JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH
1996
THIS NEWSLETTER IS
PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

Membership Dues:
$5.00 per year
Life Membership $50.00

Regular visiting hours:
Sunday afternoons - June, July, August
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

THE TOWPATH
NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION
120 North Main Street - P.O. Box 73
New Bremen, Ohio 45869

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(97) Don Ruese ...................... Vice Pres.
(96) Donna Warner ................. Secretary
(95) Betty Schroer ................. Treasurer
(95) Mark Gaerke .................. Trustee
(96) Douglas Harrod ............. Trustee
(95) Dorothy Hertenstein ....... Trustee
(96) Rev. Lawrence Holmer .... Trustee
(97) Eugene Kuck ................ Trustee
Eric Wierwille (extra) .......... Trustee
Irene Wellemeyer .......... Corresponding Secy.
Lois Moeller ................. Historian
Vernita Scheer ................. Co-Curator
Bea Young ......................... Co-Curator
Susie Hirschfeld .......... Membership
Lucille Francis (new) .......... Genealogy
Martha Plattner (new) ........ Genealogy
Marjorie Lietz ............... "Towpath" Editor

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING
The Annual Meeting of the NBHA will be held Monday, March 25, 1996 at St. Paul Church in New Bremen. This event will be a banquet and entertainment as in previous years. Tickets for the banquet will be on sale in March. Please watch the local newspapers for more information.

WE WELCOME Martha Plattner to the Board of the New Bremen Historic Association. Martha will be doing genealogy research along with Lucille Francis (also new). With so many of our members doing their family roots, we try to be of help!

A BIG THANK YOU to Mary Wint who has served us so well the past years in genealogy research. Mary has been very active since the start of our Historic Association, but now would like a little time off from being an officer.

THANK YOU so much for remembering me with prayers, cards and phone calls the past two months. My broken hip is healing and I am back at my job - getting "The Towpath" ready for you to enjoy.

Marjorie Lietz, Editor

1995 CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL
Every year we have a Christmas Tree Festival at the Museum. The churches, schools, organizations, clubs and individuals bring Christmas trees and Christmas displays to the festival for you to enjoy. Our 1995 Festival was a success again because you came! As soon as one crossed the threshold of the Museum, familiar carols filled the air. The Christmas spirit prevailed - so much beauty to enjoy, friends to chat with, a snack of homemade cookies and tasty hot cider to enjoy, beautiful Christmas music - and Santa Claus was there too! Remember - the first weekend in December is the Christmas Tree Festival in New Bremen at the Museum. It is our gift to the public - a few hours on Saturday and most of the day and evening on Sunday.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE PERSONS WHO HELPED AT THE FESTIVAL. THANK YOU, ALSO TO THE PERSONS WHO DONATED TILES DOOR PRIZES. Here is a list of the happy recipients:

1. WOODEN HOUSE: won by Mary C. Ahlers.
2. SNOWMAN JAR OF CANDY: won by Amber Niekamp.
3. ANGEL: won by Terry Wigginton.
4. CHRISTMAS STOCKING: won by Emily Rutschilling.
5. REINDEER: won by Julius Jutte.
6. SERVING TRAY: won by Sue Maxson.
7. CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT: won by Allen Fenters.

"The Towpath" – January 1996 – Pg. 1
A letter to the editor of *The New Bremen Sun* in June 1933 finds D. Worthman of Elmore, Ohio wondering if recognition will be given to the language which the 1833 pioneers of New Bremen spoke.

In the early 1930s, the *SUN* printed a Low German poem every week and I can remember my Great Aunt Emma Hartwig reading the poem to me – first in Low German, then translating it to me in English. D. Worthman said, “Should there not be one article in your paper which tells of the dignity, fervor and expressiveness of the language of our fathers?”

Lucille Francis, (new genealogy researcher for the NBHA) found this poem in an early issue of the *SUN,* all about a “School Clock”. Read the poem out loud – it is easier to translate.

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**SCHOOL KLOCKEN**

De Ferien Suend nu to Enn,
De Kinner moet nor Schoole hen,
De Druben werd nu blau un riep,
Dat meete "Adjoe du Ferientied."

Un Korl de sach, "Tis nich so slimm,
Ick fueg mi dor jo gerne drin
Doch suend twee Dage mi de leewsten,
De suend von allen doch de besten."

De een, dat is de erste Dag,
De kennen keen Arbeit un keen Plag.
Denn mokt de Lehrer ok noch Spos,
Doch noh denn geht de Arbeit los."

De anner Dag de mi so freut,
Kummt wenn de Obstboem wedder bleuht.
An denn leg ick mien Book for Sied,
Denn morgen is dat Ferientied."

D. Worthman

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**EXCERPTS FROM NEW BREMEN COUNCIL MEETINGS**

In 1983, New Bremen celebrated her 150th birthday. It was a great time. There were all kinds of committees working to research early New Bremen. The Public Library was a very busy place! The book committee found they had far too much material and not all of it could be printed. However, now is a great time to use it in *The Towpath.*

**June 1, 1886:** The mayor was William Schulenberg. Mr. G. Waterman accepted his appointment to take care of, light and extinguish the street lamps on the west side of the canal and one lamp in the engine house, at the price fixed by the council – 30¢ a month for each lamp. This was approved by the council. (The lamps were coal oil lamps.)

On motion, the street commissioner was instructed to put two holes in the floor of the Monroe Street canal bridge under the direction of the chief for use of the fire engines.

The following bills were presented and referred to the committee on finance, who after due examination recommended the same for payment:

- $7.80 - H. Koepere - tending street lamps
- 4.95 – J. Schlesselman - lumber
- 25.00 - T.W. Broetherton – 5 months solicitor’s fee
- 1.50 – P. Wolff – mason work
- 7.81 – I. Steinebrey – 6¼ days labor
- 25.87 – G. Waterman – tending street lamps & labor
- 8.23 – H. Pape – 1 month Marshal’s salary
- 31.60 – Fare for firemen’s delegation to Defiance

Total: $112.86

**August 3, 1886:** The committee on Fire Department reported that two new fire cisterns are necessary in the corporation – one on the corner of Ash and Herman Streets and one on South Jefferson Street. The committee was instructed to draw plans and specifications for the building of the same, and the clerk was directed to advertise a notification that bids will be received up to noon September 7th at the clerk’s office for the building of the same, the council reserving the right to reject any or all bids.

**September 11, 1886:** On motion, the contract of building two fire cisterns was awarded to Fred Schoettley at a total cost of $286.50.

**ORDINANCE NO. 158:** An ordinance to authorize the council of the incorporated village of New Bremen, Ohio to borrow $1000 for the purpose of the building of new fire cisterns and paying general expenses.

**November 2, 1886:** Mayor Wm. Schulenberg resigns, having been elected the Sheriff of the county.

NOTE: this page of early New Bremen was researched by the late Don Kettler. The material had to be copied by hand when viewing the *New Bremen Suns* of yesteryear. Now in 1995, we have a copier! Don was a graduate of New Bremen High School. His wife Mabel and son Joe live in New Bremen. The other children – Jim, Nancy, Jay and Patty, live in neighboring states.

“The Towpath” – January 1996 – Pg. 2
LEFT: 26 N. Main St. - Homan & Stucke Construction, Inc.  
Once the site of the Hotel French, which catered to canal trade. 
Known first as the Dicke House, the owner was J.H. Mesloh, with Christian & Dorothea Dicke as operators. 
Later owner was a French man – Alex Bourquin. 
[October 1995 photo by Paul Lietz]

8 North Main St. – Pauline & Hedwig Paul home.  
Former owner: J.H. Mesloh (1862-1880?).  
Front room was a bake shop.  
Ovens were in the summer kitchen.  
Present owner: Crown Equipment Corp.  
[October 1995 photo by Paul Lietz]

The mystery of the old tintype (Oct. 1995 issue) is solved! A big Thank You to Mervin Niekamp of Burbank, California, formerly of New Bremen Ohio. Mervin is a Life Member of the NBHA and enjoys history of New Bremen. He chose genealogy and history as a hobby for his retirement years. As a young boy, Mervin attended the New Bremen Schools and also spent many happy hours at the home of his grandparents and other relatives who lived in New Bremen.

It was a challenge when Mervin received the last issue of “The Towpath”. He unraveled the history of the early New Bremen tintype that was found recently and was featured on page 3.

If you stand at the corner of North Main and First Streets, in front of the old Zion’s Church building (now, in 1996, owned by John Hoffman), and look in a southeasterly direction, you will see one of the most historic streets in New Bremen.

After all these years of having only a line drawing of the famous French Hotel, found in the 1880 Atlas, you can now see the real thing in the picture (upper left) - New Bremen, with mud roads and a hotel that catered to the canal trade.

Why was the hotel called the “French Hotel”? Only because it was sold to a Frenchman, Alex Bourquin? Prior to this the hotel was named the “Dicke House” because Christian and Dorothea Dicke were the proprietors.

Another big THANK YOU to Jim Cooper, formerly of New Bremen. Jim is a Charter Member of the NBHA and only a few years ago (1982) moved to Ponca City, Oklahoma. Jim was visiting here with his mother, Katherine Knost, and his sister, Anna Mae Hudson and family, and like all sisters and brothers, the two had a friendly discussion about the tintype picture in “The Towpath”. Jim stopped at our home and had a very good explanation of the buildings – in 1995 and “way back then”. So – we are very satisfied in knowing this picture is of North Main Street.

PHOTO REQUEST

I am looking for a nice picture of my wife’s great-great grandpa, Henry Weinberg. He was born June 3, 1854 and died April 11, 1929 in New Bremen. Henry was on the Fire Department and was the Town Marshal for a number of terms. I believe he was also a member of the Little Six Band. Since he was the Marshal for so long, surely someone has a picture of him. I don’t want anybody to give up their picture – I only want to get a print made.

Thanks for your help.  
Rod Carpenter – Lima, Ohio (Life Member)
NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - 1995

**Balance January 1, 1995**

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**Balance Dec. 31, 1995 (Checking Acct.)**

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**NEW BREMEN’S NIGHTCLUB - WAY BACK IN THE 1930s**

NOTICE
There will be Round and Square Dances at SHANGHAI GARDENS
New Bremen, Ohio
Tuesday Night, November 6, 1934
Music will be furnished by E.J. Topp’s Orchestra
All lovers of dancing are cordially invited
[The Evening Leader - November 2, 1934]

SHANGHAI GARDENS CLOSED
OWNER PLANS TO OPEN IN ST. MARYS

After operating three or four years at 12 West Monroe St., New Bremen, Shanghai Gardens was closed this week by the owner, H.J. Snethkamp, of St. Marys. The bar fixtures and other fixtures were moved yesterday and today to St. Marys, where Mr. Snethkamp is opening a new place in the Camille Building.

THESE DEAR OLD SWEET MEMORIES ALL PLAY THEIR SPECIAL PART
IN BRINGING JOY AND OPENING THE LATCH STRINGS OF THE HEART.

NEW BREMEN HIGH SCHOOL BAND

An appeal for aid in purchasing new uniforms and instruments for the school band was directed this week to NBHS Alumni by the Band Mothers. More than 500 envelopes were distributed among the Alumni carrying the following appeal written by Mrs. H.H. Huenke. NBHS is justly proud of its band and the Band Mothers believe the Alumni, as well as other friends of the school, will be glad to encourage the students.

[New Bremen Sun – 1935]

APPEAL TO NBHS ALUMNI

New Bremen High School has a band of fifty pieces of which we are proud. “Tis the best in the land” we’ve heard it said, and its praises are sung aloud.

But alas and alack, in case you’ve not heard – depression has come to our town. It has caused plenty of trouble and last but not least our finances it has cut down!

The children must pay for their instruments and of course for their lessons too. So, when it comes to their uniforms, we’re sending an appeal to you!

Just any amount will be welcome, and we hope someday very near, you’ll be able to visit your old town and school and the New Bremen Band you will hear.

Perhaps at our next Alumni, their appearance for you they will make
In all the splendor of new uniforms, all former records they’ll break.

-by Mrs. H.H. Huenke

“The Towpath” – January 1996 – Pg. 4
If you are over 65 years of age, give or take a few years, then you will remember when the kitchen range "reigned" as queen of the kitchen!

The Majestic Range was built so strong an adult could sit on the oven door.

Perhaps you will recognize some names listed on your right – folks who were very happy with their purchase of a Majestic Range.

The stove had so many features - plenty of room on the stovetop, hot water in the reservoir, food being kept warm in the upper warming closets, heat radiating in every corner of the big old-fashioned kitchen, bacon sizzling in the pan, corn bread in the oven, suppertime!