

"THE TOWPATH" – JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH - 1992

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
Donations, either material or monetary, are always welcome!
"The Towpath" brings you some history of New Bremen - your article is welcome.

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TREES AT THE MUSEUM'S 1991 CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL
[photos courtesy of Betty Schroer]

Happy New Year

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING – MARCH 23, 1992

THE NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION WILL HOLD THEIR ANNUAL MEETING ON MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 23RD AT ZION'S CHURCH. THE LADIES OF THE CHURCH WILL PREPARE THE MEAL TO BE SERVED AT 6:30 P.M.

MR. RAY ZUNK OF ST. MARYS, OHIO WILL BE OUR GUEST SPEAKER AND WE WILL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING HIS TALK ABOUT "GHOST TOWNS ALONG THE CANAL".

TICKETS FOR THIS EVENT WILL BE ON SALE FEBRUARY 24TH AT THE SCHWIETERMAN DRUG STORE AND CAN ALSO BE PURCHASED FROM ANY TRUSTEE OF THE N.B.H.A. COME AND ENJOY!

REMINDER - IT IS TIME FOR DUES!

YOUR DUES MONEY IS USED TO PUBLISH THIS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER, HELPING TO PAY FOR THE MATERIAL, PRINTING AND POSTAGE. THANK YOU FOR BEING A GOOD MEMBER. WE AT THE N.B.H.A. ENJOY TELLING YOU ABOUT NEW BREMEN IN THE "OLDEN DAYS" AND ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO MADE THEIR HOME HERE AND HELPED TO MAKE OUR TOWN SUCH A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE!

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY SENT IN YOUR 1992 MEMBERSHIP DUES, THANK YOU.

"MY HOMETOWN IN MY CHILDHOOD WAS A PERFECT PLACE TO BE
AND WHEN I LONG FOR HAPPINESS, I GO BACK IN MEMORY." (*Ideals magazine*)

WE WELCOME YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!

Articles pertaining to the town or someone who has lived here and perhaps a picture to go with the article are always welcome. Send to: EDITOR - NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION - P.O. BOX 73 - NEW BREMEN, OH 45869.

1991 CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL and OPEN HOUSE REPORT

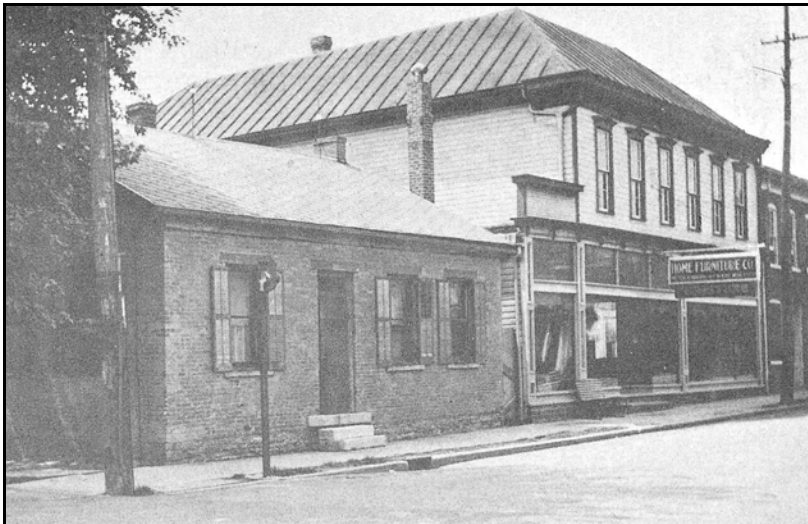
[by Dorothy Hertenstein]

The 1991 Christmas Tree Festival and Open House was held Sunday, December 1, 1991. The theme for this year was "BABES IN TOYLAND". Organizations and individuals responded with over 27 exhibits and displays. It was like a walk through our childhood to see all the toys from yesteryear.

About 400 people visited the museum from 11:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. SANTA CLAUS was a special visitor from 2 to 4 p.m. Many children came with their lists and also hand drawn pictures for him during this time.

HOT, SPICED CIDER and COOKIES were served in the summer-kitchen throughout the festival. We would like to give a great big THANK-YOU to everyone who helped to make this festival a success.

The DOOR PRIZES were: "Holiday Centerpiece", donated by Paul Headapohl, won by Pat Holmer, New Bremen; "Hand-painted sled" by Marilyn Schroer, donated by the New Bremen-New Knoxville Rotary Club and won by Marge Beckman of Minster; "Hand-made wooden window decoration", made by Paul Lietz, won by Dale Grimes of New Knoxville; "Christmas apron", handmade by Mrs. Willis Dicke, won by Aretta Schrock of New Bremen; a "doll comforter", hand-made by Mrs. Willis Dicke, won by Randy Houseworth of New Bremen; a "Christmas Tree candy jar" filled with candy, donated by Mrs. Curtis Schroer, won by Wayne Steineman of New Bremen; A "pine air freshener" donated by Mrs. Curtis Schroer, won by Angela Topp of New Bremen; "Historic Note cards", donated by The New Bremen Historic Association, won by Joel Meyer of New Bremen.



LOCATION: THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF WEST MONROE AND SOUTH MAIN STREET
[Note the telephone pole, the lightning rods, the stop light, the sandstone steps, the brick chimneys.]

Dr. F.F. Fledderjohann purchased the brick house on this corner in 1910, having resided there for 3 years. This type of house we call a canal house. Along the sidewalk there were huge maple trees, so large and so thick they gave constant shade to the east side of the house. After the house was demolished (1934-1935), a filling (gas) station took its place and up to the middle of 1991, served the public there. As of this writing the gas station building is empty - the owners (Rumps) moved to a new location south of town.

The photo on the right features the flag pole. There were flowers and vines planted in the basin on the flag pole. If the red lights came on under the flower bowl, it was a signal for the police to contact the telephone operators to find out if there was a fire in town and where it was located. It was a very historic day (1937) when the flag pole was taken down. Eddie Wehrman, who owned a machine shop in New Bremen, came with a cutting torch and a helper and soon the flag pole was history!

Looking closely one can see the street car tracks as they turned this corner on the way to St. Marys. It was on this corner that the interurban had an accident (1909) and turned over, killing two persons.

The interurban (street car) made its last run on January 16, 1932. The flag pole was taken down in December 1937.

The photo is from the album of Jim Cooper, a member of the New Bremen Historic Association. Jim and his wife, Becky, now live in Oklahoma.



Rev. & Mrs. Christ Fischer – New Bremen (1912)



St. Peter's Church parsonage (October 1991)

ST. PETER'S CHURCH PARSONAGE & MINISTER

[by Ernst G. Fischer (1884-1977)]

NEW BREMEN IN 1894

When we moved to New Bremen, I was 10 years old and entered the 5th grade in the fall. In this article I will tell you about our trip from Urbana, Indiana to New Bremen and our arrival in New Bremen, Ohio.

In the spring of 1894, my father rented a freight car and with the help of neighbors and friends, packed our furniture and household goods into it. In the middle, between the two doors, a stable was arranged for our horse. Father, an older brother and I made the trip in the freight car. Mother, the girls and the younger brother came with a passenger train the following day. For the boys, it was quite an occasion since we were in the car overnight. We had some food with us and when the train stopped, father would go out and get what we needed. For the night, we bedded down as best we could. We had our dog with us too. There wasn't too much to see as the doors were closed when the train was moving. There were many stops, however, and the brakemen often looked in to see how we were getting along. At one station our car was shifted from one train to another with the usual bumps and delays. All of this was a new experience for us, never to be forgotten.

We arrived in New Bremen sometime before noon the next day on the branch of the Lake Erie and Western Railroad from St. Marys to New Bremen. Members of the St. Peter's Church congregation unloaded the car and took our things to the parsonage. Until everything was arranged there, we stayed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tschudin on Franklin Street. The mister was a Civil War veteran and entertained us with stories of the war.

New Bremen was a small town at that time. There were no paved streets and during dry weather the streets were sprinkled to settle the dust. Sidewalks were made of stone, some board walks, some brick and some just gravel. The houses on the main streets were mostly built right up to the sidewalk. The Historic Association building is a good example.

The canal separated the town into an east and west part. On the east side, most of the buildings were on the street facing the canal, south of the bridge. On the west side, Monroe Street had most of the business places, although there were a few on Main Street.

Most of the people spoke German. In the homes "Low German" was the principal language. I can remember only two families, Stone and Feather, that were not German. There were probably others that I didn't know or do not remember.

In the stores, there were either German owners or clerks who spoke the German language. Even the Building and Loan Association had passbooks printed in German.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH PARSONAGE

The parsonage we moved into in the spring of 1894 was a comparatively new building. It was built by a local carpenter who apparently wanted to make it an outstanding example of his trade. Along the front was a porch. From it, the front door opened into a hall. From the hall, doors opened into the rooms and an open stairway led to a hall upstairs that had doors to the bedrooms. On the first floor a large living room was to the left, opposite the open stairway. From the living room a door opened to the parlor. There was also a small dining room and a large kitchen on

the first floor. From the kitchen there was an opening to the dining room through which food could be passed for serving. This was rarely used because the family ordinarily ate in the kitchen.

Upstairs the master bedroom was directly over the living room. Over the parlor was another good-sized bedroom and a large guest room.

All the rooms were heated with a wood stove except the dining room, the small bedroom, and the guest room. These depended on heat from the neighboring rooms and hall.

All the rooms except the kitchen were carpeted with locally woven rag carpets that were tacked to the floor around the edges. Ordinarily they were cleaned with a broom or carpet sweeper. Once or twice a year the rugs were taken up and hung on a line and beaten with a carpet beater and then swept and ready to be tacked down again.

Each of the bedrooms except the small one had a wash stand with soap and towels, a big wash basin and a pitcher of water. In the lower part of the stand, behind a closed door, was a receptacle for waste water and a chamber. The occupants of the small bedroom washed in the kitchen and used a chamber stored under their bed. During the day, everybody used the kitchen for washing.

The kitchen floor was wood and was kept clean with scrub brush and mop. In the kitchen was a range for heating and cooking. Originally wood was burned but later we had natural gas. There was also a gas light in the kitchen. The other rooms were lighted with kerosene lamps. A kerosene lantern was always available when a light was needed in the cellar and barn. A door from the kitchen opened to a large pantry where food was stored. There was also an elevator in which food could be taken to the cellar when the pantry got too warm in the summer.

The kitchen was large and had a large table at which the whole family could be seated for meals. The dishes were washed in a dishpan on the table and were dried with towels. They were stored in cabinets and the pantry. Near the outside door was a washstand with basin, soap and towels. On the wall near the door were hooks on which everyday clothes could be hung. The better clothes were in the halls and wardrobes and closets in the bedrooms.

The rear door of the kitchen opened to a brick-paved patio to the summer-kitchen and well and cistern. The summer-kitchen was used in the summer instead of the kitchen in the house for preparing meals and dining. A walk from the patio led to the outhouse and barn.

In winter, the summer-kitchen was used for making sausage and other chores connected with butchering. Father always bought some pork for the winter and occasionally a quarter or a side of beef. This was stored in a narrow room on one end of the summer-kitchen. It also served as a smoke-house.

The entire parsonage grounds consisted of the southwest quarter of the block, except for one home and lot in which a teamster lived. He had a team of horses in his barn and a dray in which he hauled freight to and from the railroad depot and did other hauling jobs.

The parsonage barn was between the alley and Herman Street. In the barn was a box-stall for the cow and two stalls for the horses. We soon acquired a cow and used one stall for the horse we brought along with us. There was also a corn-crib in the barn and a space for storing a buggy or carriage and a sled. In the east end of the barn was the chicken coop and between the barn and summer-kitchen, a fenced-in yard for the chickens. On the second floor of the barn was a large space for storing hay and corn fodder.

Behind the parsonage was another cistern and a large garden, and near the barn a woodshed where wood was stored for the stoves in the house. From the summer-kitchen to the alley in front of the house was a six-foot high solid board fence and in front, a low picket fence. Both were removed when they needed repairs. Our parents did not like the idea of being shut off from the neighbors. In their place they planted flowers and berry bushes.

An attic in the house had space for storing magazines and the usual attic materials. In summer the winter clothing and in winter the summer clothing were also stored there. A narrow stairway from the small bedroom led to the attic and a covered opening in the roof gave access to the roof when needed.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Ernst Fischer wrote the above articles when he was nearing the age of ninety. We do not have a picture of Ernst, however, pictured above is a photo of Ernst's parents and also the St. Peter's Church parsonage.



NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - 1991

\$1823.53	Balance January 1, 1991		
	RECEIPTS:		DISBURSEMENTS:
2600.91	Dues and Donations	\$1285.57	Property, Maintenance (Includes Painting)
1198.75	Special Events (Annual Dinner Meeting, Christmas Open House, Notecards)	290.20	Utilities
900.00	Grants	467.00	Insurance
226.03	Interest	1133.48	Special Events Expenses
<u>\$4925.69</u>	TOTAL RECEIPTS	1060.17	Newsletter Expenses (Printing & Postage)
<u>\$6749.22</u>	TOTAL	194.97	Miscellaneous (Office Supplies, Stamps, Curators Supplies, etc.)
<u>-4431.39</u>	-DISBURSEMENTS	\$4431.39	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS
\$2317.83	Balance December 31, 1991 (Checking Acct.)		<i>[Betty Schroer, Treasurer]</i>
\$1500.00	Reserve (American Budget)		

MEMORIES OF YESTERYEAR

EIGHTY YEARS AGO (1912) - HIGH SCHOOL: The final installment of the drinking fountains were put in today. They are more sanitary than the "tin cups" to which we have been accustomed.

A meeting will be held at the Public School this evening at 7:00 P.M. with a view of organizing a "Literary Society". All those interested kindly come and thus secure a voice as to rules which are to be made.

SEVENTY YEARS AGO (1922) – SAWS FILED: If your tools need sharpening, bring them to me for prompt and efficient work. Conrad Wissman

BOY SCOUTS' NOTICE: Will the mothers of the Boy Scouts help the committee to find state library books which must be returned to Columbus? Several are misplaced in some of the boys' homes.

SIXTY YEARS AGO (1930) - Plans for the "SHADY NOOK" Miniature Golf Course, New Bremen, are being finalized. The course will be constructed on the Boesel estate on South Franklin Street. (EDITOR'S NOTE: If you remember this golf course, please write and tell us about it to share with others.)

(1932) Industry picked up unexpectedly in Ohio yesterday and today, summoning 4000 or more men back to work after weeks and months of idleness, an unemployment survey of the state proved today beyond all doubt.

In 1932, "Buster Keaton" was being shown at the local movie theater in a movie, "SIDEWALKS OF NEW YORK" He was known as the laugh champion.

AUTOGRAPH BOOKS

Amongst the treasures at the museum are a few little autograph books from yesteryear. The little books are now over 100 years old, the leather covers are worn from little hands, the pages are yellow with age, and the penmanship of years ago is somewhat lost due to fading ink, however the sentiment remains the same and here are a few of the verses and signatures.

GO LITTLE BOOK, THY DESTINED COURSE PURSUE, COLLECT MEMORIALS OF THE JUST AND TRUE
AND BEG OF EVERY FRIEND SO NEAR SOME TOKEN OF REMEMBRANCE DEAR. (February 1883)

Friend Oliver: If you fall down and hurt your knee, jump up quick and think of me. Your friend, Emil Laut

Oliver: If this you see remember me and keep me in your mind, for Emilie is my given name and Boesel comes behind. (November 4, 1892)

Dear Ona: If you live long and have good times, marry the man that has the dimes. Lillie Hoffmann

Dear little friend: May flowerets of love around thee be twined, and the sunshine of peace shed its joys o'er thy mind. Compliments of Chas. W. Mesloh (January 12, 1885)

Dear friend: Live long and be happy. As often as you read these words, think of your teacher and friend, Julius F. Zwez (February 6, 1883)

Dear friend Ona: If you are old and cannot see, put on your specs and think of me. Your friend and schoolmate, Katy Buerkle.

Dear Ida: The world is round and has no end. So is the love to you, my friend. Minnie Topp (1889).

Dear friend: May your joys be as deep as the ocean and your sorrows as light as its foam. E.D. Isern.

Dear friend: I wish you health, I wish you wealth, I wish you gold in store; I wish you heaven after death, what could I wish you more? Your friend, Mollie Huckemeyer.

Dear friend: Some love one, some love two; I love one and that is you. Remember me. Anna Weinberg.