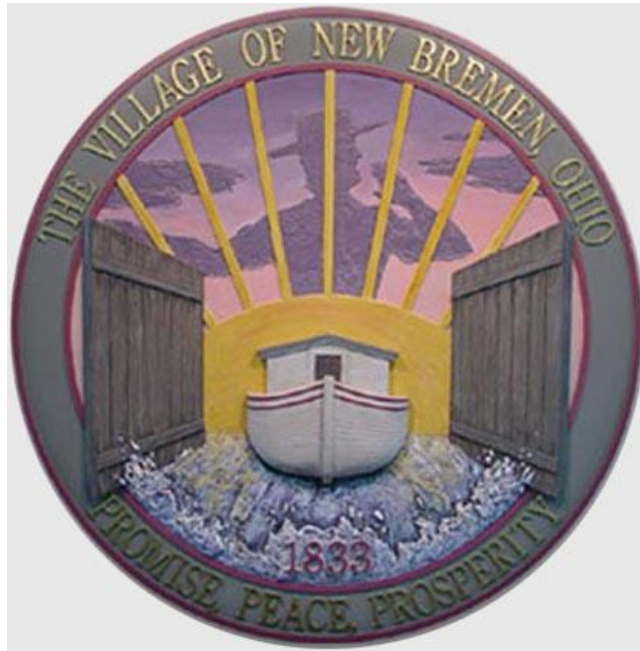


# THE TOWPATH

January - 1998

## NEW BREMEN'S NEW VILLAGE SEAL

New Bremen received a new village seal which was unveiled last August 15, 1997 during the opening ceremonies of the 23rd annual Bremenfest and now hangs in the municipal building on North Washington Street. The seal was designed by Dan Keyes of 15 North Walnut Street and features the Miami-Erie Canal as its central theme.



The bas-relief pastel-colored four foot diameter seal portrays the opened gates of the canal lock with a boat coming through and the water gushing out. Behind this are the rays of the rising sun and the silhouette of a man with his left hand cupped to his mouth as if he is beckoning others and his right arm on the canal gate as if to hold it open. The water is splashing up at the bottom of the seal and the date of 1833 (the date of New Bremen's founding) is in the center. At the top of the seal is "The Village of New Bremen, Ohio." The seal's motto, "Promise, Peace, Prosperity", is at the bottom.

### HOME PRIDE

*That is something we should all cultivate. The citizens of New Bremen should train themselves to speak of their own town in terms of praise. Never speak ill of your own town to anyone - if you can't find anything good to talk about, rather say nothing. Let the maxim for New Bremen be: "There is no better town than New Bremen" and let each and every one strive to support that claim. (New Bremen Sun-6/6/1902*

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL AND OPEN HOUSE

Our 23rd annual Christmas Tree Festival and Open House was held on Saturday and Sunday, December 6th and 7th at our Museum. The theme was "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus." See the Christmas insert sheet for a review of the displays, prizes, winners, donors, workers.

The tentative date set for our annual dinner and program is Monday, March 16, 1998. A program is being planned by and about New Bremen people and historic places. Watch your local papers, TV channels, etc. for further details.



**William H.F. & Ida M. Luelleman**

Future visitors to our Museum will be greeted by the gold-framed portraits shown above of **former inhabitants of the "Luelleman house" museum, William H.F. and Ida M. (Heinfeld) Luelleman**. These portraits were recently placed in the museum on loan to us by William and Ida's children, Catherine (Luelleman) Grilliot, Carl Luelleman, and Richard Luelleman, and have been given a place of honor on the east wall of the dining room overlooking the Klanke table, chairs, and buffet which formerly belonged to the brother and sister-in-law of Ida (Heinfeld) Luelleman, Otto and Ida (Gieseke) Heinfeld. This set was purchased in 1978 at Ida Heinfeld's estate auction by Crown Controls Corp. and placed in our Museum on loan by James F. Dicke, II. Otto and Ida (Gieseke) Heinfeld were the parents of Robert G. Heinfeld, who is an occasional *Towpath* "commentator."

### **The Luelleman Family**

Wilhelm Heinrich Luelleman, born 11/24/1835, a mason from Bohem, Hannover, Germany, emigrated to America in 1866. In November, 1866, he married Anna Catherine Beckmann, who was born 11/16/1844 in Hannover. Anna came to New Bremen in August of 1867. In 1868, William H. purchased the house on North Main St.

Wilhelm Heinrich Friedrich Luelleman was the second of three children born in this house to Wilhelm Heinrich Luelleman and Anna Catherine Beckman. His brother, Heinrich Wilhelm Ernst, was born 10/30/1867, William H.F. was born 7/13/1881, and their sister, Alvina Anna Katharine, was born 3/4/1886.

The oldest, Henry, went to Fort Wayne, Indiana to work in a dairy and got married there to Anna Reese. They had 6 daughters: Mildred, Ruth, Paula, Hilda, Esther, and Anna. Anna married Oscar Dammeyer of New Bremen and they were the parents of Irene (Dammeyer) Wellemeyer. A daughter, Elaine, died at the age of three in the 1936 scarlet fever epidemic. Henry Luelleman is said to have traveled several times back and forth between Fort Wayne and New Bremen by bicycle. He died 12/4/1936 in Fort Wayne.

When their father, William H., died in June of 1890, William H.F. was just one month short of nine years old and Alvina was only four.

William H.F. married Ida Margaretha Heinfeld on 11/26/1901 and they had 6 children: Ida, who only lived one week; Helena Anna Marie, who married Wilbert Quellhorst; Karl Wilhelm Heinrich, Margar-ethe Charlotte Luise, who married Harold McDermitt and who died 11/1/1964; Katharine Margarethe, who married Nicholas Grilliot; and Richard Gerhard.

Alvina A.K. married Franklin Frederick William Luedeke on 6/8/1910 and they had five children: Merlin Franklin Elton; Orlando August William; Larue Anna, who died before reaching the age of three; Cleora Catherine Anna, who married Karl Henry Block; and Enola Gretchen, who married Verlin William Henry Hirschfeld. Alvina died 2/11/1921 at the age of 34. After her death, her surviving four children, ages one to nine, were raised by their Grandmother Anna (Kawell) Luedeke.

Anna Catherine (Beckmann) Luelleman died 5/14/1942 at the age of 97 at her home at 120 North Main Street (the south half of what is now the museum). She had hoped that she would live to become 100 years old, but that was not to be.

William H.F. Luelleman died 9/21/1963 and Ida (Heinfeld) Luelleman died 9/17/1964, both at their home at 120-122 North Main Street (now the museum).

### HISTORY OF MUSEUM OWNERSHIP

In 1833, this lot (#26) was chosen by Ahrend Heinrich Schreiber, a member of *The Cincinnati Company - the City of Bremen Society*. In 1837, it was purchased by Gerhard Heinrich Hehemann, a trustee of the town in 1846-1847, who built the house. In August of 1849, Gerhard, his second wife, Maria Engel (Stagge) Barth, and three of their children died in the cholera epidemic.

In 1849, Anna Maria (Hehemann) Isern and her husband, Friedrich, became administrators of her parents' will. In 1852, Jacob John Portune, a town trustee in 1850 and a supervisor in 1856, purchased the house. In 1857, the estate was willed to Susanne Portune.

In 1868, William H. Luelleman purchased the house from Susanne Portune and Ernst Friedrich & Catherina (Portune) Siekmeyer. The house was in the Luelleman family until 1973, when it was sold to Bruce Scheer - a total of nearly 105 years. The New Bremen Historic Association purchased the property from Mr. Scheer on 1/25/1974 and turned it into the present museum.

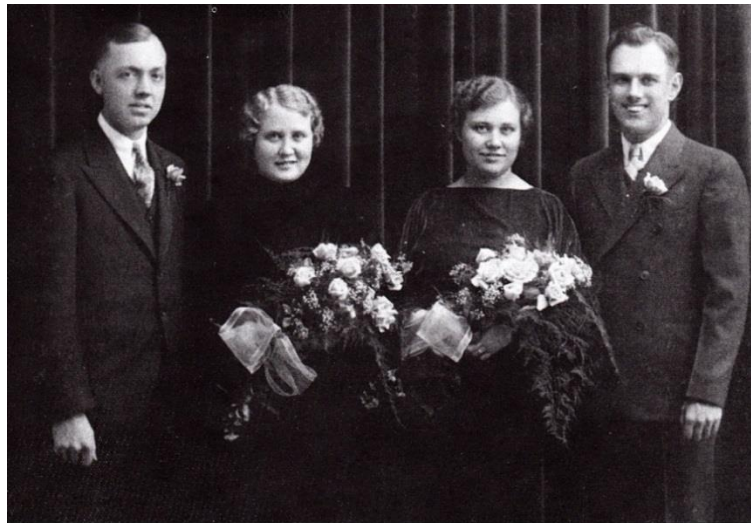
### FAVORITE POEMS

A September, 1997 letter from **Carolyn (Dammeyer) Cook** of Friendswood, Texas contained several poems that are favorites of her mother, **Marie (Roediger) Dammeyer**. The first was read at Marie's commencement on May 23, 1924 (held in the Opera House) as a challenge in life:

#### Four Things

Four things a man must learn to do,  
If he would make his record true:  
To think without confusion clearly,  
To love his fellowman sincerely,  
To act from honest motives purely,  
To trust in God and Heaven securely.

Henry Van Dyke



Orville & Dorothy (Lietz) Ruedebusch (left)  
Calvin & Alberta (Collins) Steinebrey (right)  
December 25, 1934  
(photo courtesy of Orville Ruedebusch)

When N.B.H.A. member **Alberta Steinebrey** died on July 27, 1997, her obituary did not give any indication of who she was. Several people, however, commented about having had Alberta (Collins) as a fourth grade teacher. Some even said "She was the best teacher I ever had. She made every student feel important and greeted you every morning with a smile."

I've done a little research and have found that Alberta Collins was born 10/18/1909 to James & Rosalia (Bruns) Collins, graduated from N.B.H.S. in 1927, then from Miami University, taught in the N.B. schools for several years, and married Calvin Steinebrey on Christmas day, 1934, in a double wedding ceremony. The other couple was



Orville and Dorothy (Lietz) Ruedebusch.

Calvin also graduated from Miami University, sold Pacific Mutual Life Insurance, then worked 25 years for Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton. He died 5/17/1980.

Alberta's mother, Rosalia Bruns, was a sister to Fernando William Bruns (father of Elton "Pitt" Bruns) and Elnora (Bruns) Hollingsworth [mother of Bill Hollingsworth and Corrine (Hollingsworth) Schnell.] Corrine was the mother of Jim Schnell and Joan (Schnell) Lampert. The Hollingsworths and Schnells ran the Hotel. F.W. Bruns was a one-time manager of *The New Bremen Sun* and wrote a column called "Do you remember?"

Calvin's parents were Alfred M. Steinebrey and Sophia Greiwe. A.M. Steinebrey was an eighth grade teacher and a rural mail carrier. The Steinebrey family at one time lived at 301 North Main Street, in the house later occupied by Emil and Grace Donnerberg.

## DO YOU REMEMBER?

*by Fernando W. Bruns  
(Mainly about nicknames)*

Do you remember when K. VanDerMaaten was superintendent of the New Bremen Public Schools during the years of 1887-1894? It was during his tenure that yours truly was nicknamed "Pitt" by the late Ben Williams. In fact, there are now three "Pitts" in New Bremen - yours truly; my son, Elton W. Bruns; and Billy Gilmore Bruns, a grandson. For some reason or other a nickname will stick.

For instance, there is Clayton W. Schnell, manager of the Hotel Hollingsworth, who was nicknamed "Whitey" when he was three years old. Then there was Julius Schwaberow who was named "Spatz" (*pronounced Spots*) and went by this name for years. Upon his demise the name passed on to his nephew, Robert Isenberger, who also answers to the name of "Spatz."

Then there is George Gast, who acquired the name of "Curley" in his boyhood days and it has stuck ever since. Another is Emil W. Laut, who was nicknamed "Giblets" and answers promptly when hailed in this manner.

Another prominent New Bremen man, Ferd G. Wint, goes by name of "Curley." Then there is another New Bremenite, Grover W. Wissman, who was nicknamed "Dooley" in his boyhood days and this name sticks like royal glue.

The aforementioned Superintendent VanDerMaaten was an early riser and an ardent walker. His first stop going downtown was at Rabe's Store, where he drank a glass of good cheer. He made his monthly calls at the North (*Lock Two*) and West Township Schools by walking to and from these country schools. (*New Bremen Sun* - 8/2/1945)



NBHS CLASS OF 1909- 25<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

(Photo courtesy of New Bremen Library)

### 25th ANNIVERSARY GATHERING OF THE 1909 GRADUATING CLASS OF N.B.H.S.

**ROW 1:** \*Ray Shearer, \*Allan Boesel, Mrs. Herbert Kettler, Mrs. William Rabe, Mrs. Howard (Verona Langhorst) Huenke, *Unidentified*, Mrs. Felix (\*Helen Bienz) Kuenzel, Mrs. Herbert (Fannie LaDow) Garmhausen, Edward Rodeheffer (teacher).

**ROW 2:** Harry Stork, \*Walter Grothaus, \*Herbert Kettler, Mrs. Charles (\*Esther Rose Laut) Moore, \*Olive Lauferweiler, \*William Rabe, Mrs. Allan (\*Clara Fledderjohann) Boesel, Mrs. Allen (Amber Neuman) Dicke, \*Allen Dicke, Mrs. Ernest Botkin.

**ROW 3:** \*Felix Kuenzel, \*Howard Huenke, John Halsema (principal), \*Herbert Garmhausen, \*Ernest Botkin, \*Alvin Grothaus.

(Picture taken in 1934 in front of the old Central Grade School on S. Franklin St.)

\*16 of the 25 who graduated are pictured above, along with 6 spouses and 2 teachers.

All were identified (except one person) by Amber (Neuman) Dicke on 5/9/1975.

This is the class that published the first yearbook in 1909. Also, Ernest M. Botkin wrote the school song which we all still sing today. (See the October, 1997 "Towpath" article.) Mr. Botkin was Allen County's Prosecuting Attorney at the time of John Dillinger's escape from the Allen County Jail (from Ralph May's articles).

### A PARROT STORY

One of our new members is Lois M. (Boesel) May of Fort Myers, Florida. Her brother, Charles W. Boesel, of Toledo, Ohio, became a new member in 1996. They are children of Clifton Boesel and Laura Kawell, and grandchildren of Charles Jacob Boesel (the third generation of Charles Boesels) and Mary E. Ahrens (McClure?).

Lois commented that she has fond memories of visiting her grandparents' home at 202 N. Franklin St. [the corner house now owned and inhabited by Mrs. Herman (Alfreda) Dircksen] and hearing the St. Paul's Church clock ringing across the street. This comment reminded us of a story told by 99-year old Harry Ludeka at our annual dinner last March about the Boesel's parrot. Harry was a neighbor to the Boesels and was a friend of the Boesel children - Milton, Clifton, Caesar, and Mamie, all born between 1893 and 1899. Here is Harry's story:

"We did a lot of pitching and catching when I lived in town (on N. Franklin St.). One day the neighbor boy said 'Let's pitch and catch.' His family had gone to Toledo except his dad, and he had to make dinner. They also had an old parrot in the house. Well, we started pitching and catching along the side of the street and we got so interested in our pitching and catching and throwing curve balls (which I specialized in) that he forgot all about the beans that he was cooking. All at once that parrot began to scream and carry on in the house and we thought 'What's wrong with Polly?' We went to look and we noticed that the kitchen was full of smoke - we couldn't see Polly! The whole house was full of smoke and Polly would let out a real loud scream, then he would swear like everything - he couldn't get his breath! Then he'd scream again. We didn't know what to do - the dad would come home pretty soon for dinner and he didn't have it ready. I left then - I thought I'd see how he gets along. (laughter) I never did find out until sometime later that they had a little patch in back of their shed that was all grown up in weeds, and he took the beans and threw them under those weeds so his dad wouldn't find them. A couple of days later, his dad went in there and started pulling weeds, and there were the beans! (laughter) I'll never forget that parrot 'cause he said words that I'd never heard him say before!" (more laughter)

This is just one of many memories that Harry Ludeka related at our annual dinner last March 17. If you would like to hear Harry's stories, along with those told by Lloyd Laut, Les and "Toots" (Laut) Blanke, and Stan Kuenning, you can get a 110-minute audio tape of the program for \$6.00 (plus \$2.00 S/H, if mailed), by contacting us at:

P.O. Box 73 - New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073.

Harry Ludeka will turn 100 years old on January 28, 1998. If you would like to send birthday greetings to him, they may be sent to:

Harry F. Ludeka, 11300 Circle Dr. - Otterbein Retirement Center, St. Marys, Ohio 45885-9520.

### OTHER READER MEMORIES

In a recent letter from Irene (Wehrman) Staggs of Highland, California, she comments about her memories of apple butter and cider making, etc.....

"As soon as the apples were ripe in the fall, it was time to make apple butter and cider. My Mom, Anna (Wuebbeling) Wehrman, and Mrs. Val (Ida Faehl) Nieter would peel their apples on one day, and the next day, with hot coals under the big copper kettle, would start the process of making apple butter, stirring it with a long paddle, never stopping for hours. My, this was good eating with fresh home-made bread! Then Val Nieter would make cider in his apple press. This took place at the Nieter place at 120 North Jefferson Street."

"The first milk-man I remember was Henry Westerheide. In cold weather, the cream would freeze and come above the bottles." (Marge Lietz says that Herman Blanke of 313 North Franklin Street delivered milk before Henry Westerheide. Another milk-man, in 1921, was Ray Tomhafe, pictured in the sesquicentennial book published in 1983.)

"Another memory is of the pheasants raised by Dr. Schmidt in pens beside his veterinary office and barn at 108 N. Walnut Street. This was a block from the Nieters and the Wehrmans. Dr. Schmidt also concocted cough medicine (that smelled terrible) and also some salves."



## The Best is the Cheapest

For your Horses, Cattle, Swine,  
Sheep and Poultry.

**Dr. H.J. Schmidt's Stock Foods**  
and Veterinary Remedies beats all others.

Phone 4    Made by Schmidt & Buss    New Bremen, O.

The above ad is from 1905. Dr. Henry J. Schmidt was the father of Dr. Leonard Schmidt and was a veterinary surgeon in New Bremen from approximately 1890 until his death in 1934. His father, Dr. Henry J. Schmidt, Sr. started his veterinary practice in New Bremen in 1836, three years after the town's founding. The following is the listing from the 1929 "New Bremen Telephone Co." directory:

Schmidt & Schmidt, Drs., Veterinarians    Phone #

108 N. Walnut.....4

Schmidt, Dr. H.J., res. - 116 E. Monroe.....4R2

Schmidt, Dr. Leonard H., res - 6 N. Walnut.....4R2

### Ernest F. Tomhafe

Breeder of and Dealer  
in all kinds of

### Birds

Also a fine collection of Gold Fish.

(1905 advertisement)

### *A Message from the President*

As President of the New Bremen Historic Association, I want to take the time to let all the members know what we have done over the past year, and what some of our plans and goals are for the years to come. This year started as a real success with our annual dinner. The turnout for this occasion was the highest we have had for many years. I think this was due to our outstanding program. For those who missed it, it consisted of story-telling of real life experiences by life-long residents Harry Ludeka, Lloyd Laut, and Mr & Mrs. Lester Blanke. It was an interesting, amusing, and very informative program that all who attended enjoyed very much. I feel that we need programs like this for our annual dinners so that we do not lose sight of our heritage and what New Bremen life was like years ago. For this year's dinner, we hope to have a similar program that will include a slide presentation of New Bremen of the past, plus comments from people who experienced some of these events. Everyone should plan to attend because it will be another unforgettable evening.

Our museum was again open on Sunday afternoons during the summer months. Some Sundays the turnout was very good, but at times visitors were few. For those who have never visited our museum, it is a great way to spend some Sunday afternoon. The museum contains many interesting displays of all sorts of things from early New Bremen life and historical events. Over the past year, we have received several new items that are now on display. The Museum Curators are doing a great job keeping things in order. I would like to thank all those members who took the time to work at the museum during the times that it was open. For next summer, any member who would like to host at the museum on a Sunday afternoon should contact me or any Trustee. Members of the New Bremen Historic Association also hosted one day during the fair at the Gary log house at the Auglaize County fairgrounds.

Our big project for 1997 was the restoration of the museum's summer kitchen. The summer kitchen is an 1870 addition to the museum's property, and over the years it had fallen into a state of disrepair. We made an attempt several years ago to repair the outside of the building, but it had not been done in a historical fashion. The Trustees felt that the building should be restored back to its original condition. We contracted with Walters and Associates of Elida, Ohio, to do the work at a cost of \$1,995. Some work included replacement of the non-historical mortar between the bricks, replacement of deteriorated bricks, and cleaning and sealing of the brick structure. Also, they repaired and reglazed the windows and replaced the door stoops. In addition, they repaired and painted the wood trim on the building. The summer kitchen should now be in good condition for many years to come. The restoration project will be paid for by using donations and profits from the Christmas Tree Festival.

A project that we feel is important in the future is repair and improvements to the museum itself. In the future we are going to need a new roof, and some windows are going to need to be repaired or replaced. The lighting system in the museum needs to be improved so that we can better see the displays. We are going to have the old easement on the north side of the property filled with dirt, leveled off and planted with grass. A few other projects that need

doing are a new picket fence at the rear of the property, and new spouting and down-spouts on the barn. Any members who would like to help with some of these projects are urged to contact a Trustee. We would greatly appreciate any help.

In addition, we have discussed air conditioning for the museum. Air conditioning would help provide a better environment for preservation of the displays in the museum. As you can see, there is a great deal of work to keep up the property and I feel it is important that we keep it as a place we can be proud of. The costs of some repairs can be high, but we feel that they are important.

We recently voted to raise the dues of the New Bremen Historic Association to help pay for future repairs to our property. We increased the annual dues from \$5.00 per year to \$8.00 per year. We raised the life memberships from \$50.00 to \$75.00 per person. Hopefully this will help cover some costs of maintaining the museum property.

Our annual Christmas Tree Festival was a real success this year. It was a great time and was enjoyed by all who attended. Mark Gaerke did a great job with this program.

I would like to thank several individuals for outstanding service to the New Bremen Historic Association. After many years of service, Betty Schroer handed over her duties as Treasurer to Martha Plattner. Betty did a great job for us. Two other individuals whom we should commend for their help are Lucille Francis and Donna Warner. Lucille is the Editor of *The Towpath* and she puts in many hours preparing it for publication. Lucille puts together one of the most interesting publications I have ever read. We are lucky to have such a dedicated person who is willing to spend so many hours to put together great articles about the history of New Bremen. Donna Warner spends a great deal of time doing all sorts of things for us. Donna is the kind of person who sees what can be done to make an improvement and she does it. Donna planted all the flowers at the museum and kept the outside looking attractive. She has done many other things to improve the museum and organization - she is always willing to help. Donna also spent many hours on the Christmas Tree Festival, and getting the museum ready for it.

In conclusion, I would like to encourage all our members to let us know what you would like to see the New Bremen Historic Association do in the future. This is a community organization and we need your input and help. If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact me or any Trustee. Our meetings are open to all members and are held at 7:30 P.M. the first Tuesday of every month in the Library meeting room. I strongly encourage you to come to the meetings. To maintain the high quality organization that we have, we need the help and support of all the members, new ideas, and new people to help the organization grow. We have a great organization, and with help, we can make it even better. Let us not forget that we must preserve our history for the future. *Doug Harrod*

### GENEALOGY REPORT

Martha Plattner has been working diligently for the past several months upgrading our obituary file at the New Bremen Public Library. A new metal filing cabinet was purchased, and Martha copied all the obituaries we had (over 2200), pasted them on new 4" x 6" cards, and filed them. If you have obituaries of your New Bremen ancestors, perhaps you would like to send us copies to be included in our collection.



(left to right)

Isolda (Ellerman) Davis (1929)  
Elfrieda Heinfeld (1930)  
Ruth Schneider (1927)  
Geraldine Houtz (1927)  
Ethel Heil (1927)  
Elnor (Hirschfeld) Daniels ('29)  
Lorma Brockman (1929)  
Enola (Huenke) Montague ('27)  
Sylvia Brose (1927)  
Helen (Vogelsang) Ellis (1928)  
Alice Andrews (commercial  
teacher & coach)

(photo from Orville Ruedebusch)

THE 1926-1927 N.B.H.S. GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

The girls' basketball team shown above wore uniforms of Crimson and Gold, consisting of baggy bloomers and knee socks. According to Isolda (Ellerman) Davis of Wapakoneta, only two of the girls are still living - she and Lorma Brockman. Mrs. Davis remembers that "the team practiced and played their games at Hespe's Hall on Monroe Street next to the theater. The playing area was very small compared to the basketball courts of today. On Saturday nights, there would be dances at the hall and Elnor (Hirschfeld) Daniels' father, "Icy" Hirschfeld, had a little lunch stand at the entrance of the building."

"We played teams from St. Marys, Cridersville, Waynesfield, and New Knoxville. We would be driven in cars to the games. One night, coming home from a game, we were in a terrible blizzard. I was traveling in the car with Coach Alice Andrews, and we were in a little accident, but fortunately no one was hurt."

"Most of the girls on the team were Seniors, and I was a Sophomore. We had a winning team that year. The tournament was played in Wapakoneta at the Armory downtown by the Auglaize River. The building was later used for a recreation center called "The Wigwam" and now is the Y.M.C.A. I don't remember the score, but we lost to Wapakoneta."

**Isolda Davis** [EDITOR'S NOTE: *Mrs. Davis as one of the cashiers at Brown's Restaurant in Wapakoneta.*]



**99-year old Harry Ludeka, Lowell Francis, Tom Kuenning, Don Homan and Forest Bowers.**

### **AUGLAIZE COUNTY'S SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**

[from "Au Glaize", French for "glassy water"]

Auglaize County, originally a part of Mercer and Allen Counties, etc. since the 1820's, was organized in 1848, due to the increasing population and the distance needed to travel to the above county seats. The "Act to erect the county of Auglaize", which established the new boundaries, passed both Houses of the State Legislature on February 13, 1848, and was signed the next day by both speakers. The law was to become effective on March 1, 1848.

In 1948, a 3-day Centennial celebration was held July 4, 5, 6 at the county fairgrounds at Wapakoneta. There was a 500-voice Centennial choir, a "Wings Over Jordan" singing group from New York City, a talent show and children's contests (both with cash prizes), a western horse show with 300 horses, a "Century of Fashions" and a "Parade of Progress" display, a \$50,000 antique display, a humorist, numerous speakers, a large fireworks display, a Grand Centennial Parade with 200 floats and 25 bands, and the usual rides, amusements, and horse racing.

In 1998, Auglaize County will honor its 150th anniversary with an extended Sesquicentennial celebration, beginning with a reception at the County Courthouse and a noon-time county-wide ringing of church bells on Saturday, February 14th. The next day there will be a 500-voice county choir concert at Wapakoneta's High School. On May 22, there will be a "Buckeye Farm Antiques" show at the fair-grounds, where there will also be a number of events taking place during fair week, August 3-9, including a "Made in Auglaize County" industrial



showcase, a large parade, a county alumni band concert, and a large fireworks display. Events and activities are also being planned by each community in the county. The county-wide celebration is being planned by the Auglaize County Sesquicentennial Committee, with Greg Meyers of Cridersville serving as Chairman.

The Sesquicentennial logo and slogan shown below were designed by our Vice-President, Mark Gaerke. The logo is in the shape of Auglaize County and represents the different aspects of life in the county. Beginning at the upper left and going clockwise are the Miami-Erie Canal and a canal boat representing the canal era, a construction worker representing the county's industry, a farm scene representing agriculture, and a church representing the county's religious values. The full moon represents Wapakoneta native Neil Armstrong's walk on the moon. In the middle is the dome of the county courthouse.



## TWO BOESEL GIRLS

At the turn of the century  
(possibly graduation photos?)

Louetta, on the left, graduated from N.B.H.S. in 1899 and Leona, on the right, graduated in 1901. They were the two oldest children of Gustave Boesel and Elizabeth Hay. Louetta went on to graduate from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and taught piano. She married Burnette Heck in 1905 in Zion's Church and they had three children: Kenneth, Burnette, Jr., and Elizabeth/Alice. They lived first in Indianapolis and later in Detroit. She died in 1933 at the age of 50 and is buried at Springfield, Ohio.

Leona was organist in Zion's Church and planned to attend the Lima Commercial School to learn bookkeeping and stenography, after which she was looking forward to working for her father in the office of the New Bremen Broom Co. Her dreams never came to pass, however, for on August 17th she became ill and four days later she passed away at the age of 17. She was buried on her Uncle Julius Boesel's plot in German Protestant Cemetery at Lock Two. Louetta and Leona's brothers and sisters were: Dr. Irwin Boesel, who married Ruby Heinfeldt; Allan Boesel, who married Clara Louise Fledderjohann (daughter of Representative B.A. Fledderjohann); Meta; Waldo; Norma; and Emmett Royer Boesel.

Gustave Boesel was the fifth child of Charles Boesel, Sr. and Dorothea Maurer. His brothers and sisters (who reached adulthood) were: August Boesel, who married Catherine Kuenzel; Mrs. J.H. (Wilhelmine) Mesloh; Mrs. Henry G. (Rosina) Schmidt; Mrs. J. Jacob (Dorothea) Frey; Julius Boesel, who married Amalia Haveman (daughter of Dr. Haveman); and Mrs. William C. (Emma) Schmidt. Half-brothers and sister were Jacob Boesel, who married Louise Wolf; Charles Adam Boesel, who married

Louise Voeckell (both sons of Charles, Sr. and his first wife, Wilhelmine Maurer); Frank T. Boesel; and Mrs. John (Clara Louise) Koenig (both children of Charles, Sr. and his third wife, Mary Schroeder).

*NOTE: The pictures above are from our archives. The hairdos and clothing reflect the styles of that era. What appears to be an extremely bouffant hairdo on Leona turns out on closer inspection to be a feather hat. Louetta is wearing pince nez glasses. (meaning="pinches nose")*

## **LOLA PATTERSON, NEW BREMEN INVENTOR, GETS U.S. PATENTS**

Miss **Lola Marie Patterson**, of New Bremen, is believed to be the first woman to be granted a patent in Auglaize County.

On February 8, 1944, Patent No. 2,340,982 was issued to Miss Patterson for her invention of a combination screen and blanket all-weather automotive conditioning unit on rollers similar to those used for window shades. This device was attached to a bracket and would fasten over the radiator and motor of an automobile. The screen was to prevent insects, etc. from entering the radiator grid in the summer, and the blanket was to condition the radiator in freezing weather. Both the screen and the blanket could be pulled down separately and hooked to the bottom of the radiator.

### **FROM THE "RECORD OF CONCEPTION"**

**WHEN DID YOU FIRST THINK OF YOUR INVENTION?**

**LOLA:** "About July, 1937, when I purchased a new car."

**WHEN DID YOU EXPLAIN YOUR INVENTION TO OTHERS?**

**LOLA:** "In 1941, when I felt I had a definite idea."

**WHEN DID YOU FIRST PREPARE A SKETCH OR MODEL OF YOUR INVENTION?**

**LOLA:** "About August, 1941. The idea was conceived because of an old model attachment not fitting on a newer model car. My idea is to have this as standard equipment for any model car."

On July 15, 1947, Miss Patterson received Patent No. 2,423,849 for her invention of "knee protectors." These devices were made of a strip of fabric with a pocket on one end in which could be inserted a cushion of some sort and fastened shut. On each end were attached elastic bands which would fasten around the leg both above and below the knee. The purpose of this device was to protect against "housemaid's knee" for housewives, gardeners, and others who would do a great deal of work on their knees.

The above patents were obtained through the law firm of Toulmin and Toulmin, which had offices in Dayton, Ohio; Washington, D.C.; and London, England. This is the same firm that obtained the first patent on an airplane for the Wright brothers at Dayton.

*(The above information is taken from patents, patent applications, correspondence, and newspaper clippings.)*

Lola Marie Patterson was born January 12, 1894 and died September 10, 1968. She was the daughter of Edward L. Patterson (1/6/1867-2/2/1909) and Josephine M. Kuenning (3/11/1864-1/25/1942). She worked as chief clerk in the New Bremen-Minster Gas Co. office, and later became the first woman state tax examiner for Ohio, working in Allen County, until she sustained an injury to one of her legs. She spent her retirement years living in her "garden cottage" at 17 North Main Street.

### **LETTERS OF APPRECIATION**

♦Thank you so much for the complimentary copy of the October, 1997 issue of *The Towpath*. I enjoyed it so very much. Even though my brother John and I were not born in New Bremen, we did most of our growing up years there and always consider New Bremen as "our hometown."  
**Jean (Glass) Rigsby**, class of '52

♦The complimentary copy of the October, 1997 issue of *The Towpath* was very interesting and brought back lots of memories. We have been away from New Bremen for more than 40 years, but we still appreciate news from our hometown. I retired in August, 1996 after 40 years of ministry in the United Church of Christ. June retired in October, 1996 as a school psychologist for Ottawa County Schools. With best wishes, **Gene Hegemier**, class of '52

To Lucille Francis, Editor/Genealogist:

Many times authors, upon completing a major work such as your book "New Bremen Marriages", will ask themselves, "Was it really worth all that work and effort?" Let me respond with a resounding, "Yes, it surely was!"

Thanks to your book, my cousin (Doug Mesloh of Tulsa, OK) and I were able to find the names of our g,g,g,g-grandfather (Johann Heinrich Mesloh) and our g,g,g,g-grandmother (Anna Margarethe D. Walsemann), the parents of Johann Berendt Mesloh, the immigrant who settled in New Bremen.

With this information, Doug, on his trip to Germany this summer, was successful in also finding the names of

Johann Heinrich's father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, thus tracing our lineage back to 1630.

Thank you again for all your work and efforts. **Karl R. Mesloh**

#### **INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP DUES**

For years, we have had the lowest membership dues of any historical or genealogical organization around here. At this time, we feel the need to increase our yearly dues to **\$8.00 per year / per person** and our Life Memberships to **\$75.00 per person**. Please note this increase when you are renewing your memberships. A **MEMBERSHIP DUES** notice is included in this issue. Please mark it as to what (or who) you are paying for and **MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS!** We appreciate the increased interest and the many favorable comments about *The Towpath*.