

(The Luelleman House)

THE TOWPATH

Published quarterly (January - April - July - October) by

NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

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

(Founded in 1973)

• **MUSEUM** located at 120 N. Main St. • **VISITING HOURS:** 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Sundays - June, July, August
(Or anytime, by Appointment)

DUES: \$8.00 Per year / Per person

(Life Membership: \$75.00 Per person)

April - 1999

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Susie Hirschfeld, "Towpath" Bulk Mailing....	629-2133

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MEETINGS ARE HELD FIRST TUESDAYS

7:30 p.m. at the Museum (summer time)

MEMBERS are invited to attend.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

1999 Memberships are now past due.

Established members must pay their dues by March 15th in order to assure continuous delivery of *The Towpath*. If you have not yet paid your dues for 1999, this is the last issue you will receive. New members in 1999 will be given extra consideration or previous issues (1999) of *The Towpath* (upon request.) These would be mailed with the next bulk mailing.

COMPLIMENTARY COPIES

With each quarterly mailing of *The Towpath*, a number of Complimentary Copies are sent to folks we think might be interested in reading one or more of the articles in that issue. If you are one of these people and would like to continue receiving future issues, please send the appropriate amount of dues (subscription) to the above address. (P.O. Box 73)

1999 ANNUAL DINNER & PROGRAM

Our annual dinner and program was held on Monday, March 15, 1999 at Faith Alliance Church on N.B./N.K. Road. The roast beef dinner was cooked by Ruth Krieg, one of our area's most popular cooks, and was served at 6:30 pm. by the Faith Alliance Youth Group and their leaders, Keith and Vonda Malone. Spring table decorations were furnished by Paul Headapohl. Approximately 125 attended.

This year's program was given by Glenna Meckstroth of New Knoxville, who recently published a book, "*Tales from Great-Grandpa's Trunk.*"

Glenna had some of her books for sale and autographed those purchased. (If you would like a copy of Glenna's book, you may contact her at P.O. Box 502 - New Knoxville, Ohio 45871 for further information.)

New and existing officers were introduced. Dru Meyer will be the new President, replacing outgoing President Doug Harrod. Jerry Braun will be Vice-President, Dorothy Hertenstein will be the new Secretary, and Tom Braun will continue as Treasurer and Genealogist. Two new Trustees are Jason This (replacing Martha Plattner, who resigned last fall) and Lawrence Egbert (replacing outgoing Trustee, Doug Harrod.)

1ST ANNUAL N.B.H.A. PICNIC

Our new president, Dru Meyer, has formed a committee to plan a summertime community picnic to be held at our Museum. With tongue in cheek, they are calling it "The First Annual New Bremen Historic Association Picnic." They want to stress that this is to be a "community" picnic and is not restricted to N.B.H.A. members only.

WHEN: Sunday, June 6, 1999 - 4:00-7:00 pm. This is also the first Sunday our museum will be open for summer visitation, beginning at 2:00 pm.

FOOD: Ham & bean soup, beef or chicken sandwiches, pies, cakes, coffee and lemonade.

ENTERTAINMENT: Miami-Erie Boys.

SPECIAL DISPLAYS: Various collections - Coke items, White Mountain Creamery items, wooden wood planes, watches, pencils, police badges.

~~~YOU ARE INVITED. PLEASE JOIN US. ~~~





**OFFICERS OF THE NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION - 1999 ANNUAL DINNER**  
**FRONT:** Susie Hirschfeld, Vernita Scheer, Bea Young, Lois Moeller, Lucille Francis, Phyllis Cox  
**BACK:** Rev. Lawrence Holmer, Jason This, Tom Braun, Jerry Brown, Don Ruese, Dorothy Hertenstein, Eugene Kuck, Drusilla Meyer, Doug Harrod  
*(Photo by Mike Meyer)*

#### HOME TALENT DRAMATIC COMPANY

The Home Talent Dramatic Co. was organized by the following young men and ladies: Dr. J.A. Kussman, A.C. Buss, Martin Buerkle Jr., Gustave Kuenning, Hugo Purpus, William Nieter, Ernst Tomhafe, Miss Olga Buss, Elvira Schwaberow, and Ida Heil. The entertainment given last Friday and Saturday evenings at Speckman & Nieter's Hall (later The Arcade) proved a complete success and cleared about \$150.00.

*(N.B.Sun - 2/7/1891)*

Last Saturday and Sunday evenings (Feb. 11 & 12), the K. of P. Home Talent Dramatic Co. produced the beautiful drama, "Saved from the Wreck", at Speckman & Nieter's Hall. The people of New Bremen apparently appreciate home talent productions. The play was given for the benefit of the Knights of Pythias Lodge. The total receipts from both evenings was nearly \$100.

*(N.B.Sun - 2/18/1893)*

#### ERNST TOMHAFFE - BARBER / ARTIST

Ernst Tomhafe's pencil sketch, "Liberty Enlightening the World", is on display at Gottlieb ("Puss") Laut's tonsorial parlor.

*(N.B.Sun - 6/6/1890)*

Ernst Tomhafe, the east side tonsorial artist, presented the Knights of Pythias Lodge with 2 beautiful emblems he whittled out of wood. The emblems are painted in appropriate colors and are displayed on the walls of the lodge room. One measures about 3 feet in length. It bears the shield under which are two crossed

swords, the axe, above it the helmet, and underneath a chain. The shield bears the colors of the order (white, blue, yellow, red) and the remainder is painted in gilt.

*(see the Pythian Sisters picture on page 7)*

*(N.B.Sun - 3/27/1903)*

✂New Bremen barbers raised prices from 20¢ to 25¢ and an extra charge of 5¢ for neck shaving on Saturday.

*(N.B.Sun Index - 10/23/1903)*

✂New Bremen barbers met again & cut out the extra 5¢ for neck shaving.

*(N.B.Sun Index - 10/30/1903)*

**SHAVE AND A HAIRCUT - 2 BITS!**

#### WOODMEN OF THE WORLD

The Woodmen of the World, a fraternal insurance society, was chartered in New Bremen on March 8, 1906 by the national organization of Omaha, Nebraska. The local chapter was named Good Hope Camp 149. The Woodmen Circle was chartered on September 7, 1948.

Early meetings were held in the I.O.O.F. (Odd Fellows) hall on the top floor of the Schulenberg & Laut building on West Monroe St. (the upper floor of what is now the Bicycle Museum of America.) In 1952, they purchased the E.G. Conradi house at 116 W. Monroe St. and held meetings there. Meetings these days are held in the basement of the old theatre building across from The Grille.



# "AMONG the BREAKERS"

This Beautiful and Exciting Drama will be given at  
**SPECKMAN AND NIETER'S HALL**  
Thursday and Sunday Evening  
APRIL 26 & 29, 1894

By the K. of P. Home Talent  
**Dramatic Company**  
of New Bremen

For the Benefit of

**RATHBONE LODGE NO. 543, K. OF P.**

Doors open at 7 o'clock — Curtain rises at 8

### Characters portrayed by:

Ernst Tomhafe, Henry C. Meyer, Dr. M.S. Ekermeier, Herbert Schulenberg, Emil Laut, William Nieter, Alta Mulford, Winona Taylor, Clara Nieter, Elvira Schwaberow.  
(1893's program, *"Saved From The Wreck"*, also included A.C. Buss, Miss Olga Buss, and Ed. Lanfersieck)

**"New Bremen had three fraternal organizations.** Each had membership of about 100. There was the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.), the Woodmen of the World (see *"The Towpath"* - Oct., 1998), and the Knights of Pythias. The Knights of Pythias had an excellent drill team. Their attire was much like that of the Roman gladiators, with a large hard metal helmet, a chest shield, and a 7-foot high sword. The uniforms were blue and white. They usually participated in all the parades and community affairs."

(Lloyd Laut - from *"Tales of Yesteryear"* - 3/17/97)

The Knights of Pythias organization's ritual is based on the story of Damon and Pythias, two inseparable friends of Greek legend, living in the first half of 400 B.C. in Syracuse, one of the richest and most powerful cities in Greece. Pythias was condemned to death for conspiracy by the tyrant administrator Dionysius I, but was granted permission to go home for a day to arrange his affairs, on condition that his friend Damon agree to take his place to be executed should Pythias not return. Pythias was delayed and Damon was led to execution, but Pythias arrived just in time to save him. Dionysius was so struck with this honorable friendship that he pardoned both of them.

## THE KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

The Knights of Pythias is a fraternal organization established to promote Friendship, Charity, and Benevolence (F.C.B., shown in their logos). It was founded February 19, 1864 by Justus H. Rathbone in an effort to heal the hatreds caused by the Civil War and was incorporated by Congress on August 5, 1870. The women's affiliate, organized in 1888, is called the Pythian Sisters. A junior organization of the Pythian Sisters is The Sunshine Girls. The Junior Order Knights of Pythias for young men from 14-21 was founded in 1923.

Some of the Knights' benevolent activities included maintaining homes and/or hospitalization for the aged and infirm, camps for underprivileged children, educational opportunities for deserving students, and supporting tuberculosis foundations.



**Damon's Farewell to his family**

This is a charcoal drawing which was done by former New Bremen barber, Ernst Tomhafe, around 1917. This picture used to hang in the Knights of Pythias/Woodmen of the World Hall above Schulenberg's Store and is on loan from John Gilberg. It can be seen in the upper southwest room of our museum.





Among the requirements to become a Knight of Pythias were the following: he must be a white male, of good moral character, between 21 and 50 years of age, believe in a Supreme Being, be in good health and sound in mind and body, be able to read and write, must not be a professional gambler, saloonkeeper or bartender, and must believe in order and authority.

*Knights of Pythias*  
*"Constitution and Statutes" ~ 1915*



*Three Knights of Pythias helmets recently donated to the New Bremen Historic Assoc. by the Woodmen of the World courtesy of Merlin & Mary Ellen Ahlers.*

#### **FROM THE NEW BREMEN SUN.....**

**1/9/1892** - Last Sunday afternoon a meeting was held at "Puss" Laut's barber shop to take active steps towards organizing a new secret organization for New Bremen - the Knights of Pythias. About 25 members have signed and they are looking for a hall.

**2/13/1892** - The Knights of Pythias Lodge will be instituted on Tuesday afternoon, February 16, at their headquarters in the I.O.O.F. Hall. Officers of this new lodge will be: Dr. S.M. Ekermeier, A.C. Buss, O.W. Taylor, C.P. Gress, William Nieter, John Speckman, and F.M. Allgire. There will be a parade.

**7/22/1893** - Efforts are being made by Knights of Pythias wives to establish a Pythian Sisterhood in N.B.

**2/3/1894** - The Pythian Sisters' Grace Temple #62 was instituted on Wednesday evening. It is the first of its kind in Auglaize Co. The Pythian Sister Lodge is a branch of the Knights of Pythias Lodge and is under the sole management of wives, sisters, and daughters of K. of P. Their motto is Purity, Love, Equality, Fidelity. The motto of the K. of P. is Friendship, Charity, Benevolence. Total charter membership, including male members, is 33. Officers are: Mrs. J.L. Hoffman, Mrs. O.W. Taylor, Mrs. M. Stone, Miss Mary Meyer, Mrs. N.B. Mills, Miss Winona Taylor, Mrs. A.C. Buss, Mrs. John Thiesing, and Mrs. W.J. Davis. They will meet once or twice a month at the Pythian Castle. After the ceremonies, an elegant oyster supper was served at the Hotel French.

**5/5/1894** - The Knights of Pythias Rathbone Lodge voted to build a Castle Hall in Herman Laut's new building on Washington St. The building will be 40' x 80' and have steel siding of imitation brick. The first floor will be used by the proprietor as an opera house and dance hall.

**10/6/1894** - The Pythian Sisters changed their name to Rathbone Sisters in order to be recognized by the Grand Lodge & enable Knights of Pythias to retain their membership.

**1/23/1903** - The Knights of Pythias Lodge has rented Henry C. Kuenzel's hall in the former Boesche block for a term of 5 years and will move in by about March 1.

**1/27/1905** - The large 2-story business and residence block of Henry Dierker at the corner of Washington & Monroe Sts. is a large mass of ruins after a gas explosion and fire at 8:00 Thursday morning, January 26, 1905. Mr. Dierker had purchased the building from Henry C. Kuenzel in February, 1903. Mr. Kuenzel purchased the building in July, 1902 from John H. Boesche who had built it in 1870 at a cost of \$11,000. Mr. Dierker's estimated loss due to the fire is \$18,000.

The Knights of Pythias Rathbone Lodge #543 and the Rathbone Sisters lost their home and furnishings due to the explosion. On Thursday evening, they met at the I.O.O.F. (Odd Fellows) Hall and were given the use of this hall until a permanent home could be found.

L.E. Martindale, a St. Marys photographer, took pictures of the ruins and offered them to the K. of P.'s at cost so they could sell them to recoup some of their losses (estimated at \$1000-\$1200) in the explosion. The Arcade gave an order for 50 of the pictures.

**12/21/1906** - By a grant of the Supreme Lodge Knights of Pythias at New Orleans, the name of the Rathbone Sisters was changed back to the Pythian Sisters. These two orders were practically sister orders to the K. of P. order, but the Pythian Sisters were not recognized by the Grand Lodges. The merger will do away with the contention for recognition.



# GENEALOGY REPORT

from Tom Braun

I first became interested in family history in 1992 when we were going through the effects of my late uncle, Woodrow Braun, who lived two houses north of Schwieterman's Drug Store on N. Washington St.

One of the items that we found was a confirmation certificate dated March 24, 1837, in Cincinnati for Dorothea Braun. Dorothea was a sister of my great-grandfather, Peter Braun. On the certificate was Dorothea's birthplace in Germany.

My wife, Ginny (McCollum) and I were living in Arizona at the time. I took the certificate back to Arizona with us and went to the Morman Family History Center in Mesa, Arizona. I entered Dorothea's name in their computer and out popped the names of her parents, sister, and brother. I was amazed!! And hooked!!

After I retired and Ginny and I moved back to New Bremen, I started working on the family trees of my family - the Brauns, Dammeyers, Neumans, Harjehausens, Gruebmeiers, and Beckers. Then I worked on Ginny's family - the McCollums, Gribblers, and Watermans.

I soon found out that most families who have lived in the New Bremen area for over 100 years are related to lots of other people in the area. I became interested in researching many of these other New Bremen families and have accumulated information about quite a few of them. I am placing two 2" notebook binders containing these family histories in the New Bremen Library's genealogy section for others to use in their research.

You are welcome to copy any information that you find useful. I would welcome any additions

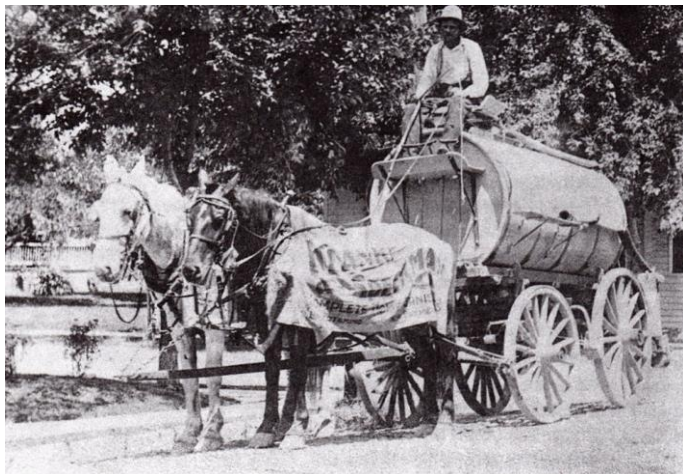
and/or corrections that you may find so that I can update my files. Additional information such as where the people lived, where they worked, etc. would also be welcomed. My goal is to add as many New Bremen families as possible to this collection.

You may contact me by writing or calling  
Thomas W. Braun  
113 Elk Dr.  
New Bremen, Ohio 45869-1015  
PHONE: 419-629-8902  
e-mail: brauntg@bright.net

There is no charge for any of this information; however a contribution may be made to the New Bremen Historic Association.

The following is a listing of the family trees that are included in the notebook binders:

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Becker          | Kuenning    |
| Blanke          | Lanfersieck |
| Boesel          | Laut        |
| Braun           | Mesloh      |
| Bruns           |             |
| Moeller/Mueller |             |
| Bushman         | Neuman      |
| Dammeyer        | Paul        |
| Erb             | Poppe       |
| Fischbach       | Quellhorst  |
| Fritz           |             |
| Ruedebusch      |             |
| Gilberg         | Schaefer    |
| Gruebmeier      | Scheer      |
| Halsema         | Schowe      |
| Harjehausen     | Schulenberg |
| Haveman         | Schwecke    |
| Heitkamp        | Solms       |
| Huenke          | Speckman    |
| Kettler         | Thiesing    |
| Knipple         | Wagner      |
| Koenig          | Waterman    |
| Kolthoff        | Weinberg    |



**AT LEFT:** Theodore Braun, Tom's grandfather, who was a teamster and hauled coal, gravel and other building materials, also logs for the Oliver Solms sawmill. Ironically, Tom's grandfather and Ginny's grandfather, Lafe Waterman, worked together. Here, Theodore is driving the street sprinkler wagon which he bought from his brother, August Braun, when August moved to a farm near Kettlersville in 1909-1910.

August had purchased the sprinkler wagon from William Dorfer in March, 1899, when Will became a traveling liquor salesman.



## GRADUATED

German....

## Midwifery



Calls promptly answered

by night as well as by day.

Professional Nursing of the Sick.

**Mrs. Pina Ihle.**

Leave orders at the office of Dr. Mullen.

*New Bremen Sun - 11/15/1901*

Mrs. Pina Marie Ihle was born August 19, 1870 in Stuttgart, Germany, the daughter of Philip & Josephine (Braun) Schmützer. She was married on October 26, 1890 to Martin Ihle, and they moved to New Bremen in 1900. Mr. Ihle preceded her in death on July 13, 1923. He had worked for the Grand Union Tea Co. as did his son-in-law, Robert Schroeder.

The Ihle's son, Cort Ihle, was killed at a training camp while fighting with the U.S. Army in World War I, making Mrs. Ihle a Gold Star Mother. A daughter, Hilda, and sons Paul & Herbert also preceded their parents in death.

Mrs. Ihle was a nurse and midwife in New Bremen and delivered many babies in the early 1900s. Roman Stueve was quite proud of being the last baby she delivered on May 16, 1924. According to Roman, the first baby delivered by Mrs. Ihle was Reuben Wissman on May 20, 1903.

Mrs. Ihle made many trips on foot through all kinds of weather to assist with childbirth and then took care of the mother and baby for at least 10 days.

When Pina Ihle died at the age of 87 on February 20, 1958, she was survived by a daughter, Mrs. Robert (Martha) Schroeder. The Schroeders and Mrs. Ihle lived on the NW corner of Walnut and South Streets. There are two apartments on this corner now that were originally owned by Roman Stueve.

*(N.B. Sun - 7/19/1923 & 2/27/1958)*

*(The Towpath - Jan. 1990 ~ by Marge Lietz)*

## DR. MICHAEL RABE

●Dr. Michael Rabe opened his practice in New Bremen on May 12, 1940, succeeding Dr. Davis. Dr. Rabe "made house calls" and tended medically to many New Bremen residents for over 30 years, retiring on August 1, 1971.

●Dr. Rabe was born October 21, 1889 in Kremenchug, Ukraine, South Russia. When he graduated in 1912 from High School in Vilna, Northwest Russia, he was denied the privilege of enrolling in a Russian University because of his Jewish status. (Only 10% of the admissions were permitted to be Jews.) He therefore enrolled at the University of Strasbourg in Alsace as a pre-medicine student. Two years later, when

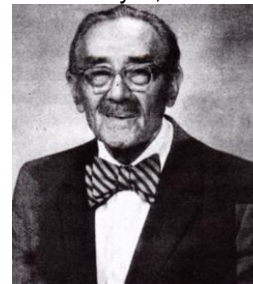
W.W.I broke out, his studies were interrupted since no foreigners were permitted to attend the German universities during the war period. He was interned for 6 months and then was obliged to work the next 4 years in a German sugar refinery to relieve a German for service in the Army. After the war he resumed his studies in medical college and graduated from Martin Luther University, Halle, Wittenberg in late 1921, receiving his doctor's degree. In January, 1921, he married Margarete Beer, a private secretary in the gynecological clinic at the University and they had 3 sons - Peter, Valentin, and Andreas.

●Dr. Rabe practiced medicine in Hanover, Germany for 17 years. He received his German citizenship in 1933, however in 1935 Hitler revoked it. One week before Hitler ordered the arrest of practically every Jewish male and sent them to concentration camps, Dr. Rabe was called in by the Gestapo. He told the officer that he had his affidavit and was ready to leave Germany. That same day he and his oldest son, Peter, age 16, emigrated to the U.S., arriving in New York City on November 5, 1938 and locating near Detroit where his brother had given security for them. Mrs. Rabe and the other two boys stayed with her mother, Louise Beer, in Halle until they emigrated in June, 1940. (Mrs. Beer emigrated to New Bremen around 1956 and made her home with the Rabes at 207 S. Washington St. until she died.)

●Before Dr. Rabe could practice medicine in the U.S., he had to learn the English language and pass the State Board Examinations which he did in 1940. After serving for two months at a maternity hospital in Chicago, he decided to open a private practice in New Bremen, since Dr. Davis was leaving (*N.B. Sun - 5/16/1940*). On May 12, 1940 he arrived in New Bremen to open his practice. On June 13, he was reunited with Mrs. Rabe, Valentin, and Andreas, who had arrived on the USS Manhattan, the last ship to bring refugees from Germany to the U.S.

●Dr. Rabe was a general practitioner who had his office in the Purpus building on West Monroe St. (where Howell's/Gilberg's parking lot is now). He didn't make appointments, but did make house calls and dispensed his own medicines. He believed in natural foods - vegetables, whole grains, honey, vitamins and minerals. He believed that "The body is able to take care of itself if you take care of it."

●Dr. Rabe died November 9, 1981. Mrs. Rabe died February 3, 1986.



Dr. Rabe circa 1939 and 1971.





**THE RATHBONE LODGE NO. 543 KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS MARCHING CLUB (Early 1890s)**

**SEATED:** Fred W. Greber, George W. Tooil (Captain of the squad), Emil W. Laut, and Dr. F.W. Everist.

**KNEELING:** John Thiesing, August Faehl, Henry C. Meyer, Gottlieb Laut, William F. Boesche, Ferd W. Rabe, Edward Millette, John Beams, James Feather, Henry Beard.

**STANDING:** Albert C. Buss, Martin Knost, Lafe W. Kunning, Charles Block, Fred A. Ende, Herbert Schulenberg, Frank Huenke, Gregor Gast, Dr. M.S. Ekermeier, Ohio W. Taylor, and August Dierker.



**THE PYTHIAN SISTERS (in costume) in the Knights of Pythias Hall above The Arcade**

**FRONT:** Mrs. Frank May (Luella Barth), Mrs. James Taylor (Rhea Riley), #3 \_\_\_\_\_, Mrs. Phil (Nellie) Rust?, Mrs. Herman Bienz (Jennie Wehmeyer), Mrs. Robert (Grace) Schneider (he worked at the Railway Depot).

**MIDDLE:** Mrs. Charles J. Boesel? (Mary Ahrens), Miss Margaret Moeller, Mrs. Carl Quist (Minnie Dierker), Mrs. Henry Greber (Carrie Roettger), Mrs. Harvey Henning (Emma Mesloh), Mrs. Harry Komminsk (Gertrude Huenke), Mrs. Cade Schulenberg (Norma Heil).

**BACK:** Mrs. Irvin Wissman (Clara Neuman), Mrs. Joe Brucken (Lina Taylor), Mrs. George Thiesing, Sr. (Caroline Knipple), #4 \_\_\_\_\_, Mrs. Ed Wellman (Aurelia Wissman), Mrs. Elmer Wittenbrink (Pearl Kellermeyer), Mrs. May Knipple (Louise/"Pet" Laut), Mrs. Frank Buckloh (Marie Dicke), Mrs. Henry Block (Edna Greiwe), Mrs. John Scheer (Alma Wissman), Mrs. Harry Schroeder (Frieda Dammeyer), #12 \_\_\_\_\_, Mrs. Elmer Kellermeyer (Hazel Rabe), Mrs. William Huenke (Sophie Frevert), Mrs. Grover Wissman (Amanda/"Snooks" Deitemeyer - on stool), #16 \_\_\_\_\_, Miss Caroline Ahlers.

(Identifications by Marjorie Gieseke/Conradi/Lietz - 10/20/96)



## OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The oldest fraternal organization is the Freemasons, founded in the late 1600s in England as a stonemason's guild. It was a 'secret' organization that later evolved into a drinking and eating club for tradesmen, merchants, and some noblemen. It was this form of the society that crossed the Atlantic to the English colonies where most all the lodges were located in taverns.

In 1826, after a debacle arising from the unacceptability of a membership transfer of a William Morgan from one lodge to another in New York, many of the Freemasons joined the Odd Fellows, formerly a working-class club founded in the U.S. in 1819. They banned the alcohol and concentrated on ritualistic initiations. However, the English founding fathers did not approve of these new ways and threatened to revoke the Americans' charters.

As a result, in 1844, the Americans established the "Independent" Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.), and created a sequence of nine elaborate rituals, most of them derived from the Old Testament. In the 1850s, the Odd Fellows created a women's auxiliary called the Degree of Rebekah.

### NEW BREMEN SOCIETIES

*(N.B. Sun - 3/29/1889)*

**New Bremen Lodge** No. 101, I.O.O.F., meets every Wednesday evening.

**Wilhelmina Lodge** No. 219, Daughters of Rebekah, I.O.O.F., meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month.

**New Bremen Encampment No. 162, G.A.R.**, meets 1st and 3rd Monday of each month

**New Bremen Literary Society** meets every Saturday evening.

### FROM THE NEW BREMEN SUN

**2/22/1889** - The Odd Fellows Lodge is investigating into the cost of getting a suitable site and building a 3-story brick building to replace their present headquarters. The first floor would be occupied by two large store rooms, the second floor would have a spacious hall to be used for all large public gatherings, and the third floor would be the Odd Fellows' home.

**5/3/1889** - The New Bremen Odd Fellows celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Order's founding at their neat and spacious hall in Boesche's block (SE corner of Washington & Monroe) last Friday evening.

**4/18/1891** - The great Schulenberg & Laut block will be built similar to the Fountain Hotel at St. Marys. The second floor over Schulenberg's two business rooms will be occupied by the I.O.O.F. Lodge. Mr. Laut's family will occupy the floor over his business room.

**11/14/1891** - The Odd Fellows will dedicate their new hall on Tuesday, November 24. In the evening, the Daughters of Rebekah will give a supper at the old Odd Fellows Hall in Boesche's block for the benefit of the lodge to reduce the great debt incurred in building.

**5/5/1894** - On Friday evening, April 27, the Odd Fellows of New Bremen observed the diamond anniversary of the Order. There are over 800,000 Odd Fellows in the United States

besides double that amount of Daughters of Rebekah & Patriarchs.

**2/25/1898** - On Wednesday, February 23, 1898, the Odd Fellows Lodge No. 101 of New Bremen celebrated its golden anniversary with a three-hour program that was open to the public. A climax to the event was the presentation to the lodge of a piano from the Daughters of Rebekah by Miss Augusta Grothaus. Other participants in the program were: C.M. Hengen, John Laut, Lydia Schmidt, Walter Hoffmann, Mrs. Edmund Grothaus, Ida Trautwein, Pearl Allen, Harry and Landry Koeper, and Rev. Quayle of St. Marys, and Henry Moser of Wapakoneta, who gave the addresses.

The New Bremen lodge was founded February 24, 1848. Charter members were: Charles Boesel, William A. Havemann, H. Albers, John H. Wellman, Henry Schulte, and H.F. Tinemann.

Edmund Grothaus told how there was a powerful opposition to secret orders in those pioneer days and about the struggles of the infant lodge due to the 1849 cholera epidemic and the Civil War in the 1860s. He said that there are now over 1 million Odd Fellows in the U.S. and more than that number outside the U.S.

**3/27/1903** - The Odd Fellows are converting the room on the 3rd floor of the Schulenberg & Laut block into a banquet hall.

**5/1/1903** - The Rebekah Social at Odd Fellows Hall last Monday night was quite a success. The social was given on the occasion of the 84th anniversary of the founding of the Order in this country. The Odd Fellows are odd fellows indeed. They are odd in the administration of help, yet accomplish what they set out to do. In Ohio alone they are spending yearly over \$275,000 for relief of the distressed, and extend the hand of charity in many and varied ways.

**The Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.)** was established by Union veterans of the U.S. Civil War in 1866 to aid fellow veterans and their families, obtain pension increases, and preserve the memory of fallen comrades. They were responsible for the adoption of Memorial Day in 1868. The last member died in 1956. The G.A.R. held "encampments" every year from November 10, 1866 through August 31, 1949, when only six of the thirteen survivors were still able to attend.

The following officers were installed in the New Bremen Encampment No. 162 of the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) on Monday evening, January 16, 1899: A.C. Buss (C.P.), C. Laut (S.W.), August Lanfersieck (J.W.), Dr. M.S. Ekmeyer (H.P.), William Dierker (I.S.), Edmund Grothaus (O.S.), William Grothaus (Scribe), J.L. Hoffman (Treasurer).

*(New Bremen Sun - 1/20/1899)*



## *From the Mailbox...*



✉ I am 86 years old and have many memories of New Bremen. I was born there March 14, 1912 to Otto J. Boesel and Bessie L. Stone in a corner house at 124 S. Franklin St. Across the street (119 W. Plum) lived the Theodore Stroefer family and next to them (111 W. Plum) lived Esther Fearing (later Quist) and her mother, Adelia Fearing.

When I was 2 years old, we moved to Wapakoneta. My father was a lawyer and served as the N.B. Council's attorney. When I was about 6-10, I'd go to N.B. where he maintained an office (Grothaus Block/Post Office - 125 W. Monroe) and stay with my Grandmother Mary Stone, widow of Capt./Dr. Michael Stone, a Civil War veteran. Sometimes I'd visit Esther Fearing, who used to babysit me and my older brother, Paul. My grandmother lived across the alley behind the Postoffice (10 S. Main St.) and Dr. Fledderjohann had his office across the street (9 S. Main St.)

My uncle, Adolph Boesel, lived at 110 S. Franklin, and my aunt and uncle, Alma & Fridolin Purpus, lived next door (114 S. Franklin). Across the street was the Central School. Another aunt and uncle, Ida & Emil G. Conradi lived across the street from the Postoffice at 116 W. Monroe. They had a life-size metal deer in the side yard which I used to ride! Lafe Kunning was the Postmaster at that time.

I remember "Butch" (William) Schelper's Meat Market (107 W. Monroe) and an ice-cream parlor up near the canal. That was all a long time ago, but it is pleasant to look back and remember. I am enclosing a check for a Lifetime Membership. Keep up the good work, including *The Towpath*.

*Kenneth S. Boesel - Verona, Pennsylvania*



✉ I am the former Gail Maich, daughter of Walter and Erline (Beickman) Maich. My family moved from Herman St. in New Bremen to California in 1964, a year before I was to graduate. I recently received a copy of *The Towpath* from Joyce (Isenberger) Thornsberry, a former classmate. I really enjoyed reading about New Bremen's past, since I am a part of the past!! I am enclosing a check for a year's subscription to *The Towpath* and for a N.B. High School commemorative porcelain medallion.

*Gail (Maich) Helzer - Huntington Beach, California*



✉ Yes, that is my father, Otto Schneider, in the middle of the bottom picture on page 3 of the January, 1999 edition of *The Towpath*. I look forward to getting *The Towpath* every three months.

*Victor W. Schneider - Winter Haven, Florida*



✉ The January, 1999 issue of *The Towpath* was so very interesting and cherished. My dad, Leo F. Sunderman, was pictured on page 3. He began working at *The New Bremen Sun* at the age of 14! I surely would like to make the trip to N.B. in April or May and bring other photos, books, etc.

*Marilee (Sunderman) Besanceney - Pittsburgh, PA*



✉ Thank you for the complimentary copy of the January, 1999 *Towpath* - it was very interesting. Enclosed is a check for a 1999 subscription.

During the past year, we have been working on my Solms and Gagle/Gagel genealogy which has its American roots in the N.B. area. My father Carl Frederick Solms was born in N.B. on 12/4/1899. My grandparents, Herman Heinrich Oliver Solms (b.10/10/1865) and Clementine Wilhelmina Gagel (b.3/4/1873) were also born in N.B. Oliver Solms owned the Burden-Solms Lumber Co. in N.B.

We have made many new friends during this process and appreciate all the help we have received.

*Carl & Marge Solms - Ivins, Utah*

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Oliver and Clementine (Gagel) Solms were also the parents of Marie A. Solms (Mrs. George Wilmor Gensler.) George and Marie were the parents of our historian, Lois (Gensler) Moeller. Lois had never met her cousin, but they are now in communication with each other since Marge requested genealogical information.*



✉ Thank you for another delightful issue of *The Towpath* (January, 1999). The 12/3/1909 business listing included an ad by my maternal grandfather, John Laut - what a special memory item! Enclosed is a donation to be used where most needed.

*Eugene L. Jordan - Plymouth, Michigan*



✉ Thanks for the January, 1999 complimentary copy of *The Towpath*. That is a great little publication and I enjoy reading it. N.B. will always have a special place in my memories even though I no longer am a frequent visitor. Enclosed is my check for a Lifetime Membership.

*Emma (Opperman) Pleiman - Spencerville, Ohio*



✉ I hope John Dickman's booklet, "A Taste of Tradition" is still available. The summer he was managing the swimming pool and I was a lifeguard, John turned me on to "pogo" and crossword puzzles but he never shared any "goodies" with us. After five months, my curiosity has gotten the better of me. Enclosed you'll find my check.

*Molly Lou (Kellermeyer) Manley - Northville, Michigan*



## ***"Bremen Worldwide"***

On display at our 1999 annual dinner was a book called *"Bremen Worldwide"* published by Klaus Kellner of Bremen, Germany. Mr. Kellner visited New Bremen, Ohio, on May 15, 1997 to gather information for this book. While here, he was escorted around the area by former *Evening Leader* journalist, Wayne Wenning. He also traveled by rented car to many other Bremens/New Bremens in the United States.

In December, 1998, New Bremen Mayor Robert Klein received a complimentary copy of Mr. Kellner's book (written in German), along with a letter stating that if enough interest were shown in buying an English version, he would be willing to publish one (possibly by the fall of 1999.) Estimated purchase price for the English edition was given as \$20.00 + postage and packing. Mayor Klein would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in purchasing a copy of this book. (Approximately 25 people have already added their names to the sign-up sheet.) To let him know of your interest, mail a postcard with your message, name, address, and phone number to: Mayor Robert Klein - P.O. Box 27 - New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0027.

### **Description of book**

*"Bremen Worldwide"* is comprised of 204 printed pages, 11 of which are devoted to New Bremen, Ohio. Other U.S. Bremens written about, each with its own chapter, are located in Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, North Dakota, and Bremen, Ohio. Also covered are Bremens in other countries, including Latin America and Australia. There are many pictures (most in color) and maps showing the location of each town.

## **Card of Thanks**

◆ We would like to thank charter member Charlie Garman for his recent work at the museum. Charlie has built us a bookcase in the northwest room to hold all of our photograph albums, postcard albums, and the many reference books pertaining to New Bremen and the area. Charlie also made repairs to some door jams. We appreciate Charlie's willingness to do these things for us.

◆ I would also like to thank Bea Young and Sue Maxson for their help in researching the Knights of Pythias and the Oddfellows and to Tom Braun for his help in putting together the directory of the genealogical section of the New Bremen Public Library.

## **NEW MEMBERS THIS QUARTER (THRU 3/31/99)**

02/26/99 Brandt, Esther K. - Findlay, Ohio (Rejoined)  
 02/27/99 Campbell, Paul - New Bremen  
 02/11/99 Clark, Donald - San Diego, California  
 02/19/99 Dammeyer, Dorothy (Block)(LM)-Bayonet Pt., FL  
 03/18/99 Dicke, Larry - St. Marys, Ohio  
 03/18/99 Dicke, Mrs. Larry (Dianne Schmiesing)  
 02/03/99 Dicke, Willis - New Bremen (Rejoined)  
 02/08/99 Donnerberg, James - New Bremen  
 02/17/99 Headapohl, Paul - New Bremen (Rejoined)  
 02/17/99 Headapohl, Viola (Hirschfeld) - N.B. (Rejoined)  
 02/08/99 Helzer, Gail (Maich) - Huntington Beach, Calif.  
 02/22/99 Hirschfeld, Robert L. - St. Marys  
 02/24/99 Hittepole, Marlene (Berning) - New Bremen  
 03/15/99 Huckriede, Richard - Greensburg, Kansas  
 02/12/99 Kuck, Kris (Meyer) - New Knoxville  
 02/12/99 Lance, Jenney (Meyer) - Fort Wayne, Indiana  
 02/06/99 Looker, Larry - Eaton, Ohio  
 02/06/99 Lutterbeck, Jerry - Quincy, Michigan  
 03/10/99 Minster Bank - New Bremen Branch  
 03/10/99 Moeller, Frederick - New Bremen (Rejoined)  
 03/31/99 Moots, Eleanore (Osinski) - New Bremen  
 02/03/99 Myers, Greg - New Bremen  
 02/13/99 Plattner, Beverly (Rump) - New Bremen  
 03/15/99 Pleiman, Emma (Opperman)(LM) - Spencerville  
 03/22/99 Ruedebusch, Althea (Slattery)(TR) - Wapakoneta  
 01/13/99 Shupp, Dennis - New Knoxville (Reinstate/CM)  
 02/09/99 Solms, Carl R. - Ivins, Utah  
 02/02/99 Staas, Dillon - Lima, Ohio  
 02/02/99 Stafford, Jim (LM) - New Bremen  
 02/02/99 Stafford, Vera (Hemmelgarn)(LM) - New Bremen  
 03/03/99 This, Eugene - New Bremen (Rejoined)

## **ADDITIONS TO LIFE MEMBERSHIP PLAQUE**

02/15/99 Boesel, Kenneth  
 03/01/99 Brookhart, Curtis  
 02/15/99 D'Alessio, Pat (Gels)  
 02/19/99 Dammeyer, Dorothy (Block)(new)  
 02/12/99 Deniston, Carolyn (Wellman)  
 02/03/99 Egbert, Lawrence  
 02/03/99 Gerling, Rosemary (Landwehr)  
 02/05/99 Koenig, Daryl  
 02/18/99 Laut, Leona (Nolte)  
 02/08/99 Luedeke, Donald  
 03/15/99 Pleiman, Emma (Opperman)(new)  
 02/01/99 Quellhorst, Mervin  
 02/01/99 Quellhorst, Jeannette (Vogel)  
 02/12/99 Schroer, Dwight  
 03/15/99 Shaffer, Martha (Speckman)  
 02/13/99 Slattery, Margaret (Ruedebusch)  
 02/06/99 Smith, Carolyn (Weinberg)  
 02/02/99 Stafford, Jim (new)  
 02/02/99 Stafford, Vera (Hemmelgarn)(new)  
 03/01/99 Wagner, Harry

## **MEMBER DEATHS THIS QUARTER**

03/13/99 Harlamert, Dorothy (Geib)(died 3/13/99)  
 01/20/99 Ley, Chester (died 1/20/99)  
 03/02/99 Roettger, Laverta (died 3/2/99)  
 03/22/99 Ruedebusch, Norman (died 3/22/99)