High School on Walnut Street was opened, he was transferred to that building. Several persons told me just recently that when some of the farm boys arrived at school early, Ben would open the doors for them and let them wait in the furnace room until door opening time. That was before busses.

In 1939 he was forced to retire at age 72. He was a person who needed to be busy, so during the war he was hired as a sweeper at Seiberling / New Bremen Rubber Company. He later cleaned the Crown Controls building on Washington Street and was custodian of Zion's Church for several years. He also did yard work for Mrs. Harry Komminsk.

Ben purchased four lots, which are now Canal Street, to have a large garden. He sold much of his produce. His son-in-law, Paul Gilbert, purchased a garden tractor for him. When asked how he liked it, he said, "Just fine, but now I have more free time."

At age 87, Ben's right leg was amputated just above the knee. He was determined to walk again with a prosthesis. (He called it a wooden leg.) As soon as he was healed, he fastened a wooden board to his stump and practiced walking between two rails that he built in the back yard. After he received his prosthesis, he walked with the aid of a crutch and cane. He died of a heart attack on March 17, 1958 at age 89, after having fulfilled a happy busy life.

EDITOR'S NOTE: After reading about Bennie Vornholt, I am sure many of you will have happy memories of school days. Many times our classroom door opened quietly and it was Bennie, checking the temperature of our room, the radiators, etc. He knew all of us, just as we knew him.

# 1887 BUSINESS ADVERTISING DIRECTORY

of Manufacturers, Business Men, City-School-Church Officials  
by C.M. Smith, Editor & Proprietor of the "New Bremen Sun"

Behm, Fred	Canal Boat Captain	Finke, Fred	Barber
Thieman, William	Lock Tender	Gagel, William	Barber
Thompson, Thomas B.	Boarding House, N.B-Botkins Hack Driver	Laut, Gottlieb	"Florentine" Barber Shop
Koenig, Henry	Drayman	Schulenberg, William	Books, Stationery, Groceries, Notions
Tangemann, Herman	Drayman	Helwig & Schroeder	Book Agents
Gress, C.P.	Railroad Agent	Purpus, Edward	Postmaster + Book & Notion Store
Gress, C.P. & Co.	Coal & Lime	Fritz, Jacob	Assistant Postmaster
N.B. Foundry & Machine Co.	Machinery, Tile Mills, Steam Engine repair	Purpus, Theodore	"Stern" Editor, School Board Director
Lanfersieck, J.F. & Co.*	Plow Factory	Kieser, F.	"Stern Des Weslichen" Office Foreman
Grothaus, Henry, Sr.*	Agricultural Implements, City Councilman	Smith C.M.	Editor of "The New Bremen Sun"
Grothaus, J.H. (Henry?)	City Clerk	Pagels, Fred	Typo(grapher?)
Grothaus, William*	Blacksmith	Stereo-Type Foundry	"Sun" News & Job Printing
Lanfersieck, A(ugust?)*	Blacksmith	Merkle, John	Baker
Aue, Henry & Son	Blacksmiths, Agricultural Implements	Vornholt, F.J.	"Star" Bakery & Confectionery
Gast, Gregor	Blacksmith	Wehrman & Knorre	Bakery
Gilberg Brothers	Blacksmiths	Huenke Brothers	Creamery & Dairy, Livestock
Landwehr, Henry	Blacksmith	Steinberg Bros. (since Dec./1886)	"Elm Grove" Creamery, Produce Merchants
Schneider, Adolph	Blacksmith	Steinberg, A.	School Board Clerk
Schnelle, Christ	Blacksmith	Dinkel, Theodore	Meat Market
Schroeder, Diedrich	Blacksmith	Schelper, Henry	Meat Market
Schulenberg, Benjamin	Blacksmith	Speckman & Nieter	Groceries & Saloon
Schulte, Gerhard	Blacksmith	Wiemeyer, Fred	Clothing, Livery Stable, City Councilman
Schulte, Henry	Blacksmith	Depweg, C.D., Mgr.	"N.B. Bazaar" Dry Goods & Notions
Schulte, George	Blacksmith & Carpenter	Depweg, Frank A., Prop.	"N.B. Bazaar" Dry Goods & Notions
Brinkmeyer, William	Carpenter & Contractor	Boesche, J.H. (S. Washington St.)	Dry Goods, Produce, Pork, Grain
Brueggeman, Fred	Carpenter	Dierker, Henry & Co. (City Council)	Dry Goods, Etc., School Board Treas.
Brueggeman, William	Carpenter	Speckman, Son & Co.	Dry Goods, Produce, Pork, Grain, Liquor
Haseke (Haeseker), Henry	Carpenter	Boesel & Kunning* (Est. 1836)	Dry Goods, Produce, Pork, Grain, Hdwe.
Holtman, Joseph	Carpenter	Boesel, Jacob*	Dry Goods, Produce, Pork, Grain, Hdwe.
Kuck, Henry	Carpenter	Boesel, Jacob	School Board President
Mueller, Henry	Carpenter	Kunning, C.H.*	Dry Goods, Produce, Pork, Grain, Hdwe.
Nuesmeyer, August	Carpenter	Boesel, Charles, Jr.	Hardware, Dry Goods, Etc.
Schulte, Fred	Carpenter	Jung, Frank	Hardware, Toys, Groceries
Trautwein, Fred	Carpenter	Schmidt Brothers (Est. 1849)	Dry Goods, Groceries, Sewing Machines
Trautwein, William	Carpenter	Ende, Fred	Jewelry Store
Wissman, Conrad	Carpenter	Halsema, J.	Jewelry Store
Lanfersieck, Henry	Woodworker	Knost, J.H., Sr.	Jeweler & Gunsmith
Weinberg, Henry	Woodworker	Koeper, John A.	Boots & Shoes
Heil, August	Mason & Plasterer	Broerman, Fred	Shoemaker
Heil, Charles, Jr.	Mason & Plasterer	Gilberg, Julius	Shoemaker
Heil, Charles, Sr.	Mason & Plasterer	Pohlman, Louis	Tailor & Cutter
Luelleman, William	Mason & Bricklayer	Depweg, Benjamin	Merchant Tailor (Monroe & Water Sts.)
Horton, John	Plasterer	Fahrenhorst, William	Merchant Tailor
Schoetly (Schoettley), Fred	Plasterer	Schwaberow, John	Millinery
Hoffman, Peter	Painter	Reiher, Henrietta (Mrs.)	Millinery (S. Washington St.)
Knost, George	Painter	Woehler, Mary (Mrs.)	Millinery, Notions, Barber, Notary Public
Lanfersieck, Edward	Painter	Boesel, Gustave	Justice of the Peace
Laut, Christ	Painter	Nieter, F.H.L.	Insurance Agent, Mayor
Schulenberg, Willie	Painter	Bruns, William	City Councilman
Suelter, Albert	Painter	Goll, John	Photograph Artist
Tschudy (Tschudin?), William	Painter	Greber, Fred W.	Physician & Surgeon (Speckman/Nieter block)
Schlesselman, Jacob	Sawmill	Ekemeyer, M.S.	Physician & Surgeon
Schulhoff, William	Handle Factory	Havemann, W.A.	Physician & Surgeon
Bakhaus, H.	Cooper	Miller, G.E.	Physician & Surgeon
Prueter, Christ, Sr.	Cooper	Potts, C.N.	Physician & Surgeon
Reiher, Christ	Cooper	Stone, Michael (W. Monroe St.)	Physician & Surgeon, City Councilman
Schneider, August	Cooper	Schmidt, Henry, Jr. (Dr.)	Veterinary Physician & Surgeon
Waterman, Gerhard	Cooper, Street Commissioner	Hoffman, J.L.	City Drug Store - N. Washington St.
Rabe & Dorfer	Planing Mill & Factory	Williamson, C.W. (former)	Superintendent of Union School
Rabe, William	Hardware, Lumber, Etc.	VanderMaaten, K. (Prof.)(new)	Superintendent of Union School

# 1887 BUSINESS ADVERTISING DIRECTORY (continued)

Knost & Heinfeld	Carriage Factory	Beach, B.J.	Teacher
Heinfeld, Fred - Woodworker	Furniture Dealer, Carriages	Bricker, D.S.	Teacher
Heinfeld, Herman	Furniture Dealer & Planing Mill	Dinkel, Philip	Teacher
Klanke Brothers (W. Monroe St.)	Furniture Mfg. & Dealers, Undertaking	Grothaus, Edmund	Teacher
Vogelsang, F. & Son (W. Monroe)	Stoves & Tinware, Roofing, Spouting	Miller, Edward	Teacher
Heil & Schneider	Stoves, Tinware, Lightning Rods, Pumps	Wannemacher, T.	Teacher
Knippel, Fred	Wagonmaker	Zwez, Julius F.	Teacher
Pagels, Fred, Sr.	Wagonmaker	Thieman, G.	School Board Director
Thiesing, John	Wagonmaker	Kunning, H.F.	School Board Director
Barienbrock, H.G.	"Big Whip" Harness Shop (S. Wash.St.)	Buerkle, M. (Rev.)	Pastor, St. Paul's Church
Broerman, Christopher	Harness Dealer	Merkle, A. (Rev.)	Pastor, St. Peter's Church
Jaeger, Rudolph	Harnessmaker	Diekmann, William (Rev.)	Pastor, Zions Church
Newman (Neuman), Fred	Harness Dealer	Bourquin, Alex	French House (\$2 Hotel)
Pape, Herman	Harnessmaker & Constable/Marshal	Lahmeyer (Lameyer), E.H. (Mrs.)	Saloon (N. Main St.)
Schneider, Adam	Harnessmaker	Laut, Henry	Saloon
Bakhaus & Kuenzels*	Flouring Mill & Woolen Mill	Laut, Herman	Saloon
Bakhaus, F.* , Kuenzel, G.* & H.*	N.B. Roller Mills (flour) & Woolen Mills	Meyer, Herman	Saloon
Finke, Henry - Superintendent*	N.B. Woolen Mills	Schulhoff, John	Saloon
Endslow, Samuel	Miller	Schulte, William	Saloon
Thiesing, George	Miller	Schwaberow, Henry	Saloon
Negus & Hoffman	New Bremen Elevator	Schwepe, William	Saloon
Schmidt Brothers	New Bremen Canal Elevator	Schweres (Schwers), Henry	Saloon (N. Main St.)
Schmidt Brothers	Chickasaw Railroad Elevator	Finke, August	Saloon & Barbershop (W. Monroe St.)
Anderson, A.C.	Grain Buyer	Wissman, F. (Monroe, near Water)	Saloon & Pool Room, City Treasurer
Jung, Henry F.	Livestock Dealer	Schwepe, Henry - Agent	Kaufman Brewing Co. (N. Main St.)
Vornholt, William	Hog breeder (2-1/2 miles NE of town)	Dierker, William	Cigar Factory
Landwehr, Fred	Engineer	Laut, John	Cigarmaker
Wellman, Lewis	Pike Contractor	Oberwitte, Gust	Cigarmaker
Boesel Bros. & Co.	Bankers (Organized 5/11/1885)	Tomhafe, Ernest	Cigarmaker
Boesel, Julius	Cashier, City Councilman	Weseli, Joseph	Cigar Factory
Boesel, Adolph	Assistant Cashier	Weseli, Wm.	Cigarmaker

THANK YOU to Mrs. Paul (Alice Schmidt) Wissman, who loaned us a "first edition directory" published in 1887. I am sure you will find names you connect with early New Bremen and perhaps a relative or two...

Listed are the three principal business streets – Main, Washington and Monroe. The streets are all graveled and kept in neat order the year round. The town is amply protected against loss or damage by fire, having two well-equipped fire companies always in readiness. We behold the once "hamlet in the wilderness" grown to a flourishing little city, the pride of its citizens.

This 1887 directory lists New Bremen as having 1277 citizens, there being 624 males and 653 females. In 1990, the census shows New Bremen Village as having 2558 persons.

## NEWS IN THE 1880s-1890s

December 6, 1887: Ordinance No. 177 required abutting property owners to remove snow, ice and other obstructions from the sidewalks and pavements.

In 1889, there were 904 children in school in New Bremen.

In 1890, New Bremen was the 4th in the state of Ohio for pork packing.

March 1890: To Herman Pape for one month Marshal's salary and feeding tramps - \$13.47.

March 1891: Committee on street lighting reported the Gas Company refuses to make a reduction on street lighting for moonlit nights!

On September 24, 1892, a packet boat called "Willie of Melrose" came through here carrying a load of rocking chairs.

June 10, 1893: Fred Ende, jeweler, has a new front put onto his place of business. William Brinkmeyer did the work. In May of 1897, Fred Ende enlarged his jewelry store by putting on an addition to the rear.

March 24, 1899: William Dorfer sold his sprinkling outfit to August Braun.  
(Streets were still sprinkled in the twenties to keep the dust down in the summer months.)