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THE TOWPATH

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NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

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VISITING HOURS: 2:00-4:00 p.m. Sundays - June, July, August
(Or anytime, by Appointment)

DUES: \$10.00 Per year / Per person

(Life Membership: \$100.00 Per person)

January - 2001

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MEETINGS ARE HELD FIRST TUESDAYS 7:30 p.m. at the N.B. Library (winter time)

THE TOWPATH is a historical reflection of New Bremen and the surrounding area researched, written, and/or edited by Lucille (Topp) Francis, EDITOR, and published quarterly by the New Bremen Historic Assoc. Any stories and/or pictures that our readers are willing to share are welcomed.

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)

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Memorial donations are welcomed 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 Plague.

GEORGE WASHINGTON BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Beginning in February, 1932, a celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of the "Father of Our Country" was begun. The celebration was to last 9 months and was to end on Thanksgiving Day.

On Sunday evening, February 21st, a program was held at New Bremen's High School auditorium on South Walnut St. Participating in the program were the N.B.H.S. band under the direction of Joseph N. DuPere of Lima, the St. Paul Church choir under the direction of Rev. J.C. Melchert, and Attorney & State Director of Commerce, the Honorable Theodore H. Tangeman, who gave the address. Opening remarks were given by Frank H. Streine, chairman of the bicentennial committee; prayer was offered by Rev. L.F. Ferry of Christ Church; and *The Lord Is My Shepherd* was sung by Miss Anna Marie DuPere, soprano soloist.

At 10:00 a.m., Monday, February 22nd, the whistles blew and the church bells rang to commemorate this event. At 11:00 a.m., the student body and faculty went to the school auditorium where they listened to various programs broadcast from Washington, D.C. over the radio which had been brought in by Gilberg & Hegemier Radio Shop. At noon, President Herbert Hoover's speech was broadcast. At 2:25 p.m., the school assembled in the study hall for another program put on by the students. Participating were Gladysadell Schwieterman, Mary Belle Block, Hilda Garmhausen, Dottie Schmidt, Elizabeth ("Billie") Streine, Beverly ("Betty") Gast, James King, Richard King, Phyllis Nussmeyer, Dorothy Sunderman, and Gladys Poppe.

That same evening, the Women's Club entertained with a costume program at the High School auditorium (see page 2).

INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP DUES

Effective January 1, 2001, we have increased our annual Membership Dues / "Towpath" Subscriptions to \$10.00 per year. Lifetime Memberships have been increased to \$100.00.

In the past year, the size of "The Towpath" has increased from 12 to 16 pages. As of 1/1/2001, bulk mailing rates have increased by 55%. Due to the added costs to produce and mail a publication of this size, it is felt that an increase is justified at this time.

A renewal notice and return envelope are inside.

Check your mailing label for your membership status. Payment of 2001 dues is required by March 15, 2001.



NEW BREMEN WOMEN'S CLUB - 1932/1933

MIDDLE: Mrs. Erwin (Hazel) Garmhausen, Mrs. Harry (Gertrude) Komminsk, Mrs. Howard (Peggy) McKay, Mrs. Ewald (Myra) Kuenzel, Mrs. Philip (Nellie) Rust, Mrs. Paul (Pauline) Gilberg, Mrs. Urban (Corinne) Schwieterman, Mrs. August (Lela) Kruse.

FRONT: Mrs. Felix (Helen) Kuenzel, Mrs. Howard (Verona) Huenke, Mrs. Clifford (Martha) Huenke, Mrs. Edward (Anna) Langhorst, Mrs. Nathan (Emma) Vitz, Mrs. Edward (Artie) Kiefer.

[Photo courtesy of Julia (Dammeyer) Fark]

Colonial costumes & wigs were worn by the New Bremen Women's Club when they danced the Minuet before more than 900 guests during the George Washington Bicentennial Celebration at the High School auditorium on Monday evening, February 22, 1932. They again wore these costumes for New Bremen's Centennial celebration July 4, 1933 when they danced the Virginia Reel.

GEORGE WASHINGTON BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION (continued)

A most delightful program was presented by the Women's Club as their contribution to N.B.'s observance of the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birthday. The group sang *America The Beautiful*, followed by a minuet presented in costume by a children's dancing class under the direction of Miss Katharine Langhorst.

Howard Hoffman, son of John Lorenz & Anna Margaretha (Koester) Hoffman (J.L. Hoffman was New Bremen's druggist of earlier days), was the featured artist and gave a number of readings. Mr. Hoffman was a gifted entertainer and had appeared on the stage in practically every large city in the United States and Canada. He was assisted by Miss Eva Tomhafe at the piano.

A silver offering was taken, with \$32.00 being raised to purchase uniforms for the high school band. The program closed with a stately minuet by members of the Women's Club, the women appearing in the colorful costumes worn during the Revolutionary period. A tea was served at the close of the program.

In addition to those pictured above, others taking part in the program were Mrs. Max Gross, Mrs. L.A. Kleinhenz (doctor), Mrs. Cade (Norma) Schulenberg, Mrs. Harold (Wilma) Moyer, Mrs. Frank H. (Caroline) Streine, Mrs. Clyde (Dorothy) Griffin, Miss Elizabeth Berndt.

[Bicentennial program from Carol (Streine) Opperman collection] (N.B. Sun - 2/18+25/1932)

OH WHAT FUN IT IS TO RIDE IN A ONE-HORSE OPEN SLEIGH........ (Winter of 1933-1934)



Pictured in front of the Jim Taylor Photography Shop at 18 West Monroe St. (stucco building on left) are Mrs. Howard (Peg) McKay with her children, Ruth Evelyn and David. The newer brick building on the right is the Laut-Schulenberg building, built in 1912, which housed the Crown Theatre, later the Roosevelt Theatre. (see photo below) (Photos provided by Ruth Evelyn McKay - West River, MD)



"Here are a couple of pictures I thought were interesting since they were taken in 1933-1934 during the depression, or shortly thereafter. Gas was at a premium and movies were only 10¢ (see theatre canopy - Wed. & Thur. 10¢). The Taylor Photography Store is the background for the pony, sleigh, and my mother, brother, and me." (top photo)

The left half of the stucco building on the left (22 W. Monroe) was the location of Hilda Huckriede's "Mi Own" Beauty Parlor & Mrs. Haines' millinery store in 1928-1929. Later, it became the home of Crown Cleaners. At the extreme right of the bottom picture is Wilbur Rairdon's Garage at 2 E. Monroe, with the concrete Monroe St. bridge railing across the canal between the theatre and Rairdon's.

MCKAY WOOLEN MILLS

(The Evening Leader - 10/14/1968)

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Donald McKay came to New Bremen in 1928 to start the McKay Woolen Mills. This move was made primarily to save transportation costs for the wool that was to be made into yarn for the Kuenzel Mills and other blanket making mills in this area.

The McKay family, including Howard's father and grandfather, had operated a mill in Milford, Ohio (near Cincinnati) where they made wool yarn from raw wool which had been sent to them from New Bremen. Then the yarn had to be sent back to New Bremen.

When the McKays came to New Bremen, they purchased the former Auglaize Hoist & Body Co. (previously Lanfersieck & Grothaus Plow Company) on First Street which had been in receivership. The 16,000 square foot brick building was part 1-story and part 2-story. Machinery was bought in Philadelphia and sent to New Bremen by rail. The factory at one time employed 15 people. Howard's father, James R. McKay, also worked in New Bremen for 25 years.

In addition to the custom wool for yarn, the firm bought raw wool from farmers to be made into batting for comforters. The wool was washed and sorted, and then fed into a carding machine. The carding machine blended the fibers into a straight band. The huge rollers pressed dust, seed, and other foreign matter from the wool.

Howard and Ida Pearl / "Peggy" (Lewis) McKay had two children: a daughter, Ruth Evelyn, and a son, (Howard) David. David McKay was the fourth generation to engage in the mill business. He, his wife, Rita (Foos), and their son, David Allen McKay, all died as the result of an automobile accident at Mariemont, Ohio (near Milford) on November 18, 1961, just two days before both David and Rita's 36th birthdays. A daughter, Teri Sue, survived the accident.

For 35 years, the McKay family lived in the white brick house (which had also served as an office) just west of the mill and next to the canal on First Street. In June, 1962, they moved to "Green Acres", a large stucco home on New Knoxville Avenue (now New Bremen / New Knoxville Road) which they had purchased in 1947.

In March, 1968, the McKays retired from the woolen mill business and sold the mill property and their former home on First Street to the Auglaize County Board of Mental Retardation who purchased both properties for \$27,500 - \$21,000 for the mill and \$6,500 for the house. The machinery was sold to Luxury Blankets in St. Marys, formerly St. Marys Woolen Mills (both now also extinct.) The furnaces were sold to a firm in Versailles. Contractor Dr. C.H. Libbee demolished the factory building later in 1968. A shuttle and a scale were the only things salvaged by the McKays.

After retirement, Howard continued to buy and sell antiques and could be seen at many estate auctions. Peggy McKay died 7/21/1983 at the age of 83 and Howard died 8/12/1987 at the age of 87 at the home of his daughter, Ruth Evelyn, then living in Dayton, Ohio. Besides their daughter, they were also survived by two grandchildren - David's daughter, Teri Sue (Ford) of Wapakoneta, and Ruth Evelyn's son, Mark Polansky, a captain in the U.S. Air Force.

THE McKAY STORY as told by Ruth Evelyn McKay...

My grandfather, James R. McKay and my father. Howard D. McKay, owned a textile factory in Milford, Ohio. At that time they were doing business with Ripon Knitting Mills of Ripon, Wisconsin. Due to the lack of good transportation at that time, they decided to move and locate in the north - either Toledo or Cleveland. However, on a drive north, they passed through New Bremen and on a whim, stopped in at the First City Bank and learned that the Auglaize Hoist and Body Co. building was empty and available. After a few discussions, they agreed that the convenience of the railroad and the location would fit their needs, and in 1928 we moved to New Bremen. In the mid 1930s, Irvin Wissman rented the west room for a sheet metal shop. Later, Carl Dicke rented the upstairs for storage and to assemble parts for his antenna rotator project (the beginning of Crown Controls.)

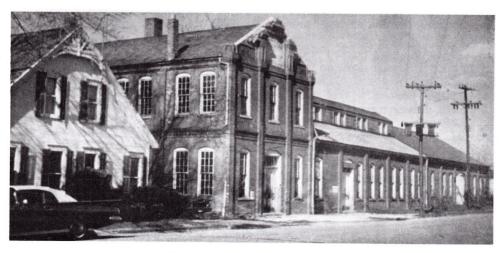
After W.W.II, my brother, H. David McKay, thought he would like to continue the business, but being confined to the indoors was not his cup of tea and he went to work for Fieldcrest Co. of North Carolina as a sales and field representative.

Dad sold the McKay Woolen Mills in the 1960s. My grandfather had passed away and Dad was ready to retire. The property was sold to Auglaize County for an expansion of the retarded school. My mother, "Peggy" McKay, passed away in 1983 and my father moved to Dayton, Ohio to live with me. He passed away in 1987 at the age of 87.

Dad did business with St. Marys Woolen Mills, Kuenzel Mills, and North Star Woolen Mills. He was also a lifetime friend of Felix and David Kuenzel. In the earlier years, Mother was active in selling knitting yarns and batting for comforts. Farmers from Maria Stein, Spencerville, Urbana, etc. would bring in their raw wool to be washed and be made into batts for quilts or comforts.

That's about it. I hope this helps in your research of the McKay Woolen Mills. Sincerely,

Ruth Evelyn McKay (N.B.H.S. class of 1939)



McKay Woolen Mill House/Office & Factory - First Street - New Bremen, Ohio (ca. 1967)

THE NEW BREMEN BLANKET

Appraised by Kuenzel Mills Company in attractive booklet

Story of the famous product told in word and picture

[N.B. Sun - 5/15/1947]

"A little 4"x8" 20-page brochure containing 21 photographs of as many machines and stages which figure prominently in the manufacture of the New Bremen Blanket has been compiled by officials of the Kuenzel Mills Co. and henceforth a copy of this pamphlet will be enclosed with each blanket."

On the front cover of the booklet appears a facsimile of the blanket mill's woven "sheep" label. The succeeding pages tell the story of the blanket in picture and in word. showing about 2 dozen of the mill's employees as they operate and supervise the machines used in the making of the blankets - from the time the raw wool (both imported and domestic) is received in large bales, through all the stages of cleaning, mixing, carding, spinning (from the "mule" onto the bobbins), warping and weaving, shrinking (or "fulling", when the blanket is double washed and rinsed), dying, drying, double nap finishing, binding, labeling, folding, and boxing. Frederick Ende, an outstanding color specialist, became the mill's first dyer. The lady who was shown with the boxes of blankets was said to have spent many years of weaving New Bremen blankets.

At the time of the publication of this booklet in 1947, the New Bremen blanket had been manufactured by three generations of the Kuenzel family, the business having been established in 1867 in New Bremen - the "Heart of Blanket Valley." It was called "The Blanket with a Pedigree."

[A copy of this booklet can be seen at the New Bremen Public Library.]



(Label Photo courtesy of Fritz N. Kuenzel - Norwalk, Ohio)

Large Order for Famous Kuenzel Mills Blankets Received From Federal Government

The Kuenzel Mills Company blanket mill is preparing to put on a number of additional workers within the next week or so to enable them to cope with an order received from the federal government for 10,000 pairs of army blankets. The necessary raw material for this factory chore will be coming in very soon now, and with additional help in the factory, it is figured that about 4 months will be needed to complete the order. An increasing demand for wool by mills all over the country adds somewhat to the difficulty in procuring the needed supply here.

The Kuenzel blanket has always borne a reputation for quality and the management of the factory is more than pleased for receiving the award from the federal department.

(N.B. Sun - 6/20/1940)

NEW BREMEN FLOUR & WOOLEN MILLS

(N.B. Sun - 7/28/1889, 5/13/1893, 6/17/1898, 4/21/1899, 1/9/1914) (The Evening Leader - 1/13/1968 by Doris Wissman)

On November 1, 1844, the state granted to John F. Bösche and W.F.L. Koop a 30-year lease on the canal land between Monroe St. and Front St. (375') in what was later (1853) called "Ober Bremen." The lease was transferred several times, with the names George Cordell, W.H. Koop, Conrad Tangeman, F. Vogelsang, Augustus Koop, A.F. William Meyer, and William Finke appearing on the transfers. On 6/19/1877, A.F. William Meyer died, and in that same year, Finke's part of the lease was transferred to Bakhaus and Kuenzels. (William Finke was a brother-in-law to John Christian Kuenzel & John Adam Kuenzel, having married two of their sisters.)

The 3½-story frame flouring mill operated by Bakhaus & Kuenzels on South Washington Street was one of the pioneer mills in this section of the country. After its founding (in 1866?), it changed ownership several times and in 1879 C.C. Friedrich Bakhaus, Henry C. Kuenzel (son of John Christian Kuenzel & Anna Marie Wunderlich), and J. Godfrey Kuenzel (son of John Adam Kuenzel & Wilhelmine Mohrman) became the owners. (John Christian Kuenzel died 9/16/1879. Fred Bakhaus died 9/4/1901. John Adam Kuenzel died 3/17/1903 after having celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in July, 1902. Henry C. Kuenzel died 5/17/1903.)

J. Godfrey Kuenzel

Godfrey Kuenzel was born 8/16/1855. After leaving school, he started to work in the weaving room of the woolen mill and gradually became familiar with all departments of manufacturing woolen cloth and yarn. Upon the firm's acquisition of the flour mill (in 1879?), he was made manager of that.

[Wm. McMurray - 1923]

In 1887, the old milling process was abandoned and in its stead the proprietors adopted the roller system. The additions and improvements that were added by 1889 made it the most perfect milling and manufacturing property in this state. The demand for their "Gold Lace" flour was very extensive. In 1893, daily production was 75 barrels of flour. By 1923, production had increased to 100 barrels per day. Water power and a 75 horsepower engine propelled the machinery of both the flour mill and the woolen mill. For the benefit of farmers, an exchange business was transacted, with highest market prices being paid for wool and all kinds of grain.

The 3½-story brick woolen mill was built in 1867 for a cost of \$16,000 by partners A.F. Wilhelm Meyer, Cort Carl Friedrich Bakhaus, William Jobst Finke and William's son, Henry Conrad Finke (see "The Towpath", April, 1998 - also April, 1996 - Henry Finke's obituary). In February, 1889, the mill experienced a fire and suspended operations for a short time. Repairs were made and new machinery was added, improving the property and plant. The woolen mill produced a superior quality of blankets (the principal product), a blanket cloth known as "Kuneta" cloth, flannels, shirtings, knitting yarns, etc.

In 1898, Henry Finke was the superintendent of the woolen mill. In that year, a new cement floor was laid in the basement of the building, where the blankets were washed and received the "finishing touches." There was an elevator to go from floor to floor. On the first floor, women workers operated the looms. On the second floor, carding & spinning were done. On the third floor, the wool was prepared for the carding machines. On the fourth floor, the washed wool was dried by hot and cool air driven by blowing machines. (On page 53 of "Ralph May Remembers" is a picture showing drying racks next to the woolen mill where the blankets were hung outside to dry.)

THE BAKHAUS & KUENZELS CO.

Manufacturers of Choice Grade of Flour, Meal, Etc. NEW BREMEN, OHIO, April 18, 1899

The firm heretofore known as Bakhaus & Kuenzels has been incorporated under the laws of the State of Ohio, and will hereafter be known as "The Bakhaus & Kuenzels Co." The business will be under the same management and all responsibilities and resources of Bakhaus & Kuenzels are accepted by their successors.

THE BAKHAUS AND KUENZELS CO.

Successors to Bakhaus and Kuenzels

[Incorporators: F. Bakhaus, Henry C. Kuenzel, Godfrey Kuenzel, Henry Finke, & Julius Gilberg]

Bakhaus & Kuenzels Buy Wiemeyer Warehouses

(N.B. Sun - 10/10/1902, 11/21/1902, 12/12/1902)

In the fall of 1902, The Bakhaus & Kuenzels Co. purchased both the old brick warehouses, located along the canal south of Front Street, from the Wiemeyer heirs. [John Christian Kuenzel's second wife was Sophie Elizabeth (Solms) Wiemeyer, the widow of John Frederick Wiemeyer.] They built a frame extension onto the southernmost warehouse and converted it into an elevator. In 1920, a circular reinforced concrete grain tank (silo) was built north of the flour mill. In 1923, a 2-story brick addition was put on the north end of the northernmost Wiemeyer warehouse. This became the new office and sales room for the woolen mill.

Name changed to The Kuenzel Mills Co.

In 1914, the interests of the late Fred Bakhaus and Louise (Kamman) Bakhaus were withdrawn from The Bakhaus & Kuenzels Co. by their heirs, Henry Ward Backus and Clarence R. Backus. The company was reorganized and the name was changed to The Kuenzel Mills Company. A large portion of the stock was offered for sale to employees and other businessmen. Godfrey Kuenzel became vice-president and later became president of the company. His brother, Ewald C. Kuenzel, was secretary of the company in 1917. Godfrey's son, Felix, was superintendent of the woolen mills in 1923. Felix was married to Helen Bienz. Godfrey Kuenzel married Julia Havemann and died 1/5/1924. He was succeeded as president of Kuenzel Mills by Julius Gilberg, who was married to Godfrey and Ewald's cousin, Ida Kuenzel. (Henry Finke had died 1/15/1911.)

Julius Gilberg

Julius Gilberg was born 6/17/1862 and started working (about 1895) as a helper in the Bakhaus & Kuenzels Flour Mill for \$400 per year. Prior to that, after dropping out of school at the age of 13, he had been engaged in the shoemaking trade, having served an apprenticeship with John A. Koeper on South Washington St., earning \$1.00-\$1.50 per day. One of his first jobs after leaving school was helping to lay the grade for the L.E.& W. Railroad (later called the Nickle Plate.) On 7/3/1889, he married Ida Kuenzel, daughter of John Christian & Anna Marie (Wunderlich) Kuenzel. He succeeded his wife's cousin, Godfrey Kuenzel, as president of the company upon Godfrey's death in 1924. Julius & Ida's son, Orlando ("Put") Gilberg, was also associated with Kuenzel Mills as production manager. Julius died 6/20/1945. Orlando died in March, 1967. The Gilbergs lived in their palatial home at 22 North Washington St.

Ewald C. Kuenzel

Ewald Conrad Kuenzel, another son of John Adam & Wilhelmine (Mohrman) Kuenzel, was born 5/30/1865 in the house at 104 N. Main St., which then sat flush with the sidewalk. The front room of this house served as New Bremen's postoffice when his father, J. Adam Kuenzel, served as postmaster (4/3/1852-12/16/1856 and 4/9/1863-2/10/1868). J.A. Kuenzel also served several terms as New Bremen's mayor.

In 1882, Ewald left New Bremen to become a clerk in the Shelley Grocery in St. Marys. He then followed Horace Greeley's advice to "go west" and made a trip to lowa, where he taught penmanship and bookkeeping. From there, Ewald went to Syracuse, Nebraska, where he served as a bank cashier for 9 years and met his future wife, Myra Hunter. In 1893, he went to Chicago and worked for the Burlington Railroad Co. It was here that he and Myra, a teacher, married on 4/18/1893.

In 1903, Ewald returned to New Bremen and became secretary of The Bakhaus & Kuenzels Co. which had been founded by his father, J. Adam Kuenzel, his uncle, J. Christian Kuenzel, and a friend (Fred Bakhaus).

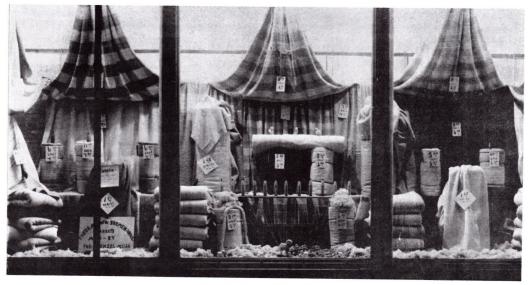
Ewald's first duties were to run the retail store outlet of the woolen mill. He gradually assumed the secretarial work of the company and the managing of the woolen mill. In August, 1953, he celebrated his 50th anniversary with the company, working now with his son, David E. Kuenzel (who served as sales manager for Kuenzel Mills, and later for the St. Marys Woolen Mills) and his nephew, Felix A. Kuenzel. Ewald Kuenzel died 1/12/1959. Felix Kuenzel died 4/28/1976. David Kuenzel died 12/29/1984.

The Kuenzel Mills Come To An End

(The Evening Leader - 1/13/1968 by Doris Wissman)

By 1956, synthetic products resulted in less business for the woolen mill and the mill was closed and the machinery was sold. The horizontal metal 40-horsepower water wheel had been out of operation for some time due to the use of steam, and later diesel and electric power. The buildings stood empty with the hope of being able to sell or lease them for future industry, however that never came to be so the lease was terminated and on June 13, 1967, the canal land was turned over to the Village of New Bremen to be used for park and recreational purposes.

In early 1968, razing was begun of the Kuenzel Mill buildings and other buildings in this area (see "The Towpath" - April, 1998). The New Bremen Library was built in 1973 on the south end of this land, on the corner of S. Washington & Front Streets. In July, 1997, Lock One Park was completed on the rest of the land (see "The Towpath" - October, 1997). Crown Controls purchased the former Wiemeyer warehouse buildings south of Front St., razed them and turned this area into a parking lot.



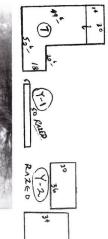
Blankets, etc. in the display window of The Kuenzel Mills Co. Retail Store

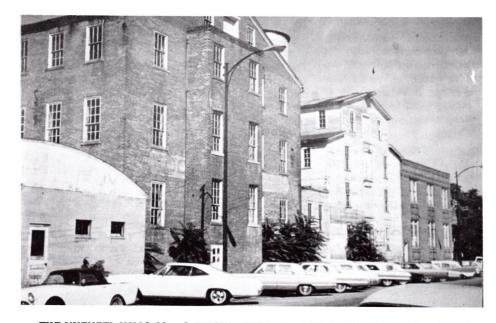
CANAL ST. BLDGS.

- Elevator: Brick w/frame addition
- Y-1 Corn Crib
- Y-2 Frame Garage: 1-story
- © Warehouse: Brick 3-story with 2-story addition (Office & Sales) (1 S. Canal St.)

Diagramed November, 1955 by Cole-Layer-Trumble Co. Dayton, Ohio (Appraisal Engineers)







All of the buildings shown in these pictures and in these diagrams were razed in 1968 (or before.) The New Bremen Public Library now stands where the arch-roofed cement block building and the brick woolen mill building once stood. The rest is now part of Lock One Park.

THE KUENZEL MILLS CO. - S. WASHINGTON ST. - NEW BREMEN, OHIO (ca. 1967)

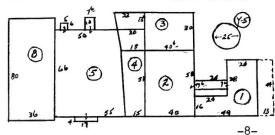
BUILDINGS BEHIND BUILDINGS SHOWN

- Y-4 Frame Coal Shed
- Y-3 11/2-story Frame Garage





- 3- Boiler Room: 1-story brick w/2 frame additions to the south.
- Y-5 Circular concrete Grain Elevator



- ® 1-story cement block building built in 1953.
- ⑤ 3½-story brick Woolen Mill built in 1866-1867. In the front was a 37'-high brick stairwell which was added later. To the back of this building was a small 5'x6' 1-story addition & a 64'-high brick elevator shaft.
- ② 3½-story original frame Flour Mill. A covered bridge was built in 1919 between this building and building #1 the new flour store room & offices.
- ① 2-story brick Flour Store Room & Mill Offices with a 1-story covered driveway for loading & unloading trucks. This brick building, built in 1919 by Herman Schaefer, replaced a smaller frame building that had served as the original office.

Thank you so much for the April, 1998 issue of *The Towpath* which had an article about the Kuenzel Mills. While visiting New Bremen this past January, I stopped at the Library and they gave me a copy of the January, 2000 issue which showed Felix Kuenzel in the picture of the 1902 football team.

About 10 years ago I became interested in the wonderful world of genealogy. It has been both frustrating and interesting. You never know where it will take you. In my case, it has been New Bremen, Ohio and Garnavillo, Iowa.

To start, my great-great-great-grandparents were Michael Conrad Kuenzel and Catharina Barbara Bellman. They had 2 daughters, Elizabeth Barbara Kuenzel (1819-1848) and Katharina Auguste Kuenzel (1830-1905). Both were wives of William Jobst Finke who was one of the founders of what came to be known as Kuenzel Mills in New Bremen. Michael Conrad and Catharina Kuenzel also had 4 sons, all with the first name of John, which almost made me throw in the towel. They were: John Christoph(er) Kuenzel (1821-1895), John Christian Kuenzel (1823-1879), John Henry Kuenzel (1827-1899), and John Adam Godfrey Kuenzel (1829-1903.) The family emigrated to America in 1838.

John Christoph(er) and John Henry Kuenzel were both associated with the mill in <u>Garnavillo</u>, <u>Iowa</u> which was a much smaller mill operation and pretty much went out of business in 1894. This mill is still standing and is listed on the historic register in Iowa. John Christian and John Adam Godfrey Kuenzel were associated with the New Bremen mill, along with their sons, Henry C., J. Godfrey, Ewald Conrad, and their brother-in-law, William Jobst Finke, and his son, Henry Conrad Finke.

John Christoph(er) Kuenzel was my great-great-grandfather. He and his wife, Caroline Paul, were married in St. Paul's Church in New Bremen on 2/22/1848. They had 10 children that I know of, 3 of which were born in New Bremen. The family went to Garnavillo, Iowa about 1854. J.C. (John Christopher) built a brewery there in 1855 and operated it until November, 1863. He then went into business in the grist mill with his brother, John Henry. The remaining 7 children of Christopher and Caroline were born in Garnavillo, Iowa.

The 9th child, <u>Adam Ferdinand Gottfried Kuenzel</u> (1870-1960) was my great-grandfather. He left Garnavillo, lowa about 1895 after both of his parents had passed away. He worked at the mill in Piqua, Ohio from 1897-1932. I don't know if he ever worked at the New Bremen mill. If he did, it would have been around 1895-1897.

Adam Kuenzel married Adelia Gersine Kettler of Kettlersville or New Bremen. They had 4 children. Their first child was a son, Heinrich Leroy Kuenzel. He was born 7/14/1898 in Piqua and was baptized 9/11/1898 at St. Paul's Church in New Bremen. Adam & Adelia's 4th child was my grandfather, Norbert Christopher Kuenzel.

The last years of his life, my grandfather made a couple of trips to New Bremen (in the late 1980s), but he did not remember much of the past due to old age. He could not even remember his grandfather's name. Thank goodness for the census records.

In 1990, on a trip to lowa to visit the mill there, I found a map on the back of an old mill picture, made by my great-grandfather, Adam, of a trip he made from Ohio back to his old home in Garnavillo in the 1920s.

The Kuenzel family in Garnavillo kept in touch with Felix Kuenzel (grandson of John Adam Kuenzel & Wilhelmine Mohrman) of New Bremen until Felix's death in May, 1976. While visiting the Garnavillo Kuenzels in the 1990s, they showed me some of the articles of the New Bremen mills, including one of the blankets Felix had sent them. After our trip to New Bremen this past January, my wife and I drove to Springfield, Ohio to stop at some of the antique shops and I got to thinking about the New Bremen blankets - could one possibly still exist?

The last shop we went into, my wife was looking for an old lamp. We browsed around a while and were about ready to go when I had this intuitive feeling. I told my wife I was going to check some booths at the front of the store and walked on and saw a pile of old blankets under a table. I went through them, and at the bottom was one with a price tag of \$35.00 that said **The New Bremen Blanket** with a picture of a sheep that said "Warranted all wool - The Kuenzel Mills Company - New Bremen, Ohio." I could hardly believe it! I bought that blanket and will treasure it as long as I live. To find a piece of history that was part of your family's history is a special feeling that I can't explain.

I have found that searching the past is very rewarding. Even though our loved ones have departed, they still somehow keep in touch with little clues they have left behind waiting for us to find.

I am looking for one last missing piece - 1895-1897. Why did my great-grandfather (Adam Kuenzel) come back to Ohio? Did he work at the New Bremen mill then? Maybe he did not get along with the family in Iowa or in Ohio - or both. I'm still searching!

Thanks again for the 1998 issue of *The Towpath*. I'm still working on our family tree. It will probably take up a 4' x 8' sheet of paper. I would love to visit the museum in New Bremen when it opens. I enjoy things of the past.

I'm 40 years old and I work for the Norfolk-Southern Railroad as an engineer. I found out that Theodore Kuenzel (brother to Felix) worked for the Nickel Plate Railroad - some of the same territory that I worked.

Five years ago I bought an old caboose and last year I bought an old depot for \$300.00. I dismantled it, and am currently reassembling it in the back yard.

Thank you again.

Fritz N. Kuenzel 2578 Zenobia Rd. Norwalk, Ohio 44857

(Edited for space & clarification)

MOHRMAN / KUENNING GOLDEN WEDDING

from "The Syracuse, Nebraska Journal" - June 6, 1890

Yesterday, Thursday, June 5, 1890, was an eventful day long to be remembered in this village. That occasion was the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Mr. & Mrs. J.H. Mohrman.

John Henry Mohrman was born 3/27/1818 in Hannover, Prussia, and emigrated to America in 1836 with his parents, John Herman and Gesche Margarethe (Oestermann) Mohrmann, who settled at New Bremen, Ohio. Lucy M. (Kuenning) Mohrman was born 8/24/1821 in Hannover, and in 1835 also came with her parents, Herman Henry & Margareta (Koop) Kuenning, to New Bremen. On Tuesday, June 5, 1840, Henry & Lucy were joined together in the bonds of wedded life at New Bremen. Since that time, 8 children have been born to them, 2 of which died in infancy.

In 1846, the Mohrmans moved to Garnavillo, Iowa, where John Henry engaged in farming, and then went to McGregor, Iowa, where he became a miller. In 1868, the family moved to Nebraska and he again took up farming southeast of Syracuse. In 1882, the Mohrmans built a comfortable home in Syracuse and settled down there.

On their 50th anniversary, their 6 living children - 4 sons (all merchants) & 2 daughters - together with their spouses (or prospects), 14 grandchidren, and a host of friends gathered in their home to celebrate this momentous occasion. Dinner was served at 11 a.m. and the rest of the day and evening was spent in family reunions and reminiscences of the past.

The following presents were bestowed upon Father & Mother Mohrman, much to their surprise and pleasure: a silk-plush lounge from son, J. Christopher Mohrman & family of Pierce, Nebraska; marble-top dresser & washstand from daughters, Minnie & John Henry Arends and Annie & Hans Larson & families; pair of gold-lined cups, saucers, and teaspoons from son, Henry F. Mohrman & family of Geneva, Nebraska; gold-handled parasol & pair of gold spectacles from son, Julius H. Mohrman of Upland, Nebraska; gold-headed cane & pair of gold spectacles from son, August C. Mohrman of Tecumseh, Nebraska.

Gifts from others included: gold-banded china tea set from Mr./Mrs. John H. Pohlman & Mr./Mrs. Edward L. Patterson (the Pattersons moved from Syracuse to New Bremen in April, 1891, where Ed became a barber. They were the parents of Lola Patterson.); \$10 in gold from Mr./Mrs. John Harberg of Omaha; fancy apron from Emaline Kuenning; fancy drape from Mrs. H. Meyer of Nebraska City; antique oak rocker from George Kuenning; gold-lined berry spoon from Mr./Mrs. Henry Pohlman; silver cake stand from L. Hoebel & family; 2 lawn rockers from Mr./Mrs. C.C. Husted; gold soup ladle from Mr./Mrs. L. Busch (probably Mr./Mrs. Lafe Boesche.)

Lucy Mohrman died at Syracuse, Nebraska on 5/21/1892. She was the sister of H.F. & C.H. Kuenning, both of New Bremen. J.H. Mohrman died on 8/4/1892.

THE KUENNING MILL & FARM

Herman Henry Kuenning was born in Hannover, Germany 8/4/1780, the son of Anna Margaretha Künning & Johann Herman Behrens* (*see next page). On 7/14/1809 he married Margareta Koop, born 7/24/1789. They had 8 children, 3 of which were Lucy (Kuenning) Mohrman, Herman Frederick Kuenning, and Court Henry Kuenning (who later became associated with the firm of Boesel & Künning.)

In May, 1835, the Kuenning family left Germany for America and in July, 1835, settled on a farm 1 mile north of New Bremen, in Section 3 of German Township. Their brick home was built there about 1840, the bricks being made on the farm by the family themselves. When Herman Henry's brother, Herman Frederick (born in 1789) and his family arrived from Germany in 1845, they also lived on this farm for a short time until they settled on another farm 3 miles north of town in Section 28 of St. Marys Township [later occupied by his son Edward and wife, Elizabeth (Otte) Kuenning - still later by Allen and Amber (Neuman) Dicke.] This is now the site of "The Maples" - the advertising department of Crown Equipment Corp.

Herman Henry Kuenning built the <u>first flour mill</u> in the New Bremen area in 1835. It adjoined one end of his home and was operated first by oxen, then by horses, with the walking animals turning the crude stones that ground the grain. Farmers came on horseback from a distance of more than 30 miles in order to have their grain ground into flour. This was the only business of any importance in the area at that time.

The farm of Herman Henry Kuenning became the property of his son, Herman Frederick (born in 1825) who engaged in farming until May, 1896, when he turned the management of the farm and livestock business over to his son, Frank Dicke Kuenning. (Frank D. Kuenning served as New Bremen's mayor from 1936 until his death in August, 1937.)

KÜNNING CENTENNIAL REUNION - 1935

On June 30, 1935, a centennial picnic was held at Kuenning's Grove in honor of the arrival in America of the first Kuenning family. Then Auglaize County Probate Court Judge, Harry F. Wittenbrink, great-grandson of Herman Henry Kuenning and Margareta Koop, wrote a letter to the counselor service at Diepholz, Germany, asking for information about the Kuenning family. He received a response dated June 18, 1935 from a Fritz Lohmeyer, teacher. After a detailed description of the Künning ancestral home, Mr. Lohmeyer went on to say:

"There is no doubt that the bad economical conditions and the plight of the farmers in Germany in 1830 caused the Künning family to seek a more prosperous future across the seas. The grain prices at that time were lower here than at any time prior or since, except 1930-1933. Everything is moving upward now, for Adolph Hitler has kept his word. In May 1933, he said to the German

farmers, 'The third Kingdom or realm will be the Farmers' Kingdom or there will be no realm.' When will you over there in your country acknowledge and appreciate that in our country, the farm folks are supporting Hitler as one."

"We wish for the farmers of America with all our hearts such good laws and carefree years and relief from economic fallacies just as we have them here in this country today. We appreciate the visits of foreigners who come to our country to convince themselves as to our conditions. There is too much lying in the newspapers about German emigrants and the Jews. May the good God spare us for many days this Blessed, democratic Hitler."

Another letter dated June 18, 1935 was received from a Rev. Theodore Hahn, pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Barnstorf, Amt Diepholz, Germany. This letter gave much genealogical information about how the Kuenning name was perpetuated due to the fact that the wife (Künning) had a larger estate than her husband (Ihlbrock). Their daughter again kept the name of Künning when she married Johann Herman Behrens.

KUENNING'S GROVE

Kuenning's Grove was a wooded area on the north end of the Kuenning farm and was a well known resort for community picnics of all kinds.

For Labor Day, 1917, owner Frank Kuenning rolled and packed the soil in an adjoining field so that an "aeroplane" from the Celina Aviation School could land in the field after making a flight over New Bremen. Several flights were to be made by the aviation pupils whose flying lessons lasted for only 10 minutes at a cost of \$1.00 per minute. Forty such flights were all that were needed to make the prospective aviators "masters of the air."

At the 4th annual Farmers' Picnic on August 15, 1918, there was a tractor demonstration, with 15 tractors from various implement companies in the area demonstrating plowing in Frank Kuenning's wheat field.

On July 4, 1919, the United Fire Departments of New Bremen and Lock Two (for the first time together) held a holiday celebration here. For this event, an open air dancing pavilion was erected which was put under roof in case of unfavorable weather. This dance pavilion became a major attraction over the years. This was followed on August 15, 1919 by the 5th annual Farmers' Picnic.

For the 6th annual Farmers' Picnic on August 12, 1920, two "aeroplanes" came from Bellefontaine around noon to take passengers aloft for \$10 each, however there weren't many daredevils willing to take flight. An electrical storm came through around 3:00 p.m. - perhaps that is the reason. (Another story told was that Orville Wright was to come and take passengers up in his plane, however the New Bremen Sun writeup did not mention his name.)

For the 1926 Farmers' Picnic, a ½-mile racetrack was made in a cornfield behind the woods, and thus began the New Bremen Speedway. After this, Kuenning's Grove was also called "Speedway Park" (see next story).

THE LOCK TWO GRAIN & MILLING CO.

About 1852, a larger water mill was started at Lock Two (originally called New Paris) by Bernard Koop. This was situated next to lock #2 of the Miami-Erie Canal which had opened in 1845. About 1870, the mill was sold to Fred Schaefer and Gustave Havemann. Later, it was sold to John Garmhausen.

John Garmhausen

John Garmhausen was born in Germany on 4/29/1832. The family emigrated to America in 1836. In 1850, at the age of 18, John joined the gold rush to California. In 1852 he returned to Ohio and settled at Lock Two and was married on 12/28/1854 to Mary Strasburg.

When John arrived in Lock Two, he sized up his opportunities and had almost concluded to leave again for other parts. However, he finally decided to embark in the general mercantile business since a flouring mill and a saw mill had already been erected and a promising trade on the new Miami & Erie Canal was indicated.

His business gradually grew, and after a few years he entered the grain and pork business. Soon he found it would be profitable to also operate the mill. At first, he rented the flouring mill for some years, but soon found it necessary to own it. Consequently he purchased both the flouring mill and the saw mill. As his sons grew up, they assisted him in all his businesses in Lock Two.

On January 1, 1899, John turned the mill business over to his 3 sons - Florenz, Charles, and Ben Garmhausen. In August, 1903, the flour mill, elevator, and saw mill were all lost in a disastrous fire. This is when the company was reorganized with more than 60 farmers holding stock. The buildings were rebuilt and the name was changed to Lock Two Grain & Milling Co. The first board of directors included George Thiesing, president, Ben Garmhausen, vice-president, Charles Garmhausen, secretary/treasurer, Henry Roettger, and Frank Komminsk.

On July 17, 1932, a "basket picnic" was held at "Speedway Park" by the Lock Two Grain & Milling Co. to mark its 80th anniversary. The N.B.H.S. band played at 4:00 p.m. and the large dance pavilion was open for free dancing during the afternoon and evening. In charge of the arrangements were Herbert Garmhausen (son of Florenz), president, and Frank D. Kuenning, secretary of the company. Over 3500 people attended. Approximately 200 sacks of flour were given as prizes to the winners of various contests.

The Lock Two Mill closed in 1981 and all buildings have been torn down except the main brick mill building, which was purchased and restored by Crown Equipment Corp.

* EDITOR'S NOTE: If anyone would like to have a copy of the letters and information about the Kuenning family history (4 legal size pages) received by Judge Harry Wittenbrink, please send a small donation to cover the costs of copying and mailing and we will send it to you.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

YEARLY ACTIVITIES

Our annual dinner was held on Monday, March 20th, at St. Paul's Church. The speaker, Ronda Shelby, gave an interesting talk on outhouses. The 2nd annual summer picnic was held on Sunday, June 4th at the museum.

The museum was open for visitation every Sunday from 2:00-4:00 p.m. June thru August. Attendance was down from other years. We may need to think of ways to attract more people for our summer visiting period.

A float was again entered in the Bremenfest parade on Sunday, August 13th.

The 26th annual Christmas Tree Festival was held the first weekend in December. This event was again quite successful. We had more trees this year, more prizes, and more people visiting the museum. Activities director, Dru Meyer, did a fine job of organizing all of these events.

CHANGES

Three new trustees were elected last March at our annual dinner - Larry Dicke, Carl Roediger, and Jill May. Jill May also accepted the position of Historian, which had been previously held by Lois Moeller who resigned last March.

Vernita Scheer & Bea Young resigned their positions as Curators and we were fortunate to find replacements in Delores Stienecker and Joyce Holdren, who have really taken an interest and are doing an excellent job of familiarizing themselves with all the materials we have and are trying to put an inventory of these items on our newly acquired computer.

IMPROVEMENTS

A computer was donated by Lloyd and Janice Schroer for use by the museum. We thank them very much for this - it is a very valuable addition to our museum, allowing us to keep track of our inventory, etc.

We changed the small central furnace room of the museum which had been used mostly for storage and made it into an office area which now houses our computer and gives the curators and other officers a place to work.

Repairs were made to the museum roof which had developed some leaks. At the same time, a new wood shingle roof was put on the "display" outhouse and the outhouse was given a new coat of paint.

NEEDS FOR THE FUTURE

There are several outside things that need to be done. The paint on the museum is starting to peel in many places and we will need to either repaint it or have it touched up sometime this next summer.

The main item that needs attention is the barn. The asphalt shingle siding is deteriorating, especially on the north side where bricks had been piled against the barn for several years. Other shingles, as well, are coming loose. Since this type of shingle is no longer available for replacement purposes, a committee of Carl Roediger, Lawrence Egbert and myself have checked into different types of siding. The general consensus is that wood siding similar to the original ship-lap siding, which is still under the present green shingles, should be used. We are getting some prices and we will be thinking about working on that project next summer.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

I would like to commend Lucille Francis for another year of very fine newsletters. I get compliments all the time on *The Towpath* and I am deeply appreciative to her for the fine job that she has done. I have enjoyed working with her on several occasions, writing several articles and doing some research.

Jerry Brown, President

BARBER POLES

by Jayne Clark of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

EDITOR'S NOTE: After publishing the October, 2000 issue of *The Towpath* with Jerry's article and others about New Bremen's barbers, I ran across a newspaper clipping I had saved from the *Dayton Daily News*. The following is a portion of that article:

"The Barber Museum and Hall of Fame operated by Ed Jeffers occupies a former lodge hall over Zeke's Barbershop in Canal Winchester, Ohio. Inside are 58 historical barber poles, including 4 rare wooden ones and 7 that are spring-wound; 540 decorative shaving mugs; 14 barber chairs, some dating to the mid-1800s; 600 straight razors; and assorted tonics, gizmos and evillooking devices. A small room at the rear pays tribute to hall of famers - barbers who have 'done something to enhance the image or make life easier for barbers.'

Inside, the history of barbering unfolds in barbershop vignettes. You learn how, from the Middle Ages to the 1700s, barbers not only cut hair, they performed surgery and dentistry. Bloodletting, a common medical procedure believed to purify the blood, was one of the key services performed in the barber's chair.

The striped design of the barber's pole evolved from the blood-soiled white bandages that were hung outside the barbershop to dry. Later, blue was added to the redand-white motif to signify veins. When it was decided that barbers should limit their cutting to hair, they kept the pole as their professional symbol and surgeons adopted the serpent.

It wasn't until after the Civil War that barbering came into its own as a Main Street profession, due mainly to the influx of immigrants who brought the skill with them to this country."

"THE TOWPATH" Editor's Report

With this issue, I have completed 5 years of serving as Editor of "The Towpath", starting with my first issue in April, 1996, when I was asked by former Editor, Marge Lietz, to substitute for her due to her and her husband, Paul, both being ill. Since that time, both have passed away and I am still "editing and composing."

Since I am more of a statistician, genealogist, and bookkeeper than a writer, my "style" and format are different than that which Marge used. I do not have the memories and experiences that she had to draw on, so I have to rely more on facts which I can document and pictures that are made available to me. This takes a great deal of research and is very time-consuming (and sometimes frustrating.) It also involves much copying of pictures and other materials, especially information from the microfilm of the "New Bremen Sun", New Bremen's former newspaper.

Since I like to tell as complete a story about a subject as I can, "The Towpath" has increased in size, from 8 pages to 12 or 16 pages.

When I published my first issue in April, 1996, the New Bremen Historic Association had approximately 475 members. The membership / subscription list has increased considerably. There are now 748 members / subscribers consisting of 382 yearly members, 265 lifetime members, 86 charter members, and 15 charter/lifetime members (as of 12/31/2000.)

Approximately 11,500 copies of "The Towpath" have been mailed to members in the last 5 years, and nearly 1600 complimentary copies have been sent to other people I thought might be interested in reading about New Bremen's history. Many of these complimentary copies have resulted in new memberships / subscriptions. We have members all across the country in 35 states, including one in Alaska and two in Canada (none in Hawaii, though!)

Costs for the past 5 years (1996-2000) have been \$8726.15 for printing (by Lee's Printing) and \$3168.77 for mailing (bulk mailing costs including bulk permit, plus envelopes, labels, and 1st-class postage on forwarding and returns when changes of addresses have not been received.) The costs just for the past year (2000) have been \$3459.07 for 3017 copies of "The Towpath" mailed, not including Editor's costs for supplies (ink, paper, etc.) and copying costs (research materials, pictures, etc.)

The membership receipts for 2000 were \$2848.00 from yearly members and \$2200.00 for lifetime memberships, plus \$1596.00 in donations from charter, lifetime and yearly members - a total of \$6644.00.

The letters that you readers have sent me have been very much appreciated. Some of you have told me that you like the "personal" tone of "The Towpath." I am glad to hear that, because I have tried to make it like a "newspaper from home."

The "New Bremen Sun" is, of course, one of my main sources of information, especially as far as being able to date certain happenings. Biographies, obituaries, and cemetery records also help immensely. Genealogy enthusiast, Tom Braun, can also be relied on to help come up with some of the elusive information when asked.

Starting with the July, 1997 issue, the assembling, folding and bulk mailing duties were taken over by Susie Hirschfeld and her helpers.

I have enjoyed, for the most part, this interesting and educational, though sometimes stressful, job the past 5 years. I am always glad to receive input from you readers, even though I am not always able to use your information and/or pictures as soon as you might expect, depending on what else I am using and on the amount of space available. Please don't let this keep you from contributing whatever you might have. Many times your comments are the inspiration for some of the most interesting stories. (The most interesting story to me is always the one I am currently working on, when I am still finding new information that I didn't know before.)

Lucille Francis, Editor

EDITOR'S DILEMMA

[adapted from the Mercer County Monitor]

The sink is full of dishes
and the beds are still unmade.
Forgotten are the wishes
of my family, I'm afraid.
My ironing basket overflows my husband has no shirt.
I really need to wash some clothes
and do a lot of housework.
But at my computer desk I'm busy,
happy as a king.
For here I am, working on The Towpath
because I have to "do my thing."

"People who live in cluttered environments are busy doing things, not cleaning them."

New Bremen Historic Association

Annual Financial Report for 2000 Thomas Braun, Treasurer	
ASSETS AS OF JANUARY 1, 2000	
CHECKING ACCT.	\$3,429.20
CERT. OF DEPOSIT / PROM. NOTE	\$14,110.92
TOTAL ASSETS	\$17,540.12
INCOME MEMBERSHIP: Regular yearly dues Lifetime Memberships Membership Donations MEMORIAL Donations DONATIONS: Misc. (Visitors, genealogy, etc.) GRANT & MATCHING FUNDS INTEREST (includes accrued C.D. interest) ANNUAL DINNER (120 tkt. sales @ 8.00/ea.) COMM. PICNIC (Food & Ice Cream Sales) CHRISTMAS RAFFLE (ticket sales) S/H charged on mail orders of mdse. MERCHANDISE SALES Barber Wissman shirts N.B. School Commemoratives Cookbook, Ralph May, Marriage books	2,848.00 2,200.00 1,596.00 1,230.00 479.49 850.00 1,100.97 960.00 551.38 760.00 17.20 515.10 212.00 135.20
Miscellaneous sales (incl. Mugs) TOTAL YEARLY INCOME	\$55.40 \$13,108.14
EXPENSES UTILITIES: Electric (N.B. Utilities) Water (N.B. Utilities) Gas (D.P.& L.) INSURANCE (1.5 years) & Treasurer's Bond IMPROVEMENTS & MAINTENANCE: Repairs to museum & outhouse roofs Street curbs & gutters Lawn care (mowing, fertilizer, etc.) Miscellaneous maintenance MUSEUM: Office Equip., Display Materials, etc. OFFICE EXPENSE: P.O. Box Rent Other Office & Misc. Expenses TOWPATH: Printing, Envelopes, Labels Postage & Bulk Permit Advance for research & copying ANNUAL DINNER expenses COMMUNITY PICNIC expenses CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL expenses MDSE. purchased for resale (shirts) Postage on mailed mdse. sales State sales tax on mdse. sold MISC Memberships (Ch./Commerce & Meccai	64.00 133.37 2845.04 614.03 100.00 700.60 162.02 157.97 315.45 9.60 71.73
	\$10,117.44
ASSETS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2000	
CHECKING ACCT.	\$2,272.17
CERT. OF DEPOSIT / PROM. NOTE	\$18,258.65
TOTAL ASSETS	\$20,530.82

From the Mailbox....



10/22/2000

Thanks a lot for all of the genealogical materials, etc. you supplied. The photos of William Schulenberg and the copies of the speech given by him at the 9th Reunion of the 37th Regiment of the Ohio Veterans Volunteer Infantry in September, 1889 are greatly appreciated. As boy, I remember visiting my Uncle Cade Schulenberg's store where he had a bookcase filled with an extensive many-volume history of the Civil War. It impressed me no end when Cade once told me that his grandfather (William) was mentioned in one of those books. The notion that someone in my family could be mentioned in a book was almost overwhelming.

On a recent vacation to the northeast, we were able to flesh out my wife Janet's genealogy of the Bliss family in Vermont by spending several hours in the Town Clerk's office and by visiting the local cemetery. Thanks in large part to our visit with you and your help, we had a much better handle on how to go about our work.

Thanks again, Ted Schulenberg

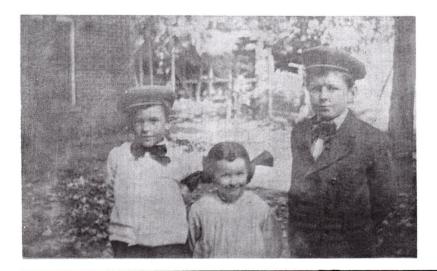
Dear Lucille & Tom:

11/26/2000

We would like to thank you for the genealogy help you provided while we were in New Bremen early this month - also for giving us a tour of your museum. We are certainly impressed with how well the town is kept and with the friendliness of the people who live there. Enclosed is a donation to the N.B. Historic Association. Also, please give our regards to Dolores (Mohrman) Fledderjohn who stopped by the library to introduce herself to us. Gordon & Paulette Mohrman Colorado Springs, Colorado

EDITOR'S NOTE: In August, 1997, the brother & sister-inlaw of Gordon Mohrman - Charles ("Chick") & Mary Mohrman of Fargo, North Dakota - also paid a visit to New Bremen to search for their genealogical roots. They and their sister, Mary Ann (Mohrman) Paustian, are the greatgrandchildren of Johann Heinrich Christoph Mohrmann and Lucia Margaretha Kuenning, early New Bremen immigrants who eventually lived (and died) in Syracuse, Nebraska. For an interesting write-up of their golden wedding anniversary in June, 1890, see article on page 10.

Forrest Nedderman of St. Marys phoned to say that he had had his hair cut by all three barbers mentioned in the October, 2000 issue of The Towpath - Wm. ("Patty") Patterson, Grover ("Dooley") Wissman, and John Brown. Forrest and his family lived across the street from Patty Patterson in March of 1937, when their neighbor, Ed Hoeper, died. As was the custom in those days, Forrest and Patty both went around town delivering funeral notices. The day of Mr. Hoeper's funeral, Forrest was sitting near Patty when Patty became ill. While Forrest and another man tried to help Patty outside, he collapsed and died in their arms.



THE SCHULENBERG KIDS

CHILDREN OF HERBERT & LULA (TAYLOR) SCHULENBERG

- (I.) Elton Schulenberg (1899-1986) and Mildred (Vornholt) Schulenberg were the parents of Jean Dunbrook & William and Ted Schulenberg (pg.14)
- (c.) Ione Schulenberg (1901-1992) and Frederick Leroy Schaefer were the parents of Frederick Leroy Schaefer, Jr., Janice Overton, and Anita Schaefer.
- (r.) Cade (1897-1958) and Norma (Heil) Schulenberg were the parents of Bonnie Schulenberg Knipple Crain and Susan Schulenberg Rabe.

(from the Ralph May collection)

To whom it may concern:

11/13/2000

I can't tell you how much I enjoyed the October, 2000 issue of *The Towpath*. Needless to say, I have a lot of fond memories of New Bremen. When I was a child, Dooley (Grover) Wissman used to cut my hair when I would visit there with my grandparents, Porter & Myrtle Belton and James D. & Rhea Taylor.

Grandpa Taylor was the photographer and my mother, Mary Ellen (Taylor) Belton / Patton, keeps insisting that I am a spittin' image of Grandpa Taylor. I am purchasing a "Barber Wissman" sweatshirt for my mother. She is such a wonderful lady - I am proud to say that I am her son.

Mom and I visited with Dooley Wissman when he was confined to a nursing facility. It was extremely difficult to witness such a fine gentleman experiencing the aging process - we both cried!! It is difficult when you witness your past leaving you - we loved them all. What a beautiful community with warm and compassionate people. Thank you again!!!

Craig L. Belton - Fairborn, Ohio Licensed Director, Belton Funeral Home

Dear Lucille:

1/13/2001

As usual, I really enjoyed the October, 2000 issue of *The Towpath*. It brought back wonderful memories. I was especially interested in the article about Grover (Dooley) Wissman, the barber. He and his wife (Amanda Deitemeyer) were best friends of my parents, Jim & Rhea Taylor, and we all spent a lot of time together. In fact, their son, Paul, was more like a brother to me than my own brother, Paul Taylor, who was 9 years older than I.

I was also interested in the letter from Ted Schulenberg. Ted's father, Elton, was my first cousin. I would very much like to get in touch with Ted and would appreciate it if you could send me his address.

I am enclosing a check for a copy of "Ralph May Remembers." Continue the good work on *The Towpath*. I really look forward to getting it in the mail.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen (Taylor) Belton / Patton

Dear Ms. Francis:

11/14/2000

Thank you so much for the complimentary copy of the October, 2000 issue of *The Towpath*. I enjoyed reading again about the "Bloody Barn Battle" that I was told about quite a few times by my aunt, Marie Mueller. She also told me that my grandmother, Amanda Dinkel, who later married my grandfather, August Mueller, was born (on November 25, 1879), just before the "Bloody Barn Battle" took place in my great-grandfather's barn.

I have fond memories of New Bremen as a child. When I read *The Towpath*, it brought some of them flooding back. It was a simpler time, one of family, friends, and church. Oh, how I wish our country could remember and return to some of those values.

Thank you so much for printing the obituary of Aunt Marie. She touched a lot of lives in her nearly 95 years.

Sincerely. Kathie (Mueller) Rouse, niece

I was delighted to see the letter on Page 10 of the October, 2000 issue of *The Towpath* from Linda M. (Jordan) Wackenthaler about her father, DeLoss Jordan. DeLoss is my first cousin and I have not heard from him since we moved to Toledo in the spring of 1929. Enclosed is a SASE. May I please have the addresses of both my cousin and his daughter as I wish to write to them. Sincerely, Eugene L. Jordan (11/22/2000)

Dear Editor:

12/8/2000

Enclosed please find my subscription/dues for *The Towpath* for 2001. I enjoyed reading the complimentary October, 2000 issue and recognized some names - even some relatives of my mother, Hedwig (Wissman) Hott. You do a great job!!! Thank you.

The articles written by Ralph May for *The Evening Leader* years ago were memorable. I hope the N.B. Library will still have some copies left.

Cheryl (Hott) Long - St. Marys, Ohio

From the Mailbox (continued)

Dear Lucille:

12/15/2000

Enclosed is a check for my 2001 dues. I do enjoy *The Towpath* and the glimpses into the history of New Bremen. Thank you for your diligent research and work.

Sincerely, Kathleen (Luedeke) Mascaro - Nyack, NY

Dear Lucille Francis:

12/22/2000

Thank you for the complimentary copies of *The Towpath*. We enjoyed them very much. New Bremen is a town to be proud of. We enjoy RV-ing and have visited every state in the U.S. and have not been in any town any better than good old New Bremen. Happy New Year!

James F. & Mary Lou (Wagner) Pape

Enclosed is my check for dues and *The Towpath* subscription for 2001. I read about New Bremen's website in the July, 2000 issue so I had a nephew find it and I enjoyed viewing it so much. I kept thinking about your Christmas Open House - I would have liked to have been there. Best wishes to all.

Richard Huckriede - Greensburg, Kansas (12/16/2000)

EDITOR'S NOTE: You can find New Bremen's website, which includes the New Bremen Historic Association, at www.newbremen.com

Curators' Corner

We have been serving as museum curators for over a year and we feel that a lot has been accomplished, however, a lot of work still needs to be done. We are trying to establish a good working office - a new computer was donated to the museum this past year and we want to get all the inventory recorded for good safe-keeping.

All pictures are being checked and, if in need, they are being preserved with acid-free materials - also paper items are being encapsulated so that they will be preserved for all time.

We have changed displays and in doing so, we have found many interesting items. We are trying to show as many as possible.

We have created a "Curators' Corner" where we try to display the new items as we receive them. Many new items have been donated over the holidays and these will be exhibited in new display cases in the "Curators' Corner."

The walls in the southwest room - the "living room" (or parlor) are being fixed so that a lot more pictures and displays can be shown.

We would like to have more displays about New Bremen's sports and athletes. Any ideas (or donations) would be greatly appreciated.

We hope that by the time we have our summer open house from June through August, 2001, we will have many new exhibits for our visitors to see. We are excited about all the changes and we hope to see you then.

Delores Stienecker & Joyce Holdren, Curators

NEW MEMBERS THIS QUARTER (THRU12/31/00)

12/03/00 Dicke, Douglas - Delta, Ohio (LM)

12/08/00 Friemering, Velma (Seger) - Celina, Ohio

12/19/00 Glover, Sarah (Valentine) - Wooster, Ohio

12/11/00 Long, Cheryl (Hott) - St. Marys, Ohio (Re-joined) 12/05/00 Maurer. David - New Bremen

12/19/00 Nedderman, Forrest - St. Marys, Ohio

12/09/00 Scheib, Nan (Howe) - Celina, Ohio (Re-joined)

10/22/00 Schwartz, Mrs. Lawrence (Louise) (TR)

12/03/00 Sherman, Richard - New Bremen

12/03/00 Topp, Sheree (Ahlers) - New Bremen

12/19/00 Valentine, James - Woodruff, South Carolina

12/19/00 Valentine, Robert - St. Marys, Ohio

12/19/00 Valentine, Scott - Friendship, Maryland 12/03/00 Weigandt, Lisa (Dicke) - Sidney, Ohio (LM)

10/20/00 Wierwille, Eric - Hilliard, Ohio (LM)

MEMBER DEATHS THIS QUARTER

11/07/00 Schroeder, Mrs. Walter (Lavina)(CMLM)(d./11/7)

10/22/00 Schwartz, Lawrence (died 10/22/00)

ADDITIONS TO LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

12/03/00 Dicke, Dennis

12/03/00 Dicke, Douglas (new)

12/03/00 Weigandt, Lisa (Dicke)(new)

10/20/00 Wierwille, Eric (new)

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF 12/31/00 = 748

748 = 86 CMs + 15 CMLMs + 265 LMs + 382 Yearly

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

The following memorial donations have been received this quarter:

In memory of Clifton & Laura (Kawell) Boesel by Charles & Jean Boesel & Lois (Boesel) May

In memory of Walter & Lavina Schroeder by Edna (Schroeder) Tontrup

UPCOMING EYENT

ANNUAL DINNER - MARCH 19th, 2001

WHERE? - Faith Alliance Church

SPEAKERS: John Dickman & Tom Braun SUBJECT: Visits to Germany

CLARIFICATIONS TO LAST ISSUE

On page 3, under the picture of the barbers, I identified the building as the Schulenberg building at 7 W. West Monroe. It was actually the frame building at 3 W. Monroe where the barber shop was located. This had been the freight building for the interurban and was also built by the Schulenbergs (in 1896.) The Purpus & Boesel Insurance Agency was at 7 W. Monroe - in the east half of the brick Schulenberg-Laut building.

Scheer's Cafe

On page 5, I identified this business as being owned and operated by Jim & Lucille Scheer. Jim & Lucille (Platfoot) Scheer were co-owners with their brother & sister, Robert & Esther (Platfoot) Scheer. Later, the restaurant was taken over by another brother, Jack Scheer (Lafe, Jr.) and his wife, Rachel (Katterheinrich).