

**MUSEUM located at 122 N. Main St.**  
(The Luelleman House)

# 3-04 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) July - 2004**

### ◆ OFFICERS OF N.B. HISTORIC ASSOC. ◆

- (06) Larry Dicke, President/Trustee-----419-629-1903  
Larry Dicke (e-mail: [ldicke@nktelco.net](mailto:ldicke@nktelco.net))  
(06) Carl Roediger, V. Pres./Trustee-----419-629-2549  
Carl Roediger (e-mail: [caroediger@nktelco.net](mailto:caroediger@nktelco.net))  
(05) Dru Meyer, Secretary/Trustee-----419-629-3495  
Dru Meyer (e-mail: [midrum@nktelco.net](mailto:midrum@nktelco.net))  
(07) Thomas Braun, Treasurer/Trustee-----419-629-8902  
Tom Braun, Genealogy (e-mail: [TGBraun@nktelco.net](mailto:TGBraun@nktelco.net))  
(05) Lawrence Egbert, Trustee-----419-629-2578  
(05) Mary Moeller, Trustee-----419-629-3635  
(06) Mary Paul, Trustee-----419-629-2213  
(07) R. Jay Stauffer, Trustee-----419-629-3334  
Jay Stauffer (e-mail: [keltie@nktelco.net](mailto:keltie@nktelco.net))  
(07) Dennis Klingler, Trustee-----419-629-2454  
Dennis Klingler (e-mail: [cokyrase@nktelco.net](mailto:cokyrase@nktelco.net))

### ◆ "APPOINTEES" ◆

- Delores Stienecker, Curator-----419-629-2685  
Delores Stienecker (e-mail: [stien@adelphia.net](mailto:stien@adelphia.net))  
Joyce Holdren, Curator-----419-629-3474  
Joyce Holdren (e-mail: [tojoho@adelphia.net](mailto:tojoho@adelphia.net))  
Joyce Ruedebusch, Corresponding Secretary-----419-629-2946  
Joyce Ruedebusch (e-mail: [jdr@nktelco.net](mailto:jdr@nktelco.net))  
Genevieve Conradi, Historian's Scrapbook-----419-629-2764  
Gen Conradi (e-mail: [dengen@nktelco.net](mailto:dengen@nktelco.net))  
Susie Hirschfeld, Membership Archives-----419-629-2133

### ◆ WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE ◆

- (05) Joyce Holdren, Advisor-----419-629-3474  
(06) Tom Braun, Chairman-----419-629-8902  
(07) Delores Stienecker-----419-629-2685  
(08) Mary Moeller-----419-629-3635

### ASSOC. MEETINGS ARE HELD FIRST TUESDAYS

7:30 p.m. at the New Bremen Library or Museum

### ◆ THE TOWPATH ◆

- Lucille Francis, Editor & Membership-----419-629-3148  
Susie Hirschfeld, "Towpath" Bulk Mailing-----419-629-2133  
"The Towpath" is printed by Lee's Printing - New Bremen, Ohio

**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)

### THE NEW BREMEN BROOM CO.

Manufacturers of  
**BROOMS & BRUSHES**



High Grade Carpet Brooms a Specialty  
Long Distance Telephone No. 81  
New Bremen, Ohio

### THE SUPERIOR BROOM WORKS

(Not Incorporated)

MANUFACTURERS OF

### HIGH GRADE BROOMS

New Bremen, Ohio

Advertisements from the 1920 "Mirage" N.B.H.S. Yearbook  
**N.B. Broom Co. (pg. 10) <<--> Superior Broom Works (pg.16)**

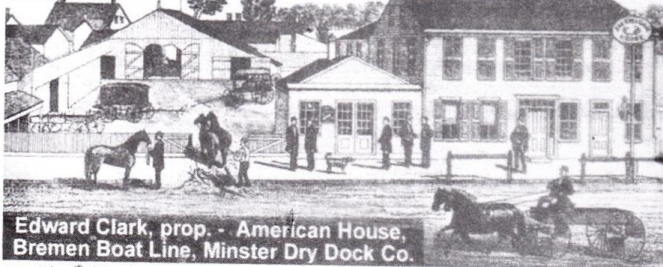
## DO YOU REMEMBER?

by Fernando W. Bruns - 6/2/1933, 6/9/1933, 9/24/1942, 2/22/1945

Dr. Henry Schmidt Sr., father of Dr. Henry J. Schmidt Jr., was a practicing veterinarian with an office at his farm home west of New Bremen. When making calls in New Bremen and the surrounding country, he made the trip with a horse hitched to a sulky. He was said to be the first man to offer milk for sale in New Bremen (ca. 1878). Delivery was made with a spring wagon having two large cans mounted on it.

Dr. H.J. Schmidt Jr.'s first office (in 1886) was located in the building and stables on South Washington Street owned by Edward Clark, canal boat operator, Mayor (from 1881-1882), and who also conducted a saloon and the American House Hotel (which later became the home of Knipple's Home Bakery.)

Old Reliable N.B.-Botkins Daily Hack Line  
Teamster Hauling  
Livery Hire



Edward Clark, prop. - American House,  
Bremen Boat Line, Minster Dry Dock Co.

Dr. H.J. Schmidt, Jr. had an assistant, Herman W. Wiedeman Jr. (nicknamed "Doc"), son of Herman Wiedeman Sr., a tailor who conducted his workshop in a residence at (418) North Main Street. Both Dr. Schmidt and Mr. Wiedeman were quite good dressers and when not out on calls, they wore striped trousers and "Prince Albert" coats.

Dr. H.J. Schmidt, Jr. later moved his office to North Walnut Street. His son, Leonard, followed in his father's footsteps, carrying the veterinary profession into the third generation.

[see pg. 14 for more about the Drs. Schmidt]



## THE LETTERS OF ADAM HELWIG

by Ralph May – N.B. Sun – 7/30/1931+12/14/1939

There is no money I pay more gladly than the \$1.50 (yearly) subscription to *The New Bremen Sun*. With its receipt each weekend, I again live over my boyhood, especially the years of 1900-1910. I receive all the important happenings of the week, plus many interesting events of the past are reviewed and brought back.

Just some little anecdote of the past in your "25 Years Ago" column will bring back a whole panorama of events and scenes that were almost obliterated from my mind. Next to the headline on the front page, I'm sure most of your old readers turn to this column first for gleanings of the past.

Letters from old residents are also very interesting. If old subscribers would accompany their remittance with a reminiscent letter for publication in the paper, it would be highly interesting to all readers and former companions. These letters could be grouped under a heading called "Letters to the Editor".

There are not many sources for the early history of New Bremen. The three most important that I know of are: Henry Howe's "Historical Collections of Ohio – Vol. 1, Auglaize County (1888)", Professor C.W. Williamson's "History of Western Ohio & Auglaize County (1905)", and old issues of *The New Bremen Sun* and the *Stern des Westlichen Ohio (Star of Western Ohio)*. These two newspapers should be guarded carefully and, if possible, kept in a fireproof vault. Of course, we also have the old town records (see pg. 20) and the church records. Reprints of either, in part, would be interesting.

Adam Helwig was one of the earlier residents of New Bremen and one of its best historians. His letters printed in *The New Bremen Sun* some years ago were the most revealing that I have ever read on the history of old-time New Bremen. Many of the things he told us I had never before heard of. I wish he could have continued writing for 10 years or more. He had a style of writing that made his letters interesting from the first sentence to the last. He knew just what to say and how to say it. I would like to see the whole lot of his letters reprinted in a future issue of *The Sun*. (How about in "The Towpath"?). Of course, his boyhood was spent in New Bremen long before mine. (Adam Helwig was born in Cincinnati in 1846 and came to New Bremen in 1851 – Ralph May was born in New Bremen in 1892 and moved to Piqua in the 1920s.)

Adam Helwig was a salesman for the New Bremen Broom Co. and resided in Lima. He often came to New Bremen to visit with the Schulenberg family (his sister, Catherine). I can still see him as he stepped off the interurban car at the station at Schulenberg's Store. He was short in stature and had a flowing white beard. He was a man you could not help but like.

I believe there are still some Adam Helwigs left who could continue this series of pictures of old-time New Bremen and whose letters would not only be of great interest to readers, but which would make a permanent contribution to the town's history – facts that should be preserved, so they are not lost forever. I would like to see more "Letters to the Editor" touching upon New Bremen's past, from where Adam Helwig left off or from the information he has revealed to us. So-o-o, reach for your pencil and paper. I hope that in forthcoming issues, we may have letters from all sections of the country. The 1933 Centennial celebration brought out many episodes of the past. It gave us a starting point to which further information may be added.

Ralph May

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Over the past 8+ years that I have been putting together "The Towpath", I have come across a number of Adam Helwig's "Letters to the Editor". The following are reprints of the most historically interesting ones I have found.

## ADAM HELWIG'S "LETTERS TO THE EDITOR" FROM THE "NEW BREMEN SUN"

1930-1931-1932-1933 (N.B.'s Centennial year)

by Adam Helwig – Lima, Ohio



Mr. & Mrs. Adam Helwig, former N.B. residents, are again living in their home at 300 McPherson Ave., Lima. Mr. Helwig several months ago fractured his hip and, after being removed from a Lima hospital, was taken to the home of his son, Fred Helwig, in Seneca, Michigan. Mr. Helwig writes that he has completely recovered and is ready to go back on the job as a salesman for the New Bremen Broom Company. (4/14/1927)

### ADAM & ANNA (SCHROEDER) HELWIG

Mr. & Mrs. Adam Helwig, former residents of New Bremen, observed their 58<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries on March 7, 1930 & 1931 at their home at 300 McPherson Ave., Lima.

Adam Helwig (6/3/1846-12/17/1937), son of \_\_\_\_\_ & Anna M. (Fischbach) Helwig, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and came to New Bremen in 1851. Mrs. Helwig (7/22/1849-7/19/1932), daughter of Dr. Friedrich W. Schroeder & Catharine Elisabeth Müller, was born in Germany, emigrated to America in 1859, and came to New Bremen in 1866.

According to Adam Helwig: "Anna Louise Schroeder and I were married on March 7, 1872 (in Zion's Church). It was a double wedding, the other couple being William J. Funke and Lizzie M. Schroeder (Anna's sister). Witnesses were William Henry Helwig (Adam's brother) & Minnie Schroeder (Anna's sister, who married Herman Pape in 1875), August Lanfersieck & Fannie Gress (Adam's 1/2-sister), and Henry Haeseker & Lizzie Fischbach (Adam's cousin?-married Carl Bambauer.)

Following their marriage, the Helwigs resided in New Bremen until 1896-97, when they erected and moved into their home in Lima (after celebrating their silver wedding anniversary in New Bremen). They had 3 children: Frederick William Helwig (1873-1929) of Maybee, Michigan, William Adam Helwig (1875-1953) of Lima, and Mrs. Ed (Lydia) Shoup of Orlando, Florida. Grandchildren were: Lydia (Helwig) Wills (daughter of William Adam), Carl Helwig (son of Fred), & Ruth Schoup.

At 83 years of age, Mr. Helwig spoke of being the oldest salesman in Ohio, having sold brooms for the New Bremen Broom Co. for 34-35 years. [N.B. Sun – 3/13/1930+3/5/1931]



**3/13/1930 & 2/19/1931:** First letter (3/13/1930) written by Adam Helwig to Fridolin T. Purpus, manager of the New Bremen Broom Co.:

As those of the old generation are all gone, I will tell how New Bremen looked 79 years ago (ca. 1851, when he came to New Bremen). The pond (Rabe's pond) near Rabe's planing mill factory ran across South Washington Street. The state had an overflow of the pond back (west) of the mill, which had a wooden levee that ran through all the lots back of the (Old Reliable?) fire department on South Washington St. and emptied into a pond. The pond started across Washington St. and ran across the alley near Walnut St. There was a large bridge crossing the pond at Washington Street where the sidewalk is now, near the place Dorfers used to live (southwest corner of Washington & Plum Sts.). Fishing at this bridge was good, especially for bass.



-3-

**3/13/1930:** A saw mill stood where the woolen mills now are. Old slabs from the mill were put on the road or street as far as Boesche's corner (*Washington & Monroe*). We boys found a lot of horse shoes when this street was torn up.

Monroe Street east to the corporation line was like an alley. Two wagons could hardly pass. Later some 8-10 feet of land on both sides of the street was bought for pavements.

There was a large wooden bridge across the canal which reached as far as Water Street. The sidewalk from the bridge and up to the present Mrs. Kappel home (at 8 N. Main St.) was made of hewed logs. It was about 2 feet wide and 2 feet above the street. Near the Kappel home was an old barn, one side used for living quarters and the other side for horse stalls. Old "Ealey" lived in it. When they took his home away because of debt, he hanged himself.

The first school was a frame building in what is now the (*North Main St.*) park. That was my first school. Henry Bernhard was the teacher. Every Saturday he went into the woods to cut switches for the next week. I also attended school where the creamery is now (*Equity Union? - 22 N. Main*) and for a while on Main Street in a building on the location owned until recently by Grant Shearer (*Superior Broom Works - 24 N. Main*). Most of the teachers were Germans. After B.G. Pampel came and taught on the east side (*Ober Bremen*), we went to school one week on the east side and the next week on the west side for German. Mr. Bockemoehle was my last teacher. He didn't go into the woods for switches, but he would make the boys stoop. He never missed the mark!

A special meeting was to be held on March 15, 1845 to determine whether a tax should be levied for the purpose of raising \$354 to pay for the building of the school house in school district #2, and also for the stove and furniture. [N.B. Sun - 3/20/1930]

**3/20/1930:** I will give you a little history of pioneer life:

Grandpa (*Michael*) Fischbach came to N.B. & lived in Wiethoff's barn (*Sec. 14 - later called "Fairground Farm"*) until he built a small log cabin. Then he cleared a piece of ground and raised a little corn. There was no mill nearer than Loramie mill at Lockington. Old man Mohrman had a corn grinder, but everyone had to grind his own corn.

No one had any money until the canal was started. The Irish and the Dutch made the canal with shovels and wheelbarrows as there was no machinery in those days.

Grandpa Fischbach worked at the locks at Lockington. He took Mother along and got a place for her to work with a farmer named Johnson who gave the Indians a barrel of whiskey for the farm. Mother could not talk English and Johnson could not talk German.

Grandpa Fischbach was quite a musician. He made a big fiddle which old man Bruns used to play at the dances.

Old man Briteman (*Breitenauer? - Section 13*), who had 10 acres of land, did his plowing with oxen. I remember when he took us sleigh-riding with the oxen.

Old (*Bernhardt*) Mohrman used to preach before the old frame church was built. Borchers was the first

minister I remember. He was there 12 years (*1847-1858*). Heise followed him and stayed for 22 years (*1858-1880*). Will tell you more next week.

«□»

**3/27/1930:** While we lived in Cincinnati in 1849, cholera broke out. My father came home from work one afternoon, ate a good supper and then went out to get some whiskey as it was used by everyone during the plague. A neighbor, who was stricken with cholera, was yelling in pain and Father said the man would die before morning. But, Father was the first to die! (*7/6/1849?*). I was 2-3 years old and Mother was left with 5 children. They wanted to take us to a children's home, but she kept us together. Later, she married Philip Gress and we moved to New Bremen in 1851.

We came to New Bremen on the "first" boat on the Miami-Erie Canal, called "The Union". There were no railroads and travel was by packet boat from Cincinnati to Defiance. It looked nice when the packets came to New Bremen. They sounded the bugle and all the passengers came on deck as the boat entered the lock.

We built a 3-room house and had a big fireplace in one room - no light other than that from the fireplace, but we enjoyed it. We learned our lessons and cracked hickory nuts in front of the fireplace. Years later, we got a lard-oil lamp. Mother bought a mold and we had to put the wick into the mold when she made the candles. After I grew up I fetched a real oil lamp home. Now all you have to do is touch a button and you have light!

Mail was brought from Piqua. I rode several times on the hack, but had to get out and walk up the Newport hills as it was too muddy.

New Bremen had several pork houses. Meat was cheap - pigs feet did not cost anything and ribs were sold for a penny a pound. Parts also were taken to Sidney and rendered into lard-oil.

When the (*Civil*) War broke out, the boys turned out well. They enlisted for 3 months as it was thought the enemy would be licked in that time. Then they enlisted for 3 years, and finally men were drafted - the marshal was sent after them. Those who had money paid a substitute to go in their places. Many of the men were paid \$600 to go and afterward would desert and go again under another name and get \$600 more. These men were called "bounty jumpers".

When the silver and gold was called in, stores had tickets printed the size of milk tickets and good for 25¢ for a period of 50 days. Next the government issued what was known as "shin plaster" currency. These were for 3, 5, 10, 25 & 50 cents.

There was no market for eggs or butter. Eggs, at 3¢ a dozen, did not sell. Some of the farmers threw their eggs away when the stores refused to buy them. Butter was 5¢ a pound. Will tell you more the next time.

«□»

**4/3/1930:** After we got the "shin plasters" we could make change. Before that, when a stranger came in to buy, he was given trade checks as change, but could not pass them outside of New Bremen. State banks were



operated but merchants had to check up each week to see if the banks were sound, as many of them broke up.

New Bremen was the best pork market between Cincinnati and Toledo. Some 10,000 hogs were cut up during the winter season. Trade came here from as far away as Portland, Indiana, and the hotels were all crowded. Visitors often could not find places to sleep, but would stay up all night and play cards. Next morning they would leave again with a load of goods purchased at the stores. Everything in those days was shipped here by canal.

**4/10/1930 & 3/2/1933:** I started to learn the shoemaker's trade at New Bremen when the war broke out (1861? - 15 years old). I was bound out at \$75 for 3 years and was given board and shoes. I had \$30 left after I had learned the trade, but I had a time to get the money.

After learning the shoemaker's trade, I went to Lockington in Shelby County and started a shoe shop. J.C. Althoff kept a store there. I boarded with him 3 years and had a good trade, most of it coming from the boats, as my shop was at the second lock there. I left Lockington and returned to New Bremen to start a shoe store. I bought the building (stable?) where ("Plucky") Laut's jewelry store is now (at 108 West Monroe St.), got married (3/7/1872) to Anna Schroeder (Dr. F.W. Schroeder's daughter), and built a house so I could live there. It had 5 rooms and a storeroom.

According to the 1870 lot assessment records, "Eduard" (Adam?) Helwig owned a portion of lots 65 & 66 in the original plat, with the lots valued at \$250 and a building on lot 66 valued at \$125.

In the 1890 records, these lots were owned by F.W. Schroeder - lots valued at \$140 and a house valued at \$130.

The Schroeder property was purchased by Fred Ende, Jr. (N.B. Sun - 8/29/1890). In June 1893, Mr. Ende (a jeweler) had a new front put on his place of business. In May 1897, he built an addition to the rear. In the 1910 assessment records, Fred A. Ende owned this property, with the lots valued at \$500 and a house valued at \$1280.

In 1921, Melville ("Plucky") & Leona Laut purchased the jewelry business and the building, and in 1960, both the business and building were purchased by Bill & Jane Jackson.

While the Jacksons owned the building, they found many old village records in the attic, among which were birth certificates and burial permits. Those dating from 12/24/1908-1/28/1910 were signed by F.W. Schroeder, Jr., registrar, and then (thru December 1911) by C.P. Gress. When the Jacksons retired in 1992, the building was purchased by Crown Equipment Corp. and has since been razed.

Herman Laut kept a saloon next door. I built a high fence between the two buildings. One day I happened to be in the yard when I heard an unusual noise. I jumped over the fence and found Emil Laut in the cistern - a half minute more and he would have drowned. I took him into the saloon where Herman was playing cards and told him "Here, I pulled Emil out of the cistern".

I couldn't make the store pay, as all the stores sold shoes and they had all the trade, so I sold the building to Dr. Schroeder (my father-in-law) and went back to

Lockington. I bought a house and lost \$600 - couldn't pay for it. Then William Finke (Wm. E. Finke?, 1856-1912) came to me and suggested we canvass the country and sell chromos and large pictures for \$5.00. I told him I had no money, so we finally rigged up a wagon and sold the shoes I had left and got \$100, with which we bought chromos. They looked like painted canvas.

We canvassed Sidney, Greenville and Union City, Indiana. We sold over 100 pictures in Sidney before we dissolved partnership. Finke went to Springfield where he sold pictures and mirrors. Later he went to college and got to be a preacher.

I moved to Piqua, then to Dayton. I lived in Dayton 2 years and kept a picture store, then moved to Springfield where I lived 6 years. I canvassed with enlarged pictures and sold clocks, silverware, and books. At this time, Dr. Schroeder's wife (my mother-in-law) became ill (mid-1880s?) and we moved back to New Bremen.

Before this, on a visit to New Bremen, I met Louis Huenke at the French House. He asked me if I would like to move to New Bremen again and I told him that if I had the money I would start a creamery there. He asked me to explain and I told him that creameries bought cream from the farmers and made it into butter, for which there was always a market. It was not long after that that he started a creamery (1882-1884).

One day I rode to Minster with Steinberg who said that Huenke would have a hard time with his creamery. Adolph Steinberg bought all the butter made on farms around New Bremen, but soon found the supply was being cut off. He later (1886) started a creamery which he eventually (1890) sold to Huenke. The White Mountain Creamery Co. today (1930) has one of the largest creameries in the state.

In all my travels I found New Bremen to be the best town of its size in the state. After the railroads cut off outside trade, a number of factories were started there. There are many towns four times as large as New Bremen with not as many factories.

Years ago I met a salesman at St. Marys. He had a model of a kitchen cabinet for which he was taking orders. I told him to go to the New Bremen furniture company and have the cabinets made there. New Bremen thus made some of the first kitchen cabinets.

**2/19/1931 & 10/6/1933:** The old (Lanfersieck) plow shop where the (1897) fire department building now stands (on South Washington St.) was the first warehouse. Boats crossed Washington St. to unload freight at that warehouse. There was a "hoisting" (lift) bridge across the street. Brandon & Hill kept a store in the warehouse.

Kellermeyer had a shoemaker's shop where the drug store is now (northeast corner of Washington & Monroe.) Dan Kelley had a store where the bank is now (at the southeast corner of Washington & Monroe Streets.) Wilhelmy had a hotel opposite the mill (later the American House - see pg. 1). There was a dance hall there. Mrs. Henry Finke (Louise Wehrman) can tell



-5-

about the hotel as she was reared in the Wilhelmy family (after losing both her parents in the cholera epidemic of 1849 – see the April 1996 issue of “The Towpath”).

There was a pond back of the brick plow shop (on First Street?). I recall an old boat was run in there and we used to get old iron from it.

There was a cooper shop back of the warehouse (later Rairdon's?) that stood on Washington St. They used to send the boys to the shop to get hickory oil and then all the coopers would get after the boys with hoop poles. That was fun for the coopers.

**3/19/1931:** Years before New Bremen was laid out, a town was started called Amsterdam near the present Amsterdam Road. They had a hotel and a few houses there but when the canal was built, the lock and mill were located at New Bremen, so they moved Amsterdam town to New Bremen.

New Bremen was divided into 2 parts (by the canal). Both sides had their own school. The west side got the post office and so the east side was incorporated under the name of Ober (Upper) Bremen. There were 2 mayors, one on each side. The east side could not get the post office until both towns were called New Bremen (annexation – 1876). Then they had one school together on the west side (Union School – 1878) and John Koepfer got the post office on the east side (appointed 12/16/1904).

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The mayors for Ober Bremen (east side) were Christian Ellerman (1851-1858), F.H.L. Nieter (1859-1861?), Edward Von Beseler (elected 4/7/1862), F. Keuthan (4/6/1863), S. Brownell (4/3/1865), F. Tecklenberg (4/6/1868), F.H.L. Nieter (4/4/1870-1875?). [from old records – see pg. 20]

**3/19/1931 & 5/18/1933:** One of the oldest houses in New Bremen is the Woehler house. Dr. Beseler built it in 1849, the year of the cholera epidemic. He made money then visiting the patients and was the only physician to visit the cholera patients. All the woodwork in his house was walnut and it was the finest home in town at that time. Dr. Schroeder (my father-in-law) bought it in 1864. I lived in it 11 years (1885-1897?). It is now (1933) owned by Gustave Woehler. (The house is located at 206 S. Washington St.)



#### **Dr. Schroeder's Hospital – later Gust Woehler house**

This building (then with “steeples”) now belongs to Crown Equipment Corp. The house at the left was moved back and replaced in 1906. It and the house at the right were purchased in the 1990s by Crown and both have since been razed.

#### **New Bremen's First Telephone?**

**9/3/1931:** Who had the first telephone in New Bremen? Adam Helwig of Lima, former New Bremen resident, says he was the first to introduce the telephone here. He writes that years ago he experimented in stringing a wire from the old Dr. F.W. Schroeder residence on South Washington St. to the Grothaus home across the way and installing telephones for the use of the two families. Although he does not recall the exact date, he believes it marked the first time a telephone was operated successfully in New Bremen.

«□»

**9/10/1931 & 7/7/1932:** About 80 years ago (1850s), corn was worth 25¢ a bushel and this year (1931) it won't be much more. Then there was a distillery at Lock Two operated by John Schafer. Whiskey could be bought for 15¢ a gallon and the stores always had a jug of it on the counter free to the trade.

There were 3 breweries in New Bremen. Ottenjohann had one at the north edge of town (later the Emil Kuennig property), Mike Vossler another (North Main St.) and Kuhlhorst owned the third one. Every family bought their yeast at Kuhlhorst's and paid 1¢. Old Mother Kuhlhorst got a peck of those large pennies for yeast used in making bread. Another brewery was at Chickasaw. They made beer one day and sold it the next.

There were some 10 saloons in New Bremen. They didn't have to pay any tax and sold 2 glasses of beer for 5¢ and whiskey at 15¢ a gallon. Later the government put a tax of \$2.00 on each gallon of whiskey, but permitted the distillers to make all they wanted to for 6 months before the tax started. This made the owners of large distilleries rich as they had all their cellars filled. The saloons also had to pay tax.

At the price corn will be this year (1931), whiskey could be made for 25¢ a gallon. Bootleggers now are getting \$8.00 a quart. In the old days, there were no more drunken men than now.

«□»

**9/17/1931 & 5/5/1932:** About 75 years ago (1856?) the Kettler brothers, Christ & Bill, had a general store in New Bremen. They bought a lot of land at Kettlersville that was a hazelnut swamp and was filled with rattlesnakes. They drained the land and got up a petition for a pike (road). A Mr. Meyerholtz got out a petition against the pike, saying it would break up the farmers. He later told me that that was the worst mistake he ever made because after the pike was built, he was able to haul his logs to the mill at any time and soon had his farm paid for.

In 1860 I worked in the wheat fields at Bambauer's and found wild turkey nests in the fields 1½ miles from town.

About 60 years ago (1871?) thousands of wild pigeons passed over Kettlersville. They were so thick that at times the sun could not be seen. They fed on beechnuts of which there were plenty that year. Trees were filled with pigeons and everyone went out with a gun or into the hazelnut swamp with lanterns and killed



-6-

the pigeons with poles. Kettlersville still is a nice country town. It has a good church and a large school.

Nobody needed to go hungry. Meat was cheap and could be had from the pork-packing houses without hardly paying anything. Spareribs sold for a penny a pound and hogs feet and hog heads were given away. You could buy the best chicken for 25¢, spring chickens for 15¢. Wages were lower than they are now but everyone was happy.

**9/24/1931:** The hunting law is open on squirrels. Years ago there were no hunting laws and every Sunday saw the woods full of hunters. There were lots of squirrels in those days. Mohrman was the first to put up a "No Hunting Allowed" sign. Someone painted out the word "No" and then his woods was full of hunters again. When he took them to read his sign, it read "Hunting Allowed". It doesn't pay to go hunting now as it is necessary to have a permit from the farmer, whether you have a license or not. The farmer cannot even hunt on his own farm if he has no license.

Years ago there were lots of wild ducks on the canal and on the pond every night there was a concert by the bullfrogs. One day I went out hunting and got a couple of squirrels and also brought in a few bullfrogs. My wife said she would not eat frogs but I fooled her by preparing the frogs and making her think they were squirrels. She liked them even after I told her they were frogs.

**10/1/1931:** Some 80 years ago (1850s) the farmers had nothing but large farm wagons. The first spring wagon at New Bremen was bought by Kappel. Soon everyone owned spring wagons, then buggies and carriages. Now they all must have automobiles. I even remember when Henry Finke used to drive a team of oxen and we all called him the oxen driver.

In those days we saw many large covered wagons going west. The drivers would enter a piece of land and live in dugouts until they were able to build houses. Many of them, however, turned back. Each of the wagons had a tar bucket fastened at the side and usually was trailed by a dog on the long trip across the country.

**5/5/1932:** If I think back some 80 years ago (ca. 1852), there was more work in New Bremen than there is now. There were some 10 cooperages in town and each shop worked 10 men, each man being a cooper (barrel-maker). There were 6 shoe-making shops with 3-4 men working in each shop. Everyone wore boots - fine calfskins were bought for wedding boots.

There were 6 or more blacksmith shops. Now you can hardly get a horse shod. The carriage shops worked 10 men or more. There were several pork-packing houses, each working some 10 men in the winter. Six men worked on each of the 6 canal boats most of the year.

Everyone who had a horse had a sleigh. Two livery barns hired out buggies and sleighs. Automobiles later knocked out all the buggies and sleighs, as well as most of the harness shops - automobiles don't need harness.

There was an auction the other day where they tried to sell a rubber-tired buggy. One man offered 10¢ and got the buggy, but didn't know what to do with it.

**7/7/1932:** Some 80 years ago, New Bremen had the Lehmkuhl Hotel, Meyer Hotel at the French House corner, Wilhelmy Hotel opposite the mill, the Lanfersieck House, and the Minkner Hotel on the Lanfersieck corner. The old house still stands there, but is rebuilt. The hotels were crowded when the farmers came in from as far west as Portland, Indiana with their hogs and wheat. New Bremen was the only shipping point in a radius of 40 miles as it had the canal, and every farmer who came here usually bought a load of supplies and materials to take back home.

There was a dance every holiday at Lehmkuhl's Hall, Laut's Hall, Meyer's Hall, Wilhelmy's Hall, Speckman and Nieter's Hall, and Good (Goll?) Hall at the Lock.

At the Fourth of July picnic, all the saloons had bars on the picnic grounds. My brother tended bar and sold one 18 year old boy who couldn't tell a 5¢ piece from a 50¢ piece 50¢ worth of ginger cakes - 50 cakes, each about as large as a stove lid! He ate cakes all day and thought he had a real bargain.

**9/17/1931 & 7/14/1932:** Fishing today isn't anything like it was 60-70 years ago (1862-1872). In those days when the boats were running regularly on the canal, water was drawn from the reservoirs every day and the fish entered the canal with the water. You could go fishing anyplace along the canal and catch a fine string of fish. Lots of big bass were caught.

When I was a small boy, I used to go to the millrace on Sundays to watch the fishermen. Each Sunday, there were at least 25 fishermen and they all had big strings of large sunfish.

Shortly after I was married 60 years ago (3/7/1872), I made a dip net and went fishing at an early hour practically every morning. One time I caught a 7½-pound bass. Dip nets were used in the millrace and everyone had plenty of fish.

One night I went to the reservoir. I found an old tree that had fallen into the water and it was easy to walk out on the trunk of the tree, put the dip net into the water, and catch a bushel of fish before sunrise. Fish were in big demand and could be bought for 3¢ a pound.



**EDITOR'S NOTE:**  
At this point, Adam Helwig's wife passed away (7/19/1932) and there were no more letters printed in the N.B. Sun until Feb. 9, 1933.

photo courtesy of  
Bill Kuck-Findlay, OH



-7-

**Another "LETTER TO THE EDITOR" from 1932**

Kindly find enclosed a check for 2 years' subscription to *The Sun* and 26 copies of *The Pathfinder*. *The Sun* is a welcome visitor at our home, especially those letters sent in by Mr. Helwig of Lima. Last spring we attended an Ohio picnic here and I met his son, William A. Helwig, who I had gone to school with back in New Bremen. My wife & I send our regards to all our relatives and friends.  
Emil Vogelsang - 3634 San Pedro St. - Los Angeles, CA  
(N.B. *Sun* - 11/25/1932)

**I will continue the history of N.B. 80 years ago (1853)**

**2/9/1933 & 10/6/1933:** (Fred) Wiemeyer kept a general store opposite the present Gast Implement Co. building and bought grain and packed pork. Other storekeepers were Poldsdorfer & Schwetter, Kettler Brothers, Solms, and George Greiwe. J.H. Boesche, Boesel & Kunning, Oberwite, and Christ Schmidt operated general stores, bought grain and packed pork. William Rabe had a hardware and grocery store. Frank Jung also had a hardware and grocery store and kept bar. He also barbered (shaves then were 5¢) and pulled teeth. J.H. Mesloh had a hardware store and lumberyard, the lumberyard occupying the site of the present hotel (*Hotel Hollingsworth*). Physicians were Dr. Haveman, Dr. Beseler and Dr. Nieberg.

Butcher shops were operated by Pagles, Floerke, Philip Goll and Kuck. Goll's shop was at the lock, and Kuck's was at the bridge. They had a good trade with the canal boats. Pagles and Floerke carried a large wooden bowl on their shoulders and sold meat all over town. Then Phillip Dinkel came and he had a real butcher shop. Schelper also had a good butcher shop and peddled meat with a horse and wagon.

In those days, the grain was shipped by canal boat to Toledo and pork was shipped to Cincinnati. New Bremen was the best pork market between Cincinnati and Toledo.

G.B. Pampel had the first drug store and Fred Steinberg had the first clothing store. Steinberg could not speak English when he first came to New Bremen. A man came in to buy a suit of clothes and as it was rather dark in the store, Steinberg told him to go to "hell", meaning that he wanted him to stand in the light. But the customer refused and walked out!

—————«□»—————

**3/2/1933:** Seventy two years ago (1861), there were no undertakers and when someone died, the cabinet-maker would take the measurement of the corpse and would make a nice walnut coffin. He worked all night to have it ready for the next day. It cost only \$18.00. There were no hearses, no spring wagons. When someone died, boys who were learning a trade were picked out to be the pallbearers. They would carry the coffin to the graveyard gate. There they put it on a bier (*frame*) and thence to the grave. I helped carry many of them and we had to change pallbearers every square. From the country, they brought the coffin to the cemetery on a big farm wagon.

In those days, they had a keg of beer at the funeral house (*home of the deceased*). The beer drinkers always attended the funerals. They were glad to go.

—————«□»—————

**3/9/1933:** Right after the Civil War, the German Protestant Cemetery (*at Lock Two*) was laid out (*established 12/1/1865*). The old cemetery in town opposite the St. Paul Church was full. The reason I remember this is that the soldiers came home and Fred Schulenberg became sick and died soon after that. He was the first man buried in the new cemetery (*on December 26, 1865*). [Fred Schulenberg was a brother to William Schulenberg, who married Adam Helwig's sister, Catherine Helwig.]

They saw a little water in the graves at the first cemetery that was laid out (*German Protestant Cemetery*). Then they bought another little piece of land on the Knoxville Road (*Willow Grove Cemetery - Lock Three*) and it had a little gravel in it, but the first one took the lead. Looking over the cemetery (*in 1933*), there are more people buried there than make up the population of New Bremen.

—————«□»—————

**5/18/1933:** When I was 5 years old (1851), my folks moved from Cincinnati to New Bremen on the "first" boat on the Miami-Erie Canal. They moved into a part of Witte's house (*North Main St., north of 2<sup>nd</sup> St.*). Mr. Witte was a wool carder and had an old blind horse to operate the carding machine. He did all the wool carding until they had a machine and woolen mills in New Bremen (1869). Then he quit business, for every farmer did his own spinning - every farm home had a spinning wheel. They even wove their own clothes. The men wore wool suits and the women wore dresses of wool, made of the same cloth as the men's suits, but quite heavy. They did not care so much for style in those days. The town then (1851) had only about 500 inhabitants. Everybody wore wooden shoes.

Old man (*William*) Fuelling lived next to Wittes (*northwest corner of North Main & 2<sup>nd</sup> St.*). He was quite a mechanic. He could turn anything out of wood, and also barbered and shaved for 5¢. He had a doctor's book and gathered roots and herbs. Everyone called him Doctor and he had as much practice as some doctors have nowadays. He also rang the church bell for "over 50 years" (1844-1893) - morning, noon and night, and for church each Sunday.

The first Lehmkuhl Hotel (*North Main St.*) was an old frame building, but enjoyed a good trade. Later it was replaced by a brick building. The Masons had a hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, while the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor was occupied by a dance hall.

An old frame building with a large porch in front stood where the printing office is now (*northwest corner of Monroe & Main, the present site of Howell's IGA*). (Ambrose) Bruetsch kept a saloon there.

—————«□»—————

**6/2/1933:** Strange things will happen - an old man by the name of Keller and his wife lived in New Bremen.



-8-

They talked many times of a lost son who came to America, but said they never knew where he was located. Another man from New Bremen went to Chicago to work in a factory and there met a fellow worker who told him of his lost parents. The Chicago man was told of the couple living in New Bremen and became convinced they were his parents. He came to New Bremen, approached the Keller home and when the door was opened said "Good evening, Father." The father and mother both cried, "My Henry! My Henry!" Later he took his parents to Chicago where they lived until their death. Both, however, are buried in New Bremen.

*Jacob Keller was born in Hemobach, Weinheim, Duchy of Baden on 6/24/1800. In 1827 he married Anna Maria Becker (Schwaf?). Maria was born 5/29/1799 in Germany and died in New Bremen 2/5/1879. Jacob Keller died at the residence of his son in Chicago 7/5/1890 from old age (on a Chicago conveyance). Both are buried in the single grave section (aka Potter's Field) in German Protestant Cemetery. (Sun-7/11/1890)*

Dr. Schroeder (my father-in-law) lived in New Bremen a good many years. His wife had a sister in Bremen, Germany. She came to America later, but for a good many years they never could find out where she was. Finally Dr. Schroeder said that he had landed in Baltimore and thought that she might also have landed there and remained there all that time. So he wrote a letter to Baltimore and it was held at the post office while being advertised in the newspapers. The sister went to the post office and claimed the letter. She then came to New Bremen to visit her sister.

**6/16/1933:** You asked last week if anyone could recollect Rabe's sash factory when it burned (1889, 1910). I can remember every fire - Klanke's fire (1913), the flax mill fire (formerly Rabe's linseed oil mill, the J.A. Long building burned in 1912), Heitkamp's furniture factory, Langhorst's tile yard, the woolen mill fire (1888), & the Lock Two fire (1892).

Everyone worked hard at the woolen mill fire. The men played out and the women pumped to save the mill, but the upper story burned. The balance was saved.

The Heitkamp factory was the worst fire. Where Gast Implement Co. is now located, there was a furniture factory operated by (William) Heitkamp which made a lot of furniture. It later burned down. There being no fire department then, a bucket brigade was formed. They dipped water from the canal and handed the bucket to the next one in line until it reached the fire. The building burned clear down. Sparks flew all over town. Mohrman's fence caught fire and so did my mother's house, the last house on East Monroe Street (Lot 132 in Ober Bremen / Lot 436 - 1878 numbering system) but we got it out with a few buckets of water. Wiemeyer's place across the street from Heitkamp's also came near to being burned but was saved by the bucket brigade.

I am the oldest one that can tell this - on June 3<sup>rd</sup> I was 87 years old. There are a few just as old, but they came from Europe to New Bremen - Deitemeyer, Theodore Purpus and others. I think Fred Wiemeyer is

one of the oldest. I knew when his father died as they stopped the sawmill from running. It stood where the woolen mill is now. Fred Wiemeyer must not have been over two years old then (ca. 1860?).

«□»

**6/23/1933:** A good many years ago (1846) when the first boats were on the canal, a man from the south by the name of John Randolph had a lot of slaves. He never was married and when he died, he freed all of his slaves and willed everything to them. He had them shipped to New Bremen where he wanted his agent to buy them all a farm. New Bremen raised arms and drove them back.

The slaves that (had previously) settled at Carthagena (in the 1830s) always had a celebration on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Everyone turned out, white & black. I went out once - they always had a good time there.

«□»

**7/14/1933:** Well, the 100 years celebration (centennial) is over. It was a success, and we had nice weather. I would not have missed it as I was anxious to see Edward Conradi since I had visited him in Florida. (Dr. Edward Conradi was the president of the Florida State College for Women in Tallahassee and was a speaker at the centennial program.)

I enjoyed my buggy ride. I did not miss anything - I took in the fireworks and got back to town at 12:00 (midnight.) I judge that there were 10,000 people in New Bremen the day of the parade (July 4<sup>th</sup>). I never expect to see such a crowd in New Bremen again. Everyone shook hands with me. They said when they get the paper (New Bremen Sun) they always look first at what I have to say.

My mother [Anna (Fischbach) Helwig/Gress] was born in 1818 and came to New Bremen when she was 19 years old (1837?).

«□»

**7/21/1933:** I have been thinking of the old frame St. Paul Church. When they took up the collection, they had a long stick with a black velvet sack on the end and a small bell on the end of the sack (called a "klingelbeutel"). Some would sleep when the preacher preached. They (money collectors) would shake the stick and ring the bell to wake them up. I knew a man at Lima who took up the collection, but he lost the job when they caught him taking money as he went out into the hall.

«□»

**9/8/1933:** Dr. Schroeder and his wife, Catherine Elisabeth (Müller), were born on the same date - July 21, 1821 in Bremen, Germany. When they lived in Cincinnati, they heard of New Bremen and were homesick for Bremen, Germany, so they bought in New Bremen and later were buried there.

My wife, Anna Louise (Schroeder), also came from Bremen, Germany with her parents. (They immigrated in 1859 and came to New Bremen in 1866.)

«□»

**Adam Helwig died 12/17/1937 at the age of 91 of senility and hypertension.**



## THE HELWIG FAMILY

*[Much of the information below was recorded by Catherine (Helwig) Schulenberg. See the April 2002 "Towpath" for more details about the Helwig/Gress/Schulenberg families.]*

Adam Helwig's father (first name not known) died of cholera in July 1849 (in Cincinnati), when Adam was just 3 years old. His mother, Anna M. (Fischbach) Helwig, then married Philip Gress and the family came to New Bremen in 1851. Mr. Gress died 10/20/1870. He was a Civil War veteran and is buried in the first row of the single grave section (aka Potter's Field) at German Protestant Cemetery. Anna (Fischbach) Helwig/Gress (1818-3/30/1887) is buried on the William Schulenberg lot next to Fred Schulenberg, the Civil War soldier who was the first person to be buried in the newly established German Protestant Cemetery in December 1865.

The Helwig children (all born in Cincinnati) were: George\* (1839-1875), Anna Margareta Boogher/Bourquin\* (1841-1930), Mrs. William (Anna Catherine) Schulenberg (1843-1929), Adam (1846-1937), and William Henry, who was born in August 1849, about 1 month after his father's death, and died before 1929.

The children of Philip & Anna M. (Fischbach/Helwig) Gress were: Maria Frances (Fannie) Huenke (2<sup>nd</sup> wife of Henry Huenke, Jr.) (1852-1878), Peter Michel (1856-before 1929), and Charles Philipp (C.P.) Gress\* (1861-1934).

*\*NOTE: George Helwig is listed in the 1870 assessment records as owning lots 434 & 435\* in Ober Bremen, just south of his mother's property (lots 436, 437, 438\* - \*1878 numbers).*

*Alex & Margaret (Helwig) Bourquin were the proprietors of the Bourquin Hotel (Hotel French) on North Main Street. Alex Bourquin was also a detective. (see 9/27/1889 at right)*

*C.P. Gress was a telegraph operator and a freight & express agent for the L.E. & W. / Nickel Plate Railway. He also owned & operated a coal yard and a building supply firm and was the registrar of village births and deaths in 1910-1911.*

## THE DR. SCHROEDER FAMILY

Dr. Friedrich Wilhelm Schroeder and his wife, Catharine Elisabeth Müller, were both born 7/21/1821 in Bremen, Germany. Dr. Schroeder entered the University in Göttingen in 1844, the Schroeders were married 5/25/1845, and in 1847, Dr. Schroeder passed his examination & received his doctor-diploma. In 1859, the Schroeders emigrated to America and in 1866, they came to New Bremen. Mrs. Schroeder died 5/12/1886 and Dr. Schroeder died 2/21/1908.

*[The preceding history is engraved on the Schroeder/Helwig tombstone in German Protestant Cemetery.]*

Dr. Schroeder's parents died when he was an infant, so he depended on his grandparents to provide his education. After he completed elementary schools, they sent him to the University of Göttingen, where he graduated as a doctor of medicine and immediately took up practice in Berlin.

Dr. Schroeder and his wife (listed in his obituary as "Dorothea" Elizabeth) had 4 daughters and 1 son: Anna Louise Helwig, Lizzie (Elizabeth Martha) Funke(y), Minnie (Friederike Wilhelmine) Pape, another daughter, and a son, Frederick W. Schroeder, Jr.

Dr. Schroeder emigrated to America in 1858, his family following 2 years later. He practiced medicine in Cincinnati for several years, and in 1866, the family moved to New Bremen, where Dr. Schroeder enjoyed a lucrative practice and was one of the most prominent physicians of the community.

After his wife's death on 5/12/1886, Dr. Schroeder's daughters took turns living with him. In 1897, he relinquished his practice because of old age and moved to the home of his

-9-

daughter and son-in-law, Lizzie M. & Rev. William\*J. Funkey, then living in Iowa. Dr. F.W. Schroeder died at the home of the Funkeys in Mount Carroll, Illinois on 2/21/1908.

*[N.B. Sun - Obituary, 2/28/1908]*

Dr. & Mrs. Schroeder and Adam & Anna Helwig, together with their sons, Frederick William Helwig and Mr. & Mrs. William Adam Helwig, are all buried in the same plot in German Protestant Cemetery.

Adam Helwig brought suit against his father-in-law, Dr. F.W. Schroeder, last Monday for disturbing the domestic peace of his household. The case was heard in "Squire" Niete's court and resulted in the binding of the defendant over to the September term of the Common Pleas Court in the sum of \$300. Mr. Helwig, who lived in the same building with his father-in-law, has moved out and contemplates settling down in Lima whither his son, William A. Helwig, has already gone and engaged in the painting business.

*[N.B. Sun - 5/14/1897]*

### Real Estate Transfers

5/28/1897: F.W. Schroeder to Wm. J. Funkey -

— in lots 23, 42, 68, 107 - \$2500.

6/18/1897: Wm. Funkey to L.M. Funkey - lots 2,3,42 - \$1500.

## UNSOLVED MYSTERY

Lima police are inclined to doubt the claim of a Detroit woman that she had found Frederick W. Schroeder, 74, missing Lima man, in Detroit. Schroeder, formerly a resident of New Bremen, lived with Mr. & Mrs. Adam Helwig in Lima until about 1½ years ago, when he suddenly disappeared. At that time he was supposed to be carrying nearly \$5000 in currency on his person and this led to the belief that he met with foul play.

The Detroit woman admitted she did not know Schroeder and based her identification upon a description furnished by her father, who is said to have been with Schroeder the night he disappeared and was questioned by Lima police when a watch chain belonging to the missing man was found in his possession.

*[N.B. Sun - 8/27/1931]*

**N.B. Sun - 9/20/1889:** Our quiet & orderly little town was treated to a regular sensation Tuesday night by the arrest of Fred Schroeder by the U.S. Marshal of Toledo for counterfeiting. Evidence that an unlawful mint had been in operation was plentiful as a number of quarters were passed that proved to be worthless, especially during the Tri-County fair. After his arrest, a search was made of his premises and some half dollars not yet finished were found in the kitchen under the rafters, also 2 bars of metal. The molds could not be found even after the most diligent search.

**9/27/1889:** Since the arrest of Fred Schroeder, it is becoming clear that he had pushed his trade with more energy than he was given credit for. The quarters and half dollars manufactured by him are coming in and Detective Bourquin will soon have enough spurious coin on hand to start a foundry. The quarters were passed in Botkins, Lima, Sidney, Celina, St. Marys and Minster.

**12/20/1889:** The Schroeder counterfeiting case came before the petit jury at Toledo last week. About a dozen witnesses from here were there, but there was only circumstantial evidence. The jury gave a verdict of guilty for passing and having in possession counterfeit money, for which Schroeder was sentenced to 60 days in the work house.

**8/17/1895:** News reached here last week that Frederick W. Schroeder of South Whitley, Indiana, formerly of New Bremen, Ohio, had been arrested for passing counterfeit half dollars and was placed in jail. Fred Schroeder has excellent family connections in New Bremen. He was found guilty of the same charge while living there and received a work house sentence. If convicted, he will get to see the inside walls of the pen.





**Broom Co. whse. #1, factory, office, sorting bldg.**  
*[Notice the roof – it says New Bremen Machine Co.]*

### NEW BREMEN BROOM COMPANY

In July 1894, the New Bremen Broom Company was given a grant of real estate (outlots 23 & 24) between Vogelsang (Plum) Street and Sycamore Street (to the south) by the Village of New Bremen, with the condition that a certain number of men would be employed for a certain period of years. This property was what was known as the lantern factory property, near the spur of the Lake Erie & Western Railroad on the west side of South Herman Street. Incorporators were Henry Dierker (president), Louis Huenke (vice-president), William Bruns (secretary), Fred Vogelsang (treasurer) and Ed Vogelsang. With an original force of 20 employees, the factory had a capacity of 600 brooms a day. (By November 1901, 50 men were producing 2000 brooms a day and earned \$3.00 per day.)

In July 1898, (after a \$4000 fire?), a trade was effected by which the New Bremen Machine Co. buildings on outlots 27 & 28, recently purchased by the Klanke Furniture Factory, were received in exchange for the lantern factory buildings, which were subsequently used as a warehouse by the furniture factory across the street - later by the New Bremen Rubber Co. (7/22/1898)

Fred Vogelsang died in February 1897, William Bruns resigned in 1899, and Louis Huenke sold his interests in 1901. Emil Vogelsang became a stockholder and new members of the board of directors in January 1902 were Fridolin T. Purpus (vice-president), Gustave Boesel (secretary) and Adolph Boesel (treasurer). Henry Dierker remained president until his death in January 1917.

In August 1901, a separate small office building was built. In October 1901, Union #73 was organized – the first union in Auglaize County. In February 1902, a large iron-clad warehouse was erected north of the existing buildings. By now, mops were also being manufactured.

In 1934, Reuben H. Dickman became the general manager and was responsible for raising the efficiency of the plant by introducing a number of changes such as a conveyor that moved the finished brooms from the main floor to the storage rooms & shipping department on the second floor, a numbering machine which was used in marking handles, and a bundling machine which bundled the brooms for shipment by piercing the brooms with two long needles and fastening them together. All of these machines were designed and built by Ed Wehrman in his machine shop on North Jefferson St.

In 1936, approximately 90 dozen brooms were turned out each day, with an average yearly production of approximately 300,000 brooms and an annual payroll of about \$25,000. Most of the brooms were sold in Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Michigan and Indiana.

When the company celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1944, the board of directors consisted of H.W. Rairdon (president), John Bocke of Coldwater (vice-president), Fridolin Purpus (secretary/treasurer), Mayor Reuben Dickman (general manager) and Lillie (Dierker) Rairdon, daughter of Henry Dierker. In October 1946, the company was purchased by Robert Gunther and Walter Hensel of Cleveland. Robert Gunther became the new manager, replacing Reuben Dickman.

On January 30, 1947, the company lost a large building & a sizeable stock of broom corn in a heavy windstorm, but by July they had erected a new metal-covered fire-proof warehouse (*Quonset hut?*) in its place and had added a 14' x 20' addition to the west side of the office building, anticipating an expansion of the business.

### Fire Destroys Broom Factory

At 4:15 a.m. Wednesday morning, November 26, 1947, approximately 30 men and women were thrown out of employment when the New Bremen Broom Co.'s 2-story brick building with slate roof was destroyed by fire. The fire burned for 3 hours in below-freezing temperatures & burned 200 dozen brooms on the second floor, all the machinery, and the supplies on hand within the shop. The Minster & St. Marys fire departments were called in to help fight the fire due to the sparks and burning embers that were being carried all over the neighborhood by the wind & the air currents set up by the heat. The two warehouses and the office were saved. Total loss was estimated to be \$50,000 to \$75,000. It was thought that the fire had started on the second floor.

The fire was discovered by Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Rabe who lived on South Franklin Street, and who were awakened by the smoke. Mr. Gunther had been sleeping in a room adjoining the factory office, when he was awakened by the Rabes coming to the scene. He got out of his quarters just in time to save his automobile which was kept in the garage between the plant and the office.

On April 27, 1948, the lot and buildings belonging to the New Bremen Broom Co. were sold to Streine Mfg. Co. (see "The Towpath" – July 2002). The damaged building needed to be razed and the company was going through bankruptcy proceedings. The little office building was purchased by Jim Dicke, Sr., moved to the rear of his lot at 107 N. Franklin St. (south of the present St. Paul Church parking lot), and was remodeled into a residence.

### From "The Evening Leader" – 12/9/1948:

A broom shop operated by Oscar Fischbach will be opened at his residence at 20 North Walnut Street (at the corner of First Street). Mr. Fischbach has for the past several years been the shop superintendent at the New Bremen Broom Co. which was destroyed by fire. He has purchased broom corn and also part of the machines, and plans to operate the shop on a small scale. (A previous shop superintendent was Grant Shearer, shown in the employees picture on pg. 11.)



-11-



**Top:** 1) \_\_\_\_\_, 2) Alvin Pape.  
**Middle:** 1) \_\_\_\_\_, 2) \_\_\_\_\_, 3) \_\_\_\_\_, 4) \_\_\_\_\_, 5) \_\_\_\_\_,  
 6) \_\_\_\_\_, 7) \_\_\_\_\_, 8) Alfred Purpus, 9) Henry Vogelsang, 10) \_\_\_\_\_,  
 11) \_\_\_\_\_, 12) \_\_\_\_\_, 13) \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Front:** 1) Reuben Boesel, 2) Carl Purpus, 3) \_\_\_\_\_, 4) \_\_\_\_\_, 5) \_\_\_\_\_,  
 6) \_\_\_\_\_ Ziegler, 7) Ida Schwede, 8) Louetta Laut, 9) Linda Pape, 10) Grant Shearer, 11) \_\_\_\_\_,  
 12) Ray Shearer (son of Grant Shearer). [photo ca. 1909-1910? - Ray Shearer graduated in 1909]

### HARRY LUDEKA'S BROOM SHOP MEMORIES

[Harry Ludeka - 1/28/1898-5/16/2000]

The broom shop was a brick building. I watched those fellas that sold the brooms many a time from the street. They always had the doors wide open to keep fresh air goin' through there. They had 4 or 5, may 6 sewing machines goin'. They'd get the brooms and stick 'em in there, handle down, and just 1,2,3 and they'd have 'em done. Then they'd put 'em in a bundle and they'd elevate 'em up to the second floor. When they had a carload to ship out, they'd load 'em out of the second floor. The Thompson brothers and Fred Tangeman would haul 'em down to the railroad track with their drays.

Homer Isern was a classmate of mine and worked in the office a little - he never worked in the factory. Even women worked there. Ed Sudman and his wife (*Fredonia*) both worked there. I believe his wife's job was more or less to sort the straw. That straw came in 400 pound bales.

When the broom shop's warehouse was destroyed by wind (*January 30, 1947*), they had 7 carloads of broom corn on the way from Oklahoma or somewhere way down southwest. They didn't know where to go with the broom corn and then somebody told 'em that we had 2 barns out on the farm and maybe I would store it. Oscar Fischbach and that other guy that was the head of it (I don't

remember his name - he was more or less of a stranger) came out and wanted to know if I could help 'em out.

Well, I stuck my neck out and told 'em they could put it in our barns. Oscar Fischbach was a foreman - he had some money in it, too, I believe. It was Oscar and this other guy that I dealt with.

I didn't have any idea what broom corn was. I never saw a bale of broom corn in my life. When they came with those 400 pound bales, I was worried because they wanted to put 'em up in the haymows. I was afraid that would break my barns down - 7 carloads, that's a lot of broom corn. We split it and put half on each side of the floor up in the mows. They had 'em 3 high, I believe. When they came to haul it out, I told them not to roll 'em off and drop 'em - I was afraid the whole mow would go with that jar and all that weight on it, so they were careful.

They tried to get goin' finally, and they'd come out and get a couple of bales, just enough to run for a day or two. They couldn't get any more because they didn't have anyplace to put it. Then the rats got into the broom corn in my mows and they had to move it. They must have put up some kind of a shed (*Quonset hut?*). It wasn't too long after that the whole shebang burned up (*11/26/1947*). It was colder than all get out that night. Even the fire trucks froze up.

[interview conducted by Ed Henning & Roger Mueller - 11/23/1994]



-12-



**BACK:** Alton Schaefer, Wilbert Sudman, George? Blase, Harold? Schaefer, Leo? Hegemier, Gust Ruedeusch, Frank Mueller, Bill Martz, Oscar Fischbach, Alvin Pape.  
**FRONT:** Henry Vogelsang, Theodore? Purpus, Wilbert? Schwepe, Herb Trautwein.



**Brooms ready for delivery - Fridolin T. Purpus on left**

\*\*\*\*\*

### HISTORY OF BROOM CORN

The broom corn plant originated in this country when Benjamin Franklin found a few seeds on some brush which was brought to him by a lady from India. Franklin, being interested to know whether the seeds would grow in his climate, planted them. They grew and in many respects resembled Indian corn or maize, except that it had no grain and on the sky end had a bunch of brush or fibre which was found to be useful in sweeping off shelves. The plant grew to a considerable height and for a few years was considered ornamental in gardens and yards.

In those days, a sweeping device was made by shaving down a hickory stick, the shavings not being entirely cut off, but bent over and tied in a bunch at the end and used for sweeping purposes. A bachelor in Massachusetts who was said to be

too lazy to shave a hickory stick into a broom, had a few stalks of broom corn growing in his yard, so he tied these on the end of a stick and found that he could sweep with it better than with a hickory broom.

His neighbors, seeing the results, asked him to make brooms for them, offering to pay him. In 1797, he made about 30 brooms. The next year, he planted an entire acre and made and peddled brooms around Massachusetts, selling 200. After this the plant was known as broom corn. Today, Oklahoma is the banner producing state for broom corn, while Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas all contribute a liberal share.

The first brooms were made round and were shaped like the hickory brooms. The bachelor, named Dickinson, first scraped the seed from the brush and then sat on a chair with a roll of string under his seat. He

wound the string around the brush in his lap until it was firmly fastened on a handle. The Shakers took up the cultivation of broom corn and they spread the fibre and widened the sweeping surface of the broom into the shape of present day brooms.

The annual consumption of broom corn has run about 50,000 tons for a long time, but vacuum cleaners and sweeping devices have made inroads into the business. If householders will use several brooms at a time, having one or two real good ones for the interior of the home, one for the porch, and one for their garage, they will find that the brooms will last much longer, and will give as much and better service than several of an inferior grade. When buying devices of any kind, it is well to remember that we have a factory here in our own community, and that by purchasing its products you are helping to upbuild the prosperity of your community. (N.B. Sun - 5/29/1936)

\*\*\*\*\*

### BELOW:

A Fourth of July float? (before 1921, since the lift bridge is still in place) turning from Walnut St. onto Monroe St.  
 Alvin Pape (left center)





**QUARTER CENTURY**

N.B. Sun - 7/3+7/24/1930

**Interesting Items Appearing In Our July 1905 Issues**

**7/7/1905:** According to present prospects, the wheat harvest in this part of the state will do better than many had believed during the early part of the summer. Thus far various reports have come in of farmers averaging 30 bushels to the acre. George Heinfeld's first job of threshing this year on Henry Schultz's farm north of town yielded 30 bushels to the acre and since then good reports have come in from various places.

◆◆◆◆◆

**7/28/1905:** Possibly the most novel thing that was ever witnessed at a threshing occurred one evening this week when George Heinfeld, with his force of men, continued threshing grain for August Broerman way up to 10:00 at night and all by the light of a number of electric lamps, the current for which was produced by a dynamo driven by the engine while the other machinery was being operated. William Luelleman, an employee of the local electric light plant, installed the dynamo and made all the necessary attachments.

◆◆◆◆◆

**LARGE COMBINE ON EXHIBIT**

A large Case combine manufactured by the J.I. Case Co. of Racine, Wisconsin is being displayed by the Gast Implement Co. on South Washington St. In general use for years in the western states, the combine, a machine for cutting, threshing and cleaning grain, now is said to be gaining favor with farmers in Ohio.

Besides lightening farm work, the combine also is claimed to bring in added profits. Crops are cut & threshed in one trip over the field at the rate of 20-60 acres a day, depending on the size of machine used. The whole crop is saved & ready to market in days, rather than weeks, giving the farmer more time for early plowing and diversified farming. Only 3 or 4 men are needed to operate it.

Four operations are completed by the machine. First, the grain is cut & gathered by a header which follows closely the slope of the ground. As it is cut, the grain falls on an endless canvas conveyor which carries it into the thresher unit.

Here the grain is fed evenly to the threshing cylinder, where the kernels are loosened from the heads by violently rubbing them between the cylinder and concave teeth. The next operation separates the grain from the straw by a method so complete that practically all the kernels are saved.

The grain is then cleaned of chaff, dirt and other impurities and is ready for delivery into a bin attached to the machine, or into a wagon hauled alongside. The straw may be scattered over the ground, dropped in piles, or left in windrows.

(N.B. Sun - 5/7/1931)

◆◆◆◆◆

**GAST IMPLEMENT CO. FEATURED IN MAGAZINE**

A farmers meeting held by the Gast Implement Co., New Bremen, is featured in the current *Case Eagle*, published by the J.I. Case Co. The Gast firm is operated by Jimmie & George Gast, who took it over in 1913 after the death of their father, (Gregore Gast), who established the business many years ago. The firm has handled machinery (since 1903) for practically its entire existence and has sold more than 300 Case threshers. For a distance of 7 miles out on 3 of the prominent roads leading from New Bremen, there are 21 Case threshers in use. Jimmie Gast is one of the very best retail farm machinery salesmen in the state of Ohio.

(N.B. Sun - 7/21/1932)

**LOCK TWO SALOON SOLD**

Henry Heinfeld, who for the past 15 years conducted the saloon at Lock Two, this week sold his entire interest in the business to Gustave Wissman. Mr. Wissman until last fall conducted a saloon here in New Bremen, but was obliged to quit the business when the new Greenlund law went into effect.

(N.B. Sun - 4/3/1914)

◆◆◆◆◆

**LOCK TWO STORE CHANGES OWNERSHIP**

Tom White, St. Marys manufacturer, this week was reported to have become the owner of the Lock Two Store, operated in recent years by Heitkamp Brothers. An 80-acre farm located along the Dry Feeder road & owned by White, is understood to be included in the deal.

Appraisers now are invoicing the stock in the store and it is believed that if the deal is consummated, the entire stock will be disposed of and the store closed permanently.

(N.B. Sun - 6/25/1931)

◆◆◆◆◆

**NEW BREMEN'S FIRST MINIATURE GOLF COURSE**

"The Shady Nook", New Bremen's first miniature golf course, is being completed this week at 25 South Franklin St. (north of the Clifford Barth home). It is owned by Dr. Leonard H. Schmidt & Alton H. Schelper and when finished, will be a complete 18-hole course with tees, greens & hazards all complete.

The owners expect to have the course ready for play Saturday evening, August 9, 1930. Beautified by the natural setting of its surroundings (former Charles Boesel "gardens"), it undoubtedly will be one of the most popular links in this section.

Miniature golf has taken the public by storm wherever it has been introduced. The game is played by young and old alike, its popularity being attributed in part to the opportunity it offers for outdoor enjoyment during the summer months.

(N.B. Sun - 8/7/1930)

◆◆◆◆◆

**BOYS BUILD OWN MINIATURE GOLF COURSE**

Miniature golf, the game accredited with keeping up the morale of the American people in the face of a serious business depression, at last seems to have taken a firm hold on New Bremen's youth. Realizing this and seeing an opportunity for investment, 6 embryo capitalists have completed a 9-hole course near the Nickel Plate depot in the west end of town. The builders, who now are cashing in on their ingenuity, are Thomas Kuenning, Robert Fark, Louis Fark, Kenneth Fark, Verlin Hirschfeld and Virgil Hirschfeld.

"Little Ben", the name given the course, is spelled out in white-painted bricks placed in the center of the course. Two-inch rails parallel the fairways filled with sawdust soaked in crankcase oil, which probably was obtained from the Counts & Fogt garage nearby. The course is complete with bunkers, hazards and sand traps, and even boasts of a water hazard, which, it must be confessed, at times approaches the consistency of water and dirt mixed in equal proportions. Tiles and cement blocks also serve to make the going rather rough for the players.

Par for the course has been fixed at 25. One or two youths, more experienced than their fellows, are known to have made it in much less than that by jumping every hazard after teeing off. Prices have been fixed at 5 & 10¢ - 5¢ for children, and 10¢ if you're married, or if the owners think you ought to be. Stories of the fabulous wealth pouring in on the operators of "Little Ben" are being circulated freely, the boys frankly admitting their receipts thus far are near the \$10 mark, and it would not be at all surprising to see one or two similar courses spring up in other sections of town.

(N.B. Sun - 8/21/1930)



### DRS. SCHMIDT, N.B. VETERINARIANS

Henry Schmidt, Sr. (2/24/1820-5/2/1898) was born in Halsdorf, Hessa, Germany, where he took a course in veterinary surgery and medicine, then emigrated to America in 1843 and located in Cincinnati where he worked in a veterinary surgeon's office for 5 years. On 9/16/1848, he married Louise Friederike Koch (2/28/1824-1/9/1901). Louise was born in Kaiserslauten, Rheinpfalz, Germany, and came to America in 1836 with her parents and brothers & sisters. The Koch family also settled in Cincinnati.

Several years after their marriage, Henry & Louise bought a farm at New Knoxville, Ohio where Henry farmed and also carried on his profession, which was then referred to as "horse doctor". Dr. Schmidt's mother was said to have been a medical doctor in Germany before coming to the United States.

In 1856, the Schmidt family moved to a farm of 80 acres 2½ miles west of New Bremen in the e½ of the sw¼ of section 8. Henry soon increased his holdings to 120 acres, adding 40 acres across the road in section 17.

Besides being a farmer and veterinary surgeon, Dr. Schmidt served several terms as school director for the western district, as a township trustee, and as the county infirmary director for 6 years. He was also one of the organizers & president of the Tri-County Fair Co. Of a total of 13 children, 4 sons & 1 daughter survived their parents: Charles (2/16/1858-5/22/1937), William (2/13/1862-2/6/1940), Henry J. (1/13/1867-2/13/1934), Julia (b. 2/11/1869), and Benjamin (6/14/1872-7/2/1953), who was also a veterinarian, practicing in Wapakoneta. Henry & Louise (Koch) Schmidt are both buried in the Plank Road Cemetery on St. Rt. 274.

[N.B. Sun obituaries - 5/6/1898 & 1/11/1901]

<<<<<<>>>>>>

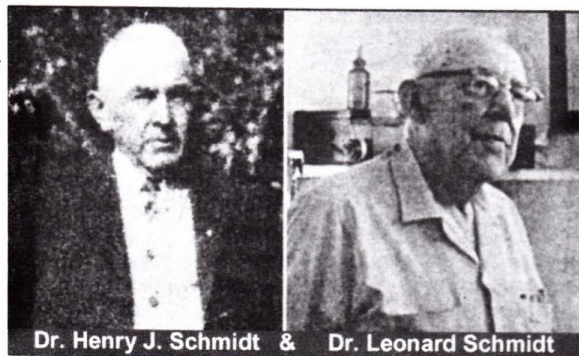
After his father's death in 1898, **Charles Schmidt** took over the home farm, his mother living with him until her death. He subsequently sold the 40 acres in section 17 to William Kuhlhorst, and on 8/8/1901, Charles married Augusta (Waesch) Gilberg (widow of Henry Gilberg). They had 2 sons, Karl & Herman Schmidt. Augusta also had a daughter, Mrs. Henry (Emma Gilberg) Landwehr. Charles & Augusta retired to North Herman Street in 1925.

**William Schmidt** married Marie/Mary Dorothea Wolters (a neighbor girl?) on 4/22/1897 and bought 60 acres next to his brother Charles's farm (1880, 1898, 1917 Auglaize Co. Atlases). William and Marie had twin daughters, Hulda & Hilda Schmidt. Hulda married Elmer Thielker & had 2 children, Mary Jane Bernhold & Kenneth Thielker. Hilda married Royal Tangeman and also had 2 children, Jean Hogan Pritchard & James Tangeman. (see pg. 18) Hilda subsequently married Neal McVittie and was living in Detroit when her father died in 1940.

<<<<<<>>>>>>

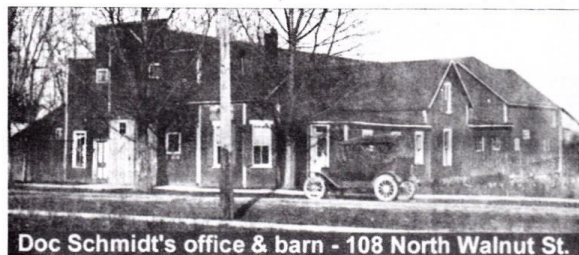
At 14 years of age (1881?), **Henry J. Schmidt** entered the old Columbia Veterinary College (later the American Veterinary College) in New York, graduated from there in 1886 at the age of 19, and opened an office in N.B. (see pg. 1). A year later, he moved to Delphos to avoid competing with his father, where he remained until 1890 before returning to New Bremen to build a practice there. He manufactured livestock foods and medicines & was equipped with a battery of electrical devices for specific treatments. He also collected old relics & displayed freaks of animal organisms, such as the embryo of a 2-headed calf.

On 10/24/1888, Dr. Henry J. Schmidt married Alice Julia Huenke (3/9/1867-8/20/1939), daughter of Henry & Louisa (Stroefer) Huenke. Henry J. & Alice (Huenke) Schmidt had 2 children, Leonard & Goldie, and lived at 116 East Monroe St. Goldie Schmidt (1/10/1894-2/14/1996) graduated from Miami University at Oxford, Ohio and became a home economics teacher, never marrying. She retired in 1957 (see pg. 16).



Dr. Henry J. Schmidt & Dr. Leonard Schmidt

**Leonard Schmidt** (4/15/1890-1/3/1973) followed in his father's and grandfather's footsteps and also became a veterinarian. He attended the Veterinary College in Toronto, Canada for a year after his marriage and then the Indiana Veterinary College at Indianapolis for 2 years. After W.W.I, he went to Ohio State University where he graduated in 1924. Leonard married Helen Dettman (1892-1977) on 6/29/1914 and they had 3 daughters: Dottie Boesel, Alice Wissman, and another who died in infancy. Dr. Leonard & Helen Schmidt lived at 6 North Walnut Street, then at 116 East Monroe Street (seen in the upper right of the Broom Shop float picture on page 12.)



Doc Schmidt's office & barn - 108 North Walnut St.

Dr. Leonard Schmidt made trips to farms with a horse & buggy, and later by motorcycle, before relying on automobiles. The veterinary hospital started by his father was located at 108 North Walnut St. In October 1945, an annex was built north of the Schmidt home at 116 East Monroe & the office was moved there. His "operating table" was made from one of Grover ("Dooley") Wissman's hydraulic-lift barber chairs. Dr. Schmidt patented his own formula for medicine under the name of Schmidt Chemical Co. Helen Schmidt was an avid rose grower.

[Lucy: On page 7 of the April 2004 issue of "The Towpath", I referred to Dr. Leonard Schmidt as having a loud voice - I really meant his father, Dr. Henry Schmidt. Robert Heinfeld - 4/14/04]

<<<<<<>>>>>>

Doc Schmidt's "barn" was razed in late 1945 and new houses were built there, the first one being Laverne Wint's steel Lustron home in early 1949 on the corner at 102 N. Walnut Street, followed by Francis Hickman at 114 N. Walnut in July-September 1949. (N.B. Sun-10/18/1945+7/14/1949)

After their marriage in 1958, Dennis & Rita (Gehret) Heitkamp bought the former Dr. Henry Schmidt, Sr. farm on St. Rt. 274 west of New Bremen. When they put insulation in the attic 5 years later, they found letters that had been written by the Schmidt family in the early 1900s. They turned these letters over to Leonard & Helen Schmidt who were both still living.

On May 16, 2004 the New Bremen & area fire departments practiced their fire-fighting techniques on the former Dr. Schmidt / Dennis Heitkamp house on St. Rt. 274 and burned it to the ground. The Heitkamps' son and daughter-in-law, John and Judy Heitkamp, are building a new house on the location.



## MEMORIES OF "PAPA" SCHMIDT

by Marguerite (Koop) Künning (3/12/1901-4/17/1997)

*Marguerite Koop was born 3/12/1901 to Cornelius & Emma (Huenke) Koop. When Marguerite was just 6 weeks old, her mother died (4/25/1901) and she was raised as a foster child by her aunt & uncle, Dr. Henry J. & Alice (Huenke) Schmidt. Marguerite affectionately called them "Papa & Mama Schmidt".*

<<<<>>>>

"I remember my exuberant 'Papa' Schmidt. He was a genius in the field of veterinary medicine, having received his D.V.M. at age 19. He spent 3 winters & summers at his studies at the New York Veterinary College and didn't return home until he graduated (1886). He received a special honor certificate for having dissected something which had never been dissected before. His father, Dr. H.J. Schmidt, Sr., had received his D.V.M. in Germany before emigrating to Cincinnati.

I liked to go down to Papa Schmidt's office & barn where there was much coming & going and many interesting things to see, like horses getting their teeth filed. For any important operations we were ordered to stay in the office where the 'medicine room' shelves were lined with beautiful colored bottles of various drugs which Papa so skillfully used to prepare medications for the waiting farmers to take with them.

On a shelf in the front office were jars filled with preserved oddities, including an embryo of a 2-headed calf and a tapeworm with a head, which Papa had removed from his own body. How? - by drinking a carefully measured combination of chloroform & wine, followed by a strong cathartic. He vowed he was the only person who had ever gotten a tapeworm drunk!

In front of the office were flowers Papa had planted and in the back of the large fenced-off area were fruit trees and Papa's vegetable garden.

The 'Doc Schmidt office & barn' attracted both young and old. Papa liked children and there were always other children to have fun with. We had a high rope swing in one of the big doorways and the long hitching rack outside made a good trapeze.

'Doc Schmidt' owned and drove one of the first automobiles in New Bremen. In the early years of his practice, he drove a black and white spotted horse & buggy. This way the farmers would know who it was when he drove by, and if he was needed on their farm, they would tie a white cloth on the gate so when he returned he would stop at their place. No telephones then!

One of my very early recollections is of a day in about 1906 at the Tri-County Fair, which was held each year at the fairgrounds 1 mile east of town. That day there was a big sulky race and a large group of relatives were standing in the grandstand to cheer for Papa Schmidt, who was driving his own pacer, 'John McLean', and winning 1<sup>st</sup> place.

In another building nearby, Mama Schmidt received 1<sup>st</sup> prize for her afghan and her Battenburg doilies. A nearby food building was run by my uncle & aunt, Louis & Emma (Wulfack) Huenke. They were just starting the milk delivery project from their farm home at the west end of town, which became the White Mountain Creamery Co.

The trip home was almost as exciting as the harness race. It was made in the Schmidt children's pony cart driven by 15-year old Leonard Schmidt, who later also became a D.V.M. After the pony, Lark, had been tied to a tree for hours, he wanted to head for the barn. He was allowed to pass all buggies, even if it meant cutting the ditch now and then!! There may have been several other days at the week-long fair, but none were eventful enough for me to remember."

## "New Bremen Sun" Clips

**9/28/1895:** Dr. Henry Schmidt, Jr. built an addition to his horse hospital.

**6/7/1899:** Doc Schmidt is putting an addition to his house.

**3/29/1901:** Dr. H. Schmidt bought Christ Wagner's lot & barn opposite his place of business for \$500 and intends using same as an adjunct to his veterinary barn.

**7/5/1901:** Dr. Henry Schmidt has his hospital, a roomy building, almost completed. Wissman & Piehl are doing the work.

**11/8/1901:** Dr. Schmidt has found it necessary to build a large addition to his hospital for the accommodation of invalid horses that are brought in for treatment. Newport mechanics are doing the work.

**12/13/1901:** Dr. Schmidt, the veterinary, informs us that he will soon begin the manufacturing of patent medicines, using his own formulas. He will erect a building to be used as an office, also as a laboratory.

**2/27/1903:** Drs. G.W. Bodey & Henry J. Schmidt were in Chicago this week to purchase a dry hot air apparatus and other electrical appliances to be used in connection with the X-ray machine, with a view of engaging in the electrical healing business on an extended scale.

Dr. Bodey is a practicing physician, while Dr. Schmidt is a widely known veterinary surgeon. Dr. Schmidt has equipment of that sort for veterinary use, but the current has been tried by so many patients with good effect, that he finds himself besieged with treating human beings instead of animals.

In order to cope with the great demand for electrical treatment, Dr. Schmidt formed a partnership with Dr. Bodey. Human patients will be taken care of by Dr. Bodey. A sanitarium will be established in the Boesel building at the corner of Main & Monroe Sts. where Dr. Bodey has living quarters.

Several remarkable cures have already been recorded since the advent of the X-ray machine in New Bremen. Men crippled with rheumatism and paralysis and other alleged incurable diseases have yielded readily to its influences. Dr. Schmidt is an expert in the handling of this machine, having taken a course of instruction at a Chicago college. He expects to acquire a diploma as a graduate. He will have charge of the machine while Dr. Bodey will prescribe the treatments.

**11/4/1904:** For the betterment & convenience of his business, Dr. H.J. Schmidt is making preparations for the removal of his hospital & stables to his vacant lots on North Walnut St. This will be greatly appreciated by the residents in the neighborhood of his present location.

**1/27/1905:** "Schmidt & Buss" is the name of the new business firm established a week or 10 days ago. They have taken charge of the old "H.J. Schmidt & J.L. Hoffman" affairs and will continue the manufacture of Dr. H.J. Schmidt's stock food & veterinary remedies.

**10/20/1905:** Dr. H.J. Schmidt moved his house from the corner of East Monroe & Walnut Sts. onto his vacant lot on the east side of Walnut St., thus making room for a new dwelling on the corner.

**7/20/1906:** Jacob Paul, Sr. last week sold his 2 lots at the corner of Walnut & Second Sts. to Dr. H.J. Schmidt for \$400. Dr. Schmidt has awarded the contract for building his new home at the corner of Monroe & Walnut Sts. to the Rabe Mfg. Co. for \$3500.

**8/3/1906:** Work on Dr. Schmidt's new residence was begun this week. (see Broom Shop float picture on pg. 12 - upper right).

**11/17/1908:** Real Estate Transfer - H.J. Schmidt & wife to the Village of New Bremen, west part of inlots 111, 112, 113, 114 - \$60.

### AUTOMOBILE GARAGE

**7/31/1908:** In view of the fact that the number of automobiles in use in New Bremen is growing, and the demand is becoming more marked every day, Dr. H.J. Schmidt has concluded to open up a 1<sup>st</sup> class repair shop, with an expert mechanic.

**8/14/1908:** Dr. Schmidt says that he has opened a garage for the purpose of expanding his business. He wants to also "doctor" automobiles.

"My new garage in the north room of the J.H. Boesche building on Washington St. is now completed and I am in position to do all kinds of repairing on automobiles, bicycles, etc. I will later on be prepared to do vulcanizing. I also have for sale automobiles of different makes and grades. Come and see me."

Dr. H.J. Schmidt



## More News Clips...

**2/26/1931:** Rapid progress is being made in the erection of the Gulf gasoline station at the (northeast) corner of Monroe & Walnut Sts. It is being erected on a site formerly occupied by a residence owned by Dr. H.J. Schmidt. The residence building has been moved to the rear of the lot.

This will be the 7<sup>th</sup> service station in New Bremen, the others being the Leroy Abbott station, (southeast) corner of Monroe & Walnut Sts., the South Side service station on S. Washington St., the H.W. Rairdon & Refiners stations, (west) corners of Monroe & Washington Sts., the Lone Pine station, corner of Main & Pearl Sts., and the Johnson station on North Herman St.



**4/2/1931:** Formal opening of the new Gulf gasoline station, corner of Monroe & Walnut Sts. will be April 4-5, 1931. Located in a residential district, the building is architecturally different and improved over the type followed in so many service stations. The station will be operated by Alvin (Pete) Wagner.

**12/27/1935:** Chemicals were used to extinguish a blaze caused by an overheated stove at the Gulf filling station, Monroe & Walnut Sts. yesterday evening. The alarm was turned in about 9:30 p.m. by Dr. L.H. Schmidt, owner of the station, and Wilson Vornholt. Damage will probably not exceed \$25.00.

**Late 1950s?:** Miss Goldie Schmidt has sold the filling station building at Walnut & Monroe Sts. to Prosper Combs who will move the building to the Harry Gephart farm. After the building has been moved, Miss Schmidt plans to build a home on the lot in the near future. (Goldie Schmidt retired in 1957 from teaching home economics in Covington, Lima, Grandview and Cincinnati. Probably that is when she moved back to New Bremen and built her house at 200 E. Monroe St.)

**7/30/1931:** An unexpected delay in the North Walnut St. sewer construction occurred Monday because of a serious cave-in near the Drs. Schmidt veterinary barns when a buried culvert bridge was unearthed. Old-timers recalled that many years ago, the canal in the north end of town extended beyond Walnut St. and that boats docked at a wharf located between Walnut & Jefferson Streets.

**3/30/1934:** Fire of undetermined origin yesterday afternoon threatened the Schmidt veterinary barns. The blaze, which started in a horse stall, was reported shortly after 2:00 and was extinguished by the fire department without any loss.

**10/18/1945:** Dr. Leonard H. Schmidt is breaking ground for the erection of a 2-car garage & office building in the rear of his residence property at the corner of East Monroe & North Walnut Sts. (116 E. Monroe). The large barn & office building further north at 108 North Walnut St. is being razed and the lots in that plot are to be disposed of for building purposes. About 50 years ago, the office & veterinary barn of the doctor's father, Dr. Henry J. Schmidt, Jr. occupied the same location where the new office & garage are to be erected.

**1/29/1948:** Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Boesel & baby daughter, Sandra, were overcome by furnace fumes Sunday night in their home at 6 North Walnut St. Mrs. Boesel was sufficiently aroused at 7:00 a.m. Monday to crawl downstairs and find her way to the telephone to call her parents & sister, Dr. & Mrs. L.H. Schmidt & Mrs. Paul (Alice) Wissman, who live across the street. Fortunately, she thought to turn the key in the front door in passing so they could enter and rescue the family. The Boesels' older daughter, Connie, had spent the night with her grandparents and escaped the tragedy. Dr. Rabe was called and was assisted by Dr. Schmidt to restore their breathing to normal. The Boesels were able to return to their jobs by Tuesday afternoon, Jake at his insurance office and Dottie to her home ec class at the high school.

## MORE ENLIGHTENING "FOOTNOTES"

**12/13/1901:** The old log house that stood on the bank of the canal east of town was torn down last week. It was one of the old landmarks of New Bremen. Bernhard Henry Mohrman, one of the first settlers, came here in the year 1832 and built the house in 1845. He was the grandfather of Herman Mohrman, the milkman. One by one the old houses disappear and they, as well as their history, are forgotten. Time makes many changes.

[see Adam Helwig letter of 9/24/1931 - pg. 6]

**12/26/1919:** After inspection of the Monroe St. bridge, plans are to remove the entire aerial structure & to widen the bridge.

**4/1/1921:** Removal of the old lift bridge across the canal at Monroe St. has now become a likelihood. Hopes are given out for a new concrete structure in place of the present antiquated bridge.

(see Broom Shop float picture on pg. 12)

**7/29/1921:** Wood in the old Monroe St. bridge was sold to William Landwehr by county commissioner, Herman Brandewie.

**9/16/1921:** Work on the Monroe St. bridge is not progressing as rapidly as in the beginning as there are frequent necessary pauses of a day or more to allow portions of concrete to set firmly before the next step is taken.

**10/28/1921:** Contractor John Frantz of Sidney completed the new Monroe St. bridge Tuesday. The large light pillars were put into place Saturday and lend artistic beauty to the superstructure. The bridge will not be paved until next spring.

**11/4/1904:** Grant Shearer of Sidney, the New Bremen Broom Company's new foreman, took charge of his labors last Saturday and will move his family as soon as a house is found.

**12/16/1921:** Real Estate Transfer - The old Finke house (formerly the French House Hotel) on North Main St., now occupied by the **SUPERIOR BROOM WORKS**, was sold to Grant Shearer for \$1334.

(see Adam Helwig letter of 3/13/1930 - pg. 3)

**1/10/1924:** Fridolin T. Purpus & Herbert Trautwein of the New Bremen Broom Co. and Grant Shearer of the **SUPERIOR BROOM WORKS** are attending a 2-day convention of Ohio broom manufacturers at Columbus.

**7/18/1929:** Another abandoned cistern was reported this week by plumbers working at the Farmers Equity Union Creamery Company's building on N. Main St. (see pg. 3 - Adam Helwig - 3/13/1930). It was found under the sidewalk paralleling the street and probably was excavated years ago when the Hotel French, a thriving hostelry of the early days, was operated in the building now occupied by the **SUPERIOR BROOM WORKS**.

**6/25/1931:** Opening of the newly completed Central Auto Service garage at First & North Main Streets, is announced for Saturday, June 27, 1931. Built of cement and brick, the building measures 30' x 60' and is a fire-proof structure. The garage will be operated by (Ralph) Fogt, (Emie) Counts & (Francis) Hickman, who formerly had charge of the Chevrolet Service Garage on West Monroe St. (see mini golf course story #2 - pg. 13)

**9/24/1931:** Manufacture of fillers for a broom patented by Earl Kent & Nick Veit of Wapakoneta has been started by the N.B. Broom Co. Metal holders which can be refilled as the broom straw is worn away will be made by the Wapakoneta Holloware Co. & the fillers will be made by the N.B. Broom Co.

## BARTH BROOMS

Clifford Barth manufactured brooms in his brick summer kitchen at 27 South Franklin St. from 1928?-1964?, after purchasing the property from the estate of Mrs. Charles (Louise Voeckell) Boesel. The carriage house behind the summer kitchen was built in 1988-89 by Fred Harmon after the old barn was moved to the Jim Cooper property at 401 South Franklin.



# From the Mailbox



-17-

To whom it may concern:

3/25/2004

Tom Braun sent me a sample copy of *The Towpath* and I am enclosing \$10.00 for you to include me in your membership.

I am the great-granddaughter of William A. Helwig and the great-great granddaughter of Adam Helwig. My family and I are anxious to learn as much as possible about the families. (see pages 2-9).

I look forward to receiving all the back issues\* as well as future issues of *The Towpath*. Kind regards,

Sharon (Wills) Rogers - Eagle River, Wisconsin

**\*EDITOR'S NOTE:** Back issues of "The Towpath" are available in "book" form for \$17.00 plus \$3.00 S/H - a total of only \$20.00 for collections of as many as 30 issues ranging from July 1996-April 2004.

Tom:

4/12/2004

Thank you so much for enrolling me in *The Towpath*. I really do appreciate it. I read both the January & April 2004 issues today, and although I didn't find anything on any of my ancestries, I found them to be of great interest.

My father, \_\_\_\_\_ Wills, born in 1923, the son of Max & Lydia (Helwig) Wills, is now living with us and when I read some of the articles you sent me earlier on his great grandfather, Adam Helwig, he was moved to tears. He said he wished he knew more about the Helwig family.

Bless you and all who are making *The Towpath* and the New Bremen Historic Association the success it is.

Kind regards,

Sharon (Wills) Rogers

Dear Lucille:

4/15/2004

*The Towpath* becomes a more valuable archival resource of New Bremen history with each passing issue. The anecdotal experiences of those who lived the history or who know someone who did are truly from the "horses' mouths".

Speaking of horses, I liked your personal story on page 8 (April 2004). I'm sure your reference to "the sights & smells of all the iodine" referred to Dr. Fledderjohann's office and not to your Grandpa Otte, who, I suspect would be cause to remember for other sights and smells, having freshly emerged from the bed of a manure spreader!

Keep up your outstanding work. Best regards,

John T. Dickman - Columbus, Ohio

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Actually, I did not accompany Grandpa and Mom to Dr. Fledderjohann's office. I was referring to the sight of all the iodine when they returned. I was only about 6 years old and it was a rather scary sight, with the color of the iodine looking like blood!

To *The Towpath*:

4/13/2004

Thank you for doing *The Towpath*. It's like a gift from home. I've been busy volunteering at the U.S. Air Force Museum at Wright Patterson AFB. Don Isem - Troy, Ohio

**"USAF Museum Volunteers just have plane fun!"**

Tom:

4/14/2004

I was very excited to see the photo of A.C. Settlege identified in the April 2004 issue of *The Towpath*. I have a large collection of photos of Settlege and Wagner descendants and their spouses for the first 3 generations in the U.S.A. I am enclosing some photos of unknown persons, one of which turned out to be A.C. Settlege! I was hoping you or Lucille might recognize one or more of the other subjects. I also appreciated having my Aunt Esther's early farm memories published in *The Towpath*. Thank you again.

Harry Wagner - Portland, Oregon

Tom:

4/16/2004

As you may know, I am a life member of the N.B.H.A. and enjoy reading each new issue of *The Towpath*. I really connected with the April 2004 issue - it brought back some really fond memories of the activities on my Grandfather Jacob Froning's farm, with the threshing tractors. I got to run the stack blower once. The whiskey of choice was rock and rye. I tried it and spit it out - it tasted terrible! The story about Dad (Henry Westerheide) and our horse was a classic.

Keep up the good work on *The Towpath*. It has to be one of the best historical papers in Ohio. The history channel should run a story on the town. You and the Association have all the background already done.

I'm looking forward to our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary class reunion. Can't wait to exchange stories. I'm sure that 50 years will add the proper "aging" to them.

Don Westerheide - Fort Worth, Texas

Hi, Tom:

4/23/2004

I am constantly amazed at the depth and care that is obviously put into preparing each issue of *The Towpath*. It is a great pleasure to read and invariably enlightening - not just nostalgic, but enlightening. Please share my regards with the whole team.

David Schroeder - Port Townsend, Washington

From Scott Voisard - Russia, Ohio:

4/24/2004

Scott is the son of Steve & Mary Ann (Moeller) Voisard, grandson of Elton & Freda (Larger) Moeller, and great grandson of Frank & Rosa (Cardo) Larger. He is involved with the postcard project of the Shelby County Historical Society and was particularly interested in the copies of Ralph May's Fort Loramie / Newport threshing postcards shown on pages 12 & 13 of the April 2004 issue of *The Towpath*. He sent another version of the article Ralph May had written about the pictures, along with identifications of most of the people in the pictures.

In the picture of the Reeves engine on pg. 12, the man in the middle is identified as Henry Cardo, and the man sitting on the engine is Pete Cardo. The couple in the picture of the Aultman-Taylor separator on pg. 13 are Frank & Rosa (Cardo) Larger. Pete Cardo was the father of Henry Cardo & Rosa Larger, making him the great-great grandfather of Scott Voisard. Scott is also the nephew of Lawrence & Marlene (Moeller) Egbert. Lawrence is one of our trustees.



-18-

## GRANDPA STORIES

Dear Lucille: 4/12/2004

It was so nice receiving the April 2004 issue of *The Towpath*. Jim is in the hospital having a pacemaker put in and he will enjoy reading it while recuperating. Here are some stories we wrote for the grandchildren. They loved reading about the childhood adventures of Jim and his sister, Ruth. We thought perhaps others would enjoy reading about them too.

Jim & Jo-Ann Tangeman – Onondaga, Michigan

### Family History

Jean (Tangeman) Pritchard was born 1/3/1921 & James Tangeman was born 11/17/1922, the children of Royal James & Hilda (Schmidt) Tangeman. *[I mistakenly gave her the name of Louisa in the April issue. She had a twin sister, Hulda, who married Elmer Thielker. (see pg. 14) – Editor].* Their parents divorced when Jean was 6 and Jim was 5 and the children were raised on the farm of their paternal grandparents, William and Alvina (Blumhorst) Tangeman, 2 miles north of New Bremen. The grandparents spoke only German and when Jim and Jean started school, they couldn't understand a word of English. Jim had to spend 2 years in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade so he could learn English. Even when he was in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades, he would still give part of his recitation in English and part in German.

### Farm Chores

When they were old enough, both Jim and Jean helped their grandparents with the chores – they fed and milked cows, fed chickens and collected eggs. When Jim was old enough, he even helped plow the fields with horses & a walk-behind plow.

Once, when his grandpa needed a car moved, he let Jim move it under his instruction. When Grandpa yelled at Jim to stop the car, it scared Jim so bad that he floor-boarded it right through the front barn door and out the back. Luckily there were doors on the back, so all he did was pop them open. There wasn't much damage, but he received a spanking on the bare butt with a razor strop.

One time Jim's grandma asked him to set the breakfast table and while doing it he stuck his finger in the jam jar, took a big swipe of jam and put it in his mouth. He hadn't noticed that a big ant had come up with the jam and when he put it in his mouth, the ant got hold of his palate & hung on. They couldn't get the ant to let go, so they had to take Jim to the doctor to get it removed. When they got home, he got another spanking!

On the Tangeman farm, there was an orchard with apple, pear and cherry trees. When the fruit was ripe, everyone pitched in to pick it so Jim's grandma could make jellies, jams, and pies & tarts. Special shelves were built in the cellar that were hung from the rafters by wires. Pies, homemade breads, etc. were put there to keep the mice or rats from getting at them. Upstairs, there was a pantry where jams, jellies and other home-canned goods were stored.

Once Jim's grandma had trouble with blackbirds eating the fruit from the trees. Jim had an "Uncle Emil" who went out with his shotgun and killed about 50 blackbirds. He then cleaned and dressed them and Jim's grandma made pot pie with them.

Farmers used to get together to slaughter a pig or a cow. That was an all day project that included cutting the meat, wrapping it and making sausage. It was nice in those days when your neighbors shared in the farm work like butchering, haying or raising a barn.

Rabbits were also shot for food. In the fall, there would be a big party at the town hall. Everyone brought food they had prepared at home – usually rabbit, venison or wild turkey. After eating, there was a square dance. "Uncle Emil" called the square dances. He also sometimes helped with the farm work,

but he had a loud voice that the horses didn't like and they wouldn't work for him.

### Experiments, Pranks, Accidents

Jim's science teacher told the class that most fowl could swim because of the oil in their feathers, so of course Jim & Jean had to prove it. They went home, greased up a hen and put her in the watering trough. The hen sank to the bottom and drowned. The kids were afraid they would get a spanking, so they hid the chicken under some hay in the chicken coop. A couple of days later, Jim's grandpa found the chicken and told Grandma he couldn't understand how such a healthy chicken had died. Of course, the kids didn't tell him.

One time a teacher told Jim & Jean that cats always landed on their feet, so Jim and Jean had to prove it. Jim took a cat up to the top of the silo, dropped it out the window, waited for it to land and then asked Jean if it had landed on its feet. She would holler up "Yep, it did" and they would do it over and over again.

Another time, they decided to see if cats could swim. In the barnyard was a watering trough for the horses and cows. The trough had a split lid on it. The kids would drop the cat in the water on one end and close the lid, then open the other end until the cat got so far, then dropped that lid and opened the other one again. After some of these experiments, it took a long time before they could catch a cat again just to pet it.

Jim liked to play with small toy cars, piling up dirt to make hills and making roads to push them on. After going in to eat dinner one day, he went back out to play and found that the chickens had scratched the area and made a mess of his roads and hills. He was so mad he threw a railroad spike at one of the hens and accidentally hit it in the head – another dead chicken! This time he took it to Grandma who cooked it for a dinner, but he received another spanking!

Once Jim and his "cousin", Ferdie Luedeke [son of Julius & Amanda (Blumhorst) Luedeke], were sent to the woods to drive the cows back to the barn. Once they got the cows out of the woods, Ferdie asked Jim if he wanted to smoke a cigarette. Ferdie rolled one up, lit it and started to smoke it. Then they decided to see if the grass around them would burn. The first time they tried this, they got the fire out, but the next time, the whole woods caught fire and all the farmers in the area came to help put out the fire. They both got whipped that time.

One Sunday while his grandparents were in church, Jim and Ferdie took an old 10-gallon milk can, drilled a hole near the bottom, put some water and carbide in it and put the cover back on. (Mixing water & carbide together make gas.) Then they lit a match and set it off, making a big bang like a cannon – another beating with the razor strop....

When Jim was 8 years old, he did his first job of working with electricity. There was a bad switch in the barn, and since his grandpa was afraid of electricity, Jim fixed it. His grandma had an old treadle sewing machine she was no longer using so Jim took it out to the barn and made a jigsaw out of it. He had a lot of fun making toys and things with his saw.

Some of the kids got mischievous around Halloween and liked to turn over outhouses. Sometimes they would pull the outhouse back a few feet so the first person to come to use it would fall into the hole. One of the neighbors decided to get even and moved his outhouse forward a little so that when the pranksters came to pull it back, they themselves fell in the hole. They couldn't go home smelling from their adventure, so they took a swim in the canal to clean up – clothes & all!

One time when Jim was small, his dad carried him downstairs from the bedroom, with Jim in one arm and a chamber pot in the other. Jim's dad lost his footing and went



tumbling down the stairs, with the contents of the chamber pot flying every which way. Jim's dad had to clean it up.

#### Earning Money

When Jim was 15, he and Jean moved to Rochester, New York to live with their mom and her new husband. Jim had been promised that he would still be able to go to school, but instead he and Jean were put to work. Neither their mom or their grandparents allowed them to keep the money they made.

In high school, Jim learned first aid. He learned it so good, he was asked by the town merchants to teach it to them. He did it on a volunteer basis – so again, no pay!

Jim's granddad (*William Tangeman*) was a township trustee at one time and he hired Jim to mow the roadsides using a long handled sickle to cut the weeds and tall grass. Jim also worked as a farm hand.

While still on the farm, Jim took agriculture in school and had a project of growing a Hampshire pig. He kept track of the costs to feed the sow and later, the cost to feed her piglets. When the project was over, he sold all of them, and after paying his grandpa for the feed, he had enough left to buy a bicycle.

### REUNION OF ST. PAUL'S CONFIRMANTS - 2004

[information provided by Tom Braun]

On May 2, 2004, St. Paul's United Church of Christ held a confirmation reunion for honor classes of 1944, 1954, 1964, 1974, 1984, 1994 and all living members of the classes before 1944. The oldest living confirmant, Lloyd Laut of the class of 1917, was unable to attend, making Forrest Nedderman from the class of 1924 the oldest attendee.

After the Sunday morning church service which was attended by 80 past confirmants, a program was given and a luncheon was served in the assembly room of the Sunday School to those who wished to stay and reminisce.

R. Jay Stauffer welcomed the guests, followed by an opening prayer by former pastor of St. Paul's, Rev. Roger D. Perl from Tiffin, Ohio. Entertainment was provided by St. Paul's "Dynamic Duo" pianists, Edith Wissman and Ethel Mesloh, followed with historical information about the confirmation classes provided by Tom Braun. A roll call was held, with a spokesperson from each of the honor classes. This was followed by reminiscing and comments from guests, and ended with a hymn and a closing prayer by Rev. John W. Tostrick.

YEAR	MEMB.	ATT.	YEAR	MEMB.	ATT.
1924	33	1	1939	30	1
1927	39	3	1940	23	6
1929	27	1	1941	34	10
1930	24	2	1942	22	4
1931	44	4	1943	25	4
1932	28	5	1944	27	5
1933	49	12	1954	14	5
1934	28	2	1964	24	0
1935	31	1	1974	25	6
1936	27	2	1984	9	0
1937	45	3	1994	13	0
1938	28	3	12%	649	80

### REUNION OF ST. PAUL'S CONFIRMANTS - 1923

[from the N.B. Sun - 3/29/1923]

The huge St. Paul's Church was filled to overflowing on Sunday evening when Rev. Melchert delivered the last of his series of Lenten services, which also featured the reunion of confirmants who received their religious instruction in the local church.

William Schulenberg, who was confirmed in 1852, is the only remaining member of his class and was the oldest member (at 84) to respond to the roll call on Palm Sunday. Henry Sollman & Henry Schaefer ranked next, being members of the class of 1855, and were followed by Fred Behm, who received his catechetical instruction in 1860.

Beginning with this year's class of catechumens, Rev. Melchert called the classes dating back to 1852 – 55 classes of the past 71 years being represented by one or more members.

Pastors who served the congregation during the intervening years included Rev. Henry Borchers (1847-1858), Rev. C. Heise (1858-1880), Rev. Martin Buerkle (1880-1894), Rev. F.W. Bertram (1894-1906), Rev. Ph. Wittich (1906-1907), Rev. W.F. Henninger (1907-1922), and the present pastor, Rev. John C. Melchert, who began his pastorate on June 1, 1922. The class of 1923 was his first confirmation class.

The following table shows the various classes, the number of original members, and the number attending the reunion:

YEAR	MEMB.	ATT.	YEAR	MEMB.	ATT.
1852	31	1	1894	67	27
1853-1854	0	0	1895	43	10
1855	55	2	1896	59	17
1856-1859	0	0	1897	46	13
1860	82	1	1898	72	9
1861-1868	0	0	1899	48	13
1869	60	4	1900	56	9
1870	80	2	1901	54	9
1871	74	2	1902	39	9
1872	72	3	1903	27	11
1873	72	5	1904	56	10
1874	75	6	1905	17	3
1875	70	7	1906	38	11
1876	72	9	1907	52	12
1877	76	5	1908	27	9
1878	64	8	1909	32	7
1879	65	7	1910	34	15
1880	82	11	1911	32	8
1881	62	13	1912	34	9
1882	60	12	1913	32	9
1883	83	15	1914	29	4
1884	52	13	1915	26	10
1885	47	13	1916	23	15
1886	69	14	1917	46	14
1887	63	16	1918	31	9
1888	60	10	1919	36	11
1889	44	11	1920	41	17
1890	63	13	1921	27	19
1891	59	12	1922	35	20
1892	52	10	1923	29	29
1893	43	12	20%	2975	605



## "WAYS & MEANS" REPORT

The New Bremen Historic Association held its 6<sup>th</sup> annual summer picnic on Sunday, June 6, 2004 from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. at the museum on North Main St.

A pie baking contest was held in which 21 pies were entered. Winning 1<sup>st</sup> place and 2 tickets to the 2004 Christmas candlelight dinner was Sally Dicke. Second & third place winners were Rita Heitkamp and Susan Krieg. The winning pies were auctioned off, with Virginia Kuenning purchasing the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> place pies and Delores Stienecker purchasing the 3<sup>rd</sup> place pie. Receipts from his auction totaled \$210.

After auctioning off the winning pies, auctioneer Tim Eiting conducted an "Antiques Road Show". Donations of \$1.00 for each item appraised were to be given to the Auglaize County Crisis Center.

Later in the afternoon several items were raffled off as follows: 1) Fire extinguisher, won by Bob Finke; 2) "Interurban on Main St." print (Jay Stauffer); 3) "N.B. Then & Now" book (Lucy Whitten); 4) Bluebird house (Tom Fledderjohann); 5) "W.W.II Veterans" book (Karen Voress); (6) NBHA cap (Bob Finke); 7) "Museum" mug (Tom Holdren); 8) Tupperware (Don Luedeke). Attendance at the time of the drawing was required to be declared a winner.

The Association would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped make this a successful picnic – also the Village of N.B. for furnishing picnic tables, St. Paul's Church for other tables & chairs, "Red" Kuck and Tony & Lexa Holdren for the use of their tents, Glen & Rebekkah Whitten for the use of their sound system, and John & Edith Wissman for use of their freezer.

### New Historical Print On Its Way

The second color print in the series of numbered New Bremen historical prints painted by Pat Wietholter will be available in late 2004 or early 2005. It will be the same size as the first print, "Interurban on Main Street" and will also sell for the same price - \$40.00 (+ \$5.00 S/H).

This print will be an action scene of USAC sprint cars at the New Bremen Speedway racetrack. If you would like to reserve the same print number as the first print you purchased, please contact me at 419-629-8902 or [TGBraun@nktelco.net](mailto:TGBraun@nktelco.net).

Tom Braun

"Ways & Means" Chairman

### *From the Mailbox (continued).....*

Dear Lucille: 5/31/2004

The April 2004 issue of *The Towpath* was packed full of interesting stories of farm life. As a boy raised on a farm, I wanted nothing to do with farming – the work was hard and long. But looking back on the freedom of growing up on a farm and all the outdoor activities, I treasure my upbringing. A *Farmer's Lifestyle* (pg. 14), the *Hirschfeld Family History* (pg. 11), *Early Farm Memories* (pg. 4), and *A Thresherman's Story* (pg. 12), written by my Grandfather Hirschfeld, add to those wonderful and prized memories. Great job!!!

Respectfully, Stan Hirschfeld – Noblesville, Indiana

## NEW MEMBERS THIS QUARTER (THRU 6/16/04)

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

4/9/04	Arnett, Dave - St. Marys, Ohio
4/21/04	Burnell, ^Alice (LM) - New Bremen
4/21/04	Burnell, Dennis (LM) - New Bremen
4/21/04	Burnell, Molly (LM) - New Bremen
4/21/04	Burnell, Nathan (LM) - New Bremen
4/13/04	Egbert, ^Barbara (Oldiges)(LM) - New Bremen
4/19/04	Getzen, Joanne (Tangeman) - Pinckney, Michigan
4/24/04	Graham, Dorothy (Bambauer) - Dayton, Ohio
5/15/04	Greive-Markovits, Nancy - Cincinnati, Ohio
4/27/04	Hirschfeld, Fred - Celina, Ohio
3/30/04	Hirschfeld, Wallace - New Bremen
4/27/04	Koenig, Dorothy (Dickman) (TR) - St. Marys, Ohio
4/19/04	Krajenke, Barbara (Tangeman) - Algonac, Mich.
5/27/04	Lutterbein, John - Edgerton, Ohio
4/16/04	Maich, Walter - Camarillo, California
5/4/04	Meyer, Rosanne (Schaefer) - Celina, Ohio
5/15/04	Moore, William - New Bremen
4/23/04	Reese, Frances (Kuck) - Pandora, Ohio
3/30/04	Rogers, Sharon (Wills) - Eagle River, Wisconsin
4/16/04	Schmidt, Vera (Warner) - Celina, Ohio
4/19/04	Simmons, Sandi (Tangeman) - Pinckney, Michigan

## ADDITIONS TO LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

4/21/04	Burnell, ^Alice (new)
4/21/04	Burnell, Dennis (new)
4/21/04	Burnell, Molly (new)
4/21/04	Burnell, Nathan (new)
4/13/04	Egbert, ^Barbara (Oldiges)(new)
4/16/04	Kuck, David E.
4/17/04	Paul, ^Mary (Grimm)

## MEMBER DEATHS THIS QUARTER

4/30/04	Henkener, Roger (CM) - died 4/30/04
4/27/04	Koenig, Everett - died 4/27/04
4/22/04	Kuck, Eugene (LM) - died 4/22/04
6/16/04	Philipot, Jeannette (Budde) - died 6/16/04
3/29/04	Wellemeier, Fred (CM) - died 3/29/04

## ELMER ENDE RESCUES OLD TOWN RECORDS

When the old Town Hall / Northern Fire Department building on North Main Street was being razed on July 9, 1959 to make room for the new Post Office and First National Bank building, the discovery was made by retired music professor and community historian, Elmer Ende, of original town papers dating back to 1832. The stack of papers had apparently fallen through a hole in the attic of the building and contained the original town charter - the "Actum Cincinnati" dated 7/23/1832; also the Original Plat map recorded 6/13/1833, the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Land Allotments with original signatures, and many other German (and English) letters and documents.

After Mr. Ende had sorted the papers (1830s-1900s), they were stored in a vault in the bank for some time. In 1983, when New Bremen's sesquicentennial book was published, much of this material was included on pages 5-17 in the article entitled "Founding of New Bremen" written by Mary Ann Brown.

Since then, a box containing these papers has been stored at the New Bremen Library. It was recently turned over to me to be placed in our museum. In going through the many papers, I have found in addition to the above, many old business statements, election papers, Ober Bremen documents, school Auditor's reports, and other information which helped to verify stories told by Adam Helwig (who grew up in Ober Bremen) in his "Letters to the Editor" on pages 2-8.

Lucille Francis, Editor