

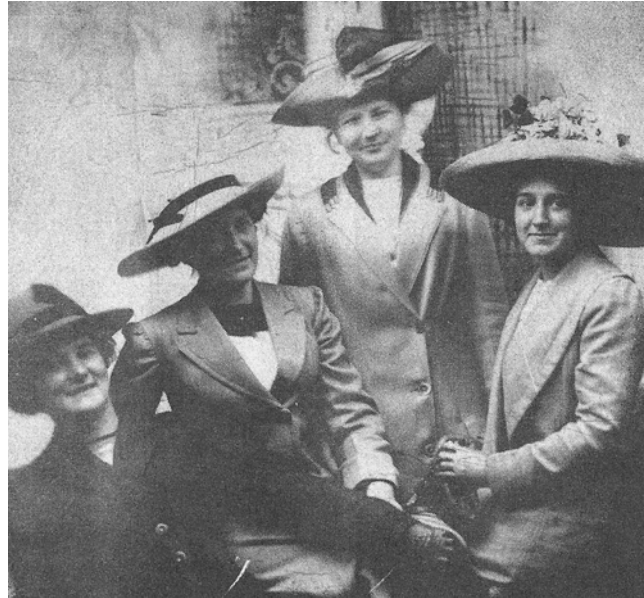
"THE TOWPATH" – APRIL, MAY, JUNE - 1992

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.
The museum will have visiting hours the day of the N.B.H.S. Alumni banquet.
Regular visiting hours are Sunday afternoons during June, July, August from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Other days and hours by appointment.

SLATE OF OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

Norman Holcomb	President
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Marjorie Lietz.....	"Towpath" Editor



SPRING BONNETS OF YESTERYEAR

Come and Visit our Museum!

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING REPORT

There were 86 persons who attended the Annual Meeting of the New Bremen Historic Association held March 23, 1992 at Zion's Church. The tables in the dining area of the church were decorated with lovely spring flowers arranged by Paul Headapohl. Thank you, Paul and Viola - it gave us a good feeling that spring will be here one of these days! The Happy Cookers of Zion's prepared a baked chicken dinner along with a salad bar and a dessert bar. There was plenty to eat and the food was delicious! Thank you to the Happy Cookers.

President Dorothy Hertenstein presided at the meeting and welcomed the members and guests. She also introduced the new trustees, Donna Warner, Craig Griesdorn and Dan Miller. Dorothy thanked Paul Lietz on behalf of the Association for the Life Membership plaque he made and gave to the museum. It now hangs in the front hallway.

Bud and Vernita Scheer brought over pictures and memorabilia from the museum, all pertaining to canal days. The display was enjoyed by all. Our speaker for the evening was Ray Zunk of St. Marys who gave a most interesting slide show and talk on "Ghost Towns Along Ohio Canals." It was a great evening!

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NOSTALGIA

Nostalgia, in my case, consists of creaky front porch swings; of radios and open cars and Grandma's apron strings. Victrolas that you wind up and "Blue Danube" playing there; It's knickers made of corduroy (my brother had a pair). Nostalgia for me includes the old time trolley-car; the granddad's clock there in the hall that struck out every hour. It's Grandma with her knitted shawl and squeaky rocking chair; the ice box with its "drip, drip, drip"; the settee of mohair. The old-time country doctor who defied both snow and rain; Nostalgia is all this and more; Can't I go back again?

(Ideals magazine)

MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER, JULIUS ZWEZ (1837-1901)

by Vernita (Heinfeld) Scheer

JULIUS ZWEZ, NEW BREMEN SCHOOL TEACHER FROM OCTOBER 21, 1867 TO 1893, WROTE THE FOLLOWING IN HIS BIOGRAPHY:

*"For the benefit of and the deep Christian devotion toward my descendants in later years,
I herewith write the truth of the course of my life."*

Julius Zwez was born January 12, 1837 in Eisenach, Germany. He attended school from his 6th to 14th year, then studied landscaping and studied with the Grand Duke. Later, he was an apprentice commercial gardener.

In 1857 he went to Kreuzburg to enlist in the Army, but was rejected. From 1858 to 1860 he decided to come to America. It took a while to earn money for the trip and travel to the coast. He sailed March 1, 1861 on the "Laura", arriving in New York on April 1, 1861. With recommendations from a friend in Germany, he was met by the friend's brother and was given a place to stay. Through this man, he obtained a position with a landscape gardener.

Learning about the war between the North and the South, and as an unmarried man, he resigned his position and volunteered for the Army. On August 10, 1861, he was inducted into the Cameron Rifle Division which later was named 68th New York Volunteer Regiment. On August 24, 1861, this regiment marched from New York to Washington to pass in review of President Abraham Lincoln who addressed the group.

Crossing the Potomac River, they joined a German division and spent the winter and early spring of 1862 getting additional training and making excursions into the South to locate their troops. In May 1862, they marched to the "land of the rebels". On June 8, 1862 at Cross Key, Virginia, he was wounded slightly, but after 14 days, he returned to his regiment. He fought in battles at Cedar Mountain, Virginia and at Bull Run. The next battles were at Chantilly (9/1/1862) and Chancellorsville (1863). After this battle, learning that General Lee had marched into Maryland and Pennsylvania, their troops reversed, going to Fredericksburg in Maryland and then to Gettysburg. They went into battle immediately because the First Army Corps had been almost overcome by the enemy, but their troops too were defeated - many wounded, killed, or taken prisoner. Julius was taken prisoner, sent to Hagerstown, Maryland; Martinsburg, Virginia; Richmond; then to Belle Island in the James River. It was here that he wrote: "Pen cannot describe our extreme suffering. Hunger, insects and extremely cruel treatment daily brought much illness and suffering."

From New York, Julius traveled to Pennsylvania, then to Ohio where he stayed with a German friend in Greenville. In Willowdell, Ohio, there were more relatives from Germany. He again worked as a gardener in Richmond, Indiana. He received a call from a friend that a teacher was needed in New Bremen, so he called on the Board of Education only to find the position was filled. However, it was the month of October and the person hadn't yet arrived. Julius was hired for one month, but the missing teacher never came and on October 21, 1867, he began his teaching career.

On April 8, 1869, Julius Zwez married Magdalena Heil, who was born in Germany and came to America when she was 1 year old. Julius and Magdalena were the parents of 5 children, 2 of which died in infancy.

On June 5, 1882, Julius received a Veteran's pension of \$396.20 and \$2.00 per month because of the knee injury. Also because of a ruptured eardrum in the battle of Bull Run, he was awarded an increase in pension to \$20.00.

With retroactive pay of \$916.94, he bought a lot and had a house built at 106 South Franklin Street in New Bremen. Later, it became the family home of Walter & Elizabeth (Zwez) Neuman. Elizabeth was the eldest daughter of Julius and Magdalena Zwez.

NOTE: Elizabeth Neuman, her daughter, Carolyn Sunderman, and Dr. Ernst Rose translated this biography which had been written in German.



106 South Franklin St. – Early days



106 South Franklin St. –1958

FAMILY TREES: If you start to search for your ancestors, it will be a lot of work, but very rewarding to you. There will be names, dates and places to record, along with a search for pictures. Soon you will be studying old maps and history books along with census and passenger lists. Today more than ever folks are interested in finding their "roots".

GERMAN FESTIVAL



MAY 4, 1968

GERMAN FESTIVAL COMMITTEES

Mrs. Larry Kuhn - General Chairman
Mrs. Howard Huenke

Music: Children Singing - Mrs. John Wissman
Adult Singing - Mrs. Harry Schroeder
German Band - Mr. Edward Snedeker

Cookbooks: Mrs. Elton Stienecker - Chairman
Mrs. Geo. Jess, Mrs. Mary Power, Mrs. Robert
Finke, Mrs. John Poppe, Mrs. Larry Kuhn,
Mrs. Clara Schroer, Miss Janet Fledderjohn
Binding by Stamco Inc.

Decorations: Mrs. Jack Dicke and Mrs. Terry Horn
co-chairmen
Mrs. Charles Vornholt
Mrs. Franklin Kuenning

Publicity: Mrs. Martin Dabbelt - Chairman
Mrs. Jerome Wissman

Food: Mrs. Richard Bergman and Mrs. Mervin
Quellhorst - Chairmen
Mrs. David Waterman, Mrs. James Donnerberg,
Mrs. James Opperman, Mrs. Lloyd Schroer,
Mrs. Edwin Wittenbrink, Mrs. Earl Sollman,
Mrs. Paul Quellhorst, Mrs. Linus Schulze,
Mrs. Don Greiwe, Mrs. Wilbert Gruebmeier,
Mrs. Thomas Warner, Mrs. Daryl Koenig,
Mrs. James Hudson, Mrs. William Klute, Miss
Karen Klute, Mrs. Elmer Poeppelman,
Mrs. Lester Bornhorst

Old - Fashion Candy: Mrs. Wm McCollum - Chairman
Mrs. Franklin Kuenning, Mrs. Charles Garman,
Mrs. James Purdy, Mrs. Robert Wierwille

History Book: Mrs. Clifford Harris - Chairman
Mr. Paul Lietz, Mrs. Robert Pinke,
Mrs. John Hoffman, Mrs. Larry Kuhn

Coffee Cakes: Miss Bernice Luedeke - Chairman
Mrs. James Meyer, Mrs. Paul A. Dicke,
Mrs. James Schnelle, Mrs. Fred Opperman

Childrens Booths: Mrs. James Meyer - Chairman
Miss Drusilla Luedeke, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th
grades New Bremen Elementary School

Antique Displays:
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Opperman - Chairmen

Ticket Sales: Mrs. Merlin Ahlers - Chairman
Mr. & Mrs. John Kline Jr.

BOOKLET PREFACE

1968 marks the 135th birthday of our town - New Bremen, Auglaize County, Ohio.

During this, our first "German Day Festival" on May 4th at the New Bremen High School, I have endeavored to set forth some of the history of Bremen, later named New Bremen. In the 35 years since the Centennial, many changes have taken place in New Bremen.

The past was emphasized (as the present is still before us) through our newspapers in the neighboring towns. Information for the past 10 years has been taken from *The St. Marys Evening Leader*, *The Minster Community Post*, *The Sidney Daily News*, *The Lima News* and *The Dayton Daily News*.

The accounts of events and pictures, have come from many sources and it would be difficult to name them all, so my thanks and appreciation goes to all, both past and present. -Jean (Bessel) Harris

EXCERPTS FROM THE 1968 GERMAN FESTIVAL BOOKLET

Bremen, which was a quiet little German settlement in 1833, after 135 years, is to take on a different look. Old landmarks are being torn down. The Kuenzel Mills property and the Thompson Livery Barn are torn down. The Thompson (lockkeeper's) House which is on the west side of the canal locks is to be torn down.

The sale of the McKay property to the Auglaize School marks the end of a manufacturing business which began many years ago. This building was formerly the Lanfersieck-Grothaus plow works, then the Auglaize Hoist and Body Co., where the first Auglaize trucks were assembled. Later, dump bodies and hoists were made there.

New Bremen is looking forward to many more new homes that will be built, and to a new church to be built by Holy Redeemer Catholic Church on the acreage from the Lampert farm east of the schools on Plum Street.

GERMAN FESTIVAL PROGRAM NOTES

The German Festival musical program for the children was under the direction of Mrs. John (Edith) Wissman. There were songs such as "Sweatboxer", nursery rhymes and "Mein Hut", by the 2nd, 3rd and 4th elementary grades.

The High School German band, playing German selections, was directed by Mr. Edward Snedeker.

Mrs. Harry (Frieda) Schroeder directed the adults in singing German songs such as "Lorelei", "Lauterbach" and many more favorites.

Remember is a lovely word and telescopes the years.
When sliding on time's avenue, memory appears
To bring to life for inner eyes the pages of the past...
(Ideals magazine)



JEANETTE (JEAN) ELIZABETH (BESSEL) HARRIS (1905-1978) was the editor of this fascinating little booklet of New Bremen history. Jean Bessel graduated from New Bremen High School and later became Mrs. Clifford Harris. Jean and Cliff were the parents of three children: Cecelia (Cissy), Bette and Niles. Jean loved her hometown, New Bremen, and was very civic-minded and always ready to serve on a committee for New Bremen organizations.

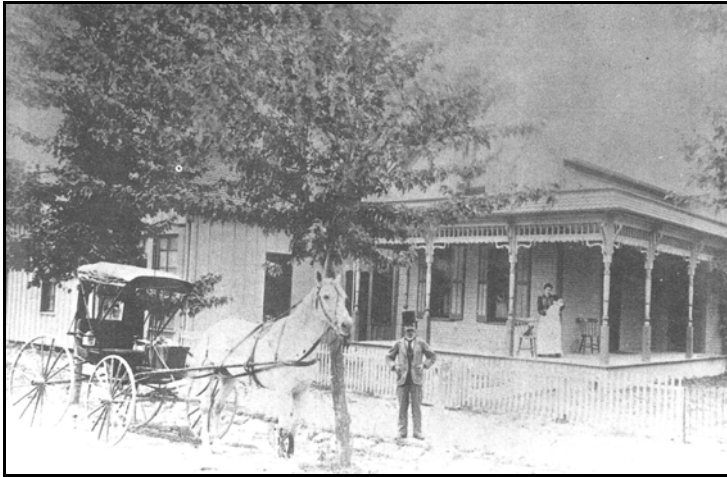
Pictured here are Jean (Bessel) Harris holding her pet dog and Opal (Wissman) Jagoditz. Opal is an accomplished pianist and lives in the southeast section of New Bremen, just across from the high school.

This photo was taken on the Monroe Street bridge - the concrete bridge that replaced the huge lift bridge. In the background, one can see the mill tower (silo), the water tank and some of the mill buildings. It was wintertime with snow on the ground, a time for boots, gloves and mufflers.

MESSAGES FROM OUR "TOWPATH" READERS

It is my understanding that you are collecting information on doctors who practiced in New Bremen. My grandfather, John August Kussman, practiced medicine in New Bremen from around 1890 to around 1905. These dates could vary by a couple of years. Dr. Kussman lived at 9 South Walnut St. and his office (since torn down) was in a small building next to the house. Grandfather was born in Piqua, Ohio on August 11, 1865 and was married in Cincinnati to Catherine Ossenbeck. He died in Piqua in January 1943. Dr. Kussman went to medical school in Cincinnati and the only place he practiced medicine was in New Bremen. Around the year 1905, he was forced to give up his practice due to ill health and he then returned to Piqua, Ohio. Dr. and Mrs. Kussman were the parents of three children.

Sincerely, JOHN C. KUSSMAN, grandson (November 11, 1985)



DR. JOHN AUGUST KUSSMAN (1865-1943) & HIS WIFE
WITH ONE OF THEIR CHILDREN AT 9 SOUTH WALNUT ST.

This photo shows buildings that used to be a part of New Bremen. They were located on South Walnut Street in the first block south of St. Rt. 274, on the west side of the street. This was an ideal location for a doctor's office and home in those years.

Take note of the huge porch with "gingerbread" trim, the dog on the chair, the fenced-in yard, brick sidewalk and the nightlight on the buggy.

Now, in 1992, this west side of the block has only one home left - at 5 South Walnut St. (Arnold & Marie Schrolucke).

The former Emil Laut / William Scheer / Mabel Abbott home at 1 South Walnut, the former Kussman / Hegemier / Gross house at 9 South Walnut, the doctor's office at 11 South Walnut and the Knost family's home at 15 South Walnut have all been razed in recent years.

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YES, there was a miniature golf course in New Bremen. It was on South Franklin Street, the site now occupied by the Roman Stueve home. From Marian (Frey) Engle, we hear "I vaguely remember the "SHADY NOOK" Golf Course. Mr. Lee Harmony would pay my sister Dorothy, Evelyn Gieseke and me to 'caddie' for him. Looking back, I know it was Lee's generous way of giving us a little spending money. He was a fine gentleman!

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So many of you enjoyed the St. Peter's Church parsonage article in the last issue and now we have another treat for you. When the parsonage was 100 years old, the minister's wife at that time wrote a lovely poem - here it is:

PARSONAGE REFLECTIONS

by Peggy (Scheib) Smith

When I first saw it I knew it was "old"
Moving in, it became more precious than gold.

The rooms were all painted, looking their best
Then hearty welcomes extended each guest.

Shelves had been built for the west study wall
And a carpet laid in the long front hall.

The doorbell replaced with a lovely chime
It rang every day, at least two times nine.

Light fixtures were changed to give a new look
Added that "special" something that it took.

Ceilings lowered, other improvements made
By loving hands and the good "Ladies Aid".

Newly painted bedrooms were big and bright
Letting in beauty of God's morning light.

In one closet were bricks and we were told
They were warmed and gave heat in days of old.

Early each morning we'd hear the birds sing
Their praises to God - an everyday thing.

One of our troubles in that old, old house
Was setting traps for mouse after mouse.

The high steps I climbed ten thousand times ten
And at close of day, I'd say, "Lord, Amen".

Joys and sorrows our good people shared there
And trials we helped each other to bear.

And meetings and programs were held there too
Through prayer and study we spiritually grew.

Oh yes, that old house was precious to me
And the joy - it brought a glad memory.

And now I hear it's one hundred years old
It's special to me as I have just told.

And if it could talk, I'm sure it would say
"I've served my purpose the very best way."

And when I left it, it truly became
A castle, with memories in His name.

NEWS HEADLINES FROM 1933

WHAT WERE PRICES AT THE GROCERY STORE IN 1933?

SCHELPER'S OLD RELIABLE MARKET

West Monroe Street

Royal Gelatin - 5¢ / pkg.
Old Reliable Coffee - 24¢ / lb.
U Be See Rolled Oats - 7¢ / 20 oz.
Oysters: Extra Standard – 27¢ / pt.
Smoked hams: Whole or Half - 13¢ / lb.
Cabbage - 3¢ / lb.
Grapefruit – 7 / 25¢

THE KROGER STORE

New Location – Monroe & Main Sts.

Jewel Coffee – 2 lbs. / 29¢
Country Club Rolled Oats - 5¢ / 20 oz.
Blue Rose Rice - 5¢ / lb.
Bananas - 5¢ / lb.
Wondernut Oleo – 3 lbs. / 25¢
White Cobbler Potatoes – 15 lb. pk. / 77¢
Gingersnaps – 10¢ / lb.
Country Club Corn Flakes – 1g. box / 10¢
Extra Lean Hamburger – 2 lbs. / 25¢

THE MARKETS - KUENZEL MILLS CO.

Corn; 55¢ / cwt. (Old); Corn 40¢ / cwt. (New); Oats 30¢ / bushel.; Wheat 80¢ / bushel.

BREAD PRICES TO GO UP BECAUSE OF TAX ON FLOUR

Bread prices in New Bremen are expected to increase next week as the result of the new tax on flour effective at midnight, July 8, 1933. On each bushel of wheat ground into flour after that date, a processing tax of 30¢ will be levied to provide funds with which to pay cash benefits to farmers who agree to reduce their acreage for harvest in 1934 and 1935.

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1933 NEWS FROM THE 4-H CLUBS IN NEW BREMEN

The Senior Flying Cardinals held their regular monthly meeting on July 5th in the Home Economics room. The roll call was taken, showing several members absent. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. A demonstration was given by Lowell McNett on how to make and finish an article made of wood. At the next meeting on July 18th, the following demonstrations will be given: Feeding rabbits – Carl Pape; Home Conveniences – Eudine Waterman; Feeding a Dairy Heifer – Wilton Dicke. The meeting will be held at 8:00 p.m. following the ball game with Wapakoneta.

The Junior Flying Cardinals met at the New Bremen High School on July 5th. A park ball game was played at 6:30 p.m. – New Bremen vs. New Knoxville. The score was 13 to 12 in favor of New Bremen.

The regular meeting was held at 8:00 p.m. Ten of the 15 members were present. The minutes were read and approved. Richard Ahlers gave a rabbit demonstration; David Koenig, a poultry demonstration; and Walter Tangeman, a sheep demonstration. Other demonstrations were given by Robert Schnelle and John Zahn.

For the next meeting, the demonstrations will be by John Dicke, feeding of sheep; Earl Brockman, care of a colt; and Virgil Nedderman, care of potatoes.

Don't forget the next ball game at 6:30 p.m. July 18th – Wapakoneta at New Bremen. Meetings follow at 8:00 p.m.



NEW INVENTION

Dr. Vladimir K. Zworykins has invented an “artificial eye” expected to make television in the home practical and inexpensive. With its help, radio listeners will actually see those whom they hear – singers, talkers, prize-fighters or actors. The artificial eye, far superior to the human eye, has 3,000,000 photo-electric cells in place of the millions of rods and cones back of the human retina, the photo-electric cells so small they can be seen only under a microscope.