

"THE TOWPATH" – JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER - 1993

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.

Regular visiting hours are Sunday afternoons during June, July, August from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Other days and hours by appointment.

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This picture, furnished by Vernita Scheer, was taken at a parade in Wapakoneta, Ohio June 21, 1911. An article on the Lock Two Fire Dept. was published in the October 1992 edition of *"The Towpath"*.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FRIENDS of the MUSEUM: Time has a way of taking its toll upon individuals and institutions. Our memories are filled with the persons and places that have touched and helped shape our lives. The New Bremen Historical Museum is caretaker of some of those memories. The products, possessions, pictures and records of residents of New Bremen are there for us and future generations to discover their roots and heritage.

For the past several decades, interested persons of our community have given of their time, talents and treasures to insure that this would be available for others to know and remember. The Trustees and others have endeavored to fulfill this responsibility.

However, it has become apparent that if we want a Museum to be proud of, we need the help of others beyond the efforts of the Trustees. We would like to establish a group of interested individuals to be "FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM".

Some of the Trustees have drawn up a list of things that need to be done (below). If you would be interested in volunteering your time and talents to accomplish some of these things, please contact one of the Trustees listed above or call Clarence Leshner (629-2553), Norm Holcomb (629-2667), or Lawrence T. Holmer (629-3738). Thank you.

LIST OF THINGS TO BE DONE

PAINTING PROJECTS: Door and window frames, shelves in kitchen, outdoor oven building, privy building, bell stand, bridge rail, fence, areas on barn and museum.

YARD WORK: Plants in front, an herb garden, a flower bed, clean up bricks, trim walkways, repair sidewalk, dig out old bushes, reseed lawn.

REPAIRS: Spouting, steps under summer kitchen, back yard pump, make some storm windows, hang doors, mount bell, latch on bake-house, lights on 2nd floor, a grab handle for front door, "Open" sign, clean and fix displays in the barn, update historical inventory of homes in New Bremen...

(L. T. Holmer, President)

Each silent square a time machine, transporting to the past;
What joy to live that day once more, first moment to the last.
[Ideals magazine]



Photo taken in 1919 - Clarence Blase in foreground.



This view of the canal house was taken in 1991.

CANAL HOUSE

The above house (left) is an early view of one of the canal houses in New Bremen and was owned in later years by Mrs. Amanda Fark (mother of Susie Hirschfeld). The house is on Lot No. 164 at 236 North Main Street, New Bremen, Ohio.

The history of this canal house starts with a Mr. Pape, who after the Civil War, built a tailor shop. The building originally had two doorways, one for the shop, one for the residence. It is a typical canal house in which the residence and shop were contained in one building.

A summer kitchen has been attached to the northeast rear of the house, making it L-shaped. The porch with a plank floor, railing and 4 round supports is along the north side of the summer kitchen addition. Three-paned transoms above the door on the facade, half moon windows in the gables on the north and south sides of the house, three chimneys, all in fashion when it was built. (One door was taken out in later years and the opening made into a window.)

The early history of this canal house includes a frame barn with a gambrel roof at the rear of the lot, a pump close to the porch, brick foot paths at the rear and front of the house, trees to the rear of the lot. An old-time street light swung near the front of the building. The light was a clear bulb shining under a flat rippled reflector, shedding light for the wayfarer. *(information from the Ohio Historic Inventory)*

NOW IN THE YEAR OF 1993, the house stands sturdy with not too much changed inside or outside. We see new steps, storm windows, storm door, paint and shrubbery, all in keeping with the times.

While you are out walking on a summer's evening, take note of how many of these "canal houses" are still in use in New Bremen. The coming of the railroads spelled the doom of the canals of Ohio and both freight and passenger business declined rapidly on the water route.



The barn in 2009.

SEWING CLUBS WERE QUITE POPULAR AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

"My mother belonged to a sewing club here in New Bremen. She was one of the first ladies to marry from the group. Mother's maiden name was Amanda Quellhorst, then later became Mrs. Edwin Fark. The group of ladies gave mother a bridal shower and one of her gifts was a spoon, which she cherished and used until the day she died." This picture of the sewing club was taken in 1914.

[Photo & article submitted by Susie (Fark) Hirschfeld.]



Standing: Laura Kawell, Mrs. Edwin (Amanda Quellhorst) Fark, Luella Hoewischer, Francis (Fricke) Burden, Mrs. Irwin (Mahalia Luedeke) Fark, Mrs. Henry (Edna Greiwe) Block.



Seated: Mrs. Oscar (Alvira Quellhorst) Hirschfeld, Mrs. Oscar (Alma Fark) Huckeriede, Mrs. Fred (Leona Burmeister) Mesenbrink, Mrs. Alvin (Laura Bertke) Dicke, Emma Dammeyer.



FROM THE FAMILY ALBUM

Thank you to Irene (Dammeyer) Wellemeyer for the photo, to Malinda Horn and Vernita Scheer for identifications. Was this a sewing club? We really do not know - maybe you do. Let us know!

Gladys (Neuman) Schwierking, Celia (Neuman) Heinfeld, Edna (Utrecht) Hayes, Erma Ellerman, Anna (Luelleman) Dammeyer, Gretchen Henninger, Helen (Gress) Bishop, Clara (Heil) Huenke, Lyda (Langhorst) Roettger, Beata (Klanke) Isern, Esther (Dicke) Kuenning.





A TRUE STORY

by Mrs. Ralph (Louise Haines) Dietrich

My sister, Charlotte, graduated from New Bremen High School in 1919. She then worked in the office of Streine Tool and Manufacturing Co. (Stamco) for about a year. Then she and her friend, Edna Langhorst, went to Dayton to enroll at the Miami-Jacobs Business College.

When Charlotte wanted to come home for a weekend, she had to ride the interurban as far as Wapakoneta, then transfer to get to New Bremen. The car would go to St. Marys, New Bremen, Minster and Fort Loramie. Going back on Sunday would be the reverse. We didn't own an automobile, so once in a while Dad would rent a car from Hespe's Rental. Mr. Hespe also had a taxi service -

more or less. Mr. Schellenberger drove the taxi and every Sunday would take my mother, the Halsema sisters and Mrs. Ihle to the Minster church.

This Sunday was different. Dad rented the car and we started out about 12:30 P.M. We drove to Fort Loramie and took the Mason Pike to Route 29 to get to Sidney. We had relatives in Sidney we could visit before Charlotte would leave for Dayton. Not long after we were on the Mason Pike, a tire went flat! Dad got out to change it. He looked in the trunk for the tire jack and the spare tire - nothing in there. NOTHING!

Mother and I walked to the nearest farm house to call New Bremen for help. (I was about 7 or 8 years old at the time.) The farmer offered to take Mom, Charlotte and me to Sidney. We left Dad sitting under a tree to wait for help. While we were at the farm house, two more tires went flat. Dad told us later that after we left with the farmer, the last tire blew up and off the rim and rolled into the ditch!

It was a very hot day, I remember - maybe that was the reason, we have no way of knowing.

Dad got to Sidney about 6:00 P.M. - in time to wave "good-bye" to Charlotte as she was getting on the streetcar. I don't remember who came to rescue Dad, but we had a car to get back to New Bremen.

In later years, our family always had a good laugh about that Sunday afternoon. My sister, Charlotte, is still living in Dayton. Her son lives in Dayton too and her daughter lives in Spring Valley, Ohio.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Some of you will remember the parents of Louise (Haines) Dietrich. Her mother's maiden name was Zimmerman and she was the youngest of 12 children. Some of you will also remember the father of Louise, E.R. Haines, better known in New Bremen as "Dad" Haines. He served as Mayor two times - 1926-1931 and 1948-1951. Mr. and Mrs. Haines were the parents of three children - Charlotte of Dayton, Ohio and Louise of New Bremen, Ohio. Their son, Richard, is deceased.

FROM YESTERYEAR'S ALBUM OF MEMORIES

Pos.	NEW BREMEN CITY TEAM
LF	HARMONY
1st	TAYLOR
LS	LLOYD BLANKE
3rd	LESTER BLANKE
C	LANDWEHR
RF	PAPE
OF	HENKE
2nd	BOESSEL
RS	DIETRICH
P	MOELLER or POPPE

Do you remember when New Bremen had quite a few softball teams and we hurried with the supper dishes so we wouldn't miss any of the game? These clippings are from Ralph Dietrich of New Bremen, a Life Member of the New Bremen Historic Association. Ralph enjoys sports and also memorabilia concerning the races held at the race track north of New Bremen some years ago.

SOUVENIR PROGRAM

Opening Night Softball

TUESDAY

April 30th.

—1935—

TWO BIG GAMES

PALACE

—VS—

Sidney Giants

New Bremen

CITY TEAM

—VS—

SIDNEY

CITY TEAM

SPECIAL PROGRAM

SIDNEY HIGH SCHOOL BAND

Public Address System



GERMAN SURNAMES - THEIR MEANING & ORIGIN

PART THREE: TERRAIN ROOTS

In the April-May-June issue of *"The Towpath"*, we saw that the earliest German names were predominantly military as, although the Germans lived in a tribal and agricultural culture, they loved war - it was their main occupation! However, as the population expanded, the need for sufficient and dependable food supplies as well as war equipment gave rise to those engaged specifically in farming and "smithing", thus introducing names involving Terrain and Professional roots. In this issue of *"The Towpath"*, a look will be taken at names derived from "terrain" features and those from "professions" will be discussed in the Oct-Nov-Dec issue.

When it was learned that the name "Mesloh" meant "swamp dweller" (actually "swampy low forest", but more fun is had with "swamp dweller"), I became extremely interested in the geography of North Germany for my ancestors came from the area of Barnstorf & Diepholz in the duchy of Hannover. A little village is there yet today called "Mesloh" about 15 miles east of Barnstorf, home to 34 residents with several having the name "Mesloh". Cornelius Tacitus, the same Roman historian who wrote that the Germans were a rough, warlike barbarian people, also wrote in 98 AD that the Northern European Plain, a portion of which we now know as North Germany, was "a land of vast swamps". Other reference sources report that North Germany was at one time, "a vast swampland". Although Germany has been dry for the past several hundred years, the early North German "terrain" names would predominantly connote some aspect of "water" - swamps, marshes, reeds, ponds, dikes, dams, thickets, hursts, streams, brooks, rivers, bogs, fens, moors, etc. Incidentally, Charlemagne started building the first canals in Germany in the year 800 AD to facilitate transportation between the Rhine and the Danube rivers in the south, between the Rhine and the Main rivers in Central Germany and between the Rhine and the Maas rivers in the north. As the population continued to increase, the need for additional farmland also grew and so canals were built to drain the swampy lands, a technique in which the Germans became quite expert. In fact, when the word spread throughout Europe in the early 1800s that land in the "Great Black Swamp" (New Bremen is on the southern edge) was available, Germans flocked to this area as they had the expertise to drain the swamps converting them to rich farmlands (as we all know). Their work on the Miami and Erie Canal and others is also well known in this area.

Central Germany is much like Pennsylvania and names originating there would reflect the rolling hills, gentle slopes, shallow valleys, meadows, groves, extensive farmlands, etc.

Names originating in South Germany would reflect the high mountains, peaks, crags, cliffs, rocks, deep valleys, heavy forests, etc.

Second only to war, the Germans loved freedom. Their military tactics were "attack oriented" with little or no thought given to defensive positions. Their living, although tribal, was also freedom minded - they shunned villages, fortified sites, walled cities and so those not militarily named took or were given names of the nearest prominent terrain feature nearest their living site. For example, a man living near a pile of rocks would be called "Steinler", a mountain dweller would be a "Bergman", a dweller near a reedy site would be a "Riethman", a dweller along a stream, a "Becker", etc. But what about a name that apparently has no logical connection such as "Hemmert" which means "Swamp Dweller"? James Bruns's maternal ancestors by the name of "Hemmert" originated in Bavaria, essentially a land of no swamps, so how did a person get a "swamp dweller" name? Although there are no swamps in Bavaria today, the Hemmerts could have lived on a farm that hundreds of years previously was swampy land and that knowledge passed along through the generations would be enough to name the first resident on that land, "swamp dweller". Another interesting name is "Bordewisch" meaning Battle Axe & Meadow. Undoubtedly a Bordewisch ancestor excelled or distinguished himself wielding a battle axe(s) in a particular meadow and was given his name by his fellow warriors; crossed battle axes in the family's crest and seal would attest to such honor.

In the Jan-Feb-Mar issue of *"The Towpath"*, the usage of tautological names was explained which at the time of writing numbered only three in this area. Since then (and with thanks given to James Bordewisch of Dayton, Ohio for his insight into the root, "wisch"), a 4th tautological name has been added, it being "Feldwisch" meaning "Field-Meadow" which indicates the meadow was exceptionally large. So to the very swampy (Mesloh), the very marshy (Huckriede), the very steep or otherwise prominent cliff (Klipfels), the exceptionally large meadow (Feldwisch) is added.

The suffix "er" originally meant an owner of a farm at the terrain feature named but today the "er" essentially means a dweller at that terrain feature. Sometimes a "t" is added to the "er" but an "ert" suffix has no different meaning than the simple "er". Likewise, the root "man" can also mean a dweller, but there is no significance in the root's meaning whether it is spelled "man" or "mann". At other times some consonants are doubled, but the doubling does not result in any change in the name's meaning, e.g., an olden spelling of "Mesloh" was "Messloh" or even "Messlow", but all three interpret the same as per Dr. Jones.

When reviewing the following names, please keep in mind that the interpretation of such is "generic"; one must know the site or circumstances under which the name was coined to know its exact meaning.

TOWPATH TERRAIN NAMES

LOCAL TERRAIN NAMES (Of Interest)

Ashbaugh	: Brook Among The Ash Trees	Aufderhaar	: On The Marsh
Beal	: Hill	Brockert	: Brake Dweller
Beck	: Brook or Stream	Dammeyer	: Farmer At The Dike
Bell	: White Poplar; Part Of Ship	Dearbaugh	: Animal Brook
Belton	: White Poplar & Fir	Dorsten	: Doorstone
Boecker	: Dweller By A Stream; Baker	Feldwisch	: Field-Meadow
Boesel	: Village Name	Griesenger	: Gravel & Spear
Borderwisch	: Battle Axe Meadow	Honigford	: Beekeeper At The Ford
Bornhorst	: Spring Thicket	Haberkamp	: Oat Field
Braddock	: Broad Drydock	Haeseker	: Dweller Among The Hazels
Brandt	: Forest Clearing; Sword	Heidt	: Heath
Brantly	: Dweller In Forest Clearing	Hittepole	: Heath Pond
Brookhart	: Brake Forest	Hoge	: Enclosure; Hedge
Brucken	: Dweller At The Bridge	Holtzapple	: Crab Apple
Bruns	: Dweller Near A Spring	Huelsman	: Dweller Among The Hollies
Dicke	: Dweller Near A Thicket	Katterheinrich	: Master Of A Fenced Home
Dickman	: Dweller By A Pond; Fat Man	Klipfels	: Cliff-Cliff
Donnerberg	: Thunder Mountain	Morgendal	: Morning Valley
Elsass	: Alsatian	Newman	: Proprietor Of
Gilberg	: Scion Mountain		The Neuhooff (New Farm)
Griesdorn	: Gravel Thicket	Scharfenberger	: Dweller On Sharp Mountain
Grover	: Dweller In A Hollow	Stellhorn	: Mountain Peak
Hagens	: Enclosure; Hedge	Steinbrugge	: Dweller At Stone Bridge
Hagerstrand	: Dweller In A Enclosure & ?	Waesch	: Washing; Bleaching
Headapohl	: Swampy Pond		
Heinfeld	: Grove & Field; Home&Master		
Heitkamp	: Heath Field		
Hertenstein	: Wooded Mountain		
Hickman	: Enclosure Dweller		
Hirschfeld	: Stag or Deer Field		
Hogenkamp	: Enclosed Field		
Holcomb	: Elder Tree & Comb		
Holleman	: Dweller Among Elder Trees		
Holmer	: Island Dweller		
Huckriede	: Marsh-Reed Marsh		
Leshar	: Dweller On The Lesch River		
Malik	: Boundary Marker		
Mansperger	: Mountain Dweller; Sparrowhawk Man		
Mesloh	: Swampy Low Forest		
Nedderman	: Dweller On The Nette River		
Niekamp	: New Field		
Pulskamp	: Pool Field		
Quellhorst	: Spring Near A Thicket		
Ratchford	: Swift Ford (Possibly)		
Reed	: Reed; Marshland		
Sauerland	: Southern Land (Mountain Range In Westphalia)		
Schwieterman	: Swissman		
Slade	: Reed Bank		
Slattery	: Dweller Near A Swamp		
Sollman	: Dweller Near Muddy or Bog Land; A Tollman		
Staubitz	: Dust Village		
Stauffer	: Crag Dweller; Cup(Mug) Maker		
Stegall	: Foot Bridge; Eel		
Steinecker	: Farmer On A Stony River; Stone Corner		
Steinke	: Little Stone; Stone Corner		
Strasburg	: City Name; Road Castle		
Sunderman	: South Farmer or Dweller		
Tomhafe	: At The Oats		
Uetrecht	: City Name		
Vonderhueval	: From The Hill		
Weinberg	: Vinyard		
Wellman	: Dweller By A Marsh; Well Man		
Westerheide	: West Marsh		
Wisner	: Dweller On A Meadow		
Wittenbrink	: White Grassy Raised Ground		
Wourms	: City Name		

In the Oct-Nov-Dec issue of *"The Towpath"*, a look will be taken at those names composed of Profession Roots. The author is greatly appreciative of additional insights into names, roots and customs provided by James Bordewisch of Dayton and Dr. John Dickman of Columbus.

FROM THE NEW BREMEN SUN IN 1938 - FIFTY FIVE YEARS AGO!

NEW BREMEN SWIMMING POOL PROJECT GETS UNDER WAY Stakes Driven This Week On Lots Donated By Grothaus Family

Like a bolt from a clear sky came the announcement this week that New Bremen finally is to get the swimming pool it planned several years ago. Stakes already have been driven on the lots donated by the Mrs. Amelia (Emilie) Grothaus family and actual work will be started within the next week or 10 days.

Revival of the project launched during the administration of the late Frank D. Kuenning is due primarily to the efforts of Mayor R.H. Dickman, who in recent months has been in constant touch with W.P.A. officials at Toledo, Columbus and Washington, D.C. Although discouraged at times, he refused to let the project drop and now has been rewarded by seeing it get under way.



SWIMMING POOL PROJECT MAKING GOOD PROGRESS

Excavation work for New Bremen's municipal swimming pool, a W.P.A. project, is progressing satisfactorily, although it probably will be held up somewhat during the next few weeks. The delay is made necessary because cement and other needed materials cannot be purchased or delivered until the start of the new fiscal year in July.

About half the regular crew now is employed on the main project and the other half is engaged in cutting down a hill on the old schoolhouse grounds in the southeast end of town. The hill is being cut away or sloped in such a manner that drainage water will flow directly into the main sewer extending along South Walnut Street. This, it is believed, will be a big factor in taking away surplus water during heavy rains.

The ground being removed from the hill is being hauled to the swimming pool site.