



THE TOWPATH

NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

120 North Main Street - P.O. Box 73 - New Bremen, Ohio 45869
Marjorie Lietz, Editor

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH – 1994

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

Membership dues are \$3.00 per year. Life Membership is \$50.00

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DUES ARE NOW BEING COLLECTED

Check the label on your copy of "*The Towpath*".

CM: you are a Charter Member.

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94: you are paid for the year of 1994.

This issue of "*The Towpath*" is dedicated to the memory of the late Emil "Flip" and Ludeen Fledderjohann, who were faithful workers of the New Bremen Historic Association.

All work for the Museum and Historic Association is Volunteer. Thank you to all our Volunteers, members and friends who have helped with the Museum this past year.

Thank you to all those who have already sent in their 1994 dues.

Thank you also for all the donations you have given. It keeps the Association going!

<< HAPPY NEW YEAR! >>

NEWS OF THE 1993 CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

About 500 persons visited the museum on December 4th and 5th for the "Open House" and "Christmas Tree Festival". This was the 19th year for the festival – it is fast becoming a tradition in our little town, opening up the Christmas season. The theme for this year was "There's A Song In The Air". There were lovely displays, beautiful decorated Christmas trees, door prizes, hot cider, homemade cookies, and Santa Claus made his annual visit on Sunday afternoon. We had a great time! So many of you gave of your time and talent in making this festival a success. A very special thank you comes your way and we are so glad you helped! We had 15 door prizes to give away, most of them hand-crafted. Winners and their prizes follow:

1) Dorothy Leshner: Shelf with lamp, 2) Ethel Mesloh: Flower Arrangement, 3) Charlie Borchers: Red Tissue Holder, 4) Cindy Newman: Candy Dish, 5) Lucille Moeller: Door Stopper, 6) Gloria Goodwin: Kleenex Holder, 7) Kyle Koverman: Kleenex Holder, 8) Paul Headapohl: Handi Towel, 9) Lendor Sollman: Handi Towel, 10) Ethel Mesloh: Wood Basket, 11) Sharon Howe: Wood Basket, 12) R.J. Stauffer: Three Plaques, 13) Robert Klein: NBHA Tree Ornament, 14) Ruby Greiwe: Fancy Apron, 15) Janet Harrod: Carryall Bag.

COMING SOON: ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

March 21, 1994 - 6:30 P.M. at Zion's Church

Speaker: JAMES R. BOWSHER –

Topic: "German Superstitions in Auglaize County"

Tickets will go on sale March 1st at Schwieterman's Drug Store and The Cornerstone Shop. Tickets may also be purchased from the Trustees.

FOR SALE

HISTORIC NOTECARDS - at The Cornerstone Shop

HISTORIC PRINTS - at The Artist's Touch

TREE ORNAMENTS - at Schwieterman's Drug Store.
or call an officer and give him/her your order.

NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - 1993

\$3,704.00 3,531.25 1,957.27 900.00 180.31 \$6,568.83 \$10,272.83 -4,605.52 \$5,667.31 \$1,500.00	Balance January 1, 1993 RECEIPTS: Dues and Donations Special Events (Annual Dinner Meeting, Christmas Open House, Notecards, Prints, Ornaments) Grants Interest TOTAL RECEIPTS TOTAL -DISBURSEMENTS Balance December 31, 1993 (Checking) Reserve (American Budget)	\$426.94 422.55 459.00 1,920.76 1,052.34 323.93 \$4,605.52	DISBURSEMENTS: Property, Maintenance (Includes Painting) Utilities Insurance Special Events Expenses Newsletter Expenses (Printing & Postage) Miscellaneous (Office Supplies, Stamps, Curators Supplies, etc.) TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS <div style="text-align: right;"><i>[Betty Schroer, Treasurer]</i></div>
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THE BIG SNOW OF 1950

Wintertime, when the snow blows cold, and the snow that falls brings delight untold.
 The thrill of home when the day is through – Let it snow, Let it snow, Let it snow.



LEFT: Looking northeast from the corner of West Monroe and Herman Streets. "Molly" Wehrman is plowing snow in front of what is now (1994) the Jerry & Marge Keifer residence on the northwest corner. Brrr....

RIGHT: West Monroe Street in front of the Ben Franklin 5 & 10¢ Store – a Paul Lietz photo.

The big snow of 1950 came late in the year (Thanksgiving weekend), but early in the season. New Bremen folks could not believe the amount of snow that fell on their little town.

The Arcade Dept. Store was celebrating their grand opening after doing extensive remodeling.

Some New Bremen folks were stranded far from home, having attended a football game at Ohio State in Columbus. Strangers along the way took them in and gave them food and shelter.

New Bremen town and road crews did the best they could for snow removal. Paper boys walked their routes, pulling the load of daily papers on their sleds. It was cold, so folks bundled up and walked to do their grocery shopping and errands.

WINTER STORIES FROM THE *NEW BREMEN SUN*

January 19, 1895: The dinky is having a tough time getting through the snow! The noon train does not get here before two or three o'clock and the night train not until eleven or twelve o'clock. Tuesday, she jumped the track in the St. Marys switchyards and had to wait for an east-bound local to help. The mail service is thrown way out of gear. We have one consolation, though. Fred Behm is still driving the hack!

January 16, 1920: Cornelius Heinfeld of Lock Two showed his big heart this afternoon by coming in with a specially contrived horse-drawn boat, opening a path on the streets for vehicles. Autoists surely thank him for his kind deed.

January 16, 1920: Accompanied by their teacher, Miss Agnes Schwarck, the pupils of the fifth grade of the public school Monday evening formed a sleigh party to the home of Orville Dammeyer west of town. Games such as shoemaker, airplane, etc. were engaged in and at 9:30 a fine lunch of cookies, apples, coffee, pickles and buns with ham was served. At 10:00, the joyful group left for home.

The party was composed of Miss Schwarck, Ruth Schneider, Lucille Eisenberger, Dorothy Lietz, Hilda Topp, Ethel Heil, Helen Vornholt, Clara Eschmeyer, Enola Huenke, Bernice Hartman, Sylvia Brose, Violet Quellhorst, Jeanette Laut, Dorothy Dickman, Forest Combs, Rodney Settlege, Pearly Weinberg, Carl Mueller, Urban Wissman, Willard Gobrecht, John Brockie and Donald Schwaberow.



WILBUR "Garmy" GARMHAUSEN – N.B.H.S. CLASS OF 1920

"Garmy" is one of those fellows that everybody likes to have around. He likes to have a good time and he knows how to show other people a good time. He can play the violin to perfection, and he can smile whether he has his lessons or not. It has always been his habit to enliven the atmosphere of the Spanish and English classrooms with wise and witty remarks which were, unfortunately, not always appreciated by his teachers. N.B.H.S. will miss him next year. Why should life all labor be?"
(from the 1920 "Mirage")

LETTER FROM FAMILY

In November 1993, we received this letter from one of Garmy's daughters, Betsy Hunter, and we would like to share it with you:

Dear Friends:

I thought you'd be interested in knowing about the honor accorded my father, Wilbur John "Garmy" Garmhausen, on November 15, 1993. A spectacular new roadside rest area on Interstate 71 was dedicated to him. As you can see from the cover of the program, LOCK TWO is also saluted. The wording on the cover is the text of a plaque installed on a very large boulder in a prominent garden fronting the rest area's welcome center.

It was a wonderful day! The festivities began with a breakfast for Chillicothe friends at 8:30 A.M., with transportation by bus to the park. The park dedication was at 11:00 A.M. with a hot cider and carrot cake reception following. Current and former highway colleagues were hosted at lunch at Schmidt's in Columbus. Dinner at home in Chillicothe for 13 close relatives and friends capped off the day.

You have met my Dad several times, so you will not be surprised to know that at age 91½ years, he was in excellent form and gave a stirring acceptance speech at the dedication.

I am sure "Towpath" readers will be most interested to learn a native son and his beloved hometown have been honored by the STATE of OHIO. One hundred and twenty three people were present at the dedication.

Sincerely, Betsy (Garmhausen) Hunter

EDITOR'S NOTE: Wilbur J. Garmhausen has not lost his love for his hometowns, New Bremen and Lock Two. He loves to attend the Alumni Banquets where he can meet and visit with old friends. We congratulate him on his work and on the tribute given to him which will be seen by every traveler!



I-71 REST STOP NAMED AFTER CHILLICOTHEAN

The Gazette staff

JEFFERSONVILLE - A Chillicothe man was honored Monday, November 15, 1993 when a roadside rest stop on Interstate 71 in Fayette County was dedicated to him. Wilbur "Garmy" Garmhausen of 198 Grand Ave. was recognized for his service to the Ohio Department of Highways.

BIOGRAPHY: Wilbur J. Garmhausen, known to everyone as Garmy, worked from 1935 to 1972 on behalf of Roadside Development in Ohio. His contributions began when rest areas were tiny picnic spots on donated land and continued through the huge increases in demands on Roadside Development with the coming of the Interstate Highway System.

He strove in his work to make highway landscaping a practical solution to roadside problems and a more attractive journey for the traveler. Most importantly, Garmy brought Ohio and its highway program to the forefront of national and international recognition.

In the summer of 1992 he was honored by the Transportation Research Board on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of its Landscape and Environmental Design Committee at their meeting in College Station, Texas

It seems appropriate that now he is being honored by the state he loved with a plaque in an Interstate rest area which he developed to be read by the traveling public that he served.

His career began as a designer for the Akron Metropolitan Park Board in 1926 after completing his academic training in the School of Landscape Architecture at The Ohio State University. At the time of the Great Depression,

GARMHAUSEN ROADSIDE REST AREA
IN HONOR OF WILBUR J. GARMHAUSEN, CHIEF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS 1949-1972, DIVISION LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT 1935-1949. DEVELOPER OF OHIO REST AREAS, SPEAKER, AUTHOR, COORDINATOR OF OHIO SHORT COURSE ON ROADSIDE DEVELOPMENT FOR 31 YEARS. CHAIRMAN OF ROADSIDE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, NATIONAL HIGHWAY RESEARCH BOARD. RECOGNIZED BY PRESIDENT L. B. JOHNSON FOR HIS NATIONAL ROLE IN ROADSIDE DEVELOPMENT.
WE SALUTE GARMY, BORN IN LOCK TWO, OHIO, FOR HIS LEADERSHIP IN MAKING TRAVEL SAFER AND MORE ENJOYABLE.

W.J. Garmhausen joined the United States Forest Service in the development of parks in the Hocking Forest, utilizing the labor of the Civilian Conservation Corps. In 1935 he joined the newly formed Landscape Section of the Ohio Department of Highways as Division 9 Landscape Architect with headquarters at Chillicothe, Ohio. He became very active in the design and construction of roadside parks. By 1947 he had built 46 such installations complete with drinking water, toilets, shelter houses and picnic facilities. During this time he carried on the routine duties of erosion control along the highways, found time to lead in the development of mechanical methods of grading, seeding and mulching, and pioneered in chemical weed control.

In 1947, W.J. Garmhausen was transferred to the central office of Roadside Development Section in Columbus, Ohio to assist the Chief Landscape Architect in coordinating the roadside development operation over the entire state. He became the Chief Landscape Architect in July 1949 and during his tenure he guided the Roadside Development program throughout the state and was the principal coordinator responsible for the continued growth of the internationally famous Roadside Development Short Course.

In addition to his regular duties as Chief Landscape Architect, he authored 61 articles and publications, conferred with heads of state, and participated in national conferences such as the White House Conference on Natural Beauty. He worked tirelessly on many committees of such organizations as the Highway Research Board, the American Association of State Highway Officials and the Mississippi Valley Highway Conference.

He has received many certificates and awards for outstanding service as tokens of appreciation for his assistance and accomplishments. He received the first service medal for outstanding achievement awarded by the Kentucky-Ohio Chapter of the American Association of Landscape Architects.

In addition to his years of professional service and devotion to the Ohio Department of Highways, W.J. Garmhausen has worked to improve the lives of others in the community as well. He has been active for more than 60 years with the Boy Scouts and was awarded the Silver Beaver Award. He assisted in the development of Bristol Village and Hopeton Village Retirement Communities and served as chairman on both boards. He continues to be very active in his church, First Presbyterian, where he has served five terms on session, two terms as co-president of Presbymates, and most recently on the Board of Deacons.

W.J. Garmhausen is the husband of the late Elizabeth "Beth" (Gorrie) Garmhausen and the father of Janet L. Bock, Charles F. Garmhausen, and Betsy Hunter. He is father-in-law of John Bock, Susan (Torpey) Garmhausen and Steve Hunter. He has twelve grandchildren: Jenny, Jamie, Sally and Bob Bock; Debbie, Chuck, Stephen, James and Patrick Garmhausen; and Lynn, Amy and Matthew Hunter.

- written by Frank Cope & Janet Bock

1913-1914 FIRST GRADE



TOP: Sylvester Daw/Dock?, _____ Solms?, Edna (Wittenbrink) Mohrman, Frances (Luedeke) Burd/McNamee, Wilbert Luedeke?, Melvin Nickols, Edward Laut.

ROW 2: Marie (Rabe) Howell, Wilbur Schowe, Delores (Luedeke) Fogt, _____ Solms?, _____ Nickols, Myra Schlesselman?, Margaret (Knipple) Slife, (8)_____.

ROW 3: VERONA LANGHORST (TEACHER), Marie (Otte) Topp, Margaret (Greiwe) McKee, Robert Paul, Marie (Wehrman) Metz, Carl Luellenman, Milford Dickman, Pearl (Waterman) Becker, Dorothy (Dickman) Landwehr.

FRONT: Margaret Merritt, Gladys Fark, Clara Pauline (Nieter) Fletcher, Hermine (Topp) Mohrman/Obringer, Viola Kettler, Esther Bailey, Zeitha Schnelle, Alton Schaefer, Wilson Braun, Lydia Houtz.

[Photo & I.D.'s by Marie Topp & Carl Luellenman]

GERMAN SURNAMENES - THEIR MEANING & ORIGIN

PART FIVE: MISCELLANEOUS ROOTS

This is the fifth and final article in the series "German Surnames - Their Meaning & Origin". In this article, a look will be taken at the "Miscellaneous" classification of Roots which includes "Physical Characteristics", Nicknames and "Religious" origins. However, before proceeding with this article, one of the joys of this hobbyist onomastician (a studier of names) has been the finding of tautological names (Germans used a tautological name to emphasize a particular feature or trait of the bearer - it was an extra special name). To date, four such tautological names have been found: Huckriede (marsh); Klipfels (cliff); Feldwisch (field or meadow); Mesloh (swamp) are all Terrain oriented names, but now for the first time in this area, a tautological Military name has been encountered - the name of "Barber" which means "Bear-Bear". The original warrior given the name of "Barber" must have been a very ferocious warrior having all the characteristics of an angry bear in battle!

In the past articles we have seen that Germans were given Military names for their prowess in battle, names for Terrain features near which they lived, or names for Professions in which they were engaged. Germans were also given names which derived from Physical Characteristics, e.g., the color of one's hair or beard (Schwartzkopf or black head; Rotbart or red beard); a Kraus was curly haired; a Kahl was bald; a Homan was a tall or prominent man; Kurtz, a short man; a restless person might be named Hommel (bumble bee); etc.

Of times, nicknames became surnames over a period of time, e.g., a person called "der Fuchs" (the fox) or "die Gans" (the goose) or "das Eichhoerchen" (the squirrel) in time simply became Fuchs, Gans or Eichhoerchen. Other names were shortened such as Kelchner (Chalice Maker) to Kelch (Chalice) or Nagler (Nail Smith) to Nagel (Nail). Although a son of Kelchner might have at one time been called Kelch or Chalice for short or even Chalice as a nickname, Kelch in becoming the surname would still mean "Chalice Maker", actually a Professional name rather than a Miscellaneous name as listed in this article. A person was sometimes named for the product he sold so a "seller of lace" would be a Lietz (Lace); on the other hand, Lietz could have derived from a nickname referring to a person of higher economic status who wore "lace" on his clothing.

Regarding Religion, Germany was pagan prior to the 700s (AD). Although the Germans had three main gods - Woden, Tiu and Thor, they also had many lesser gods all of whom they believed made their homes in trees or groves of trees, predominantly but not exclusively the oaks. Thus the Germans regarded certain trees and groves as being sacred. One of the first things the Christian missionaries did to Impress the Germans that their gods were impotent was to cut down their sacred oak trees and groves. (As an item of interest and whether it be a carryover of respect from earlier tree worship or simply wise stewardship, Germany today has one of the foremost, if not the foremost program in the world for woodland management and preservation. No German is permitted to cut down a tree, whether it be on private or public land, without first obtaining governmental permission and if granted, at least one replacement tree must be planted for each one cut.) There is an interesting name in this area which might indicate a sacred tree, that being the name, "Wietholter" which interprets, "Willow Tree Loyal, or Willow Tree Beholden".

Germany was Christianized in the 700s. In 716 AD, an Englishman of noble Saxon birth by the name of "Wynfrith" became enthused with the evangelistic spirit. With the help of Irish monks, he attempted to evangelize the Saxons of North Germany, but met with little success. Moving southward, Wynfrith and his Irish monks met with great success Christianizing South Germany. In recognition of his efforts, Wynfrith was canonized to Saint Boniface. In 753, Boniface once again returned to North Germany in another attempt to Christianize the Saxons but was killed by a band of savages. Charlemagne then conquered the Saxons, Christianizing them via the sword in the period of 770-800 AD. In one battle alone, 4500 Saxons gave up their heads rather than convert to Christianity; the Saxons were a very determined and stubborn people.

Names evolved through the centuries. As the population increased, the need to distinguish between persons having the same name living in the same general area arose; e.g., take four Johanns living close together. The one living among the oaks would be called Johann Eichner; the one living by the bridge would be Johann Bruecker; the one living near the church would be Johann Kirchner; the one at the ford would be Johann Furth and thus began the use of a first and last name. Christian names entered the scene in the mid 700s to 800 AD, the start of the Christian era, but progressed very slowly until the mid 1500s at which time the Roman Catholic Church required parents to give each newborn child the name of a saint as its first name. After having given the child a holy name, the parent could then add a secular middle name and so this was the start of having three names - a first, middle and last. The Protestants also followed this same procedure except a different listing of saints was used. The passing of the surname from "father to son to son", while starting in the Christian era, most probably gathered its strength during this same general period of 1500-1600 AD.

TOWPATH MISCELLANEOUS SURNAMES

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Bell	: Part of Ship; White Poplar	Blanke	: White or Clean
Block	: Block; Trunk; Stocks	Browder	: Brown Haired
Brown	: From Braun meaning Brown	Bruns	: Bear; Brown; Dweller at Spring
Bubp	: Boy; Servant	Buss	: Penitence; Fine
Engle	: Angel	Fox	: From Fuchs meaning Fox
Gagel	: Ten Pin	Garmhausen:	Garman's Houses
Hay	: From Hau meaning Hay	Huenke	: Descendents of Giants
Inman	: In-Farmer (possibly a Farmer in an enclosed field)	Johnson	: Son of Johann
Kelch	: Chalice Maker; Chalice	Kane	: Can
Kussman	: Tousel Haired	Klein	: Small; Little
May	: May	Lietz	: Lace; Lace Merchant
Nieter	: Low	Nagel	: Nail Smith; Nail
Ruese	: Trunk	Parrott	: Couple & Treasure
Schott	: Bulkhead; Scot; Curds	Rump	: Sieve in a Grist Mill
Shelby	: School on an Inherited Farm	Schwepe	: possibly, A Schwabian
Stammen	: Stem; Trunk; Stump	Sommer	: Summer
Steuve	: Possibly Heated Room; Bather	Steinebrey:	Stone Pottage
Topp	: Forelock; Pigtail	Tontrup	: Possibly Thunder Drummer
Vogel	: Bird	Vitz	: Wit; Intelligence
Wint	: Wind	Vogelsang	: Birdsong
Young	: From Jung meaning Young	Wissman	: White Haired Man

TOWPATH RELIGIOUS SURNAMES

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Anthony	: From St. Anthony	Bastian	: From St. Bastien
Doenges	: From St. Anthony	Jordan	: From Old Testament Name
Maxson	: Son of Max (St. Maximillian)	Pape	: Priest
Patterson	: Son of Batt (St. Beatus)	Paul	: From St. Paul
Poppe	: Priest	Poulson	: Son of Paulus (St. Paul)
Tangeman	: From St. Anthony	Theising	: Belonging to Mattias (St. Matthew)
This	: From Mattias (St. Matthew)	Victor	: Name of Pope; Victor
Yocum	: Possibly from Old Testament	Joachim	

Sorry, interpretations were not found for the following names:

Buckingham	Cadle	Chocoms	Cumming	Fark
Farley	Ferry	Halsema	Jackson	Kah
Knost	Komminsk	Lear	Maich	McVey
Montgomery	Patton	Pierce	Samples	Schrock
Voress	Yarrington	Zodikoff		

Please keep in mind that the interpretations of names given in these "Towpath" articles are "generic" interpretations - to know the exact meaning of one's name, it is necessary to know the exact geographical location of the site where the name was "coined" or the particular circumstances under which it was given. Dr. Jones used the earliest or most ancient meaning of name roots in his book. It should be noted that the meaning of some roots changed during the passage of time; therefore, root meanings found in today's dictionaries might have no relation to the original meaning; e.g., the original meaning of "Schoenwald" meant "Beautiful Ruler" but today it means "Beautiful Forest". Also please keep in mind that the names of German immigrants were often spelled phonetically or in some cases Anglicized. It was not that the Germans could not write or spell; in fact, the Germans were more literate than the English sea captains who transported them here. The Germans however wrote in script, which the sea captains could not read - hence the need for phonetics and Anglicizing of names.

In concluding, I would like to say I have thoroughly enjoyed writing these articles on German names. I greatly appreciate those of you who have called or written or even dropped by to chat and certainly appreciate the insights you have passed along, not only on your own name but others as well.

Since these articles began with "Swamp" (by that I mean upon learning my name meant "Swamp Dweller", I set out to find out "why"), perhaps it is only fitting that they conclude with "Swamp". Did you know that the meaning of "Bremen", the port from whence most of our ancestors sailed, also means "Swamp"? It does!!

-Karl R. Mesloh