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)

MEMBERSHIP DUES
1999 Memberships are now due.
Established members must pay their dues by March 15th in order to assure continuous delivery of The Towpath. New members will be given extra consideration or back issues of The Towpath (upon request.) These would be mailed with the next bulk mailing.

Please use the enclosed renewal notice.

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)

ANNUAL DINNER & PROGRAM
Our annual dinner and program will be held on Monday, March 15, 1999 at Faith Alliance Church on N.B./N.K. Road. The dinner will be cooked by Ruth Krieg, one of our area's most popular cooks and will be served at 6:30 pm. This year's program will be given by Glenna Meckstroth of New Knoxville, who recently published a book,

"Tales from Great-Grandpa's Trunk"

This promises to be another fun-filled evening of sharing memories of by-gone days. Tickets will go on sale in February. Watch for further notices in local newspapers, cable TV channels, etc. (Glenna will have some of her books for sale and will be glad to autograph them for you.)

OUR NEW LOOK
Did you notice the new "picture" in our header? This is a picture of a drawing done recently by Nicholas R. Grilliot, great-great grandson of William Heinrich and Anna Catherine (Beckmann) Luelleman who were the first of the Luelleman family to occupy the home we now call our museum. This home was in the Luelleman family from 1868 to 1973.

A great grandson, Jan Luelleman and his wife Kathy, recently donated individual 20" x 24" portraits of William and Anna Catherine to the museum. We are glad the descendants of William and Anna Catherine are willing to share their family's history with us and thank them for their interest and generosity.

Nick has given us permission to use his drawing for future fund-raising projects - possibly a wooden cut-out plaque, postcards, and/or other items.

AN APPEAL TO READERS
"Send in your news items while they are fresh. We don't like to publish a birth after the child is weaned, a marriage after the honeymoon is over, a death after the widow married again, or the notice of an entertainment when the job work is done elsewhere and you charge the Editor for admission."

New Bremen Sun - 7/14/1899

OFFICERS OF N.B. HISTORIC ASSOC.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Harrod</td>
<td>President/Trustee</td>
<td>629-2224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy Hertenstein</td>
<td>Vice-President/Trustee</td>
<td>629-3320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drusilla Meyer</td>
<td>Secretary/Trustee</td>
<td>629-3495</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Braun</td>
<td>Treasurer/Trustee</td>
<td>629-8902</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jerry Brown</td>
<td>Trustee</td>
<td>629-2299</td>
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<td>Rev. Lawrence Holmer</td>
<td>Trustee</td>
<td>629-3738</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eugene Kuck</td>
<td>Trustee</td>
<td>629-2517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald Ruesse</td>
<td>Trustee</td>
<td>629-3284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernita Scheer</td>
<td>Museum Curator</td>
<td>629-2258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beay Young</td>
<td>Assistant Curator</td>
<td>629-3113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lois Moeller</td>
<td>Historian</td>
<td>629-3180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thylias Cox</td>
<td>Corresponding Sec.</td>
<td>629-2114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susie Hirschfeld</td>
<td>Membership Archives</td>
<td>629-2133</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lucille Francis, "Towpath" Membership...629-3148
Susie Hirschfeld, "Towpath" Bulk Mailing...629-2133

"The Towpath" is printed by Loc's Printing - New Bremen, Ohio

MEETINGS ARE HELD FIRST TUESDAYS
7:30 p.m. at the New Bremen Public Library
MEMBERS are invited to attend.

DUES: $8.00 Per year / Per person (Life Membership: $75.00 Per person) January - 1999
ALBERT C. BUSS
(The Evening Leader - 6/26/1944)

Albert Charles Buss, Editor and General Manager of The St. Marys Evening Leader, died Sunday, 6/25/1944, at Gibbons Hospital in Celina, two weeks after suffering a stroke in his office.

A.C. Buss was born on 5/28/1866 in New Bremen, one of nine children born to William and Kathryn (Maurer) Buss, natives of Germany. He was a grandson of Philip Jacob Maurer, an early settler of New Bremen. He was the only graduate of the N.B.H.S. Class of 1884, after which he taught school in German Township and New Bremen. He also attended Ohio State University for two years. In January, 1888, he returned to New Bremen to become owner of The New Bremen Sun, which had been established in 1886 by C.M. Smith. He served as managing editor until April 24, 1903, when Fernando W. Bruns took over as manager and Emil G. Conradi and Fridolin T. Purpus took over as publishers. The SUN office at that time was located below the post office at the southeast corner of Main and Monroe Streets.

Mr. Buss was also one of the organizers of the New Bremen Telephone Company in 1897, the New Bremen Brick Company, the New Bremen Handle Company, and the A.H. May Implement Company.

In 1909, Mr. Buss went to St. Marys to edit the St. Marys Graphic, a weekly publication owned by The Leader Printing Company. Two years later, he became owner of the paper and also founded a job-printing business for the White Mountain Creamery of New Bremen which he named The Creamery Patron Printing Co. and which published a monthly magazine. He later discontinued publication of the weekly newspaper, but in 1926 he returned to the publication business when the newspaper publishing company and the job-printing business merged.

In 1928, he became Editor of The Evening Leader (established around 1905) and wrote many interesting and thought-provoking editorials. He was a former postmaster of New Bremen, serving under Presidents William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt (from 6/8/1897 to 2/16/1904.) At the time of his death, he was the President of the St. Marys Community Building & Loan Co.

Albert C. Buss was married on 5/28/1893 to Anna Huenke (born 12/4/1867) of New Bremen, daughter of Henry and Louisa (Stroever) Huenke, both natives of Germany. Anna died 5/30/1909 and on 4/23/1911, Albert remarried, to Mrs. Sarah E. (Henning) Barrington. Albert and Anna had six children: Homer William Buss, Mrs. Carl H. Stoll (Kathryn Louise Buss), Mrs. Lowell E. Botkin (Louise Charlotte Buss), Albert Huenke Buss, Mrs. Herbert M. Blair (Annabel Emma Buss), and Anna Dorothy Buss who died in infancy, just six days before her mother.

Albert's two sons, Homer W. and Albert H., and his son-in-law, Herbert Blair, were associated with Albert C. at The Evening Leader.

Grandchildren of A.C. and Anna Buss are William Albert Buss; Dorothy Ann, James Edward, & Martha Stoll; Harold Buss Botkin; Suzanne Buss; and Catherine Ann & Brice Herbert Blair.

[The above biography was prompted by an obituary given to us by Julia (Dammeyer) Fark as a part of some scrapbooks she was disposing of.]
Top: Edward Purpus’s Toy and Fancy Store around 1880. In 1892, Ed Purpus was the Mayor of New Bremen. He was also an insurance agent and ran this business which he had started in 1877, carrying a line of musical instruments, fancy goods, toys, wall paper, etc. This frame building at the northwest corner of Monroe and Main Streets was torn down in 1892 and replaced with a two-story brick building with iron frame. The building to the right (meat market) is where Gilberg & Hegemier had a radio and furniture store from around 1929 to 1959.

Below: The Purpus building sometime before 1923, when publication of the *Stern des Westlichen Ohio* was discontinued. On the left is Fridolin Purpus. The other two are thought to be Otto Schneider and Leo Sunderman. This is where Howel’s IGA is now located and which once was also a Kroger store.
President’s Message

In 1998, the New Bremen Historic Association grew in many ways and made many changes. These changes are reflected on both the Board of Trustees and in improvements at the museum.

The Trustees have attempted to improve the museum and find ways to protect and preserve the historical items that we have. In order to do this, an air-conditioning system was installed in June by Gagel Plumbing and Heating Inc. We are now better able to provide a climate-controlled environment to preserve these items for our future generations. The air conditioner was also a benefit this summer, making the museum more comfortable when we were open for the summer visitation. The only drawback to the year-round climate-control is the increase in utility bills.

Besides the air conditioning, we installed a picket fence at the rear of the museum property. It would be a great improvement if we were able to put this picket fencing around the entire property.

We also installed new weather stripping seals on all outside doors and put deadbolt locks on the doors to make the buildings more secure.

There have been a large number of improvements to the museum in the last couple of years but we need many more. Things need to be painted and minor repairs need to be made to all the buildings. We also need to haul dirt onto the old “driveway” on the north side of the property, level it off, and sow grass. These things all take time and effort and help from all of the members, not just the Trustees.

The faces of the Trustees also changed. Donna Warner and Martha Plattner both resigned this year. Donna Warner served as Secretary and Martha Plattner was Treasurer. Both will be missed and I would like to thank both of them for their years of service to the Historic Association.

We appointed Tom Braun and Jerry Brown to replace outgoing Trustees Betty Schroer and Mark Gaerke. Tom is now filling the position of Treasurer and Drusilla Meyer, as a new Trustee, is taking over the responsibilities of Secretary. We appointed Phyllis Cox as Corresponding Secretary to replace Irene Wellemeyer who passed away in May. The Board has formed committees in order to share the responsibilities and to put different people in charge of specific duties. Hopefully this will help get more things accomplished in a timely manner.

Our annual dinner and program "Downtown Remembered" was a big success. There was a great turnout for this event. I think everyone who attended enjoyed the program.

The museum was again open on Sundays during the months of June, July and August. On July 19th, Vernon Doenges of Wapakoneta and Tom Fledderjohann and Anna Mae Hudson of New Bremen displayed their postcard collections.

On Bremenfest Saturday, August 15th, John Dickman was there to sign copies of his book "A Taste of Tradition" for which he had given publishing rights to the Historic Association.

We again held our annual Christmas Festival the first weekend in December with a turnout of approximately 300 people. Dorothy Hertenstein and Don Ruese served as co-chairmen for this event. There were many interesting Christmas displays and all who participated had a good time. We had a very good response to our raffle for the Festival and made a profit of approximately $600 which will be used for repairs, etc. to the museum.

We also took part in the Auglaize County Sesquicentennial celebration by providing items from our museum for display at the Auglaize County fair and workers to help with the fair’s historical displays.

The Trustees decided to sell more historical items in 1998 in order to provide a way of making more income for the Association. This summer, in addition to John Dickman’s book, "A Taste of Tradition," we offered for sale porcelain "medallions" of the 1929 New Bremen High School. Just before Christmas, we also received a shipment of porcelain trinket boxes with the same picture on the lid and we have started selling those. We sold marriage books, Ralph May books, 1997’s “Tales of Yesteryear” audiotapes, notecards/postcards, candy dishes and “Museum” Christmas ornaments.

In the future, we plan to offer porcelain “medallions”, trinket boxes, and paperweights with the 1878 Central (grade) School on South Franklin Street depicted on them along with other items yet to be decided on. We hope that by producing these items, we will not only be able to provide a source of income for the Association, but we hope to increase the interest in the history of New Bremen.

The publishing of The Towpath has been an excellent way to keep our members informed of the Association’s activities. It also provides the members with interesting stories and information about life in early New Bremen. Lucille Francis does a great job as Editor of The Towpath and spends many long hours writing and putting together the articles. Lucille requests that anyone who would like to help her in researching and writing articles for The Towpath should contact her. There are many people out there who have interesting stories about early New Bremen life or about the local history and we would appreciate those who would be willing to share those stories with us by providing
the information, pictures, etc.

Over the past several years, our membership has really increased. We now have nearly 700 members spread all over the country and also in Canada and Alaska. In order for the Association to continue to improve, we are in need of some assistance from some of these members. The Trustees are at times overwhelmed by what needs to be done and by what could be done to make the Association better. New Bremen is rich in history and it would be a great loss if this history was not preserved for our future generations. Once the history is lost and items not saved, it can never be replaced.

The work of the New Bremen Historic Association is being done by a handful of volunteers. More help must come from the general membership by people taking an active role in such things as repairing and fixing up the museum and the outbuildings, helping to arrange displays, helping with the outside grounds and lawn care, providing articles/information/pictures for The Towpath, as well as many other things. You are urged to call one of our Trustees to let them know which items you would be interested in helping with. All members are also welcome to attend our monthly meetings to share their ideas with us. By working together and by getting all members involved, we can continue to grow and preserve historic New Bremen.

Doug Harrod, President

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<td><strong>ASSETS AS OF JAN. 1</strong></td>
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<td>N.B.H.S. Trinket boxes, Paperweight</td>
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<td>&quot;Taste of Tradition&quot; books (267)</td>
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<td>MUSEUM: Display/Archive expenses</td>
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<td>Insurance &amp; Treasurer's Bond</td>
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<td>TOWPATH: Printing &amp; Envelopes</td>
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<td>POSTAGE &amp; BULK PERMIT</td>
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| **ASSETS AS OF DEC. 31**        | **1997** | **1998** |
| Checking ACCT.                 | $3,849.74 | $2,471.08 |
| CERT. OF DEPOSIT / PROM. NOTE  | $9,212.97 | $10,887.06 |
| **TOTAL ASSETS**               | **$13,062.71** | **$13,338.74** |
TWO OF THE DISPLAYS AT OUR 24TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

LEFT: An old-fashioned wooden carousel Christmas tree hand-crafted by William Bruns, early New Bremen stone-cutter, for his grandson, Elton (Pitt) Bruns, for Christmas, 1908, when Elton was one year old. This tree was set up for display by Elton’s son Bill and his wife Nita, of Muncie, Indiana. (We did not light the candles for safety reasons.)

RIGHT: A pyramid wooden Christmas tree built in more recent years by Paul Lietz, late husband of Marge Lietz, who set up the display along with her daughter, Genevieve Conradi. The tree had miniature lights at each level. Behind the tree display is the Orlando Maurer farm scene written about in the April 1998 issue of The Towpath.

SUN MAKES CHANGES

Howard G. Kettler, for the past eight months publisher of the New Bremen Sun, last week took over the duties of Editor.

Maurice Beinker, an experienced printer, who with his family recently moved from New York to New Bremen, will take charge of the SUN’S Commercial Dept. and will assume his duties Monday. Mr. Beinker and family are residing one mile south of town on the former Harry Rempe farm.

Miss Donna Topp, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. William Topp of North Herman St., this week took over her duties as bookkeeper for the SUN Co. (New Bremen Sun, 8/12/1948)

JACK-OF-ALL-TRADES

Oh, how we need a man like this within our town today.
The friendly, able fix-it man we knew those yesterdays.
He'd mend our screens & trim our shrubs or help with gardening.
He'd build, repair, or scrub, or paint - he'd do most anything.

He loved to help his fellow man. His joy was in his work.
No task would seem too much for him, and never would he shirk.
He had a way of bettering most anything he'd touch.
Oh, how I'd like to call him now - we miss him very much.

Craig E. Sathoff

This poem is dedicated to the memory of Paul Lietz, the New Bremen Historic Association's former fix-it man. Paul was always repairing things around our museum and we do miss him very much.
HOLIDAY OFFERINGS
BY
New Bremen Business Men
December 3, 1909

Brucken's 81-5¢ Cigar
Cuban Hand Made—A Quality Smoke
Porto Rico Filler—Broad-leaf wrapper
Mfd. by J.M. BRUCKEN, NEW BREMEN, O.

WE MAKE CIGARS to order for Particular Smokers

Visit The Fountain Cigar Store
Owing to the rapid growth of our business and increase of customers we have added a very extensive line of HIGH GRADE CIGARS, the best assortment of chewing and smoking tobacco, the sweetest line of pipes, cigar cases, smoking sets, cigar moisteners, etc.

Remember that we have a complete line of fancy confectionery (LOWNEYS OUR SPECIALTY).
All our goods are strictly pure and marks unexcelled. To visit us is to become a customer and we beyond all doubt command a continuance of your patronage.

MEET ME FACE TO FACE
On the Corner
At The Fountain Cigar Store

H.H. SCHROERLUKE
Dealer in
DRY GOODS,
NOTIONS,
LADIES’ AND GENT’S
FURNISHING GOODS.

Our holiday line is complete in every depart-
ment and bears inspection.
Come in and see our line,
if you care to buy or not.

A dish of
PURITY
Ice
Cream
will add greatly to your
Christmas dinner.
The White Mountain Creamery will
take your order for same and give it prompt attention.
Telephone No. 62

GIFT-DAY SEEKERS
IN THE SMOKING LINE
will do well by considering
the merits of these cigars:
 Manhattan Puff, 
 strictly hand made,
 Compliments of the Season,
 and Domestic, 5¢ Cigars.
 Royal King, 
 a high grade 10¢ Cigar.
 JOHN LAUT
Maker of these famous brands.
Put up in special packages for the
Christmas season.

THE ARCADE
DEPARTMENT STORE CO.
Underwriters and Embalmers
AUGUST FAEBL, F. D. NIETER
Directors

Day or night calls given prompt attention.
Telephones: Office 105 & 28
Residence 110

ENCOURAGE HOME TRADE
by patronizing these business men when you need anything in their line,
and subscribe for the NEW BREMEN SUN.
You can have it from now until January, 1911 for $1.50.

Let all pull together for a greater and better New Bremen for 1910.
**NEW MEMBERS THIS QUARTER (THRU 12/31/98)**

11/30/98 Able, Anne K. - Corydon, Indiana  
12/12/98 Ahlers, Marlene (Wiehe)(LM) - Gainesville, GA  
12/11/98 Broyles, Suzanne (Lueke) - Naperville, Illinois  
10/31/98 Bruns, William G. (LM) - Muncie, Indiana  
11/16/98 Conradi, Ned W. - New Bremen  
12/31/98 Dicke, Louise (Huenke)(LM) - New Bremen  
12/9/98 Dicke, Vernon A. - Dublin, Ohio  
12/15/98 Fark, Jan - New Bremen  
10/27/98 Hegemier, June (Hirsfeld) - Oak Harbor, Ohio  
12/24/98 Hirsfield, Dale (LM) - Dockgra, Ohio  
11/25/98 Hirsfield, Gerald - New Bremen  
11/11/98 Hollman, Kenneth W. - St. Marys  
11/12/98 Huwer, Dorothy (Huenke) - St. Marys  
11/23/98 McGowan, Betty W. (Waterman) - Phoenix, AZ  
12/4/98 Moeller, Freda (Larger) - New Bremen  
12/29/98 Moeller, Irene (Neuman) - Rockford, Ohio  
11/14/98 Mueller, Ronald E. (LM) - New Bremen  
12/19/98 Naderman, Bernard - Celina, Ohio  
11/14/98 Overman, Charles H. - Everett, Washington  
11/30/98 Quellhorst, Brian - Centerville, Ohio  
11/5/98 Quellhorst, Philip - Medford, Ohio  
11/5/98 Quellhorst, Rick - St. Marys, Ohio  
10/27/98 Rupert, Ross (LM) - St. Marys, Ohio  
12/1/98 Tontrup, Jim - New Bremen  
12/4/98 Warner, Wilbur W. - St. Marys  
11/9/98 Wiessinger, Opal L. (LM) - Sun City Center, Fla.  
11/7/98 Williams, Joann (Neuman) - Fresno, California

**ADDITIONS TO LIFE MEMBERSHIP PLAQUE**

12/12/98 Ahlers, John  
12/12/98 Ahlers, Marlene (Wiehe)(new)  
12/10/98 Braun, Thomas  
10/31/98 Bruns, William G. (new)  
12/31/98 Dicke, Louise (Huenke)(new)  
12/4/98 Hirsfield, Dale (new)  
11/9/98 Mueller, Ronald E. (new)  
11/27/98 Rupert, Ross (new)  
10/29/98 Tontrup, Sally (Fischbach)  
12/8/98 Weber, Marjorie (Fark)  
11/9/98 Wiessinger, Mrs. Arlie (Opal L.) (new)

**MEMBER DEATHS THIS QUARTER**

10/27/98 Blanke, Lester (CM) - died 10/27/98  
12/22/98 Koeppe, Naomi (Grube) - died 12/22/98  
10/19/98 Moeller, Marie (Mesebben) - died 10/19/98  
11/19/98 Mousa, Virgil (CM) - died 11/19/98  
11/13/98 Thieman, Ruth (White)(LM) - died 11/13/98

**TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF 12/31/98 = 689**

689 = 89 CM's + 16 CMLM's + 208 LM's + 376 Yearly  
(Total New Bremen memberships = 301)

**MEMORIAL PLAQUE POLICY**

Memorial donations are accepted in any amount.  
When donations for any one person or couple have reached $100.00, a brass plate engraved with their name(s) is attached to the Memorial Plaque.