

THE TOWPATH

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NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

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(Or anytime, by Appointment)

DUES: \$10.00 Per year / Per person

(Life Membership: \$100.00 Per person)

October - 2001

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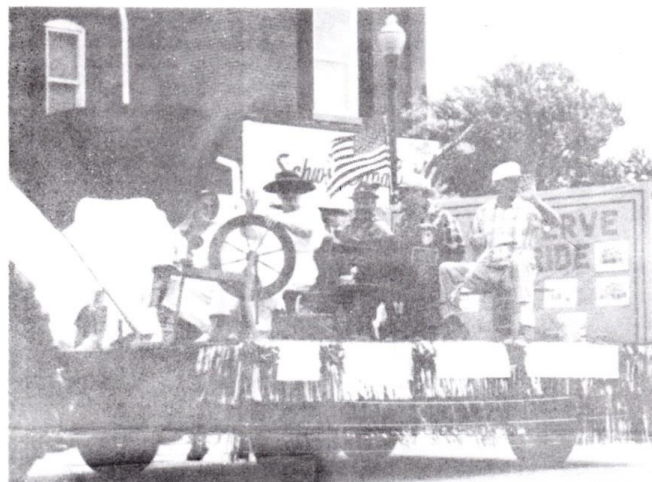
THE TOWPATH is a historical reflection of New Bremen and the surrounding area - researched, written, and/or edited by Lucille (Topp) Francis, EDITOR, and published quarterly by the New Bremen Historic Assoc. Any stories and/or pictures that our readers are willing to share are welcomed.

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 Plaque.



[photo provided by Susie Hirschfeld]

N.B.H.A.'s float entry in the "Bremenfest" parade

The theme for the 2001 Bremenfest held August 17-19, 2001 was "Small Town Pride." The theme chosen for the New Bremen Historic Association's float was "We Preserve Our Pride."

Riding on the float were the curators, Joyce Holdren & Delores Stienecker, also Jay Stauffer, Dennis Heitkamp, and Vic Maurer (displaying an old reel lawnmower). Other items displayed on the float were a Lanfersieck-Grothaus plow, a spinning wheel, a galvanized wash tub & washboard, and an old-time school desk. The float was pulled by a tractor owned and driven by Bill Tostrick. Passing out candy were Phyllis Cox, James & Aaron Lampert, Brandon Meyer, and Megan Holdren.

We are proud to say that our float won 1st place in the theme category and 2nd place in the civic category. These plaques are on display at our museum.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL & OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, December 1st - 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 2nd - 11:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

THEME: "ANGELS THROUGH THE AGES"

Our museum will be open at these times for our 27th annual festival. For those willing to decorate a tree, provide a display, or donate a raffle or door prize, please call Dru Meyer, Special Events Chairman, at 629-3495 for further information.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

"AUTHORS' NOOK"

In the January, 1982 issue of *The Towpath*, the following item was printed:

"A number of area families have authors whom we wish to feature in a Local Authors' display. They have helped to write material for magazines, textbooks, journals or other publications.

Please submit names of those people and acquire all examples of publications where possible or, at the least, a listing of them - with dates, publisher, etc.

The writers need not live here now, but should have done so at some time, or should be a member of the immediate family of an area resident."

Unfortunately, over the years this "Authors' Nook" collection has not been updated. While we initially received a small number of publications authored by people with New Bremen roots, the collection has not increased noticeably. The following is a list of authors whose publications can be found in our museum. If you know of other publications authored by New Bremen people, and/or if you have copies of such material that you would be willing to donate (or display temporarily) in our museum, we would like to hear from you.

In taking inventory of the publications donated in the 1980s, I came across two interesting biographies that were written, one by James Halsema & one by James Sunderman. This issue contains an edited version of Jim Sunderman's essay, starting on page 6. In a future issue I will cover the Halsema family.

NEW BREMEN'S AUTHORS

Marion Waterman Boesel

Dr. Marion W. Boesel was the son of Oliver H. Boesel & Anna Marie Waterman and graduated from N.B.H.S. in 1920. He received his A.B. (1925), A.M. (1929), & Ph.D. degrees from Ohio State University. Since 1928, he was at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where he served as a Professor in the Dept. of Zoology & Physiology. During the summers, he served as Asst. Biologist with the Ohio Div. of Wildlife, Asst. Entomologist with the Illinois Natural History Survey, and as Professor of Entomology at the Franz Theodore Stone Laboratory. Biology and taxonomy (classification of animals or plants according to their natural relationships) were his specialties.

In 1984, Dr. Boesel and his wife, Antoinette, donated to our museum his 1940-1983 publications about zoology and biology, with a group of booklets dealing with the subject of midges (small gnats or flies).

James J. Halsema

James J. Halsema, son of Eusebius Julius Halsema and Marie Boesel (daughter of Julius Boesel) wrote one of the six articles in the booklet, "Bulletin of the American Historical Collection - The American Era in the Philippines", published in April-June, 1983 by the American Association of the Philippines, Inc. His article is titled "E.J. Halsema: Colonial Engineer (I)". A copy of this booklet is in our "Authors' Nook" collection.

In this article, James Halsema provides highlights of his father's life and times, beginning with his birth, and continuing with his education as a civil engineer at Ohio

State University and his subsequent appointment as an assistant engineer to the Bureau of Public Works staff in the Philippines in 1908. There were to be continuing articles covering E.J. Halsema's life up to his death in W.W.II, however we have only the first installment (I).

Jack R. Moeller

Jack Moeller of Rochester, Michigan is the son of Raymond & Alfrieda (Vornholt) Moeller and is a 1943 graduate of N.B.H.S. He also holds a B.A. (1949) from Oberlin College and an M.A. (1951) & a Ph.D. (1955) from Princeton University.

Jack was a Professor of Germanic Language & Literature at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan, where he conducted courses in methodology of foreign language teaching. Prior to entering college teaching, Dr. Moeller taught at both private & public high schools in the U.S. & Germany.

Jack Moeller authored, co-authored, or edited many German text books from 1963-1996 and has provided the museum with over 20 publications for our "Authors' Nook."

Peter Rabe

Peter Rabe was born in 1921-22 in Germany, the son of Dr. Michael Rabe & Margarete Beer. He came to the U.S. with his father in 1938 at the age of 16 and to New Bremen in 1940, where his mother and 2 younger brothers, Valentin and Andreas, joined them. (see "The Towpath" - April, 1999.)

Peter Rabe started writing when he was 10 years old and had his first work published in the 1950s. He wrote fiction throughout the 1960s & 1970s, mostly for the Gold Medal paperback publisher, Fawcett. He had a Ph.D. in theoretical psychology and worked as a research psychiatrist in Maine. Most of his works were of the psychological, human-interest type, with some detective stories. He wrote crime stories, spy stories and Mafia stories - over 20 publications. Peter Rabe died in California in 1990.

The following Peter Rabe paperbacks were donated to the museum by Fred & Irene Wellemeyer in 1992: "Kill The Boss Goodbye", © 1956, "Blood On The Desert", © 1958, "Bring Me Another Corpse", © 1959, "Anatomy Of A Killer", © 1960, "The Spy Who Was Three Feet Tall", © 1966, and "Code Name Gadget", © 1967.

OTHER KNOWN NEW BREMEN AUTHORS

Robert J. Schroeder

Robert Schroeder was born in Cincinnati in 1918 to Harry F. Schroeder and Frieda L. Dammeyer (Frieda was a N.B. native.) The family moved to New Bremen in 1923 when Bob was 5 years old. He graduated with the N.B.H.S. Class of 1935. After his father's death in 1943, Bob took over the operation of the N.B. Hardware & Supply Co. and its branches.

In 1963, Bob moved to New York City, where he became a playwright, authoring over 20 plays. He was also a theater reviewer and writer's agent. In 1988, he founded Popular Play Service, a publishing and royalty

agency. Bob also contributed material which was published in *The Towpath* - an article about the N.B. Speedway riot in the April, 1994 issue and an article which we printed in the October, 1997 issue after his 5/21/1997 death - "Shopping New Bremen in the 1920s."

James F. Sunderman

Col. James Sunderman, Life Member of the N.B. Historic Association who died 6/12/2001 in Palm Harbor, Florida, was born 7/20/1919, the son of Frank & Bertha (Thiesing) Sunderman.

Col. Sunderman was a graduate of N.B.H.S. (1937), of Capitol University in Columbus, Ohio, of the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida, and was a former instructor of history at the University of Miami at Coral Gables, Florida. He served 33 years in the U.S. Air Force - during W.W.II, in Korea, and in Vietnam. He was director of information for the 7th Air Force at Tan Son Nheut Air Base in Vietnam & for the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He retired as director of public affairs for NORAD (North American Defense Command) in Colorado.

Col. Sunderman wrote & published 7 books, including "W.W.II in the Air: Europe", "Early Air Pioneers" and "Journey into Wilderness - the Seminole Indian War". In 1959, he was presented the Air Force Association's Arts & Letters award for bringing the air power story before the nation through the medium of more than 250 books on air power and airpower subjects. Others who have received this same award are Milton Caniff and Edward R. Murrow. Col. Sunderman also wrote numerous airpower articles for magazines & newspapers.

After retirement, Col. Sunderman helped establish baseball and soccer programs and facilities in Palm Harbor. The Sunderman Recreation Complex was named in his honor.

(N.B. Sun - 9/9/1959 + obituary)

Naomi (Grothaus) Sunderman

Naomi (Grothaus) Sunderman was the eldest child of William & Clara (Meyer) Grothaus and graduated from N.B.H.S. in 1912. She graduated from Florida State College for Women in Tallahassee, Florida in 1915 with a B.S. degree in Home Economics. The following year, she taught home economics and German in Daytona Beach, Florida. Her teaching career was short lived, however, due to her mother's death on 11/29/1916, leaving her father and her 16 year old brother, Wallace, to fend for themselves. So she resigned her position to come home and "take her mother's place." On 6/18/1918, she married Edwin Sunderman (see biographical sketch on page 10).

After Edwin's retirement, he and Naomi started researching the Sunderman family history and genealogy. They spent 16 years writing letters, researching archives, analyzing interviews, and traveling to Germany to scan historic family records and documents and to talk first-hand with relatives.* In the fall of 1979, they self-published a loose-leaf documentation including many photographs of family members, buildings, etc. and provided many of the relatives with a copy. They were

also thoughtful enough to provide copies of their history to the New Bremen Public Library and to our museum. It can be found in our genealogy library.

In her foreword, Naomi credits her then 89 year old husband, Edwin, with the typing of all the information. Naomi herself was about 85 years old at that time.

* One of the German relatives who corresponded with Edwin & Naomi in 1965 was Wilhelm Sundermann, grandson of Hermann Heinrich, the youngest brother of Edwin's grandfather, Heinrich Wilhelm. After his father died in 1988, Wilhelm's son, Eberhard, paid a visit to the U.S. (in 1992) and met the Ohio and Indiana relatives. In May, 1996, he published a book of dates and facts about the nearly 500 year old Sundermann "Hof", based on stories that had been told to him by his father. This book is the source for "Generations I.-V." on the next page.

Dr. John Theodore Dickman

John Dickman, born in Hamilton, Ohio in October, 1927, came to New Bremen late in 1933 with his parents, Reuben H. & Eleanor (Purpus) Dickman, and his brother, Charles, to move in with his Grandpa Fridolin Purpus at 114 South Franklin Street since his grandmother, Alma (Boesel) Purpus, had passed away in February, 1933. [John & Charles Dickman are also grandsons of Rev. Herbert & Lillian (Sunderman) Dickman - see biography on pg. 9.]

John graduated from Fork Union Military Academy in Fork Union, Virginia, & holds bachelor's, master's & Ph.D. degrees from Ohio State Univ. From 1950-1953, he taught chemistry and physics at Urbana, Ohio. He served from 1953-1955 in the Armed Forces during the Korean War. Now retired after 33 years as a biochemist, his interests range from rose culture to genealogy to cooking to writing. He serves as chairman of judges for the Buckeye District of the American Rose Society and is a regular columnist for the *American Rose* magazine, having written a "Question and Answer" column for the past 10 years and prior to that, a "Beginners Corner" for 5 years. In the December, 2000 *American Rose* Annual, he wrote an article titled "Roses and Religion." John has recently donated two of these magazines for our "Authors' Nook."

In 1998, John wrote a very popular booklet titled "A Taste of Tradition" which he permitted the New Bremen Historic Association to publish and offer for sale to the public, with all profits to go to the Association.

Since that time, John has gathered more material and has written a follow-up book. This one is titled "Recipes and Reminiscence - Culinary Memories of a German Heritage" and is being published by 1st Books Library (www.1stbooks.com). The 113-page expanded, indexed book contains everything included in the "Taste of Tradition" booklet plus several newly discovered recipes and an abundance of recollections of the days between 1934 and 1943, John's formative years in New Bremen. Some of his added recollections include stories about fishing and wild game hunting. For those who never got around to purchasing the first book, or for those who can't resist extending those memories further, John is offering this second book to us to sell, with all profits again to be kept by the Historic Association. [see back page & insert]

THE SUNDERMAN FAMILY Historical & Genealogical Record

Edwin & Naomi Sunderman & Eberhard Sundermann*

The Sundermann Farm in Germany

Emigration ("ausgewandert") records list the Sundermanns as "ackersmann" (farmer) or "knecht" (farmhand). The Sunderman family emigrated to the United States from Ladbergen, Westphalia, Germany. The plain of "Sunder" is designated as a part of the general plain belonging to a province owned by one of nobility. A farmer who lived on the plain was named "Sundermann." The farmers at that time had work obligations toward their landlords. In the case of the Sundermanns, it was to the Graf (Count) of Tecklenburg.

The Sundermann farm was first mentioned in a treasury register of the Count of Tecklenburg in the year 1577. When the Graf needed money to repay a loan, they were taxed on 4 horses, 4 cows, 5 oxen & 1 pig. In 1643, they had 2 horses, 2 cows & 1 pig.

The Sundermann Family - Generations I.-V. *

Birth, death and marriage records were kept beginning in 1707, when the Earldom of Tecklenburg went to Prussia, and the King of Prussia became landlord.

(I.) Johann Jakob Sundermann (1685?-8/8/1726) was the first owner of the Sundermann farm ("Hof") to be listed by name. He was married 9/8/1718 to Anna Barckmann. (II.) Their son, Johann Cordt (7/2/1719-1/15/1773) was married 9/8/1738 to Anna Catharina Elsabein Stienecker (4/25/1716-9/11/1783) & inherited the Sundermann farm from his father. (III.) Johann Heinrich Christian (6/19/1740-12/4/1791), the oldest son of Johann Cordt, was the third Sundermann to own the farm. He married Anna Elisabeth Veltwisch (5/14/1742-12/26/1792) on 8/28/1767. (IV.) Their oldest son, Wilhelm Heinrich (11/27/1772-1/8/1845) married Anna Elisabeth Storck (9/23/1773-12/8/1839) on 3/20/1794 and became the next owner. Wilhelm Heinrich lived on the ancestral farm until his death, whereupon their youngest son, (V.) Hermann Heinrich (6/6/1819-1/21/1901) became the owner. (All of Hermann Heinrich's older brothers had emigrated.)

The Emigrants

V. (1) Wilhelm Heinrich Sundermann (12/21/1801? or 2/1802?-1/19/1867) emigrated in April?, 1838. On 9/26/1838, he married Anna Maria Elizabeth Tostrick (7/28/1812?-1/14/1894), who had immigrated to Baltimore on 8/6/1838. They married in St. Paul's Church in N.B.

(information from St. Paul Church records)

V. (2) Anna Maria Elisabeth Sunderman (born 3/23/1804) emigrated with her husband, Hermann Heinrich Rethwilm (born 2/27/1807) and their 2 children.

V. (3) Herman Sundermann (born 9/20-30?/1805) emigrated to Ohio 9/1/1837.

V. (4) Heinrich Wilhelm Sundermann (12/13/1808-7/4/1888) emigrated with his wife, Sophie MARIE Meckstroth (8/15/1816-1/13/1912) on 9/27/1836, 1 day after their marriage. They were the first of the Sundermann family to emigrate to America.

V. (5) Johann Herman Wilhelm Sundermann (9/25/1811-8/9/1881?) immigrated to Baltimore on 8/6/1838, along with his wife-to-be, Elisabeth Hoelscher (11/14/1813?-6/14/1859). He remarried after his first wife's death - to Anna Catharine Elizabeth Kruse on 10/24/1859. The family moved to Iowa and Minnesota. He died in LeSueur, Minnesota.

V. (6) Christine Elisabeth Sundermann (born 1812), wife of Hermann Wilhelm Aufderhaar, emigrated with her husband in 1838.

V. (7) Hermann Wilhelm Sundermann (born 2/12/1814) emigrated with his wife, Christine Stienecker (3/21/1816-3/27/1897) in 1840.

V. (8) Johann Hermann Wilhelm Sundermann (born 2/23/1817) emigrated without government permission 9/1/1837.

The Journey

V. (4) Henry & Marie Sunderman, along with Marie's parents, Herman Heinrich and Anna Christina (Grotholtmann) Meckstroth, her youngest brother, and her sister & her husband, Elsabein Christina & Johann Heinrich Heitkamp, and the 2 little Heitkamp girls, aged 2 and 4-5, set sail from Bremen, Germany and were on the high seas for over 9 weeks. The Meckstroth sisters, their parents, and their youngest brother came to America from Ladbergen, Germany to join 2 older Meckstroth boys, Gerhard Wilhelm & Herman Heinrich, who had come in 1835 and settled at New Knoxville.

The immigrants landed at Baltimore on 12/9/1836. From there, they crossed the state of Pennsylvania in covered wagons to Wheeling, West Virginia. Enroute, the youngest Heitkamp girl became sick and died, and they had to bury her along the wayside and travel on. At Wheeling, they boarded a riverboat on the Ohio River, bound for Cincinnati. At Cincinnati, they again took a covered wagon to Auglaize County. Upon their arrival, they first settled at New Knoxville with the 2 brothers. The long, rough voyage was too much for Mrs. Meckstroth and she died in January, 1837, just weeks after arriving in America. There being no cemetery yet established in New Knoxville, she was buried in the Plank Road Cemetery at New Bremen. Mr. Meckstroth died 12/26/1841 & was buried in the New Knoxville cemetery.

The brothers had purchased 160 acres in the northwest quarter of Section 12 of neighboring German Township for \$1.00 per acre for the new immigrants. The two sisters were given the land as wedding presents. Drawing straws, Mrs. Heitkamp was awarded the north 80 acres (along Lock Two Road) and Marie Sunderman drew the south 80. The Sundermanns moved to this farm in 1837. It was all virgin timber, and they cleared the land and built a log house, which, as the Sundermann family grew, was replaced by a larger one. In 1885, Henry Sunderman, Jr. (son of Henry & Marie) built the present 2-story brick house. These south 80 acres at 6640 Kettler Road are now owned & occupied by Paul & Janet Koenig. Paul is a great-grandson of Henry & Marie (Meckstroth) Sundermann.

The immigrants brought with them furniture and other items, including a spinning wheel on which Marie spun yarn for knitting socks and mittens as well as yarn to be woven into fabrics. They also brought a Grandfather clock which had been a wedding present from Henry Sunderman's parents, Wilhelm Heinrich & Anna Elisabeth (Storck) Sundermann. They raised their own produce from seeds they brought with them and from the seeds of the apples they found on their way through Pennsylvania.

Henry Sundermann, Sr. helped to dig the Miami-Erie canal, which was being dug at that time through New Bremen, 1½ miles southwest of the Sundermann farm. He worked 10 hours a day and earned \$1.00 per day. He had to walk back and forth every day, a total of 3 miles. The digging then was still north of New Bremen and much of his walk was through virgin timber. He marked his route along the way by notching the bark off the trees and when darkness began to settle, Marie would blow a horn at intervals to help guide him home.

V. (4) - The Henry Wm. & Marie Sunderman Family

Henry, Sr. & Marie (Meckstroth) Sunderman became the parents of 10 children, 6 of whom grew to maturity - 5 daughters & 1 son: (2) Christine Marie (born 1/2/1839) married Henry Mueller on 3/5/1861, (6) Maria Sophie (born 10/4/1845) married Henry Greiwe on 5/9/1867, (7) Wilhelmine Louise (born 3/14/1849) married Jacob Breidenauer on 6/12/1873 and lived in Dayton, (8) Heinrich Wilhelm (born 10/26/1851) married Marie LOUISE Keuthan (born 2/9/1862) on 10/21/1879, (9) Carolina Louise (born 1/26/1855) married Adam Maurer on 11/18/1880, and (10) Anna Catherine (born 4/21/1859) married Conrad Gruebmeier on 4/1/1880.

Henry ("OPOP") & Marie ("OMOM") Sundermann lived on the farm with their son, Henry, and his family until their deaths. Marie ("OMOM", meaning old mama) was very special to the children of Henry and Louise. While their mother did housework & worked outside, "OMOM" was their nursemaid and rocked the children to sleep in their cradles, singing to them in German. She lived in the U.S. over 75 years and never learned to speak English. Everyone she knew could speak German, so why learn English? Henry died 7/4/1888 & Sophie Marie 1/13/1912.

VI. (8) - Henry Wm. & Louise (Keuthan) Sunderman

Henry, Jr. & Louise (Keuthan) Sunderman lived on the ancestral farm with Henry's parents. They had 7 children: (1) Lillian Marie (born 3/22/1881) who married Rev. Herbert Dickman on 6/12/1901, (2) Frank Henry (born 3/8/1883) who married Bertha Thiesing on 12/5/1912, (3) Walter Frederick (born 12/31/1886) who married Clara Neuman on 8/19/1914, (4) Edwin Frederick (born 6/28/1890) who married Naomi Grothaus on 6/18/1918, (5) Ferdinand (born 3/23/1893) who married Esther Miller on 9/22/1921, (6) Bertha (born 9/21/1895) who married Emil J. Koenig on 6/2/1915, & (7) Richard Benjamin (born 12/23/1900) who married Carolyn Neuman on 9/2/1924.

Henry Sunderman, Jr. was a quiet, even-tempered person possessed of a subtle humor. Although a farmer

all his life, he never learned to milk a cow. He said he had 5 sisters who could, so why learn?

Louise (Keuthan) Sunderman was the daughter of Bernard & Katherine (Schmidt) Keuthan, one of 8 children, 5 of whom grew to maturity. A sister, Sophie, and both parents died of typhoid fever within 2 months of each other in October-December, 1874, when Louise was only 12 years old. Louise was raised by her Grandfather & Grandmother Schmidt and married Henry Sunderman in 1879 at the age of 17. Her sister, Sophie, age 20, was supposed to be married to a Maurer, but was the first to contract the typhoid fever while working in a hotel in New Bremen. She was buried in her wedding dress.

Henry & Louise retired from the farm (in 1915?) and traded residences with their son, Frank, at 203 S. Walnut St., across from the High School. They were not satisfied with town life, however, and decided to divide the by-then 140-acre farm & build a new house on the south 60 acres. In February, 1920, they sold the 80 acres & moved back to town. Louise lived there after Henry's death in 1940, until 1948 when she was 85, and her daughter Lillie & her husband, Rev. Herbert Dickman, came to live with her.

Henry, a product of the horse & buggy age, was not hesitant to leap into the age of the automobile. It was a great way to get around after retirement, especially to and from the farm Emil & Bertha Koenig then lived on next to the original homestead. Henry would make the trip almost daily to help with the work on the farm and putter around in the garden, the fields and the woods.

About 1930, Henry bought another Ford, a coupe - a delightful auto at the time and a rare antique in today's world. It had more power than the early ones and was more modern in all ways. He used the Ford constantly until age overtook his capability to drive. Then it was jacked up on cement blocks in his garage, where it remained for a number of years.

Henry Sunderman died 6/18/1940 & Louise (Keuthan) Sunderman died 8/15/1956. When Henry died, the Sunderman farm was owned & occupied by his daughter and son-in-law, Bertha & Emil Koenig (the south 60 acres) and by Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Burd (the 80-acre homestead).

(Edited & researched for space, clarity & accuracy - LMF)

★ The Early Years ★

On the following pages are excerpts from a 1940 biographical essay on Frank H. Sunderman, "written to give glimpses into the period during which he and his brothers and sisters spent their early years on the ancestral Sunderman farm northeast of New Bremen. There was a world without electricity, running water, telephones, radio, television, automobiles, supermarkets, modern medicine, comforts or conveniences of any kind. Life was not easy then, yet it held a richness that cannot be forgotten by those who experienced it. It was an era that moulded men and women, the like of which we are hard-pressed to find today. These sketches provide a color, flavor and atmosphere of the period seldom found elsewhere in family records." *(Jim Sunderman - 1979)*

The Life & Times of
Frank Henry Sunderman
by James F. Sunderman - 1940

★ The Early Years ★

My father, Frank Sunderman's early memories started at about age 4, when he recalled going through the woods on a sled pushed by his grandfather, Heinrich Wilhelm Sunderman ("OPOP"). He remembered a pond in the woods where "OPOP" would frequently take him and tell him about the rabbits, squirrels, birds, skunks, 'coons, muskrats, groundhogs, fox and deer - all of which were to be found in that area.

"OPOP" was a short, stocky man with a full-whiskered face and a long beard. He died 7/4/1888 at the age of 79 on the farm he had scraped out of the wilderness and was buried 1½ days later in German Protestant Cemetery. The day of his funeral was a vivid picture in 5 year old Frank's memory. It had rained incessantly all day, and as the hearse, pulled by two black horses, came up the lane, Frank wept openly. He had lost a great friend, a great teacher. The burial had to be made earlier than usual because of the hot July weather. Embalming was not a practice then, and the deceased had to be kept continually packed in ice until buried.

"OPOP's" Story

"OPOP" told Frank that when he was a young man in Germany, he was required to complete a period of compulsory military service in the Prussian Army. That was reason for much German emigration to America - to escape the mandatory service in a very rigid Army.

On completion of his military service, "OPOP", then 27 years old, took his 20-year old bride of 1 day, Sophie Marie Meckstroth ("OMOM") and boarded a sailing vessel in Bremerhaven, Germany - bound for a new life in America. They spent the next 9 weeks (their honeymoon) on a stormy Atlantic & landed at Baltimore on 12/9/1836.

At Baltimore, they bought a covered wagon and two horses, loaded the few earthly possessions they brought from Germany, and set out on a 500 mile journey west across the Allegheny Mountains, following the old National Trail, today known as U.S. Rt. 40. It was an unpaved dirt and mud road, barely passable in places, dangerously hugging mountain slopes, with stretches that were planked with logs and boards. To many of the early settlers, it was known as "the Plank Road West."

On arrival at Wheeling, West Virginia, the immigrants boarded a flat-boat - horses, wagon and all - and drifted down the Ohio River to Cincinnati. From there they headed north until they came to the 80 acre wilderness near New Bremen, Ohio, which was a wedding gift from "OMOM's" parents, Herman Heinrich & Anna Christina Meckstroth (*who also came on the voyage.*) There they soon afterwards made a clearing and built a log cabin. The journey from the old country and their beginnings and early days near New Bremen were not for the weak at heart. Only those with strong courage, conviction, and determination could do it. There was no turning back.

"OPOP" and "OMOM" spent the rest of their lives on this homesteaded farm, blessed with 10 children, 4 of whom died in that primitive environment. Tragically, on 6/24/1849, two sons, 6 & 8 years old, died the same day from scarlet fever.

"OMOM's" Story

After "OPOP's" death, Frank's wrinkled old grandmother ("OMOM") became his closest friend. Together they would walk out into the woods with "Prince", the dog, to hunt rabbits. Prince would scent a rabbit in a hollow tree and hold it at bay until "OMOM" and Frank came up with their only weapon - a long thin green branch. "OMOM" would poke into the hole and twist until the branch became knotted in the rabbit's fur, then pull the rabbit out. Prince would jump on the hapless creature and make the kill. "Rabbit for supper", "OMOM" would say in German, the only language she knew. At night "OMOM" would tell fairy stories in German.

School Days

Frank Sunderman started school a year early, at the age of 5, because his older sister, Lillie, was anxious for him to walk along with her. The 1-room frame schoolhouse (*North School at Lock Two*) was over 2 miles from their farm, and school buses had not yet been invented. The Lock Two School had 6 grades, all in one room - approximately 10 students in each grade. It was located about one mile west of the village of Lock Two. [*Teacher Edward Conradi reported an average monthly enrollment of 43 students in 1893 - N.B. Sun - 6/10/1893.*]

Their route to school started out along the rail fence at the farm and through two fields to the neighbor's house. There they were joined by four neighbor children and proceeded down the dirt road toward Lock Two. At a crossroads, their ranks were increased by some 20 more children and together, as an army, they trekked into Lock Two, across the bridge, and on to the school a mile further down the road. The road on both sides was lined with rail fences on which tiny, colorful gophers and ground squirrels scampered along ahead of them on the top rail. They'd throw chunks of dirt at any living creature they saw, and in wet weather, they would wade through the deepest puddles "just to show off."

In winter, the snow drifted deep behind the rail fences and closed the road. Then they would proceed in single file through waist-deep drifts, with the boys in the lead. Occasionally, in really bad weather, the horses were hitched to the "surrey" and they rode to school, but it had to be a severe day to get this luxury.

Of course, going to school in New Bremen was something that was looked forward to. All kinds of things could be seen there and New Bremen had more than one swing-bridge to play on, so, after 6 years in Lock Two's 1-room school, Frank transferred to the grade school in New Bremen, where he finished the 7th grade and started the 8th grade, but never finished the year. After finishing a full day at school and hours of work & chores at home on the farm, studying by candlelight or lamp was "not his bag."

"Preacher School"

In line with custom and tradition, the children were required to attend catechism instruction for 1 year at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in New Bremen. This was conducted by the preacher on the same basis as ordinary school and was called "preacher school." Finishing his year of "preacher school", with its intolerable lecturing and memorization, Frank was taken into the church and confirmed.

Lock Two

Lock Two consisted of a tiny cluster of buildings surrounding the second lock (lock 2) on the Miami-Erie Canal north of the western Ohio watershed. New Bremen, a mile to the south, had lock 1, and the watershed lay about 1 mile south of New Bremen near what is still called the Amsterdam bridge.

Lock Two boasted a creaking old flour mill, a couple of residents, and a general store. The flour mill was powered by the canal water tumbling over a giant wooden water wheel. In conjunction with the flour mill, there was a mechanism to saw logs. Farmers would periodically bring sacks of grain on horseback or in wagons and return home with their precious flour and with a story or two from the miller. To the general store they would bring eggs, homemade butter, and fruits & vegetables and barter for groceries, dry goods, hardware and other necessities. Frank and his school chums roamed through this interesting "metropolis" every day on their school journey.

The Miami-Erie Canal

Most interesting for Frank was the Miami-Erie Canal, which, at Lock Two, cut across their trail like a giant furrow. If they got to the canal at a lucky time, they'd jump on the swing bridge and get a free ride as it swerved open to let the boats through. One time, one of Frank's young friends tried to leap off the bridge before it completely closed. He jumped and missed, and before he could pull himself up, the bridge swung shut and smashed his legs.

It was at this junction that they would marvel at the principle of the water wheel, watch huge logs being sliced like bread to make barns and houses, wander through the mill and marvel at the amazing machinery that made grain into flour, chat with the mule drivers and canal boat people about the ponderous, heavily-laden vessels and hear about the faraway world outside and about the glories of distant cities like Toledo and Cincinnati. It all seemed so unreal that these people had traveled that far away.

The canal itself was interesting and rich in history. It had been dug by hand with spade & shovel, wheelbarrow, and hand-scoops hitched to horses. It wound like a creeping serpent for over 100 miles through the rolling, picturesque forests and fields of western Ohio. It connected Lake Erie at Toledo with the Ohio River at Cincinnati. There were numerous locks both north & south of the natural watershed a mile south of New Bremen.

In the early days, needing an income after building their log cabin and clearing a little land, "OPOP" got a job

digging on the canal for \$1.00 a day. He walked to work in the early morning hours through the wilderness, from the farm to the canal diggings. After a day's work, "OMOM" would stand outside their cabin in the gathering darkness and blow a horn to guide him back home to the farm. "OPOP" helped dig the canal as far south as Piqua, some 25 miles from the farm.

The canal boats were flat, squatty, long thin barge-like vessels, riding low in the water. A lazy flop-eared mule would plod along the towpath ahead of the boat, with a long rope connecting the mule to the boat. In this manner, the vessel nudged turtle-speed down the canal. On the rear (bridge) of the boat hovered a large weather-beaten umbrella underneath which, on a keg or chair, slouched the captain who would steer the craft by means of a giant, wooden-handled rudder. Sheltered from the sun and other less pleasing elements, he would spit slugs of black tobacco juice at the frogs and curse the damned-lazy mules.

New Bremen, where the Sunderman clan went to church, was about 1½ miles southwest of the farm. It was one of the largest pork centers on the canal and home to some 900 people. All winter, farmers from miles around would bring in butchered hogs and sell them to the pork warehouses. In the warehouses, the meat was weighed, cut up, salted, and hung on grappling hooks in the dungeon-like cellars. Towards spring, the meat was loaded on canal boats, and when the ice broke up, it was shipped to Cincinnati or Toledo. The returning boats would bring back stone, brick, freight, and merchandise for the stores. Along the way, canal folks who made baskets, chairs, and other cottage industry products, would sell their creations to the captain. When the boat docked in New Bremen, these items would be sold to the townspeople and the farmers.

In trading centers like New Bremen, the boats would be lined up and down both sides of the canal in the winter and would "freeze in." In the south end of New Bremen, a miniature lake ("Rabe's Pond") was dug for the purpose of turning the boats around, and to store them over winter.

Activities on the Farm

In the early spring of Frank's 8th year in school, when the crops needed planting and there was work to be done on the farm, it took very little coaxing for Frank to quit school and stay home to work. He was practical and wanted to work with his hands and to build things. He liked the planting and harvesting of farming.

As he walked home from school for the last time, he was excited about his future activities now that he had finished with school. There were crows and hawks to shoot, 'coons and skunks to trap, engines and windmills to build. The future looked bright. He entertained no great earthly goals except to make a living doing what he wanted to do - and doing it in his own way. He would work hard - his father had taught him that "by the sweat of the brow, the bread would be earned."

In his leisure time, Frank would contrive new mechanisms, invent things, improve on all kinds of gadgets around the farm. His imagination ran wild. The future seemed one of promise, and Frank was satisfied - at least for a while.....

There was a definite work plan on the farm. Early in the morning would be the chores, then into the fields and work until noon. From noon until 2:00 p.m. would be a rest period during which Frank's father (*Henry Sunderman*) would sleep. At 2:00, they would again go into the fields and work until 5:00. Then there would be the chores again, and the rest of the day was free. There never was a deviation from this plan - a dawn to dusk operation. This routine was followed 6 days a week, but Sunday was truly a day of rest, worship, visitation and nothing else except the routine chores of feeding the animals, milking the cows, and hunting the eggs.

Between noon and 2:00 p.m., while their father took a nap, Frank and his brothers were busy. They would make devices and hitch them to the grindstone by rope belts, they would build windmills and nail them to the highest peaks of the barn. Once they made a small sawmill patterned after the one at Lock Two. It cut cornstalks and small twigs.

Frank was the oldest of five boys so he took over the foremanship of all constructions. If he wasn't building with his hands, he'd hunt woodpeckers, "spotsies" (sparrows), pigeons, or rats around the premises. His rifle was his great treasure and he had a 25 calibre Winchester, which he kept in prime condition. He wasn't particular about what he shot. He'd put a bullet through anything from a hawk to the lightning rods on the barn (for which he was severely reprimanded.) The most fun for the boys would be to roam through the woods and shoot crows out of the nest. They always had 2 dogs, a "Prince" and a "Penny" and both were eager to get in on the kill of the falling crows.

Another sport was hawk shooting. They'd throw a dead chicken into the field, and then, hiding behind a clump of bushes, they would wait with their rifles for a hawk to circle overhead and dive for the chicken. It was "easy shootin", Frank recalled. There were also skunks, which when skinned, would bring a quarter and 'possums, 'coons, groundhogs, and if lucky, a fox.

The Sunderman barnyard always featured a cage of pet fox squirrels. The boys would catch the sly little creatures by cutting down hollow trees in February when the young were about to leave the nests. These little pets would become tame enough to hand-feed.

Winter on the Farm

During the winter months, when snow covered the fields, the daily work schedule went on - cutting wood and clearing more land. One winter, they cut 42 cords of wood by hand - mostly hickory, oak, beech, locust and elm. They'd haul the wood to New Bremen on a huge sled pulled by horses and sell it to the town people for a winter income.

The Sundermans always had 4 horses. Frank remembered 2 in particular - "Dolly" & "Maud." Whenever the surrey was hitched up to go to town, Maud, the faithful and intelligent one, would get the job. In the evening, Maud would be so anxious to get home to eat that she would run all the way back to the farm, turning at the right crossroad without the least suggestion from the driver.

At times in winter, when drifting snow would close the lane and the roads, they'd take down the rail fences and trail across fields and through woods to get into town. One winter the snow drifted 12 feet deep and developed a crust on the surface hard enough for the horses to walk on. A tunnel was made from the house to the barn in order to feed the animals. That winter, a record 50 zero mornings were chalked up.

Frank worked for no salary - only his room and board. Occasionally he was given a quarter or 50¢ when the fair or a medicine show would come around. He had one suit which was worn to church on Sundays and on special occasions like funerals. Overalls sufficed for the rest of the time. They could be washed and patched until threadbare and the blue turned white - then a new pair would be purchased that would be 5 inches longer than the legs to allow for shrinkage.

Entertainment

On Saturday nights, Frank would go to a barn dance and on Sundays, to church. Occasionally he would go to town and buy supplies. Every year, the tri-county fair would come and occasionally throughout the year, medicine shows would roll into town.

Saturday night was always barn dance night somewhere in the neighborhood. Different families took turns playing host. The barn floor would be swept clean, and piles of hay (*no bales then*) would be tossed down from the mow for "benches."

The orchestra, usually consisting of a violin ("*fiddle*"), guitar and occasionally a bass fiddle, played waltzes, two-steps, polkas, and mazurkas. "Chicken Reel", "Turkey in the Straw", and a variety of un-named square dance tunes made up the early stages of country music as we know it today. The square dance caller stood on a box in front of the orchestra and sang out at the top of his voice. Big drops of sweat ran down his cheeks as he called round after round while the happy couples would swing, circle, walk, and dip. With the change of partners, everyone would shout, laugh and clap their hands until the walls of the barn would ring.

Saturday night was date night. Many of the boys brought their "girls" - others would come "stag" and take a girl home. (Any lad lucky enough to have a buggy with rubber tires could easily get a girl.) The girls, if they didn't have a date, would get all dressed up and come by themselves, hoping to find an escort at the dance. Some of the fellows would come to the dance dressed in overalls, others in checkered suits with stiff, white celluloid collars, hand-me-down shirts, and exquisitely-tied neckpieces. The girls, with their long dresses and

their black, lace-up shoes (which you could see went halfway up to their knees when they twirled) provided a gay, carefree colorful scene.

The barn was lit by lanterns, making a colorful, eerie spectacle. It was not unusual for a couple to "sit out" a dance, retire to the top of the haymow, or stroll outside the barn. Occasionally some "hanky-panky" went on up in the mow or in the darkness of the woods beyond the barn.

Much of the fun was simple. Many times an innocent sheep in the recesses of the barn would nonchalantly utter a rousing "baa", a sleepless cow would "moo", or a disturbed horse would come out with a laughing "neigh." Or.... perhaps an over-eager couple up in the haymow would come sliding down and hit the floor with a thud!

The dance would break up about midnight. One by one, the buggies, pulled by horses which knew the way home, slowly meandered off in different directions, and perhaps if it were bright moonlight, you could see two heads close together in one corner of the carriage and the reins dragging along the ground.

Only on special occasions did Frank Sunderman get to use the family buggy. He always had a bicycle, and if he did any courting, it was on the handlebars, which severely cramped his style. He seldom took a girl home "unless she was just going my way." At times when the barn dance broke up, it would be raining. The lucky people with tops on their buggies had no problems, but Frank and his bicycle were left at the mercy of the weather, so he would sleep in the barn overnight and peddle home on Sunday morning in broad daylight.

Election time provided another social and entertainment highlight in the early days on the farm. At election time, the Democrats erected at the busiest crossroads the tallest hickory pole they could find. At the top of the pole they would nail a picture of their candidate. Then throughout the area they would advertise that at a certain time on a certain Saturday night, political speeches would be given "at the pole."

Come Saturday night, people from around the countryside would flock to hear the oratory. Whoever felt moved to speak in behalf of the Democratic candidate would step up on a soapbox placed at the foot of the pole and sound off. In the light of a blazing bonfire, the crowd would cheer and boo when they felt like it. Heckling the speaker was the order of the evening. It was all done in serious foolishness and everyone had an enjoyable time.

The Tri-County Fair

Early September brought the fair to the crossroads ½ mile south of the Sunderman farm (at the southwest corner of St. Rt. 274 & Kettler Rd. east of N.B.). The place is still known as "the fairground farm." Fair days were Tuesdays through Fridays. The Sunderman boys, out in the fields early in the morning, could hear the tinkling music come floating in their direction. Work then was impossible - they had to go to the fair.

Along with a merry-go-round, the fair usually had a side show called "Jesse James." "Jesse" was a wax dummy, lying in a casket, and constructed with a mechanism so his chest would move up and down as though he were breathing. There were also other attractions and sideshows - plenty of things to see, to do, and to entertain. The main feature was horse-racing, usually bareback.

The fair also featured an art hall of home baked delicacies and hand-knitted items, a fruit hall displaying prize fruits, vegetables and grain, and a livestock barn.

Everybody came from all around in their show-off garb in polished buggies pulled by knit-tailed horses. It was another time to get together, see the crops and the livestock, talk about the weather, the plans for the days ahead, the problems of the past. The fair was one of the main social highlights of the area and provided supper-time conversation for a long time after it was over.

For four years after he quit the 8th grade, Frank Sunderman worked at home enjoying the good life of a farmer. Those four years were a golden age in his life - the barn dances, the fairs, the canal boat operations, planting and harvesting, hunting and trapping. He loved the simple life, close to the earth, and the people that he wanted to be with. It was a rich, rewarding world for him. Time is lost in years and so is youth. After it is all gone, there are only memories..... (James F. Sunderman - 1940)

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Biographical Sketches of The Henry & Louise (Keuthan) Sunderman Family by Naomi (Grothaus) Sunderman - 1979

Lillian Marie (Sunderman) Dickman

"Lillie", born 3/22/1881, was the oldest of the Henry & Louise (Keuthan) Sunderman family. She attended the Lock Two 1-room school until she finished the 5th grade, when her parents decided she was needed to help the family at home on the farm.

At the age of 20, on 6/12/1901, she married Rev. Herbert A. Dickman, also a New Bremen native. Rev. Dickman served as pastor in Pomeroy, Ohio for the first year of their marriage, and in 1902 he was called to Cincinnati. In 1903, they went to a church in Hamilton, Ohio. After a few years, the church split and Rev. Dickman founded a new church in Bethel, Ohio where they remained until his retirement in 1948.

After retirement, they moved to New Bremen to make their home with Lillie's widowed mother until her death in 1956, when they moved to Warsaw, Indiana. While in New Bremen, Rev. Dickman served Christ Church (later Faith Alliance Church) across the street. Rev. Dickman died in Warsaw on 12/14/1958 at the age of 80 & Lillie returned to live in New Bremen until 1968, when she moved to Florida to be near her youngest daughter, Alberta. (Lillie died in Sept., 1981 at the age of 100.)

The Dickmans were the parents of 2 sons, Reuben & Alvin, and 2 daughters, Edna Crede and Alberta Irely.

Frank Henry Sunderman

Frank Sunderman, born 3/8/1883, and the oldest of 5 sons of Henry & Louise (Keuthan) Sunderman, did not graduate from New Bremen High School. He attended Valparaiso University at Valparaiso, Indiana, but did not graduate from there either. After leaving school, he worked in Cincinnati for a while and then went west to seek his fortune. After spending time at various jobs and locations, he joined his 2nd cousin, William Hy. Heitkamp, on a ranch (Wm. Heitman's?) near Roswell, New Mexico.

About 1910, Frank returned to New Bremen where he met Bertha Thiesing, a piano teacher. They married on 12/5/1912 and had 3 children - Rachel (died in infancy), Dorothy (Mrs. Fred Luedeke), and James Sunderman.

After Frank & Bertha married, Frank built the home at 203 South Walnut St. and later exchanged residences with his parents, moving to the home farm for 4 years. When the farm was sold (to Harry Nieter), Frank and his family moved back to New Bremen, this time to 117 S. Washington St. where he was self-employed as a floor sander. Frank died 9/26/1971 and Bertha died 3/11/1949.

Walter Frederick Sunderman

Walter Sunderman, born 12/31/1886, graduated from N.B.H.S. in 1906 and from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 1910, receiving an A.B. degree in landscape architecture. He was employed first in Chicago, then Cleveland, and then in Arlington, Virginia, where he helped to lay out Plymouth Cemetery. For a time, he was employed by the U.S. Government in the Washington, D.C. park service. He later opened an office in Arlington as a civil engineer.

On 8/19/1914, Walter married Clara Neuman, his high school sweetheart. They had 3 daughters - Eloise Merrick, Carol Howell, and Shirley Kostik. Walter died 12/1/1962 and Clara died 8/10/1968. They were both buried in Plymouth Gardens in Arlington, Virginia - the cemetery he helped landscape.

Edwin Frederick Sunderman

Edwin Sunderman, born 6/28/1890, graduated from N.B.H.S. in 1910 and entered the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in the fall. After his 2nd year, he went west and worked during the summer for a camping company in Yellowstone National Park. In the late summer, he went to Bozeman, Montana, to work in the wheat fields, helping with the harvest. He then spent the winter in Seattle, Washington, working for the Demurrage Bureau of the various railroads entering Seattle. In the spring, he returned to New Bremen to help on the farm.

In the fall of 1913, Edwin returned to the University of Michigan and graduated with an A.B. degree in 1915. He went to work in Chicago, then Detroit. He served in the U.S. Army in W.W.I and was in officers' training when the war ended.

On 6/18/1918, Edwin married Naomi Grothaus, a New Bremen native and a graduate of Florida State College for Women at Tallahassee. They had 2 daughters - Louise LaFrancis and Ruth Ellerthorpe.

After W.W.I, Edwin went back to his previous job at Detroit, then back to Chicago. In May, 1941, he was sent to Washington, D.C. to work for the U.S. Government in the War Production Board during W.W.II. In 1954, he and Naomi moved to Norfolk, Virginia and he became Vice President and General Manager of Metal Distributing Co. In 1958, Edwin & Naomi retired in Eustis, Florida.

(Edwin died March 13, 1983 & Naomi died in November, 1987.)

Ferdinand Sunderman

Ferd Sunderman, born 3/23/1893, like his brother Frank, quit school to stay home and help on the farm. After a few years, he decided to become a missionary and entered the Christian Missionary School at Nyack, New York. He later transferred to the North Bergen, New Jersey Bible School from which he graduated. At the Findlay, Ohio Bible School, he met and married Esther Miller on 9/22/1921.

In 1924, Ferd & Esther and their son, Paul, left for India where they stayed for 3 years during which time a son, Kenneth, was born. The climate in India was not agreeable and the Sundermans returned to Findlay where Ferd found work as a painter and paper hanger.

Ferd & Esther had 5 children - Paul, Kenneth, David (died in infancy), Marjorie Ruth Fox, and Carol Ann. *(Ferd died 6/2/1990.)*

Bertha W. (Sunderman) Koenig

Bertha Sunderman, born 9/21/1895, graduated from N.B.H.S. in 1915. On 6/2/1915, she married Emil J. Koenig. They lived in Fort Wayne, Indiana while Emil spent a year in college to become a teacher, later teaching at both the Huenke School and the Lock Two School. They returned to the Sunderman farm, moving in with Bertha's parents in the new house they had built. In 1946, Emil bought the original 80 acre farm back from Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Burd (where Paul & Janet Koenig live now.)

The Koenigs had 5 children - Everett, David (killed in W.W.II), Paul, Joanne Katterheinrich, & Daryl (who lives on the south part of the Sunderman farm, now 75 acres.)

Emil Koenig died 1/20/1962, and after Daryl married, Bertha moved to 212 S. Main St. in town. *(She died in January, 1984.)*

Richard Benjamin Sunderman

Richard Sunderman, born 12/23/1900, graduated from N.B.H.S. in 1919, and from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, receiving his B.S. degree in chemistry in 1923. In 1951, he received his M.A. degree in education at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio. Most of his life was spent in education as a teacher or administrator. From 1945-1950, he was Superintendent of the Fort Wayne, Indiana Children's Home.

On 9/2/1924, Richard married Carolyn Neuman of New Bremen. They were the parents of Duane Sunderman and adopted daughter, Elizabeth Jean Dillon.

In 1970, Richard retired as guidance counselor in the Ada, Ohio public schools. *(Carolyn died in October, 1981 & Richard died in April, 1982.)*



(photo provided by Marilee Sunderman Besanceney)

The Henry W. & Lisette (Schulhoff) Sunderman Family →

BACK: William H. (1877-1929), Gustave J. (born 1871),
Emma W. (1885-1905), Edward J. (born 1882),
Catherine M. (Sunderman) Trautman (born 1873)
FRONT: William H. Sunderman (1840-1910), Leo F. (1893-1958),
Katherine Lisette (Schulhoff) Sunderman (1847-1916)

WILHELM HEINRICH SUNDERMANN

V. (1) Wilhelm Heinrich Sundermann (1801-1867) was not included in the "Historical & Genealogical Record" compiled by Edwin & Naomi (Grothaus) Sunderman in 1979, nor was he included in the list of "Sundermann emigrants" provided in a 3/14/1965 letter to them from Wilhelm Sundermann of Ladbergen, Germany - a grandson of Herman Heinrich Sundermann, who had stayed in Germany on the Sundermann farm. However, Eberhard Sundermann's 1996 book, "Hof und Familie Sundermann", has a copy of a letter written 3/5/1899 by Heinrich Wilhelm Sundermann of N.B. to his uncle, Herman Heinrich Sundermann, who lived on the Sundermann "Hof" in Germany, in which he tells Hermann Heinrich about Wilhelm Heinrich's children (listed below.)

Wilhelm Heinrich Sundermann married Anna Elisabeth Tostrick on 9/26/1838 after both had immigrated earlier in the year. They had 8 children: VI. (1) Heinrich Wilhelm (1/28/1840-4/6/1910), who married Lisette Schulhoff, (2) Heinrich Wilhelm (10/3/1841-3/11/1850), who died of typhoid fever, (3) Hermann Friedrich Ludwig (1/26/1844-4/15/1891), (4) Ernst Friedrich (7/2/1846-7/29/1907), who married Maria Meckstroth and was a blacksmith at New Knoxville from 1867-1907, (5) Sophia LOUISE (7/26/1849-10/18/1923), who married Fred Schwetter, then Henry Kelling, (6) Maria WILHELMINE (9/9/1851-1/10/1917), (7) August Herman (5/18/1853-10/26/1905), and (8) Sophia Maria (10/8/1855-4/1/1932). The family owned & lived on a 40-acre farm in Section 13 of German Twp. (now 5396 S. Kettler Rd.)

←VI. (1) Heinrich Wilhelm Sundermann married Katherine LISETTE Schulhoff on 9/27/1870 & had 10 children, 6 of whom lived to adulthood: (1) Johann GUSTAV (born 8/2/1871), who lived in Wenatchee, Washington, (2) Marie CATHERINE (born 1/3/1873), who married Philip Trautman and lived in Dayton, (4) Heinrich WILHELM (5/17/1877-6/23/1929), who lived in Dayton, (6) Johann EDWARD (born 4/6/1882), who lived in Grand Rapids, Michigan, (7) Wilhelmine EMMA (2/23/1885-4/11/1905), who lived in Dayton and died of typhoid fever, and (10) Leo Friedrich (2/22/1893-1/24/1958), who married Mae Miller.

Heinrich Wilhelm (aka W.H.) Sundermann was a dealer in lime, coal, plaster, and cement. He operated a lime-burning kiln on the wedge of land later donated by the Grothaus family for N.B.'s first municipal swimming pool, converting limestone from the Piqua quarries into commercial lime. He also served on the N.B. Village Council in 1879. His obituary stated that he was the owner of power threshing machinery, also that he had been the janitor of the Central School for many years.

Leo F. Sunderman

Leo Frederick Sunderman graduated from N.B.H.S. in 1911 and attended linotype school in New York City. He was employed for many years at the Sun Printing Co. (see "The Towpath" - January, 1999 for picture). In 1944, the family moved to Piqua, Ohio where he worked as a compositor at Magee Brothers Company. Leo was a W.W.I veteran and was a past commander of New Bremen's American Legion Post 241.

Leo married Mae Miller, daughter of Christian & Adeline (Garver) Miller/Moeller. Leo and Mae had one daughter, Marilee, who would have graduated with the N.B.H.S. Class of 1945 had the family not moved to Piqua. She was married to John W. Besanceney and has 5 sons and 2 daughters. Marilee lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and provided the above picture of the Henry W. & Lisette (Schulhoff) Sunderman family.



**Henry & Lisette Sunderman home (2/1902-11/1909)
at 224-226 West Monroe St. (house with tin roof)**

LEO F. SUNDERMAN Appointed Cooperative Weather Observer for New Bremen

Leo F. Sunderman has received official notice from the U.S. Dept. of Commerce of his appointment as Cooperative Weather Observer for the New Bremen district of the Climatological Service of the Weather Bureau, succeeding to a position that has been vacant since February, 1937, when Miss Lillian Grothaus resigned the office after continued service of over 37 years.

Over the past 55 years, there have been 4 observers for New Bremen: *C.W. Williamson (1885-1888), Herman Mohrman (1893-1894), Edmund Grothaus (1895-1899), & his sister, Lillian Grothaus (1899-1937). [*C.W. Williamson was the superintendent of N.B. schools from 1884-1887. In 1905, he published the "History of Western Ohio & Auglaize County."]

Weather Bureau reports were formerly received and compiled by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, but were recently transferred to the Dept. of Commerce. In 1936, there were nearly 5,000 cooperative observers of the Weather Bureau scattered from coast to coast.

Though he hopes to continue on the job for some time, Mr. Sunderman says he has some doubt as to whether his longevity will extend over a period of 37 years. (N.B. Sun - 7/11/1940)

HERMAN MOHRMAN has been appointed agent for the State Weather Bureau for this section. It is his business to note the effect of rain, wind, hail, storms, etc. on the crops. Mr. Mohrman takes great interest in this line of work. He is a close and careful observer of the conditions of crops and we can congratulate the Weather Bureau on their appointment. (N.B. Sun - 4/8/1893)

HOUSEWARMING

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Nieter, who last week took possession of the former Henry Sunderman farm east of here (see pgs. 5 & 10), were pleasantly surprised Saturday evening when neighbors arrived at their home to accord them a pleasant welcome to their midst. Several happy hours were spent in social chat while the ladies prepared a fine luncheon.

Those present included Mr. & Mrs.: Henry Sunderman, William Heitkamp, Cornelius Heinfeld, Henry Schowe, George Luedeke, Emil J. Koenig, & William Tostrick, and Mrs. Ed Heinfeld, Mrs. Ben Pohlman, & Reinhard Heinfeld. (N.B. Sun - 3/5/1920)

McKAY HUNTS CROWS

New Bremen Sun - 2/1/1945

Howard D. McKay, owner and operator of the McKay Wool Spinning Mill, located in the former Lanfersieck and Grothaus Plow Shop, was featured in the Sports columns of the *Dayton Journal Herald* in its January 28, 1945 issue. Mr. McKay was a hunter of game and wild birds of all kinds. Here is McKay's story as printed in the *Journal Herald* under the heading of

Crow Hunt Produces Oddity.

It happened in the fall of 1939. I drove to St. Marys Lake to try my luck at duck shooting. After spending several hours in the blind and not seeing a duck, or even a mud hen, I decided to go where I would get plenty of shooting - no, not at ducks, but crows.

I happened to know of a crow rookery about 7 miles north of Celina on Route 127, and 2 miles west. Driving to that point, I discovered the crows were not flying in as yet, it being only about 4:00 in the afternoon, so I started driving north to locate their flyway.

About 3 miles north of the rookery I noticed a thicket of saplings of probably 2 acres where the crows were gathering. More were coming in from the northeast, so I decided here was where I would eradicate some crows. The thicket was about 30 rods from the road and an ideal shooting place.

On entering the thicket, the crowd left for a nearby woods, and I made no effort to call them or excite them in any way. Looking over the thicket, I selected a small opening, circled by scrub saplings, which would hide me from crows coming in from the northeast. Depositing my 2 boxes of shells on the ground at my side, I got out my crow call and knelt down on my right knee.

When I was satisfied that my position was okay, I gave a call and was answered at once from the crows in the nearby woods. About 30 started my way and I was ready for them. Six dead crows were accounted for before they retired back to the woods, and the noise and commotion they had made caused other crows to come in from the flyway. Soon my gun was getting plenty hot.

They retired again and I decided to pick up the dead crows - about a dozen by this time. I picked them up and, making my way to the edge of the thicket, I scattered them about in the open field. Soon another bunch came in and when they saw those on the ground, they really got mad. Diving and circling over the decoys, they made so much noise it was deafening. In my hidden place, which was now on the outer circle of the maelstrom, I

could pick off the more cautious ones or, should I say, the ones in more level flight.

Finally this bunch left and I picked up the dead ones and threw them into the open field. After an intermission of 10-15 minutes, another bunch came in on the flyway, and I started pumping lead again. By this time, my shells were getting low. Finally I was out of ammunition, and I proceeded to pick up the dead ones.

Walking toward the decoys, I noticed a wounded bird hopping around on the ground, but this looked like no crow because it was brownish-red. I didn't know what to think, and when I did run it down and picked it up, lo and behold, it was a crow. Yes, a brownish-red - not a black feather on it, with brown legs and bill. One wing was broken so I carefully placed the crow in the car and went back to count the others I had killed.

Thirty-five was the count, and I left them there as evidence for the farmer, who I knew would appreciate my shooting them.

My friend, the late Dr. Carl Ekermeyer of New Bremen, was kind enough to bandage the damaged wing expertly, and the crow recovered completely. This crow lived for about 6 months, and when I attended the National Crow Hunters meeting at Kenton, he was on display there alive, and was given recognition in Bob Ripley's "Believe It or Not."

by Howard McKay

BLACK CROW HUNTERS

Howard McKay was one of a trio of crow hunters Saturday who succeeded in bagging 100 of the black birds in woods in the neighborhood of N.B. & St. Marys. The other 2 men were Elton Thompson & C.C. Swonger of St. Marys. McKay is given the credit of knowing how to call the crows which were brought down by means of shotguns. At this rate of destruction, it ought not to take long until the raucous caw, caw, caw of the corn-stealer will no longer be heard in woods and fields. (N.B. Sun - 7/18/1940)

FIRST PICNIC AT NEW POOL

For the first time since the opening of the municipal swimming pool, the picnic ground to the rear of the pool was utilized as a gathering place for a social function Tuesday evening when the N.B. Woman's Club had its annual picnic. Entire families gathered for the 6:00 p.m. pot-luck supper and the evening was devoted to games, contests and general social enjoyment. There was a large attendance and, in view of the favorable weather, festivities continued until late in the evening.

(N.B. Sun - 7/18/1940)

SWIMMING POOL UPDATE

On page 2 of the July, 2001 issue of *The Towpath* were two pictures which had been dated "1940." It was brought to our attention by museum visitors Mary Ellen (Taylor) Belton/Patton, Catherine (Schroeder) Graf, and Dorothy (Kommink) Johnson that these pictures were actually taken in 1942. Since then I have found these

New Bremen Sun articles:

SWIMMING POOL LIFEGUARDS, ETC.

5/30/1940: OPENING DAY / DEDICATION of N.B. pool

1st POOL SUPERINTENDENT: William Richcreek

1st LIFEGUARDS: Don Fledderjohn, James Sunderman

1st WOMAN ATTENDANT: Betty Behm

N.B. Sun - 5/29/1941: Postmaster Herman J. ("Bud") Laut, president of the Municipal Park Commission, has announced that William Richcreek (N.B.H.S. industrial arts teacher) will again be in charge of the municipal pool, with Don Fledderjohn and Peter Rabe as lifeguards. Betty Behm and Catherine Schroeder will look after the checkrooms. John C. McKenna has been getting the park, shrubbery and grass in shape. [J.C. McKenna died 9/6/1941.]

N.B. Sun - 6/12/1941: The West Auglaize Chapter of the American Red Cross has secured the services of William Richcreek and Peter Rabe, both of whom are certified Red Cross water safety instructors, and is offering free instructions in beginner's swimming at the municipal swimming pool at New Bremen. Mr. Richcreek graduated from the Red Cross course at Chautauqua, New York, and Mr. Rabe has just completed the course at Ohio State University. Last year (the first year the pool was open), 233 students of high school age completed the 8-week course offered by the Chapter.

N.B. Sun - 5/28/1942: The New Bremen municipal swimming pool this year will be managed by Don Fledderjohn until his induction into military service, and after that by Myrl Smith, principal of the New Bremen grade school. Lifeguards will be "Junior" (John) Melchert and "Junior" (Fred) Schroer. Marian Frey and Bernadine Luedeke have been designated as assistants to the manager. (pictured in July, 2001 issue of "The Towpath".)

N.B. Sun - 6/2/1942: The Red Cross swimming and life-saving course is again being offered at the New Bremen pool. Mary Ellen Taylor, who last fall completed a Red Cross instructors course, will be in charge. All service men, on furlough or otherwise, will have free admission to the pool. The wearing of their uniform will be considered their badge of admission without charge.

N.B. Sun - 6/3/1943: M(yrl) E. Smith has again assumed the management of the pool, assisted by Mary Ellen Taylor & Craig Ekermeyer as lifeguards, and Marilee Sunderman & Pauline Moeller as attendants. Swimming classes are again being conducted by Mary Ellen Taylor. The Woodmen Lodge is in charge of ticket sales.

N.B. Sun - 5/25/1944: Because many folks have never been inside the bath house of the municipal swimming pool, manager M(yrl) E. Smith announces that

the general public will be offered a free opportunity to inspect the entire premises on Saturday afternoon, 5/27/1944, the day before this year's official opening. This will offer an excellent opportunity to get an informative view of N.B.'s summer showplace which is a monument to the public spirit and civic pride of the citizenship.

Mrs. Mary Ellen (Taylor) Belton and Louise Schroeder have been procured as lifeguards. Pauline Moeller and Betty Schnelle will have charge of the checkroom, and Dale Braun will be general assistant.

N.B. Sun - 5/17/1945: Lester H. Blanke has consented to assume the management of the pool, succeeding M(yrl) E. Smith, who has accepted other employment for the summer. Lifeguards will be Pauline Moeller and Paul Melchert, checkroom attendants will be Mary Dicke and "Patsy" Buckloh. The N.B. Women's Club will be in charge of ticket sales, as they were last year.

N.B. Sun - 6/14/1945: Mrs. Michael Rabe and Pauline Moeller began a special course at Camp Y-Noah near Akron, fitting them to take over classes at the local pool in life-saving, first aid, swimming & diving and the like. All interested in taking classes starting June 26th, should contact Mr. Blanke or see Mrs. Rabe or Miss Moeller.

N.B. Sun - 5/23/1946: The following personnel will have charge of the pool this summer: Lester H. Blanke, manager; John Melchert, Jr. & Pauline Moeller, guards; Mary Dorothy ("Patsy") Buckloh & Nancy Lou Erhardt, checkroom. The N.B. Women's Club is again in charge of ticket sales. Last year, the pool was visited by 18,581 persons between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

N.B. Sun - 5/28/1947: Manager for the New Bremen pool for 1947 is John Cindric, high school commercial teacher. Pauline Moeller, Betty Schnelle, Paul Poppe, and Edith Blanke will serve as guards and attendants. The N.B. Women's Club is again in charge of ticket sales.

N.B. Sun - 6/3/1948: The manager of the New Bremen pool, John Cindric, will be paid \$50 per week, an increase from the \$45 paid last year. The Park Commission is empowered to engage a pool manager at \$50, and 6 employees at \$25 per week. Auxiliary employees will be paid 50¢-60¢ per hour.

N.B. Sun - 6/24/1948: Susan Schulenberg and Anita Schelper are now attending the Red Cross National Aquatic School at Camp Limberlost at LaGrange, Indiana, in order to be certified and authorized to conduct American Red Cross water safety classes.

N.B. Sun - 6/6/1949: John Cindric will again be managing the New Bremen pool, with Susan Schulenberg and Anita Schelper again serving as lifeguards, as they did last year. Playground instructors and checkroom help are Paul Poppe, Nancy Erhardt, and Walter Lee Kuhlhorst. Blacktop paving bricks have been replaced around the outer edge of the concrete walk which surrounds the pool, and a fence has been built around the wading pool in order that the tiny tots may have less interference from older swimmers.

N.B. Sun - 5/25/1950: John Cindric has again been appointed to manage the New Bremen swimming pool. Susan Schulenberg, Walter Lee Kuhlhorst, Ralph Casebolt, and Molly Lou Kellermeyer have been named as lifeguards. All are holders of Red Cross Senior life-saving certificates. Miss Schulenberg and Miss Kellermeyer will serve as Red Cross instructors in the water safety program. Miss Kellermeyer will take a 10-day instruction course at Camp Limberlost.

N.B. Sun - 5/24/1951: Cade Schulenberg, chairman of the Park Commission, has announced that John Cindric, high school instructor, has again been named manager of the New Bremen pool. He will be given a 6-week leave of absence, however, to complete special studies for next year's school work. His assistants will be Anita Schelper and Molly Lou Kellermeyer. Season tickets may be purchased at Schulenberg's store until opening day - Memorial Day.

N.B. Sun - 6/7/1951: Instructors for swimming, life-saving, and water safety this year at the N.B. pool will be Anita Schelper, Molly Lou Kellermeyer, and Vesta Fritz.

N.B. Sun - 6/19/1952: Pool managers this summer at the New Bremen pool are John Cindric & John Dickman. Instructors and guards will be Molly Lou Kellermeyer, Barbara Harmony, and Marilyn Wilke of Maria Stein.

N.B. Sun - 7/3/1952: According to John Dickman, manager of the New Bremen pool, all attendance records are being broken in a big way due mostly to the fact that this was the warmest June since the pool was built 12 years ago. The total for June was 10,630. Largest daily attendance was 821 last Sunday, June 29th. This topped the previous high of 710 set on July 11, 1948.

The pool is operated by the Park Commission headed by Cade Schulenberg, chairman. Other commission members are Lester Blanke, Paul Gilberg, Clifford Harris, and Erney Koeper. John Dickman replaced John Cindric as manager, Cindric having reported for summer work at the University of Indiana.

N.B. Sun - 5/28/1953: Ralph Casebolt, student at Heidelberg, will manage the N.B. pool for the 1953 season. Lifeguards and instructors are Barbara Harmony, Andreas Rabe, Delores Schroer, and Donna Smith of St. Marys. The pool had its best season last year when total attendance reached 23,000 and total receipts reached \$9,461.69. In 1951, receipts were \$7,260.70.

N.B. Sun - 5/20/1954: Walter Maich has been named manager of N.B.'s municipal swimming pool for the 1954 season by Park Commission members Cade Schulenberg (chairman), Lester Blanke, Paul Gilberg, Clifford Harris and Leander Landwehr. Pool attendants will be Barbara Harmony and Joyce Laut (Red Cross water safety instructors) and Janet Wilke of Maria Stein (guard).

N.B. Sun - 5/26/1955: Walter Maich will again manage the municipal pool, per the Park Commission. He will be aided by Janet Wilke of Maria Stein, who will have charge of the Red Cross safety program, and assistant instructors Cecelia Harris, Elden Smith, and Janet Fledderjohn.

N.B. Sun - 5/24/1956: Manager for the New Bremen pool this year is Carl Watkins, N.B.H.S. teacher. Pool guards and safety instructors are Cecelia Harris, Elden Smith, Janet Wilke of Maria Stein, & Philip Skapura of New Knoxville. A sizeable addition has been made to the sun deck, a new public address system has been added which will provide music during swimming hours, and a new floodlight system has been installed.

N.B. Sun - 6/20/1957: Carl A. Watkins is again serving as manager of New Bremen's municipal swimming pool. Instructors will be Cecelia Harris (chief guard), Elden Smith, Jim Kettler and Bette Harris.

N.B. Sun - 5/29/1958: Manager of the N.B. pool for 1958 will again be Carl Watkins. Lifeguards will be Elden Smith, Pat Gels, Larry Landwehr and Robert Wilson.

N.B. Sun - 6/12/1958: Water safety instructions will again be conducted under the direction of Elden Smith, water safety instructor. Water safety aides are Pat Gels, Larry Landwehr, Robert Wilson and Judy Gast. The pool is planning to organize a club for competitive swimming.

N.B. Sun - 5/20/1959: The New Bremen Recreation Board announces that the manager of the New Bremen pool for this season is Carl Watkins, with Cecelia ("Sis") Harris as chief guard. Other guards are Elden Smith, Pat Gels, Larry Landwehr, and Judy Gast as auxiliary guard. Pat Gels will attend Camp Limberlost in June under the auspices of the Red Cross in order that she may teach both Senior and Junior water safety.

The park board has made improvements at the swimming pool, and the tennis and shuffleboard courts will be open to the public under the supervision of Carl Watkins, pool manager.

POOLSIDE SPASHES
From the New Bremen Swimming Pool
by Cecelia ("Sis") Harris

Well, hello, guys and gals! We're ready and waiting for your arrival. Last year we offered a course in diving which met with some success. If enough of you are interested, we will offer it again. And to try something new, we would like to offer a course in synchronized swimming. If you are interested, talk to one of the lifeguards about it. We have some nifty guards at the pool - perhaps a few of you think they are too "whistle happy", but they are there for **your** safety. Come on, join the crowd and "get in the swim of things."
(N.B. Sun - 6/17/1959)

N.B. Sun - 5/19/1960: Carl Watkins has been named by the Village of New Bremen as manager of the swimming pool. Other personnel include Pat Gels (Guard Captain), Judy Gast (Guard Lieutenant), Barbara Luedeke (Guard Junior 1st), Dennis Wint (Guard Junior 2nd), Nancy Kettler & Lois Dicke (Auxiliary Lifeguards), and Raymond Kuck, 8 S. Franklin St. (general labor). The pool furnishes identifying head gear and guard jackets.....

History cannot rely on memory.
It can be interpreted at leisure,
but must be recorded when it happens.
(John Dickman - 2001)

From the Mailbox....

Dear Lucille Francis:

8/7/2001

I am offering the following information about my experience with New Bremen's first community swimming pool, which was dedicated on Memorial Day, 5/30/1940:

George Becker was the superintendent in charge of the swimming pool construction. A former New Bremen resident, I, Eugene Jordan, was the Engineering Clerk in charge of reports and records. I received a secondary education degree from the University of Toledo in 1938. Teaching jobs were scarce and the W.P.A. was hiring college graduates for supervisory positions.

My brother, Wilbert Jordan, worked in the office of the W.P.A. of Northwestern Ohio in Toledo in the area of assigning workers to the various projects. My application was approved and, with brother Wilbert's help, I was assigned to the N.B. swimming pool project.

Monthly labor pay rates were \$38.00 for unskilled, \$44.00 for semi-skilled, and \$54.00 for skilled workers. The workplace for the pool was located in the small building adjacent to the J.A. Long poultry building at Plum and Canal Streets.

During the 1920s, brother Myron Jordan and other youths thoroughly enjoyed swimming in the canal lock in town. Another swimming spot was the (Dicke?) gravel pit located on the east side of the road to New Knoxville, just north of Lock III (Willow Grove) Cemetery. Those were the "Good Old Days." The New Bremen swimming pool was a big improvement.

I roomed with my uncle and aunt, Clarence & Luetta (Speckman) Laut. Luetta was an excellent cook and housekeeper, with starched lace doilies on the living room furniture, and floors that were always highly polished. Their hospitality was very warm.

While in the area, I bought my wedding rings from Uncle Mel Laut, the jeweler, and was warmly received by him and his wife, Aunt Leona. They visited us on our honeymoon at the Scheer cottage at Lake Loramie.

Sincerely, Eugene L. Jordan - Plymouth, Michigan

P.S. The article about motion pictures (in the same issue) was very good. "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine" starred Henry Fonda and Sylvia Sidney and was an outstanding "Technicolor" movie for its time.

Dear Lucille:

7/5/2001

I just wanted you to know how much I enjoyed the July, 2001 issue of *The Towpath*. The entire issue was very interesting, and of course, I really enjoyed & appreciated the writeups about my great-grandfather, August Schneider (the cooper), and his sons, W.F. "August", Otto, and my grandfather, Charles Schneider. Until I heard from you, I did not know that my grandfather had been the superintendent of the N.B. Electric Light Co. (1899), nor was I aware of W.F. "August" Schneider's involvement in the Heil & Schneider Tin Shop. So thank

you very much for adding to our knowledge about our family history.

I thought you might be interested in how all this Schneider research began, and why I am so thankful for the resources of the N.B. Historic Association. Two years ago, the grandchildren of Charles Schneider (all 13 of us) decided to sponsor a weekend family reunion at Deer Run State Park. Charles Schneider and Elizabeth Graney had 10 children, all of whom have passed on, as have all their spouses. Most of the cousins had not seen each other for 20 years or more, and many of our children and grandchildren had never met. We came from all over the U.S. - California, Colorado, Georgia, Louisiana, Iowa, Illinois and Ohio - 65 Schneider kin in all. The first cousins range in age from 45 to 77, and we all had an absolutely wonderful time visiting together and introducing our offspring.

In preparation for the reunion, I had thought it would be fun to hunt down a copy of the family history which my late uncle, Monseigneur Joseph Schneider, had written after his retirement from the priesthood in 1978. (My grandmother, Elizabeth Graney, was Catholic.) I remembered reading it when I was younger, but did not recall much about it, other than that it was prepared before I was married, and I was listed as "Chrissy, who never married"!! I was sure this was not the way I wanted to be remembered in the years to come, so I decided to update it for the reunion.

I had always thought our family was from Springfield, so I was intrigued to learn that our roots were really in New Bremen, a town which I have always loved because of its uniqueness and historical appreciation. As I read on, my uncle's history told about August Schneider's first wife, Barbara Reinacher, and of her death, his subsequent remarriage to Anna Breymaier, the birth of another son, Otto, and of a family "falling out" over August's will, which was contested in court by the children of the first wife, and by the second family. (How sad that families should squabble over inheritance, and how unnecessary.) In any event, the history also gave the names of Otto's children - Victor and Rosemary.

So I began my first foray on the internet, and that very first night of research I ended up on the Auglaize County genealogical site. Lo and behold, there was a listing for someone researching "SCHNEIDER and BREYMAIER"! I quickly e-mailed the address listed, indicating that I was August Schneider's great-granddaughter, and asking if the researcher had any links to my family. It was Marsha Williams, daughter of Earle and Rosemary (Schneider) Williams. She was on the internet at the time, and responded to my e-mail within five minutes!

Since that time, I have had the pleasure of meeting Rosemary, Marsha, and, just this past Sunday (July 1st), Victor, his wife Hannah, and their son, Richard. Richard actually lives just 2 minutes from my home! New friends, new family, new roots - the past connected with the present!

Christina (Schneider) Howard - Centerville, Ohio

From the Mailbox....(Continued)

Lucille: 7/3/2001
We received the July, 2001 "Towpath" yesterday - another great publication. Thank you!

About the picture on page 8 (of the car won by Katharine Langhorst in 1925 at Gordon State Park at Lake St. Marys), the location of the picture is in front of what is now the home of our son and daughter-in-law, Scott and Linda Kuenning at 406 North Main St. My parents closed in the porch when they lived there.

I lived in that house from my 10th birthday (1939?) until 1978 when Stan and I moved next door to 408 North Main [also the former home of my parents, Harold and Alfa (Coble) Speckman.]

The Langhorsts - Ed & Anna (Schulenberg) and their children, including Katharine, lived across the street in the Lone Pine house at 403 North Main (the corner of N. Main and Pearl Streets.)
Dona Mae (Speckman) Kuenning

Curators' Corner

◆Family Ticket for N.B.'s August, 1906 Tri-County Fair.
Joyce Afig, Director - Mercer County Historical Museum

◆(2) Pictures: New Bremen swimming pool lifeguards & manager (1943 & 1945).
Mary (Dicke) Reed - Lima, Ohio

◆Unidentified "family album" snapshots, interurban picture.
Nancy (Eschmeyer) Gorbics - Shelby, Michigan

◆Postcard: Birdseye view of New Bremen (tinted).
Robert Terwilliger - Milford, Ohio: Mary L. Oberwittte estate

◆Postcards: St. Paul Church, Monroe St. looking west.
Ron Bertke - New Bremen

◆German Cookbook: "Es Schmecht Sehr Gut" (It Tastes So Good), published in May, 1983 for N.B.'s sesquicentennial celebration by the 20th Century Mothers' O.C.C.L. Club.
John Schroeder - Ithaca, N.Y.

◆Y.M.C.A. Booklet: "Popular Songs of the A.E.F."
N.B. Library (from unknown person)

◆"Madam Butterfly" Opera playbook ©1905 (1st performance in America - 10/15/1906), "La Traviata" Metropolitan Opera House playbook & 1943-1944 program book dated 2/2/1944. (Written inside book: "Property of T.W. Kellegrew" - "Marjorie Kellegrew")
N.B. Coffee Co. & Books (turned in by unknown person)

◆Newspapers: 6/1/1940 *Cleveland Plain Dealer* with headlines about start of W.W.II, 11/7/1956 *Evening Leader* - headline: "Dwight Eisenhower Sweeps The Election", 8/9/1974 *Evening Leader* - headline about President Nixon's resignation.
Phyllis Cox

◆Newspapers: 2/24/2001 *Evening Leader* with front-page article about Ed Philpot, local butter churn collector, & his exhibit at the Mercer Co. Historical Museum.
Ed Philpot

◆Cream/Bone-colored early 1900s lace-up high-top ladies' shoes, Christmas card.
Anonymous

NEW MEMBERS THIS QUARTER (THRU 9/10/2001)

08/15/2001 Allenby, Tricia (Ahlers)(M.D.)(LM) - Worthington, Ohio
07/23/2001 Belton, Betty (Luedeke) - Celina, Ohio
07/10/2001 Heitkamp, Virginia (Barth) - Payne, Ohio
08/03/2001 Kuhn, Patricia (Barth) - Wapakoneta, Ohio
07/25/2001 Slattery, Calvin - New Bremen (re-joined)
07/03/2001 Spoor, Rev. Jeane - Fort Wayne, Indiana
07/23/2001 Stewart, Mary Louise (Wissman) - Sidney, Ohio (re-joined)

MEMBER DEATHS THIS QUARTER

07/30/2001 Jordan, DeLoss (died 7/30/2001)(N.B.H.S. Class of 1937)
06/28/2001 Sunderman, Col. James (LM)(died 6/12/2001)(N.B.H.S.'37)
08/06/2001 Weinberg, Louise (Waterman) (died 8/6/2001)

ADDITIONS TO LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

08/15/2001 Allenby, Tricia (Ahlers)(M.D.)(new)
07/21/2001 Heinfeld, Duane

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

The following memorial donations have been received this quarter:

In memory of DeLoss Jordan

by his cousin, Eugene Jordan
by his classmate, Lillian Schowe

In memory of Allen & Frances (Ruese) Kuenning

In memory of Harold & Alfa (Coble) Speckman
by Stan & Dona Mae (Speckman) Kuenning

NOTE OF THANKS

Thanks to your help (in providing addresses of my cousin, DeLoss Jordan, and his daughter, Linda M. Wackenthaler), I have established communication with both Linda and her sister, Debbie Villard. Debbie and I have been communicating on a regular basis. Since they said that they had very little information about the Jordan family, I have sent them copies of all information that I have, including a genealogical chart going back several generations in Germany, family pictures, etc.

Sincerely, Eugene L. Jordan (8/20/2001)

[In the January, 2001 issue of "The Towpath", Eugene stated that he had not heard from his cousin, DeLoss, since Eugene's family moved to Toledo in 1929.]

"Recipes and Reminiscence"

The New Bremen Historic Association is now offering John Dickman's new book, "Recipes and Reminiscence" for \$10.00 each, which includes tax and postage. Shipment will be made promptly. If you are interested, please send your order & check to N.B. Historic Assoc. - P.O. Box 73 - New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073.

[see page 3 & insert]

[These books are also available from Amazon (www.amazon.com) and Barnes & Noble (www.bn.com). Both distributors are asking \$12.42 each with a 4-5 day delivery.]

"2002" MEMBERSHIP DUES NOTICES Will be included in the January, 2002 issue