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(The Luelleman House)

THE TOWPATH

Published quarterly
(January - April - July - October)

NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

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

(Founded in 1973)

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

MEMBERSHIP: \$10.00 / Year - \$5.00 Spouse

(Life: \$100.00 / \$50.00 Spouse)

October - 2003

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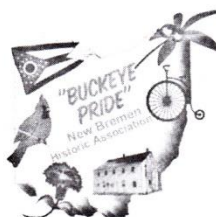
THE TOWPATH is a historical reflection of New Bremen and the surrounding area - researched, written, and/or edited by Lucille (Topp) Francis, EDITOR, and published quarterly by the New Bremen Historic Association. Any stories and/or pictures that our readers are willing to share are welcomed.

COMPLIMENTARY COPIES

With each quarterly mailing of *The Towpath*, a number of Complimentary Copies are sent to folks who 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)

BICENTENNIAL ISSUE

BUCKEYE PRIDE



"Buckeye Pride" was the theme for this year's Bremenfest celebration. I took the liberty of converting their logo to fit our organization in keeping with the Ohio bicentennial theme. This issue contains much early history of German Township and the Ohio area we live in.

Ohio entered the Union on March 1, 1803 as the 17th state. It is popularly nicknamed the "Buckeye State" because of the many buckeye trees that grew within its borders when settlers arrived. Some of the trees, a variety of horse chestnut, were used to build log cabins.



See page 2 to see what these people unveiled.

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT DINNER

{replaces annual Christmas Tree Festival}

3 seatings: Friday, Saturday, Sunday - Dec. 5, 6, 7
at the N.B.H.A. Museum

Friday, Dec. 5th & Saturday, Dec. 6th

Hors d'oeuvres at 6:30 p.m. - Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 7th, 2003

Hors d'oeuvres at 2:30 p.m. - Dinner at 3:00 p.m.

COST = \$25.00 per meal

(catered by "Elegant Cuisine")

Tickets available from N.B.H.A. Trustees
(or contact Tom Braun at 419-629-8902)



At 12:00 noon July 15, 2003 this historical marker was dedicated at Lock One Park at the corner of St. Rt. 66 & St. Rt. 274 to highlight the significance of New Bremen, Ohio and the Miami & Erie Canal in this, Ohio's bicentennial year.

The north side of the marker reads:

THE MIAMI & ERIE CANAL AND NEW BREMEN

Begun in 1833, the Miami Extension linked the Miami Canal in Dayton to the Wabash & Erie Canal at Junction. Engineering difficulties, epidemics, and the Panic of 1837 delayed completion of the Extension until June 1845, when the packet boat *Banner* first navigated the almost 250 mile distance from Cincinnati to Toledo in three days. New Bremen was the northern terminus for a period while work continued northward on the Extension. Designated the Miami & Erie Canal in 1849, it served as the primary avenue of commerce and military transport, and as a "post road" (mail route) between western Lake Erie and the Ohio River before the railroad era. The Miami & Erie remained in use until 1913, long after the canal era had passed. Along the course of the canal, New Bremen was the approximate midway point between Cincinnati and Toledo.

NEW BREMEN - NEW KNOXVILLE ROTARY CLUB
NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION
THE OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2003

The south side of the marker reads:

NEW BREMEN AND THE MIAMI & ERIE CANAL

Sited at the junction of the Auglaize Trail and the surveyed route of the Miami Extension canal, New Bremen was founded in 1833 by Hanoverian German Protestants of the City of Bremen Society. The canal quickly became the focal point of commerce for the growing town, and its influence in New Bremen remains as visible as the town's German roots. You are standing near the "heelpath" at Lock 1 North, the northern end of the 23-mile-long Loramie Summit, the highest level of the canal and its only summit. You are approximately 516 feet above the Ohio River at Cincinnati and 374 feet above Lake Erie at Toledo. Originally built of wood due to the cost and difficulty of obtaining stone, Lock 1 North was rebuilt in concrete in 1910.

NOTE: The "heelpath" of the canal is the opposite of the towpath.

NEW BREMEN - NEW KNOXVILLE ROTARY CLUB
NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION
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Participating in the dedication program were: Doug Harrod (N.B. Chief of Police), Bob Klein (Mayor), Delores Stienecker (Curator of the N.B.H.A. Museum), Tom Fledderjohann (N.B./N.K. Rotary Club), J.D. Britton (Ohio Historical Society), Derrick Seaver (State Representative), Jim Jordan (State Senator), and Darrin Klinger (Historical Researcher). The marker was unveiled by four retired New Bremen school teachers - Gary & Margery Stueve, Rosemary Wermert and Sally Dicke. (see front page)

The Ohio historical marker program, begun in 1953 during Ohio's sesquicentennial, enables Ohioans to commemorate and celebrate local history and to learn more about significant events and places in Ohio. Designed to be permanent and highly visible, the historic markers are large cast-aluminum signs that tell stories about aspects of Ohio's history and pre-history.

This sign was commissioned and funded by the New Bremen-New Knoxville Rotary Club and the New Bremen Historic Association. Doug Harrod and his son-in-law, Darrin Klinger, did the research and applied to the Ohio Historical Society for the marker.

DELORES STIENECKER'S MESSAGE

"As a member of the New Bremen Historic Association, I extend greetings to everyone assembled for this dedication.

Our German forefathers came to this area and brought with them a reasonable amount of wealth. The money was used to purchase the land. Along with wealth, they also brought a hard work ethic. They were farmers and bankers. They built flour and lumber mills, set up small businesses and brought their trades. They had bakeries & breweries, they cut marble and ice. But most of all they brought richness of visions and dreams.

The opening of the Miami & Erie Canal brought prosperity to New Bremen. The canal was the avenue to ship our commodities such as hogs, flour, beer and ice to the larger cities along its thoroughfare. These boats brought salesmen into our area, along with supplies and equipment needed here.

The members of the New Bremen Historic Association are proud of our heritage. Hopefully we will continue to bring a wealth of people to New Bremen in the form of tourism. I extend an invitation to all to visit our museum during our visiting hours to see pictures and artifacts of the canal and other items being preserved for future generations."

From "The Athens (Ohio) Insider" – week of July 9, 2003:
[submitted by Louise (formerly "Olive" Loyer) Pullins]

19TH CENTURY WONDER MAKES FOR EXCELLENT OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

by Laura Jones
Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources

+++++

Looking for an outdoor adventure this summer where you can experience a taste of early Ohio history while also discovering some fun hiking opportunities? The Miami & Erie Canal Heritage Corridor is a journey back in time that traverses nearly 50 miles of historic and scenic canal greenway through five western Ohio counties.

From Delphos in Allen County to Piqua in Miami County, history buffs and nature lovers alike can enjoy the outdoors while getting a real sense of what life was like for early Ohioans along the canal.

Ohio's canal history began some 20 years after statehood was established in 1803. The young state remained largely unsettled because it lacked an efficient means to transport goods and people through the road-less countryside. Construction of the Miami & Erie Canal began in 1825, cutting its way south to north through the western interior of the state. Moving rock and soil to create the shallow "big ditch", canals were dug by hand using mostly picks and shovels. Completed in 1845, this engineering marvel featured a system of 105 locks that raised and lowered canal boats along a 249-mile waterway from Lake Erie in Toledo to the Ohio River in Cincinnati.

But for all this work, the canal era was short-lived as railroads were developed, effectively drawing a curtain on this more leisurely form of transportation. The heyday of the western Ohio canal system was 1851, when approximately 400 boats passed through the canals, generating revenues of nearly \$352,000.

Fortunately, the legacy of this bygone era has been preserved for us to enjoy from historic canal towns such as Minster and Lockington to hiking trails along the old canal towpaths.

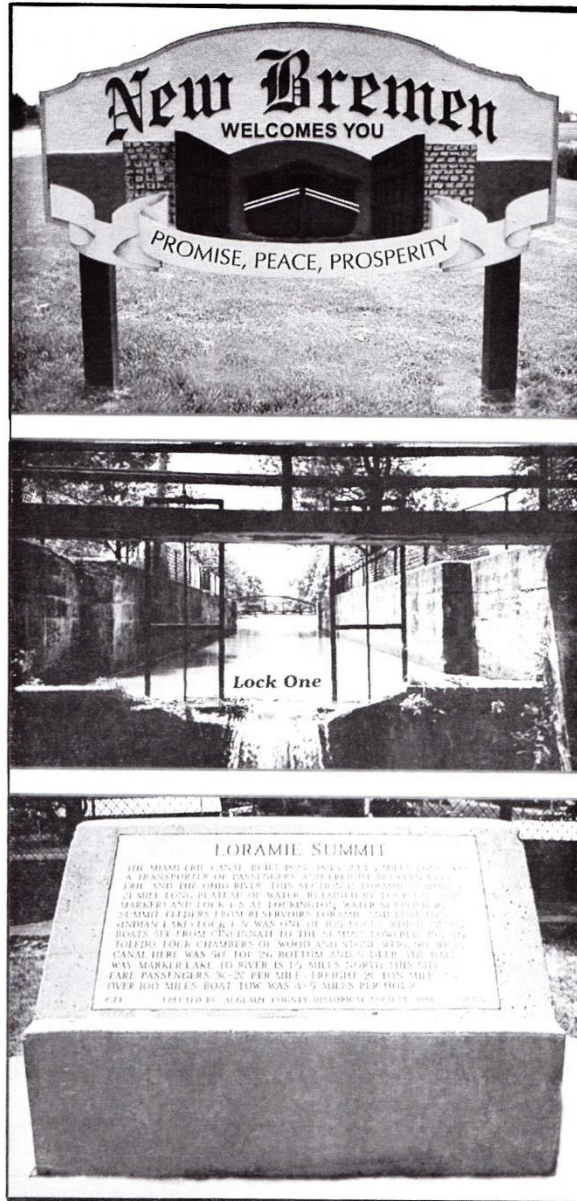
A stop in Delphos at the northern end of the heritage corridor offers a museum center showcasing memorabilia including a large model of the canal boat, "Marguerite". Built around 1850, the boat caught fire and sank in the nearby canal, where remnants of its keel and side rails can still be seen.

Farther south in Auglaize County, towpath hikers will encounter a marker commemorating a grisly 1850s murder at the "bloody bridge". Although the old bridge has been replaced, the monument recounts the story of two men who vied for the affections of a boat captain's daughter. When she chose one over the other, the spurned lover, in a jealous rage, ambushed the pair and killed his competition with an ax. Out of fright, the maiden fell off the bridge and into "a watery grave".

Continuing down the corridor is St. Marys, where a full-scale replica of a 19th century canal boat, "The Belle of St. Marys", is docked at Memorial Park. Grand Lake St. Marys was originally created as a reservoir to maintain the canal's 4-foot water level.

Close to New Knoxville is Lock 8 North, which is a fine example of an original stone lock. Considered one of the best-preserved canal locks in the nation, it has remained virtually undisturbed for the past 100 years.

In 1832, a group of German immigrants founded the village of New Bremen. Today, evidence of this once bustling canal town can be seen in its many restored brick structures. However, one of the oldest structures in town, the New Bremen Historic Museum, is a timber-braced frame house lined with bricks, mud and straw.



LORAMIE SUMMIT

The Miami Erie Canal, built 1825-1845, 244.5 miles long, was a transporter of passengers and freight between Lake Erie and the Ohio River. This section is Loramie Summit, a 21 mile long plateau of water, retained by Lock 1-N. (this marker) and Lock 1-S. at Lockington, water supplied by summit feeders from reservoirs Loramie and Lewiston/Lewistown (Indian Lake). Lock 1-N. was one of 105 locks which lifted boats 513' from Cincinnati to the summit, lowered 395' to Toledo. Lock chambers of wood and stone were 90' by 15'. Canal here was 50' top, 26' bottom and 5' deep. The half-way marker, lake to river, is 1.5 miles north this site. Fare: Passengers, 3¢ - 2¢ per mile - Freight, 2¢ ton/mile - 1.5¢ over 100 miles. Boat tow was 4-5 miles per hour.

ERECTED BY AUGLAIZE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 1981

THE NATIONAL ROAD

Early transportation in the American colonies and the settlements of Canada focused on moving food from a hunt or a harvest to the places where people lived. Primitive roads evolved from prehistoric (*before written history*) animal paths and Indian trails. Fur trappers in Canada also blazed many trails inland. Early humans carried or dragged their loads along these paths that connected trading posts and forts. As they learned to domesticate animals, they transferred their loads to pack animals. The discovery and use of the wheel was a major force in building and improving roads. In the late 1700s, turnpikes were introduced in the U.S. as profit-making ventures. (Turnpikes were toll roads, named for the turning of a pole or pike to permit entry of a vehicle after the driver paid the toll.)

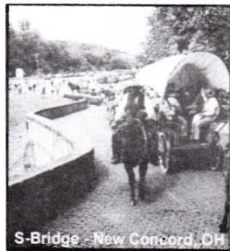
In 1806, the U.S. Congress authorized construction of the National Road, also called the Cumberland Road. In 1811, the federal government began construction of the road westward from Cumberland, Maryland to Wheeling, Virginia (now West Virginia), along the Ohio River. The road opened between those two points in 1818, and in 1821, turnpike companies completed links between Cumberland and Baltimore. By 1833, the road had reached Columbus, Ohio. When construction ended in 1852 because of the increasing importance of railroads in westward migration, the National Road extended for nearly 800 miles from Cumberland, Maryland to Vandalia, Illinois, running through Cambridge, Zanesville, Columbus and Springfield, Ohio.

In 1926, the National Road was designated U.S. Route 40 and remained one of the nation's main routes until the interstate highway system came along. The Interstate Highway Act was approved by Congress and signed by President Eisenhower in 1956. Interstate 70 now runs alongside U.S. Route 40.



The intersection of U.S. Route 40 and U.S. 25 (Dixie Drive) in Vandalia, Ohio is known as the original "Crossroads of America". At 333 W. National Rd. in Englewood, a granite replica of the original stone mile markers stands outside the town's municipal building. The National Road has been designated a "scenic byway".

When Americans streamed westward along the National Road, they encountered a series of sandstone S-bridges, curved so as not to obstruct the flow of rivers and streams. This brick-paved bridge is located outside New Concord. The longest S-bridge was located at Blaine Hill in Belmont County. It was a 350' triple-arch bridge, built in 1828.



Conestoga (covered) wagons were the primary form of transportation for migrating settlers. They originated during the early 1700s in a region of Pennsylvania occupied by Conestoga Indians, a tribe of the Iroquoian family and were large, sturdy 4-wheeled wagons, generally drawn by 6 horses or oxen that carried freight and settlers westward until about 1850. Normally built with both ends higher than the middle, the wagon's wheels could be removed and the wagon bed could float as a boat. Later, lighter weight prairie schooners were used. They were so called because the white canvas covering of the wagons resembled the sails of the maritime schooners of that period.

Most early New Bremen settlers landed in the harbor at Baltimore, traveled the National Road to Wheeling, and then came up the Ohio River to Cincinnati.



OHIO'S BICENTENNIAL WAGON TRAIN

On June 21, 2003, a train of 13 covered wagons and 130-170 travelers started on a 24-day, 285-mile journey across Ohio, primarily following the historic National Road (now U.S. Rt. 40) in order to celebrate Ohio's 200th anniversary of statehood and to experience what it was like for the pioneers on their westward journey. The train traveled 13-14 miles per day, starting its "Path to Statehood" in Martins Ferry, just inside the state's border near Wheeling, West Virginia and traveled across 10 counties, ending on July 14th at New Paris, just inside the state line near Richmond, Indiana. The travelers ended their trek with a get-together at the National Road Welcome Center at Richmond, near the Interstate 70 / U.S. 40 exit (#156).

The wagons traveled with their tops rolled up most of the time. About midway through the trip, however, they were deluged with torrential rain and thunderstorms. Several people rode the entire 24 days, several rode on horseback or mule and slept "under the skies", 1 walked the entire distance, and others rode for shorter distances. The travelers came from 21 states and 4 foreign countries and were of all ages. The caravan was accompanied by professional "mule skinnors" and "teamsters", who drove the wagons and served as "outriders" (1 per wagon) to make sure everything went well. Many of the wagons were pulled by mules. Unlike pioneer days, this wagon train was accompanied by its own "Porta Potties".



Some of the wagons had chicken "coops" fastened to their sides, with a chicken or rooster inside. It is not known if these chickens laid eggs enroute, or if the roosters served any other purpose than to wake the travelers in the mornings with their crowing.

The caravan had a "mess wagon" and breakfasts of ham, eggs, potatoes and biscuits were made in camp, utilizing some more modern items such as Zip-lock bags, etc. At some of the overnight stops, the travelers were treated to meals served by community groups. On Sunday, July 13th, the second last day of their trek, the train arrived at Lewisburg. A grilled pork chop / chicken supper was served by the "Trail Riders" organization at Twin Creek Park, followed by live music and square dancing with "Knipps Band".

Along the way, many historical sites were visited, this one at Norwich, where an overturned stagecoach in 1835 produced the first recorded traffic fatality in Ohio. Another stop was at the National Road/Zane Grey Museum.

Ref: Country Living magazine - Aug.-'03
Dayton Daily News - 7/15/03



OHIO STATEHOOD

The French, the Indians, & the British

The Great Lakes were created as the global warming at the end of the Ice Age caused the glaciers to melt. Maps of North America drawn by French cartographers as early as 1640 showed Lake Erie's size, location, and configuration. The first European known to have reached Lake Erie and the Ohio country that it borders was the French explorer Adrien Jolliet in 1669. Discovery of the Ohio River, which borders the Ohio country on the south, was probably made by French explorer René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle about 1670-71. France soon established dominance over the Great Lakes region, the Mississippi Valley, and the western part of the Ohio region, building forts and sending fur traders and missionaries to work with the Indians.

By the late 1690s, bands of mixed-blood Iroquois (called Mingo) Indians came from the northeast to occupy the upper Ohio Valley. The Miami came from the west, establishing villages in western Ohio in the valleys of three rivers that would come to bear their name: the Great Miami and Little Miami which emptied into the Ohio, and the Miami of the Lake (later called Maumee), which flowed into the western basin of Lake Erie.

The English first reached the Ohio country through fur-trading expeditions from New York, traveling to Lake Erie as early as 1685 and to the Ohio River in 1692. However, it was not until the 1740s that rivalry between France and Great Britain became intense for control of the lucrative fur trade with the Indians of the Ohio country. Many of the local Indians became allies and trading partners with the British.

In 1749, seeking to improve their lagging trade with the local native groups, the French sent a military expedition to the Ohio country. The use of force increased French prestige among the Ohio tribes, who sided with France when it fought Britain for control of the North American colonies in the French and Indian War (1754-1763). Britain won the war, and under the terms of the Treaty of Paris on 2/10/1763, the French ceded to Britain most of their territory and forts in North America, including all of the Ohio country.

Immediately after the French ceded the Ohio country, Indians led by the Ottawa chief, Pontiac, revolted (May 1763). Pontiac's forces captured most of the British forts in the region north and west of the Ohio River. However, after learning they would not get help from the French, Pontiac and his people signed a treaty ending the war. Later, the Indians of Ohio sided with the British during the American Revolution (1775-1783). American troops attacked Indian settlements in the Ohio country, and the Indians participated in attacks on American settlements across the Ohio River in Kentucky.

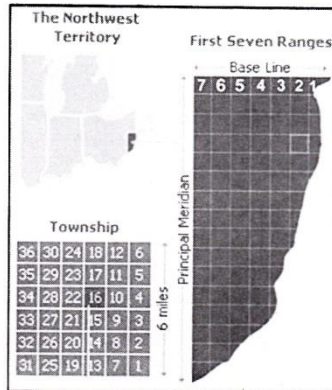
Acquisition & Disposal of Public Lands

When the Revolutionary War ended in 1783, Britain ceded Ohio to the United States, along with the area that now forms Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and the eastern part of Minnesota. Grants of public lands were awarded by Congress to reclaim swamplands and to encourage the construction of canals, wagon roads, and railroads (see pgs. 2-4 - *M. & E. Canal & National Rd.*). The first significant legislation pertaining to the disposal and use of the public lands, however, came in 1776, when the Continental Congress offered land grants to induce soldiers to desert from the British army. Later that year, Congress promised land bounties to its own soldiers as partial payment for military service. Only a small part of the land conveyed by military warrants, however, was ever occupied by the returning veterans. Land warrants were purchased for a mere fraction of their face value by speculators.

Public Land Act of 1785

The Land Ordinance of 1785, enacted by Congress on 5/20/1785, created rules for the orderly survey of the public domain into standard units so that the new American government could sell this land to raise money to pay Revolutionary War debts, with settlement to occur only on surveyed land. Land ceded by the states and purchased from the Indians was to be divided into a grid system of ranges, townships, and sections, with 6-mile-square TOWNSHIPS, created by lines running north-south intersecting at right angles with east-west lines. Townships were to be arranged in north-south rows called RANGES. Most townships were to be subdivided into 36 1-mile-square SECTIONS (640 acres each). Each range, township, and section was to be numbered in a regular, consistent sequence. This grid system of ranges, townships, and sections was applied first to the Northwest Territory and later to all new lands acquired by the United States west of the Mississippi River.

This survey system eventually enabled the government to make property available to settlers easily and cheaply.



First Seven Ranges

The first survey under the 1785 ordinance began along the Ohio River. Surveyors located a north-south line or principal meridian and then established 7 vertical divisions called RANGES. Each range was divided into townships that extended south from a base line (41° north latitude).

A TOWNSHIP was 6 miles long and 6 miles wide or a total of 36 square miles. Surveyors divided the townships in 36 SECTIONS, each 1 mile square. Initially, the land was auctioned by the government for as little as \$1.00 per acre CASH, with a whole section (640 acres) being the minimum purchase. The Land Ordinance of 1785 provided for the reservation of one section in each township (#16, above) for future use or support of public elementary schools. The numbering system of sections was changed by the Land Act of 1796 (see pg. 6.)

Under the Ordinance of 1787, Congress organized the region stretching from Ohio to Minnesota as the Northwest Territory (see map above). No fewer than three nor more than five states were to be created from the area. If five were created, they were to be divided in two tiers separated by an east-west line running through the southern tip of Lake Michigan, with three states below that line (Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois) and two above (Michigan and Wisconsin).

Before that time, only a few squatters had settled in the Ohio country, but the ordinance encouraged substantial settlement. On 4/7/1788, the Ohio Company of Associates, which had been organized two years earlier by a group of American army officers in Boston, established the first permanent settlement at Marietta, migrating by boat on the Ohio River or by heavy wagons over the mountains. By the end of 1789 several other settlements had been founded along the Ohio River, including Losantiville. In 1790 General Arthur St. Clair, who had been appointed the first governor of the Northwest Territory on 7/9/1788, made his headquarters at Losantiville and changed the settlement's name to Cincinnati.

Treaty of Greene Ville

The influx of settlers into southern Ohio aroused the hostility of the Indians, who considered the land theirs. They raided outlying settlements, killing pioneers and driving others back to the larger settlements along the Ohio. In the early 1790s two military expeditions sent from Fort Washington at Cincinnati were defeated by the Indians led by the Miami chief, Little Turtle. In 1792 General Anthony Wayne, a Revolutionary War veteran, was put in command of the frontier forces. He created an efficient army and built headquarters at Fort Greene Ville (named for American Revolution general, Nathanael Greene) about halfway between Cincinnati and the major Indian settlements on the Maumee River. In August 1794 Wayne defeated the Indians at the Battle of Fallen Timbers, near present-day Toledo, then burned native villages and cornfields in the area. In June 1795, the chiefs of 12 Indian tribes, including Little Turtle and Blue Jacket, ceded much of the Northwest Territory, including all of southern and eastern Ohio, to the U.S. under the Treaty of Greene Ville, which established a definite boundary between "Indian Territory" and white settlement.

By December 1798, William Henry Harrison was elected territorial delegate to the Congress of the U.S. In 1800, he sponsored a bill that was passed to divide the Northwest Territory along a line running north from the mouth of the Kentucky River. The eastern area, approximately the present state of Ohio, remained the Northwest Territory with St. Clair as its governor and Cincinnati as its capital. The rest was Indiana Territory and William Henry Harrison became its governor.

By 1802 Ohio's western boundary was redefined as a line due north from the mouth of the Great Miami River. On March 1, 1803, Ohio became the nation's 17th state. Edward Tiffin, a 31-year-old Virginian, was Ohio's first governor.

Statehood

The end of the Indian Wars in 1795 brought another wave of migration to the Ohio country that led to statehood within eight years (1803). Most of the new settlers came from Virginia, which at that time extended all the way to the Ohio River. The majority settled in the Virginia Military District, irregular-shaped lands retained by Virginia as compensation for military service during the American Revolution.

Connecticut also sent significant numbers of settlers to its Western Reserve in northeastern Ohio between Lake Erie on the north and the 41st parallel on the south, land derived from its 1662 colonial charter.

Federal Land Offices

The land in which German Township is located (called Congress Lands) was not controlled by a land company, so a way to sell land needed to be established. The Harrison Land Act of 5/10/1800 called for land offices to be established. Individuals interested in buying this federally-owned land without being part of a land company could do so at one of these offices. This new law set the price of land at \$2.00 per acre, with the minimum purchase being 320 acres. Land offices in our area were opened at Chillicothe & Cincinnati (1801), Piqua (1820), Wapakoneta (1833), and Lima (1835). The buyer would receive a certificate (patent) signed by the President of the U.S. (see pg. 11).

Indian Resistance and the War of 1812

Several years after Ohio became a state, a new conflict broke out between Indians and white settlers. The Shawnee chief, Tecumseh, forced out of Ohio in 1808, began to form an extensive alliance of Indians to resist further white settlement and regain former native lands. He and his brother, a religious visionary known as The Prophet, received help from the British, but their forces, led by The Prophet, were defeated in November 1811 in the Battle of Tippecanoe in Indiana. Many Ohio residents believed, however, that the threat of conflict with the Indians would not be permanently eliminated until the British were driven out of Canada. They enthusiastically supported the War of 1812 (6/18/1812-12/24/1814), which the United States declared against Britain over its aggression against American shipping.

Ohio became the staging area for the northern theater of the war. Supply routes crossed the state, and blockhouses and stockades were hastily built in northern Ohio to defend the area that bordered on British-held Canada. The Americans under Harrison won the Battle of the Thames in Canada in October 1813, which ended the fighting in the northern border area and broke the resistance of the Indians to further settlement. Tecumseh, who had fought on the British side, was killed in the battle. The Indians in Ohio ceded their last substantial lands in the state a few years after the war, with many Shawnee and Delaware tribes moving farther west or to Canada.

In 1812, the legislature chose Columbus for the new state capital, replacing Chillicothe (1803) and Zanesville (1810-1812). The capital was moved back temporarily to Chillicothe until December 1816, when the state legislature met in Columbus for the first time.

Expansion of Settlement & Transportation

The majority of settlers in Ohio in the early 1800s were farmers. Initially, they cleared the land and raised crops to fill their own needs. Tecumseh's uprising and the war with Britain had slowed the stream of settlers migrating to Ohio, but it resumed after peace was established in 1815. Settlement continued to be concentrated along the Ohio River, which was a major migratory transportation route, and in the valleys of its major tributaries, including the Miami River. By the early 1820s, however, many farmers were raising surpluses of cattle, hogs, and grain, much of which was converted into whiskey at local stills. Most of the surplus agricultural produce was shipped along the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to New Orleans. Sometimes livestock was driven eastward over Appalachian trails to be sold.

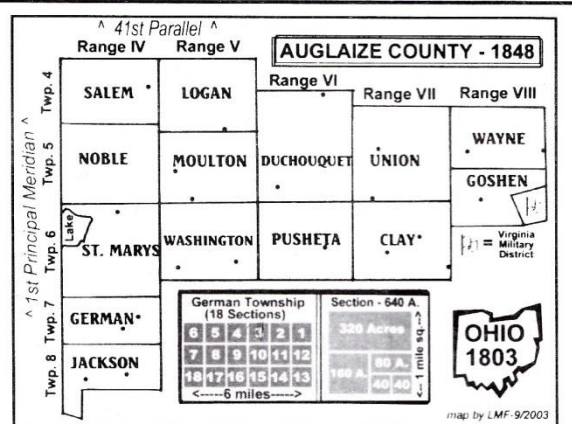
It was clear that Ohio's potential for agricultural production could not be fulfilled without better transportation. The state's navigable waterways could serve only a fraction of the farmland and the swampy lands and dense forests hindered the construction of roads in western Ohio. Although a network of unpaved roads crisscrossed the state, transportation was difficult, slow, and expensive. In 1806, the U.S. Congress authorized construction of the National Road from Cumberland, Maryland and in 1825, the state legislature passed a law to build navigable canals. In the 1830s, projects were begun to drain the vast Black Swamp region in the northwest. Two major canals were built during the next two decades - the Miami & Erie Canal opened between Cincinnati and Dayton in 1830 and between Cincinnati and

Toledo in 1845, and the Ohio & Erie Canal opened in 1832, carrying traffic between Portsmouth on the Ohio River and Cleveland on Lake Erie. This spurred settlement and cultivation of vast interior regions of Ohio that had previously lacked easy access to major eastern and southern markets.

Indian Removal Act of 1830

The next major period of warfare between whites and Indians took place in the quarter century following the War of 1812, a transitional period during which the Indians were to be removed to lands west of the Mississippi, referred to as Indian Territory.

Although removal had been going on to some degree since the early 1800s, it was given new impetus by the Indian Removal Act of 5/28/1830, largely implemented during Andrew Jackson's presidency (1829-1837). In 1832, the Federal government made a treaty with the Indians to purchase all of the land within the reservations and in November 1832, 1100 Indians from the Shawnee, Seneca and Ottawa tribes moved to a new reservation west of the Mississippi River. This made all of "Auglaize County" available for white settlement, however several wars stemmed from the refusal of some Indians to accept resettlement. When this period came to an end in the 1850s, only scattered groups of Indians remained in the eastern half of the U.S.



In 1817, the Ohio-Indiana border was surveyed and became known as the First Principal Meridian for all land surveyed in the rest of the United States. (There are 34 meridians in the U.S.) The 41st parallel of north latitude became the base line (see pg. 5).

The Congress Land Act of 1819 provided for the first public surveys in what is now Auglaize County (Auglaize is French for "glassy waters"). In 1819, surveying crews under the direction of Edward Tiffin, Surveyor General of the United States, laid out the townships and sections, which opened the region for settlement. A new Land Act of 4/24/1820 reduced the price of public land from \$2.00 (minimum purchase of 320 acres) to \$1.25 per acre, with the minimum purchase being reduced to 80 acres. A rapid influx of settlers soon followed.

Counties were erected independent of survey lines. Auglaize County was established on 2/14/1848 from portions of Mercer County and 5 other counties (all established before 1820), and is located in the tract east of the 1st Principal Meridian and south of the 41st parallel base line. German Township is located as Township 7 South, in Range 4 East - New Bremen is located in Sections 10 & 15 and was settled in 1833 on land purchased by scouts H.F. (Harman Friedrich) Windler and H(enry) F(riedrich), aka Fred(rich) H(enry) Schroeder and which is described in detail in New Bremen's 1983 red sesquicentennial book.

Sections are numbered as shown above. Originally there were 36 sections in Township 7 (listed as T5/T6 on early land entries), but Sections 19-36 became the major portion of Jackson Township in 1858, with Minster being located in the center of Sections 26, 27, 34 & 35.

Each SECTION is 1 square mile or 640 ACRES. Sections can also be divided into half (320 acres), quarters (160 acres), 1/4-quarter sections (80 acres) or 1/4-quarter sections (40 acres). The legal description of a piece of property lists the section, township, and range in which the land is located. [Example: the lower right corner (40 acres) of the above map could be described as the se 1/4 of the se 1/4 of Section 1, Township 7 South (German), Range IV East].

EARLY ENTRIES OF LAND IN GERMAN TOWNSHIP, MERCER COUNTY - R4-T6 (now T-7)

(Name spellings are the best that can be determined) <<<>>> [NOTE: These lands were originally listed as T-6 (St. Marys Township)]

Name	Sec.	Description	Acres	Date	Name	Sec.	Description	Acres	Date
Opdyke, Peter	5	wnw	80 (76.67)	11/16/1821	Tangemann, John G.	2	e½ nw	80	01/01/1833
Majors, Wm.	15	wne	80	04/19/1823	Field, Dudley	18	nws	48.71	01/04/1833
Heath, William	10	wnw	80	01/04/1824	Kellen, Henry	9	nesw+nwse	80	01/04/1833
Catterlin, David	2	e½ sw	80	08/31/1824	Lemcool, J. Albert	9	swne+senw	80	01/04/1833
Majors, James	22*	ne¼	160	06/11/1825	Opdyke, Peter	5	enw	76.67	02/15/1833
Hatfield, Wheathy (1834)	22	ne¼	160	Taxes-1834	Abelin, F.	11	swse	40	04/16/1833
(*1st N.B. postmaster-8/12/1835)					Myering(?), Fred	9	swnw	40	04/24/1833
Brewster, John	5	ese	80	08/25/1825	Schroeder, Hy.F. (Fred H.)	10	ws	80	05/15/1833
Majors, Hamilton	4	ws	80	09/05/1825	Miller, Cerviller(?)	18	nw¼	104.92	07/02/1833
Opdyke, Peter	4	wnw	80	09/05/1825	Morgan, And J.(?)	2	s½ se	80	07/02/1833
Hatfield, Samuel	15	se¼	160	12/15/1826	Mohrman, H.H.	26*	nenw	40	07/05/1833
Lightfoot, Edward B.	2	ws	80	01/27/1827	Mittendorf, D.B.	9	ws	80	08/13/1833
Allen, M.	15	ene	80	04/03/1827	Mower, Jacob	1	s½	320	08/13/1833
Sackett, Joseph	8	ene	80	10/12/1827	Paul, Phillip H.	12	ne¼	160	08/13/1833
Sackett, Alea	8	wne	80	04/09/1832	Stone, George Victor	12	se¼	160	08/16/1833
Pohlman, Frans. L.	4	ene	78.31	04/10/1832	Bynbrook, H.G.	8	e½+swse	120	10/02/1833
Hall, Isabella	1	wnw	76.7	06/21/1832	Holla, H.H.	14	nenw	40	10/04/1833
Hall, Isabella	2	ene	80	06/29/1832	Donnerbergh, H.	4	ese	80	10/20/1833
Windler, H.F. (Harman Fr.)	10	sese+swse	80	08/04/1832	Miller, Fred(?)	11	nese	40	10/20/1833
Kinning, John H.	11	sw¼	160	08/11/1832	Fompotts(?), H.H.	4	wse	80	10/30/1833
Linneman, Fred	3	n½ nw	80 (76.32)	08/11/1832	Sunges(?), R.	4	sesw	40	10/30/1833
Mesloh, Jno. B.	11	n½ nw	80	08/11/1832	Abelin, F.H.	11	sese	40	10/31/1833
Rodencort, Henry	11	s½ nw	80	08/11/1832	Nieter, Chr. F.	17	sene	40	11/02/1833
Jordan, David J.	10	esw	80	09/03/1832	Numan, John B.	17	n½ ne	80	11/02/1833
Pittman, Wm.	2	wne	80 (74.82)	09/05/1832	Berner, W.	15	nws	40	11/16/1833
Wallace, John	11	ne¼	160	09/05/1832	Regel, Michael	17	senw	40	12/03/1833
Olman, J.H.	4	nwne	39.2	09/06/1832	Nokel, Sebastian	17	nenw	40	12/13/1833
Schroeder, Hy.F. (Fred H.)	10	e½ nw	80	09/06/1832	Garbreck, Andrew	9	nwnw	40	01/01/1834
Schroeder, Hy.F. (Fred H.)	10	ne¼	160	09/06/1832	Sollman, Henry	17	wse	80	01/24/1834
^Schroeder, Hy.F. (Fred H.)	10	n½ se	80	09/06/1832	Beckman, Wm. & Windhorst, V.F.	8	nwse	40	05/12/1834
Klatta, John H.	3	esw	80	09/10/1832	ALTERNATE SECTIONS				
Mesker, Herman F.	3	ne	160 (152.35)	09/10/1832	Stonemeyer, H.	8	esw	80	10/23/1834
Schardelman, H.W.	3	se	160	09/10/1832	Young, R.	12	sesw	40	10/23/1834
Wellman, John Henry	14	sw¼	160	09/10/1832	Brown(?), B.	8	sws	40	11/04/1834
Wicher, A.H.	3	ws	80	09/10/1832	Hinners, D.	8	nws	40	11/04/1834
Burch, Burton Finke	12	ws	80	09/14/1832	Lamping, H.H.	4	swne	39.2	11/18/1834
Mead, Nathaniel	2	n½ se	80	09/17/1832	Ellerman, G.	8	senw	40	11/24/1834
House, Jul.(?)	14	ne¼	160	09/18/1832	Nieter, J.H.	8	wnw	80	11/24/1834
House, Jul.(?)	13	wnw	80	09/18/1832	Lamping, H.H.	4	enw	78.12?	11/28/1834
Dickman, Fred. H.	9	ese	80	09/19/1832	Beckman, Wm.	8	swnw	40	12/ 1834
Graber, Christoff	9	ene	80	09/19/1832	Garbreck, Andrew	4	nesw	40	12/03/1834
Graber, Christoff	9	nwne	40	09/19/1832	Kamman, J.C.W.	18	nne	80	12/13/1834
Wellman, John Henry	14	snw	80	09/19/1832	Haeman, J.A.	18	sne	80	12/19/1834
Wippenhorst, Christoff	2	wnw	80 (75.87)	09/19/1832	Dumme, H.H.	6	nesw+nwse	87.9	03/20/1835
Hardenbrook, Peter	14	se¼	160	10/08/1832	David, Adam	18	sese	40	03/28/1835
Mohrman, H.	26*	nwnw	80	10/08/1832	Botke, Chs. R.	6	enw+swnw	136.34	03/30/1835
Morton, George	12	nw¼	160	10/16/1832	Honebeck, J.H.	6	nwnw	45.45	03/30/1835
Vorhees, H.T.	13	enw	80	10/16/1832	Shubert, M.	18	nese	40	04/07/1835
Vorhees, H.T.	13	ne	160	10/16/1832	Donnerberg, H.	6	swse	40	08/07/1835
Tucker, Manning Randolph	13	s½	320	10/18/1832	Rump, H.	6	ssw	95.8	08/07/1835
Habenstreet, Phillip	9	swse	40	10/20/1832	Rump, H.H.	6	ne¼	153.16	08/07/1835
Huckareade, A.	3	snw	80 (76.36)	10/23/1832	Tangeman, John G.	6	nese	40	08/07/1835
Shulenburgh, Fred.	15	sesw	40	10/24/1832	Waterman, H.	6	sese	40	08/07/1835
Surman, Fred (Leymon?)	15	swsw	40	10/24/1832	Olshoff, G.	6	nws	47.7	08/10/1835
Wellman, John Henry	14	nwnw	40	10/25/1832	Schutta, H.	18	swsw	40	08/14/1835
Gast, Andrew	28*	sene	40	11/23/1832	Settija, J.H.	18	sesw	49.15	08/17/1835
Gast, Andrew	27*	swnw	40	11/23/1832	Meyer, C.H.	18	nesw	49.15	11/18/1835
Ramsey, Susan	12	nesw	40	12/04/1832	Oberwite, H.H.	18	wse	80	11/18/1835
Berner, Wm.	15	nesw	40	12/11/1832					
Merker, Gerard W.	11	nwse	40	12/11/1832					
Schroeder, Fred. H.	15	nw¼	160	12/21/1832					

NOTE: Sections 22, 26, 27, 28 became part of Jackson Twp. in 1858

I certify that the foregoing transcript of Entries of Lands in Mercer County, Ohio, taken by me from the Books of the Register of the Federal Land Offices has been by me diligently compared with books of the Auditor of State and is correct according to the entries on said offices.

(Edward M. Phelps, Treas. - March 3, 1845)

GERMAN TOWNSHIP

The area that became German Township lies between two locations that served as early trading posts - that of "Peter Loramier's Store" to the south on Loramie Creek and "Girty's Store" to the north on the St. Marys River.

PIERRE LOUIS LORAMIER (aka "PETER LORAMIE")

Pierre Louis Loramier (later anglicized to "Peter Loramie"), was born in Canada 9/26/1748. His father was an officer in the French army and was thus granted the privilege to trade with the Indians¹ at his various duty stations, including at the portage between the Miami and Maumee Rivers in the Ohio River Valley, which was then under French control.

¹White traders exchanged many items with the Indians, including food, guns, and blankets. Among the most profitable trading items were furs from animals such as the beaver. Usually the Indians would trap the animals, skin them, and then bring the furs to the traders who would ship them to Europe. The French dominated the early years of the trade, but competition with the British and American colonists grew more intense during the years before the French and Indian War.

After the French and Indian War ended with the Treaty of Paris on 2/10/1763, the French army was disbanded and sent back to France. The Loramiers, however, were Canadian citizens and stayed behind. Young Loramier had practiced Indian languages and mannerisms and familiarized himself with the Indians' customs. When the Ottawa Indian chief, Pontiac, rebelled against the British traders at Detroit in May 1763, 15-year-old Loramier served as a junior officer under Chief Pontiac.

In 1769, Pierre Loramier came south to establish a trading post at the former Miami Indian site of Pickawillany (near present-day Piqua), where the British had established a fort in 1748 and which had been destroyed by the French and Indians in 1752. Later that year, he moved north, where he established a trading post about 1 mile north of present-day Fort Loramie, on the north bank of Loramie Creek (later a part of the Ferd Fleckenstein farm), a tributary of the Great Miami River named after the Miami Indians. He was "given" a Shawnee wife and they had a son, William, born in 1781. William later became a partner in his father's trading business.

Loramier was a firm supporter of the Indians in their struggle against the white man and his store became a rendezvous point for war parties and a major source of supply for arms and ammunition as the Indians moved south to attack settlers in Kentucky and along the Ohio River. He sometimes accompanied the war parties into Kentucky and in 1778, he and the Shawnees captured Daniel Boone and brought him to Ohio. In March 1779, Loramier guided 4000 Shawnees to a new home near Cape Girardeau, Missouri in Spanish territory.

Eventually, Loramier's Store and the Shawnee towns on the Big Miami and Mad Rivers posed such a threat to the Kentucky settlements that it was determined they must be destroyed. In November 1782, Loramier's Trading Post was looted and burned by Colonel Benjamin Logan (second in command under General George Rogers Clark) and 100 of his riflemen. Loramier and his infant son, William, barely escaped, fleeing to the Ottawa Indian village of Wapakoneta for refuge.

Pierre Loramier eventually settled at Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, where he opened a new fur-trading post along the west bank of the Mississippi River. There, in 1784, he took as his 2nd "wife" Charlotte Pemanieh Bougainville, daughter of French officer Louis Antoine de Bougainville and a Shawnee woman, the daughter of a Shawnee chief who at one time had lived near Wapakoneta. They had 6 more children. In July 1804, two of their sons entered West Point which had been established 3/16/1802. Their oldest son, Louis, was the 25th officer to graduate.

In 1794, the Loramiers moved to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, then under Spanish control. Here Loramier became a naturalized citizen of Spain and was appointed commandant and captain of the militia. He received the title of "Don" and thereafter was known as "Don Louis Loramier".

His home (known as the Red House) served as a court, trading post, military headquarters and social center. It became a well known stop for important travelers such as Davy Crockett, Meriwether Lewis & William Clark, and also Loramier's old enemies, Daniel Boone, Gen. Ben Logan, and Captain Bradley. Captain Bradley tried to return some souvenirs that had been stolen years before from Loramier's store in the Ohio Valley. As an act of forgiveness, Loramier gave him a great feast and also a grant of land.

Charlotte Loramier died 3/23/1808 at the age of 50. On 6/2/1810, Loramier married his 3rd wife, Marie Bethiaume (daughter of a French-Canadian trader and a Shawnee woman), and on 6/12/1812, Loramier died at the age of 64. He is buried beside Charlotte in the family plot of the Loramier Cemetery which is among the town's tourist attractions in Cape Girardeau.

[*"Early History of Fort Loramie"* by Charles F. Pepple - 1987]

[*"Ft. Loramie Remembers Its Past"* Evelyn (Fleckenstein) Busse - 2003]
[Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2001]



THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR (1754-1763)

The French and Indian War was the last of the conflicts between Britain and France for control of North America, which began as a struggle for control of the Ohio² Valley. For more than a generation, several Iroquois-speaking Indian nations dominated the vast region in the interior of the continent and had successfully excluded the European nations from this territory. They were able to maintain their power against that of both the British and the French until the 1740s when British traders penetrated deep into the Ohio Valley. The British had no desire to begin a war in America since their last conflict with France at Nova Scotia (1744-1748), but British leaders such as William Pitt, future earl of Chatham, were intent on expanding British influence.

The Ohio² Company, an association of land speculators based in Virginia, encouraged the British excursions. British King George II had granted the company 500,000 acres around the forks of the Ohio River on 5/19/1749 and they wanted to move traders and settlers into this region. In the summer of 1753, Virginia received reports that a French expedition from Canada was establishing posts on the Ohio River and was seeking to make treaties with the Indians. Britain demanded an immediate French withdrawal, and 21-year-old Major George Washington carried the message from the Virginia governor to the French commander. The French government realized that not only were the profits of the fur trade at stake, but that the British also wanted to own and settle in these lands. The rival territorial claims in the Ohio Valley quickly led to violence. George Washington and an armed party of Virginians defeated a small French force east of the Ohio River and built a log stockade - Fort Necessity, Pennsylvania (now Pittsburgh). The French quickly laid siege to this small fort and forced Washington and his troops to surrender on July 4, 1754. Thus began the French and Indian War, although war was not formally declared until 1756.

In 1757, William Pitt sent thousands of British troops to North America and ordered a direct attack on Canada. Parliament also financed the enlistment and supply of more than 20,000 American troops from 1758 to 1760. Great Britain captured the French-held city of Quebec on 9/18/1759. Only Montreal remained in French hands, and it surrendered to British forces in September 1760.

The fall of Canada began the fourth and last stage of the war. Only minor conflicts continued, many of these occurring between British settlers and Indian tribes who had sided with the French to protect their lands. The Treaty of Paris on 2/10/1763 ended the French and Indian War, with France ceding Canada and all lands east of the Mississippi River to Britain.

[Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2001]

[Ohio² is named after the Ohio River and is derived from an Iroquoian/Algonquian word meaning great or beautiful river.]

AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR (1775-1783)

After the signing of treaties with the Iroquois and Cherokees in 1768-69, the pioneers began streaming into the area west of the Alleghenies. Many of them fell victim to the Shawnees, who still claimed western Virginia. Atrocities were committed on both sides. In 1774 Governor Dunmore undertook a retaliatory expedition after a raid by the Shawnees, which itself had been in retaliation for several brutal murders of Shawnees and Mingoes by white settlers. The Shawnees were defeated in a day-long battle at Point Pleasant on October 10, 1774, and their chief, Cornstalk, signed a peace treaty.

The British had become concerned about the colonists' lack of cooperation during the French and Indian War. They initially resented the fact that the prosperous colonists were unwilling to undertake their own defense. Even with generous subsidies, the colonists did not respond as the British expected. They claimed that their militias were needed to defend home territory and refused to send their militiamen on expeditions to Canada. For the colonists, the French and Indian War increased their concern over the permanent presence of a British army. They believed that a standing army threatened liberty and representative government.

After a decade of conflicts between the British government and the colonists, beginning with the Stamp Act crisis in 1765 (*The Stamp Act of March 1765 required the colonists to buy and place revenue stamps on all official legal documents, deeds, mortgages, newspapers, pamphlets, dice, and playing cards in order to be deemed legal*), the American Revolutionary War broke out on April 19, 1775. When the Revolution began, both the British government and the revolutionists soon began to recruit allies from among the Indian nations. Later, in a meeting in Pittsburgh in September 1775, the Shawnees, Delawares, and five other important Indian nations promised to remain neutral.

On July 4, 1776, Congress ordered publication of a Declaration of Independence, which declared the 13 colonies free and independent as the "United States of America."

The Indian nations kept their pledge of neutrality for almost two years, but continued friction with American settlers finally enabled the British to turn them against the Americans. West Virginians experienced three major Indian invasions from 1777 to 1782. During 1777, more raids occurred in West Virginia than at any other time.

In 1778, American military leader Gen. George Rogers Clark led an expedition down the Ohio Valley, gaining control of several British settlements in present-day Indiana and Illinois.

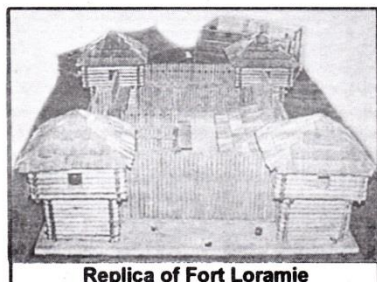
The final phase of the war came on September 3, 1783 when another Treaty of Paris was won recognizing the independence of the United States, but it made no mention of the Indians, particularly those in the Old Northwest (the Midwest of today). [Microsoft Encarta]

After the revolution was over, Americans began migrating in search of land west of the Alleghenies and the Blue Ridge Mountains into the Ohio Valley, Kentucky, and Tennessee - areas where various Indian nations were still intact and strong. Once there, many of the migrants squatted on Indian land, with the predictable result - war. When the U.S. attempted to treat the Indians in the new territories as conquered enemies, they resisted and their raids continued, encouraged by the British, until the decisive victory at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794.

The "Battle of Fallen Timbers" took its name from a tangled area of tornado-felled trees that littered the Black Swamp as Gen. Wayne's army traveled through it in 1794. The heavy cover of massive trees and the black mud below them may have been responsible for the name, "Black Swamp". The fallen timbers and the mud made travel difficult.

This replica of the old fort at Fort Loramie is displayed in a room at the Fort Loramie Historical museum. It shows a great deal of detail and has cut-away buildings to show their interiors.

[Extra Merchandiser]
[7/16/1997]



Replica of Fort Loramie



[Fort Loramie historical marker erected along St. Rt. 66 North in the sesquicentennial year of Ohio's statehood (1953) by the Fort Loramie Businessmen's Association and American Legion Post 355.]

THE INDIAN WARS (1790-1795)

When American pioneers attempted to settle the area north and west of the Ohio River following the Northwest Ordinance (1787), the Indians, aided by the British of Canada, fought valiantly and fiercely for their homes in the Ohio country. They set the frontier aflame and it required the efforts of three American armies to break the Indian resistance to American occupation. The first army (1790) under Gen. Josiah Harmar met defeat at the Miami Towns (Fort Wayne, Indiana). The second (1791) under Gov. Arthur St. Clair was surprised and repulsed with severe losses on the banks of the Wabash (Fort Recovery, Ohio). Finally, on 8/20/1794, the Legion of the United States, under the command of General "Mad" Anthony Wayne, achieved a decisive victory at the Battle of Fallen Timbers. This triumph of American arms resulted in the Treaty of Greene Ville, (8/3/1795) which placed the Indians under the control of the U.S. The Northwest Territory, from which was to be formed the states of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, and part of Minnesota, was firmly in the hands of the U.S. and opened, in part, to white settlement.

After the treaty, Gen. Wayne constructed a series of posts along the supply route which extended between Fort Washington at Cincinnati, and the American forts along the Maumee River. Among these supply posts was Fort Loramie. It was built on the site of an early store owned by the French trader, Peter Loramie, which was destroyed in 1782 by Gen. George Rogers Clark.

Fort Loramie was located directly west of this marker on the north bank of Loramie Creek. Supplies arrived there by boat from the south, were portaged to the St. Marys River, and then transported again by boat to Fort Wayne, the major American outpost in the Maumee Valley. Later, Fort Loramie was a gateway through which settlers passed to make their homes in the former Indian lands.

"Fort Recovery" was built and named that on 12/25/1793 after Gen. Wayne's men "recovered" and buried the remaining bones and skulls from the battle which had been lost 2 years earlier by Gov. St. Clair.

The land north of Pierre Loramier's Trading Post was used as a portage between Loramie Creek (the western branch of the Big Miami) and the St. Marys River or the Auglaize River. This portage was used by the Indians and the early white traders to carry goods to be sent to "Fort Wayne" or down the Maumee ("Miami of the Lake") to Lake Erie. The portage was also used by frontier militiamen and was traveled by Simon Girty and his brothers on military campaigns during the Revolutionary War.

THE GIRTY FAMILY

Simon Girty, Sr. was a native of Ireland who settled in western Pennsylvania (near present-day Harrisburg) in 1740. He and his wife had 4 sons – Simon Jr., James, George, and Thomas. In 1745, Simon moved his wife and their first 3 sons to the western Pennsylvania frontier on the Juniata River. Simon Girty was a hunter and spent long periods of time away from his family with only a dog as his companion. Simon Girty Sr. died and his wife remarried, to a man named John Turner.

In July 1756, the Turner & Girty family was attacked by the French-led Delaware and Shawnee Indians. Turner was tortured to death in a grisly manner and the three oldest Girty boys were captured and adopted by the Indians – Simon (15) by the Senecas, James (13) by the Shawnees, and George (11) by the Delawares. There was no further mention of their mother or of Thomas, who was mentioned as "a toddler" as of 1750. There was a half-brother, John Turner. [The Frontiersmen]

Girty, Simon (1741-1818) - American frontiersman and scout, born in what is now Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. He was called the "Great Renegade" for turning traitor during the American Revolution. From 1759 until the outbreak of the Revolution he served as interpreter and scout at Fort Pitt³ (now Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania). At the beginning of the Revolution he acted as interpreter for George Washington's Continental Army. In 1778, however, he deserted to the British and was declared a traitor by the Pennsylvania legislature. During the rest of the war he led raiding parties of British and Indians along the northern and western frontiers. After the war he settled near Detroit, which remained in British hands, and continued to lead Indian raids on outposts. In 1791 he took part in the defeat of an American expedition (at "Fort Recovery") led by Major General Arthur St. Clair, first American governor of the Northwest Territory. When Detroit was ceded to the United States under the terms of Jay's Treaty in 1796, Girty escaped to Canada, where he lived for the rest of his life. [Simon Girty lived in Canada to a "great age" near/with his daughter, who, with her husband, "kept a public house". — 1880 Atlas, pg. 11]. Although the stories circulated about Girty's savagery were exaggerated, he was greatly feared in the western settlements and is known to have permitted the torture and burning of settlers by the Indians. [Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2001]

Simon Girty was released from captivity in 1764, but he stayed on at the fort to act as an interpreter for the British Crown under Fort Pitt's chief Indian agent, Alexander McKee.

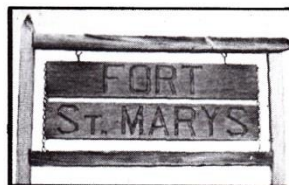
In May 1774, Simon Kenton arrived at Fort Pitt³ and met Simon Girty. In October of that year, they became "blood brothers". In March 1778, Kenton and Girty met again at Fort Pitt³ and Girty informed Kenton that he, Indian agent Alexander McKee, trader Matthew Elliott, and 4 other men were going to desert the Continental Army and go to Detroit to join British General Henry Hamilton. When Simon's brothers, James & George, learned of his defection, they also defected their positions, and the 3 brothers were reunited at Detroit.

REF: Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2001
1880 Atlas of Auglaize County, 1979 History of Auglaize County
"The Frontiersmen" by Allan W. Eckert, published Sept. 1967
"That Dark and Bloody River" by Allan W. Eckert, pub. Dec. 1995

After being driven from southern Ohio by Gen. George Rogers Clark in 1782, the Shawnee Indians chose a site located at the junction of 3 streams which formed the St. Marys River for the establishment of one of their villages. The village was known as "Kettle Town". James Girty, who had a Shawnee wife, later established a store there and the site became known as "Girty's Town". In 1794, a Catholic trader, Charles Murray (who plotted the village of St. Marys in 1823), established a trading post there after James Girty fled before the advances of General Wayne's army, which arrived there on 10/31/1794.

This was an important trading point during the early Indian campaign (1790-1795) and was the place of supplies for General Harmar and General Wayne. In the winter of 1812-13, General William Henry Harrison had his headquarters here and his blockhouse stood near what is now South Front St. Colonel Barbee completed the fort and called it "Fort Barbee". [Fort Barbee stood a little north of the old gravel pit in the southeast corner of the Lutheran Cemetery. There was a blockhouse nearby]. — 1880 Atlas, pg. 13]

[1917 Atlas of Auglaize County - pg. 101]
[1979 History of Auglaize County - pg. 49+211]



↑ Sign at corner of St. Rt. 66 & Herzing St.

Monument behind Varsity Lanes in the old Lutheran Cemetery →

INSCRIBED: "FORT ST. MARYS"

"Erected here in 1795 by General 'Mad' Anthony Wayne, probably after the signing of the Greenville Treaty, on land ceded by the Indians. This area was also the site of the signing of the (Indian) Treaty of St. Marys in 1818 (the Indian campsites being to the south and west of this spot). Located here prior to, and a little south of the Fort, was the dug-out and cabin of James Girty, of the notorious Girty brothers, giving rise to the area's original name "Girty's Town".

ERECTED 1974 – AUGLAIZE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Girty, James [Western Annals — see 1880 Atlas, pg. 11]

"As he approached manhood, he became dexterous in all the savage life. To the most sanguinary (bloody) spirit he added all the vices of the depraved frontiersmen with whom he frequently associated. It is represented that he often visited Kentucky at the time of its first settlement and many of the inhabitants felt the effects of his cruelty. Neither age nor sex found mercy at his hands. His delight was in carnage. His pleasure was to see new and refined tortures inflicted and to perfect his gratification he frequently gave directions."

What finally became of him is not known and is of little consequence to know, only so that we know he is dead.

³Pittsburgh was originally occupied by the Shawnee and Delaware Indians. In 1753 George Washington surveyed the area for the Ohio Land Company of Virginia and described the land where the Allegheny and Monongahela converge as "extremely well situated for a fort, as it has the absolute command of both rivers." The only Indian settlement in the area at that time was a small Shawnee village on the Allegheny. The British began building a fort, but before they could complete it the French captured the point and built Fort Duquesne. General John Forbes re-established British control in 1758, renamed the site Pittsburgh, in honor of the British prime minister William Pitt the Elder, and built Fort Pitt, the largest structure the British constructed in North America. [Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2001]

**THE UNITED STATES PATENT
to Frederick Henry Schroeder
(Certificates No. 726, 760, 761)
The United States of America**

...Whereas Frederick Henry Schroeder of Cincinnati has deposited in the General Land Office of the United States, a certificate of the register of the Land Office at Piqua, whereby it appears that full payment has been made by same, according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April 1820, entitled "An act, making further provision for the sale of the public lands" for the East half of the Northwest quarter of Section 10 in Township 7 south of Range 4 east (Cert. 726) in the district of lands subject to sale at Piqua, Ohio, containing 80 acres...according to the official plat of the survey of the said lands returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General....grant unto Frederick Henry Schroeder and to his heirs the said tract above described.....In testimony whereof, I, Andrew Jackson, President of the United States of America have caused these letters to be made Patent and the seal of the General Land office to be hereunto affixed.

Given at the city of Washington the 27th day of November, 1833, and of the Independence of the United States, the 58th.

Andrew Jackson, by A.J. Donelson, Secy.
Entered for Rec. & Record July 18, 1836 - J.W. Riley, Rec.,
Elijah Hayward, Commissioners of the General Land Office

also

Cert. 760 - northeast quarter of Section 10 - 160 acres - 11/27/1833

*Cert. 761 - n½ of the se quarter of Sec. 10 - 80 acres - 11/27/1833

and

U.S. Patent Deed for the nw quarter of Section 15, T5S (T7), R4E, 160 acres - Deed dated 1/13/1834, filed 7/18/1836 (same as above)

Grantor: United States - Grantee: F.H. Schroeder (conveyance records)

On 3/18/1840, this same parcel of land was conveyed from Mercer Common Pleas to B.F. "Schweder" (Schroeder), the son? of F.H. Schroeder?

In 1844, the nw¼ of the nw¼ (40 acres) was conveyed from B.F. & D. Schroeder (Bernhard Friedrich and Diedrich?) to B.H. Schulte for \$100.

In 1845-1846, the ne¼ of the nw¼ (40 acres) was conveyed from B.F. & D. Schroeder to Wm. Finke for \$600.

In 1847, the s½ of the nw¼ (80 acres) was conveyed from D. Schroeder to John C. Mohrman for \$500.

In 1853, 160 acres of the northwest quarter was conveyed from Maria Schroeder to B.F.D. Schroeder by "AC" deed for \$1000.

NOTE: I believe these records indicate that the Bernhard Friedrich Schroeder written about in the July 2003 issue of *The Towpath* was the son of F.H. Schroeder, one of the two land scouts sent out by the City of Bremen Society in 1832 (see pg. 7), and that B.F. and his brother, Diedrich, inherited this land when they came of age. Coincidentally, the recorder was J.W. (James Watson) Riley, who raised both boys after their parents both died in 1833, shortly after settling in New Bremen.



THE CROWN PAVILION

Something new is being erected at the former location of the "1938" municipal swimming pool on West Plum Street. It is a 90-foot diameter open-air "shelter house" that is being donated by James Dicke Sr. of New Bremen. This structure had a previous life at Wicker Resort on Orchard Island at Indian Lake as a Chautauqua building, a skating rink, and a store for resort guests. It was built in the early 1900s by Alexander Tarr, a former owner of the resort. The resort was purchased by the Dicks in early 2001 from Isabelle (Wicker) Pusey and Sylvia (Wicker) Reid. In July, the old skating rink was disassembled, reconditioned, and in August-September 2003, it was moved to West Plum Street in New Bremen, next to the Miami-Erie Canal.

The Village of New Bremen is providing the necessary electricity and landscaping and will take control of the structure as soon as it is completed. The new shelter house is being named "The Crown Pavilion".

James Dicke is dedicating this project to all Crown Equipment Corp. employees, past and present, in appreciation for their efforts and commitment in making Crown a successful business since 1945. [Bellefontaine Examiner-7/3/2003]



Bonnie Schulenberg, Catherine Schroeder?, Dorothy Komminsk, Mary Ellen Taylor, Irene Dammeyer, Betty Vitz, Antoinette Purpus, Ted Purpus, Esther Rabe (1928?)

Dear Lucille:

8/14/2003

In the January 2003 *Towpath*, you requested information about kindergarten classes after 1913. Even though my mother called this a kindergarten class, I'm confused because of the differing ages of those in the class. Irene, Antoinette & Esther were 2 years older and Bonnie, Catherine, Dorothy & Ted were 1 year my senior. Betty & I both graduated in 1941.

Eunice (Boesel) Brucken taught the class and it was held in the 1920 high school building.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen (Taylor) Patton

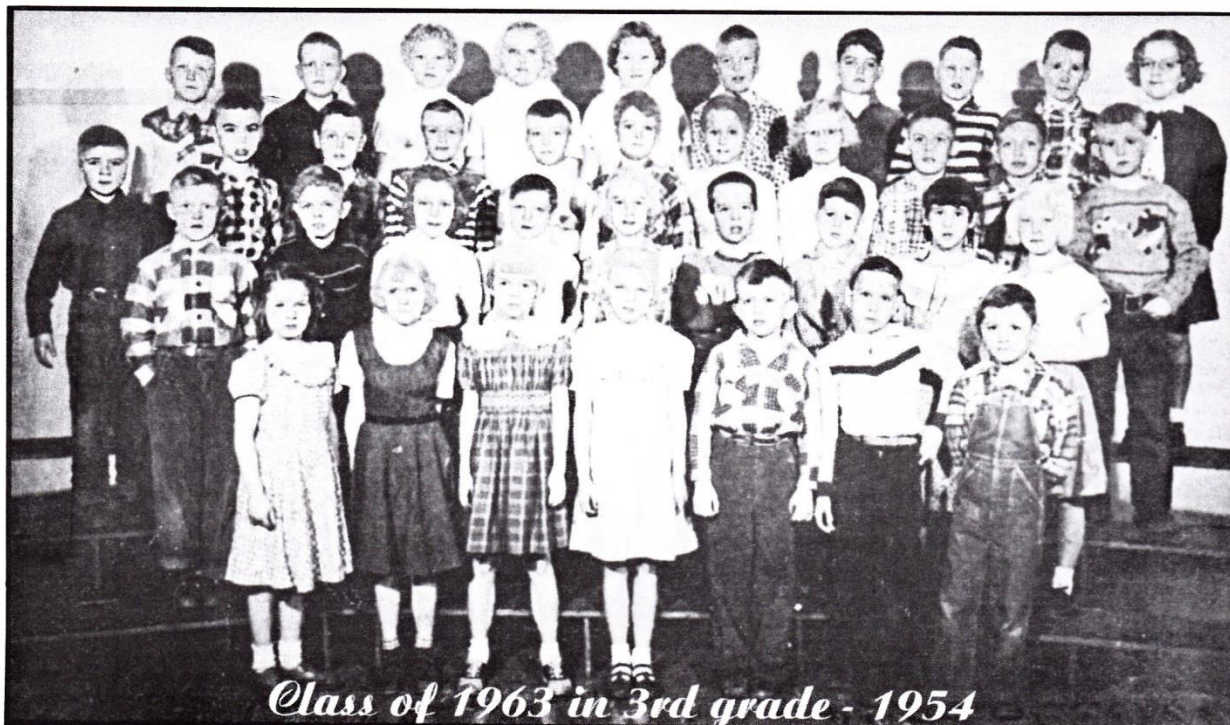


Class of 1963 Reunion - 8/16/2003

CLASSMATES: Max Fledderjohann, Barbara (Mousa) Gebert, Sarah (Shaffer) Belton, Frank Richey, Linda (Rempe) McDermitt, Niles Harris, Pat (Dicke) Now (seated), Lavern Wentte, Carole (Warner) LaVeen, Harold Suchland, Barbara (Berning) Freewalt, Kathy Topp, Lee Kuck, Suzanne (Luedeke) Broyles, Bill Dicke, Diann (Heitkamp) Bornhorst, Nancy (Brockman) Conradi, Danny Shroyer, Barbara (Wehmeyer) Moeller, Roger Bornhorst, Larry Heil★, James Dicke II★. (★classmates who did not graduate from N.B.H.S.) — **UNABLE TO ATTEND:** Alberta (Bambauer) Dearmon, Nick Grilliot, Julia (Grothaus) Zerbe, Bernard Lampert. — **DECEASED:** James Fark, Jane (Voress) Koenig.

♦♦♦ ♦♦♦ ♦♦♦

At 3:00 p.m. Saturday, August 16th, the N.B.H.S. Class of 1963 gathered for their 40-year class reunion at the Crown Farm as guests of former classmate, James Dicke II. A meal was catered at 7:00 p.m. by Speedway Lanes of N.B., after which the time was spent visiting, getting reacquainted with classmates, spouses / friends, and enjoying the beautiful surroundings. A special guest of Bill Dicke was former N.B. teacher, Dwight Kurtzman.



Class of 1963 in 3rd grade - 1954

TOP: Lavern Wentte, Lee Kuck, Suzanne Luedeke, Barbara Wehmeyer, Patricia Dicke, Harold Suchland, Niles Harris, David Topp, Michael Ahlers, Kathleen Luedeke — **ROW 2:** Gene Moeller, David Tangeman, James Fark, Thomas Becker, Thomas Wickham, James Dicke, Bernard Lampert, Nancy Brockman, Nicholas Grilliot, Larry Heil, Jack Myers — **ROW 3:** Frank Richey, Robert Rempe, Mary Ann Moeller, Danny Shroyer, Diann Heitkamp, Frederick Gossette, Robert Slife, Ladonna Wessel, Barbara Berning.

FRONT: Sarah Shaffer, Kathleen Topp, Julia Grothaus, Nancy Luedeke, Roger Henschen, Max Fledderjohann, Terry Schwarck.

From the Mailbox



-13-

Dear Sir:

6/22/2003

James Moeller sent me a copy of a 2001 issue of *The Towpath* and I am sending \$10.00 for a year's subscription. My roots are in New Bremen as my paternal grandma, Lulu/Louise (Vornholt) Schaefer, sister to Ben Vornholt, was born in New Bremen in 1855 and died in Sidney, Ohio in 1931.

Yours truly, Franklin J. Schaefer – Columbus, Ohio

From "The Sidney Daily News" – 7/4/2003 – "25 Years Ago"

7/4/1978: The third in a series of band concerts this summer will be held Friday night and will feature Franklin J. Schaefer, formerly of Sidney, and a past director of local bands.



Hi Tom:

6/25/2003

I received the July 2003 issue of *The Towpath* today and it was a GREAT edition. I read every line and really found the articles interesting. A few things particularly attracted my attention. One was the reference to the establishment of Zion Church. My great-grandfather, August Schneider, and his family were members of this church. The article indicated that 9 families had established the church in 1865. I would like to know more about the settling of the church. Was it due to religious differences or preferences or some political problem at St. Paul's (St. Peter's)?

Reference was also made in the church article and elsewhere in past articles to Christian Schmidt. August Schneider's older brother, Wilhelm, lived in Piqua and married a Caroline Schmidt. I have communicated with some Schmidt researchers and they believe there was a connection through the Schmidts in Auglaize County, but we have never found the link. Any information you could provide would be appreciated.

Chris (Schneider) Howard – Dayton, Ohio

From Zion's 50th Anniversary booklet¹ of July 1915 & "The New Bremen Sun" – 7/2/1915

¹Zion's Reformed Church was organized on March 6, 1865 in the home of Heinrich Vornholt [father (or grandfather?) of Louise & Ben Vornholt mentioned above]. The 9 organizers were: Christian Schmidt, Herman Vornholt, Johann Vornholt, Heinrich Vornholt, Heinrich Huckeriede, August Huckeriede, Adolph Koenig, Friederich Broermann, and Johann Fark.

"It was the original intention and object of the new organization to go into and appropriate unto themselves deeper truths from the Word of God, and naturally were subjected for many years to a course that was not altogether pleasant to the natural man." [N.B. Sun – 7/2/1915]



Hi Tom:

7/4/2003

Thanks for another complimentary copy of *The Towpath* – the July 2003 issue. The name Ralph May sounded very familiar to me. I think he was a member of the Piqua Presbyterian Church which I attended with my family, but we were never well acquainted with him or his family. The story of his life was quite interesting.

Many thanks, David Koester – Wilmington, Delaware

7/2/2003

Thanks for sending me a complimentary copy of the July 2003 issue of *The Towpath*. Dick & I both really enjoyed reading it in the past. Sorry I didn't think to renew it – things were pretty hectic the last couple of months before Dick's death on May 23rd. Enclosed is a check for \$10.00.

It was interesting to read about the Schroeders in this issue. My grandmother was a Schroeder and her parents lived in New Bremen. My parents died when I was young, but I remember something about the hardware store being run by a Schroeder [Harry & Frieda (Dammeyer) Schroeder and later by their son, Bob – another Schroeder family.]

Yours truly, Martha (Hartings) Sherman – New Bremen



Dear Tom:

7/5/2003

Thank you for all your help learning about New Bremen (in regard to William Finke and his serving as Justice of the Peace) and correcting my mistakes! I hope to spend more time just looking around this summer. I am enclosing a check for a year's subscription to *The Towpath* and a donation to the Historic Association for your help.

Alison Efford – Columbus, Ohio
[O.S.U. student from New Zealand]



Dear Lucille:

7/20/2003

Thank you for sending me a complimentary copy of the July 2003 issue of *The Towpath*. It contained information about St. Peter's parsonage that was new to me even though I had lived there a number of years. I forwarded it on to my sister, Theodora (Papsdorf) Walker of Hesperia, California. A check is enclosed for a year's subscription for my sister.

Robert A. Papsdorf – Lake Almanor, California



E-mail to Tom Braun:

7/27/2003

My parents and I both received the complimentary copies of the July 2003 issue of *The Towpath* with the article about our visit to Ohio in April. We enjoyed it very much and have been sharing it with family that could not make the trip with us. Thank you again for your hospitality. In response to your e-mail, I do not have any documentation regarding how Bernard Frederick Schroeder came into possession of the land that he subdivided on the north edge of New Bremen (¹n¹/₂ of the se quarter of Sec. 10 — see pgs. 7 & 11-Cert./Patent #761).

Attached are 2 references from the *History of Clayton County, Iowa* regarding your great-great uncle, Adam Braun, and Peter Maurer (both formerly of New Bremen), which the book says was his brother-in-law.

Since visiting New Bremen in April, my company was downsized and my position was eliminated. I am still looking for work and we may have to relocate. I was very impressed when I was in New Bremen with the pride that Crown Equipment Corp. takes in its community and the support that they provide. It really seems like a good company to work for.

Best regards, Bernard Schroeder – Wayland, Iowa

-14-

Dear Lucille:

7/1/2003

Thanks for *The Towpath* again. I think you have a full time job with all the research, and then the decisions about what would be of interest and should be published.

My brother, Bob Hirschfeld, and his wife Evelyn researched our family genealogy for about 20 years and did a great job. My cousin, June Hegemier, and I are trying to get it on the computer for long-term preservation and easier editing and updating. Bob has also added some personal experiences about our grandfather and grandmother, Edward & Elizabeth (Bergsieker) Hirschfeld, and the threshing circuit started by our great-grandfather, Adam Henry Hirschfeld, and passed down to his sons, John & Edward.

We held the 58th or 59th Hirschfeld family reunion on June 22nd and had an attendance of about 60 relatives. We gave our Uncle Gilbert, age 93, a plaque for being the longest living descendent of Edward & Elizabeth. He was born and lived all of his life on the home place at the junction of St. Johns and Clover Four Roads in Franklin Township, Mercer County.

Keep up the good work.

Stan Hirschfeld – Noblesville, Indiana



Dear Mrs. Francis:

7/22/2003

I was reading the articles in the April & July 2003 issues of *The Towpath* concerning the Kappel School east of New Bremen - I went to that school for 6 years. My first grade teacher was Elizabeth Grothaus and I remember when she became engaged to Herman Freytag. My first grade was a happy one because of her. She seemed to care for each one of us.

I am 87 years of age now and enjoy living here at Dorothy Love Retirement Community at Sidney. My husband, Frank Kelley, and I moved here in 1993 after selling our home in Sidney. Frank had Alzheimers and passed away in 1997.

I have many friends here and being 87 does not slow me down. I'm not the best typist on this electric typewriter - I hope you can figure out what I am trying to tell you.

I enjoy *The Towpath* because I remember many of the people. You are doing a wonderful job.

Sincerely,

Opal (Fischbach) Kelley – Sidney, Ohio
[sister to Sally (Fischbach) Tontrup]



E-mail to Tom Braun:

7/27/2003

We enjoyed the April 2003 issue of *The Towpath* which had a story about Dinkel's Meat Market on page 10. My grandmother was Amanda (Dinkel) Mueller and we have a picture of the Dinkels she gave me years ago. All the facts she supplied line up with the ones in *The Towpath*. I am the son of Carl Mueller, grandson of August & Amanda (Dinkel) Mueller, and great-grandson of Theodore & Elizabeth (Diehm) Dinkel and Henry & Maria (Sunderman) Mueller.

(Rev.) Jerry Mueller – Williamsburg, Ohio

[EDITOR'S NOTE: August & Amanda (Dinkel) Mueller had 3 children: a daughter Marie and 2 younger sons, Carl & Harold. I neglected to list the 2 sons in the April 2003 issue. Marie was featured on page 11 of the October 2000 issue of "The Towpath" with a tribute written by Jerry Mueller & his wife, Barbara.]

To The Towpath:

7/28/2003

Just a little note to thank you for the July 2003 issue. At first I didn't notice the picture of my brother (*Father Carl Will*) on the back page. I'm sure he would be pleased to be remembered in that way. He enjoyed being a part of things and he certainly enjoyed being in New Bremen.

Sincerely,

Georgetta Will – Dayton, Ohio



Dear Lucille:

8/2/2003

Since our recent phone conversation about Irish sweaters and the link to my Grandpa Roediger ('though he was 100% German!), I've found this poem which explains how each family had its own knit pattern so the bodies of fishermen lost at sea could be identified by their sweaters. One of those patterns is the Honeycomb stitch.

These **Traditional Aran Stitches** enjoy a beauty all their own,
Each family chose a pattern stitch and by this stitch was known:

The Trellis stitch for stone-walled fields, the Basket for the cod;
The Tree of Life for family strength, the Trinity for God;

The Zigzag stitch for shoreline cliffs, the Double Zigzag for all
The ins and outs of married life, The Cable lest you fall;

The Irish Moss for carrageen gathered at low tides;

The Diamond and The Honeycomb

for success hard work provides. [E.A. Manning]

When I bought my Irish (also called Aran) sweater some thirty years ago when we lived in Northern Ireland, I didn't know the Honeycomb pattern was meant for a beekeeper's family - I just liked it. Only recently did I find that out, and it's really appropriate as my grandpa, Henry Roediger, was a beekeeper as well as an avid fisherman!

We used to get jars of honey and also honeycomb (which we loved to chew on) at his farm on Lock Two Road, and he also took my sister, Janice, and me fishing when we were young. It's ironic, relating to this whole story, that he died by Grand Lake St. Marys right after he'd been fishing one day. He didn't need a sweater to identify him though - I think everybody knew who he was!

We had lots of aunts and uncles since there were 12 children in the Roediger family (Mildred Sudman in St. Marys is the only one remaining), and there are many Roediger cousins, including Carl & Gene Roediger, who lived on Grandpa's farm.

All good wishes,

Carolyn (Dammeyer) Cook - Friendswood, Texas

P.S. I asked if you knew why my dad, Wilbert Dammeyer, was called "Pete". You said you knew of several other Wilberts/Wilburs who were also called "Pete". If you ever find out why they were nicknamed "Pete", we would like to know! (Any suggestions, anybody?)

Also, a question has come up about horseshoes. My son recently brought some back from our old barn on Lock Two Road (which was razed after the Amish took beams and boards) and people here tell me they should be hung like a "U" for good luck (so your luck will not run out) but it seems to me they were hung the other way, open end down.

**ROEDIGER FAMILY**

- 1 – Frank Roediger
- 2 – Walter Roediger
- 3 – Esther Hegemier
- 4 – Chester Roediger
- 5 – Henry Roediger
- 6 – Emil Roediger
- 7 – Anna Roediger
- 8 – Elmer Roediger
- 9 – Leota Kellermeyer
- 10 – Marie Dammeyer
- 11 – Mildred Sudman
- 12 – Ruth Johnson
- 13 – Kenneth Roediger
- 14 – Vernon Roediger
- Otto (died as infant)

[Photo & I.D.s courtesy of
Bill Kuck – Findlay, Ohio]

Henry Roediger (d. 2/4/1952) & Anna (Eschmeyer) Roediger (d. 2/19/1958) celebrated their 50th anniversary on 3/7/1948.

Dear Lucille:

8/6/2003

I have some recollection of Howard Hoffman. I was 5 years old when he produced and directed the Christmas pageant, "Spirit of Peace", at Zion's Church in 1933. (see "The Towpath" – April 2003).

My parents, Budd & Gertrude Rinehart, lived at 22 South Franklin Street across the street from John Brockie and his mother and Howard often visited with John and his mother and with my family.

The way Mother told it, Howard visualized the pageant in Mother and Dad's living room. Puffing on his pipe, he told John and my parents how the pageant was to be presented – the music, the lighting, and the costumes the performers would wear. Howard asked Mother to be "Wardrobe Mistress", a fancy term for the person in charge of creating and/or scrounging for costumes.

New Bremen citizens, as well as people outside the community, were in attendance, including Grandmother Rinehart and my aunt and uncle from Cridersville.

The pageant was Zion Church's gift to the community, as performers and audience forgot, for one magical evening, the trauma of the Great Depression.

This is the strength of small town America, and I am proud to have been born and raised in New Bremen.

Bill and I appreciate the work you and other dedicated members of the Association do to collect and preserve our glorious New Bremen heritage.

Sincerely, Virginia (Rinehart) Buss – Longboat Key, FL

QUOTATION:

"If you would not be forgotten as soon as you are dead,
Either write things worth reading or do things worth writing."

Dear Lucille & Association:

8/9/2003

I'm clearing my kitchen table and came across an article that I pulled from a weekly insert of our local newspaper, *The Athens Messenger*. I always take note when I see something about the New Bremen area. It was a thrill to see "New Bremen Historic Museum" mentioned in this article. I just wanted to share this with you so you can see how far news travels. (see pg. 3)

I get excited with the arrival of *The Towpath* to see what is going to be the news. It is so amazing how little the main street has changed, and then how much it has changed. I don't get back there near enough but enjoy the time I do get to be there. A visit with my aunt, Annabel (Scheer) Wagner, is always so interesting. She can talk about New Bremen for hours. It is so amazing all the stuff she remembers. I hope she can continue to do this for a few more years at least. Keep up the good work.

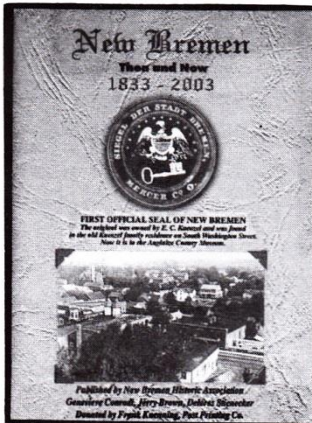
Louise (formerly "Olive" Loyer) Pullins – Athens, Ohio
[1956 N.B.H.S. Classmate]



Annabel (Scheer) Wagner

Annabel Wagner is indeed one of N.B.'s treasure troves of information. Whenever the latest issue of *The Towpath* is mailed, I can count on receiving a phone call from her and we will discuss the articles in that issue plus many other topics. Annabel will end by saying "Boy, we sure covered a lot of territory, didn't we?"

FUNDRAISERS



NEW BOOK FOR SALE

The New Bremen Historic Association has a new soft cover book for sale as shown at left. It has 42 pages of pictures, including the front and back covers, showing scenes of New Bremen years ago and the comparable scene of today. Books are available at the museum or from any N.B.H.A. trustee. They may also be purchased at the

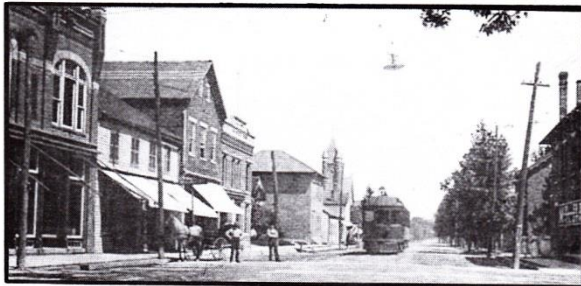
New Bremen Public Library or from the Crown Store. This book would make a nice gift for someone who grew up in New Bremen.

Cost = \$15.00 (including Ohio sales tax for Ohio residents.)

S/H = 2.00 [To have your book(s) mailed to you.]



COLOR PRINTS FOR SALE (new)



The New Bremen Historic Association is offering for sale a limited edition 17 1/4" x 5 3/4" color print entitled "The Interurban on Main Street - New Bremen". Artist Pat Wietholter of New Knoxville was commissioned to produce a color painting of the North Main Street postcard shown above. Each print will be numbered and signed by the artist. Prints are available from any N.B.H.A. Trustee, the New Bremen Public Library or the SW Auglaize County Chamber of Commerce.

Cost = \$40.00 (including Ohio sales tax for Ohio residents.)

S/H = 3.50 [To have your print(s) mailed to you.]

[For further information, please contact Tom Braun
Phone: 419-629-8902 ♦ E-mail: TGBraun@nktelco.net]



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.



MUSEUM RENOVATION REPORT

by Joyce Holdren

The "School Room" (northwest room, downstairs) walls have been patched and painted by Hoffman Decorating and new light fixtures have been installed.

The curators have been preserving the old *New Bremen Sun* newspapers by wrapping the bound books in acid free tissue paper and placing them in cabinets (shown above) that were built for that purpose by Hoge Lumber Company of New Knoxville. The construction cost of \$5600 was shared by Dr. Edward Conradi of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina and by James Sr. & Eilleen Dicke of New Bremen.

Microfilms of these old *New Bremen Sun* newspapers (dating from 1/20/1888-7/13/1961) can be viewed at the New Bremen Public Library. The earliest issues of the *Suns* (9/17/1886-1/13/1888?) are in private hands and may be donated to the N.B.H.A. This will complete the collection of bound volumes (not of microfilm).

We are continuing our renovations of the museum (painting, roof) into the fall, so please excuse our "mess".

The Curators

NEW MEMBERS THIS QUARTER (THRU 9/10/03)

[*Spousal Memberships @ \$5.00 or \$50.00/LM]

- 7/5/03 Barnard, Gloria (Haarbye) - Hilton Head, SC
- 6/17/03 Brussell, Gerald - New Bremen
- 9/9/03 Dicus, Sue (Schowe) - Matherville, Illinois
- 7/10/03 Efford, Alison - Columbus, Ohio
- 6/27/03 Heinfeld, John - Glenrose, Texas
- 6/27/03 Heinfeld, Mark - New Bremen
- 7/3/03 Jones, Judith (Mueller) - Oviedo, Florida
- 7/3/03 Kittel, Karl - Houston, Ohio (LM-sp)
- 6/24/03 Schaefer, Franklin J. - Columbus, Ohio
- 7/2/03 Sherman, Martha (Hartings) - New Bremen
- 7/20/03 Walker, Theodora (Papsdorf) - Hesperia, California
- 7/19/03 Weir, Rev. Richard - New Bremen
- 7/24/03 Wendel, John - New Bremen

ADDITIONS TO LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

- 7/3/03 Kittel, Delores (Luedeke)
- 7/3/03 Kittel, Karl (new-spouse)
- 7/22/03 Ziegenbusch, Barbara (Cashdollar)

MEMBER DEATHS THIS QUARTER

- 7/14/03 Brinkmeyer, Robert (LM) - d. 7/7/03-Bethesda, MD
- 6/28/03 Hellwarth, Jeanette (Thomas)(CM) - died 6/28/03
- 7/17/03 Hoffman, Mrs. Ezra (Attilia Pettiti) - auto accident
- 9/5/03 Kellermeyer, Vernon (LM) - died 9/5/03 - Florida