

# THE TOWPATH

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(January - April - July - October)

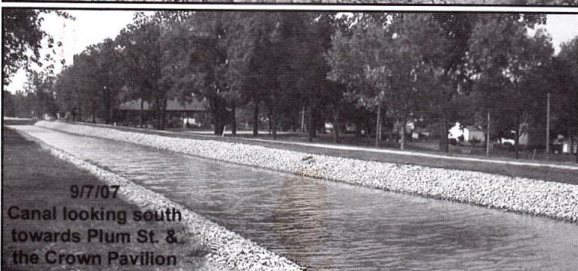
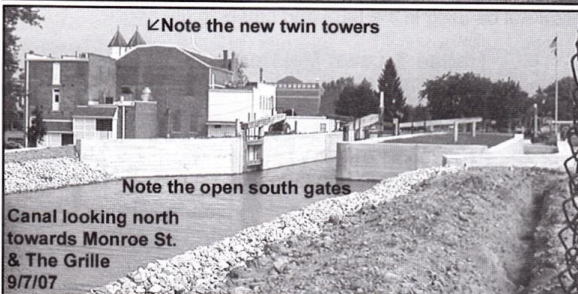
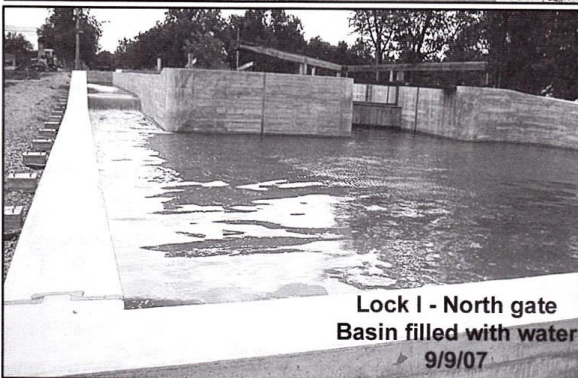
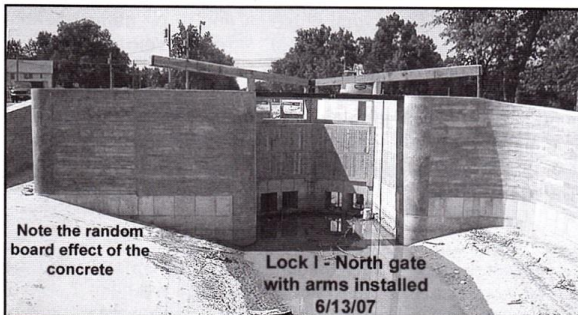
## NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

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

MUSEUM located at 120 N. Main St. (founded in 1973)

**VISITING HOURS: 2:00-4:00 p.m. Sundays - June, July, August**  
(Other Appointments, Call 419-629-1014 - Tuesdays, 9:00-11:30 a.m.)

**MEMBERSHIP: \$12.00 / Year - \$6.00 Spouse (Life: \$120.00 / \$60.00 Spouse) October - 2007**



### LOCK I RECONSTRUCTION COMPLETED

With the recent rains we've had, Lock I and the Miami-Erie Canal in New Bremen have filled with water (between Monroe St. & Plum St.) and again look like they used to, only better (see pictures at left).

Reconstruction of Lock I began in July 2006 after the New Bremen Historic Association was able to raise their quota of \$70,000 in matching funds as required when applying for a grant from the Transportation Enhancement Program through the Ohio Dept. of Transportation.

Jutte Excavating Inc. of Fort Recovery worked hard to maintain the original 1910 arrangement of the lock, including the replication of random form boards on the concrete walls of the lock (see left). This was a condition of the grant the village received from the Transportation Enhancement Program. Jutte also made suggestions that would add to the longevity and resilience of the lock.

The four white oak gates, manufactured by Hoge Lumber Co. of New Knoxville between January and April 2007, measure 14 feet high and weigh nearly 5000# each. The square white oak arm beams, designed to open and close the gates, measure 14" in diameter x 22' long and weigh about 2000# each.

The two gates on the south end of Lock I were put into place Tuesday morning, 6/12/2007, by Jutte Excavating. These two gates open & close (see picture at left), while the two gates on the north end are stationary and hang on the concrete wall as a false front.

Saintignon Excavating Co. of Celina was contracted to dredge the canal south of Lock I up to Plum St. Rip rap and #2 stone were later placed on the banks to reduce the bank erosion. Additional cleanup work is planned on the canal near the ABC Learning Center on First St.

The 1864 Morrison cast-iron "bowstring" footbridge which was installed across the canal in 1984-85 at the west end of Front St. has recently been repainted - twice! By some fluke, it was allowed to be painted RED the first time. When Joe Eilerman, who was on the original committee for the bridge's installation, pointed out that the red color did not fit within most state historical codes, council members voted that the bridge should be painted again - this time the appropriate original historical color of black, and should remain black from here on.

New Bremen's Village Administrator, Wayne York, and Kevin Koesters of Mote & Associates, Inc. of Greenville, the engineer of the reconstruction project, worked closely with the Toledo Metro Parks officials who restored Lock 44 in Grand Rapids, Ohio to ensure the historical correctness of Lock I North in New Bremen.



## ◆ "THE TOWPATH" ◆

"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.

Lucille Francis, Editor & Membership-----419-629-3148  
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**WEBSITE - [www.newbremenhistory.org](http://www.newbremenhistory.org)**  
Johanna Schroer-----Webmaster

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Delores Stienecker, Gen Conradi

## ASSOC. MEETINGS ARE HELD FIRST TUESDAYS

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

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

\$12.00 per year (\$6.00 extra for spouse)  
Lifetime Membership - \$120.00 (\$60.00/spouse)  
Payment is required by March 15<sup>th</sup> of each year  
to assure uninterrupted delivery of "The Towpath".

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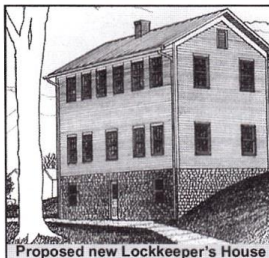
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HIGHLIGHTS  
OF PAST MINUTES

## New Lock Tender's House Project

[Photo reprinted from MECCA'S "Towpath Times" - Spring 2007]



Proposed new Lockkeeper's House

Last spring, after Lock I construction workers unearthed a 48' long concrete and brick foundation of the former lockkeeper's house, a new project was proposed - that of building a replica of the former 3-story house in the same location as the original building on the west side of the canal - to be used as a canal museum and to be named Miami-Erie Canal Visitor's/Welcome Center. The estimated cost is \$600,000. The city applied for a Transportation Enhancement grant from the Ohio Dept. of Transportation. The N.B. Historic Association hopes to raise 20% of this (\$120,000) in matching funds. After being granted, construction could start in 2008 or 2009. A special fund will be set up at a local bank. Interested parties can make donations towards the \$120,000 - payable to "New Bremen Historic Association: Lock Tender's House Project".

Bathrooms will be located in the basement, the first floor will house office space including one room for the Chamber of Commerce, and the top floor will be used as a meeting room. The building will have 2 sets of steps and an elevator and will be sided with aluminum for ease of care.

◆ **Update:** A grant for \$479,600 has been approved for this project by the Ohio Dept. of Transportation. (The Evening Leader - 9/7/07)

## Barn Renovation

Renovation of the inside of our barn has finally been completed. Carl Roediger did most of the carpentry work, Don Applegate was hired to do some rewiring, while painting was done by Mary Moeller & Susie Hirschfeld. An old safe weighing 3420 pounds that was under the steps in the barn was removed by Nick Homan, contractor. We had no history about it so it was of no use to the museum. The old cannon in the barn needed to be cleaned with soap & water and treated with WD-40.

Display cabinets which can be locked and lighted are to be received from "The Settlement" in Wapakoneta who got them from the Ohio Historical Society. The bottoms and tops can be opened to put in additional shelves. We will receive 18 cabinets for freight charges only. Many of these will be used in the barn and others in the house.

## House &amp; Lawn Maintenance

Power washing, caulking, priming and re-painting of the house, outdoor oven, and outhouse were done by Brian Bros. Painting & Restoration of Piqua for a cost of \$13,370. Track lighting has been purchased for 4 upstairs rooms plus the music room and will be installed by Carl Roediger. There is a continuing problem with our alarm system.

The lawn was treated (fertilizer & weed control) by Nature's Green. The neighboring Egbert family continues to mow it.

## Community Activities

We furnished 2 electric courtesy carts at the Auglaize County Fair which were driven by various members of the N.B.H.A. to transport visitors around the fairgrounds.

There was again a historical tour wagon sponsored by the N.B./N.K. Rotary Club at Bremenfest from 4-8 p.m. on Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. Tour guides this year were Mary Moeller and Tom Braun.

We continue to have a display in the Crown building on the southwest corner of West Monroe & Water Streets.

We released a new sales item in May - "The History of Fire Fighting in New Bremen" - for the price of \$13.00. This was done in conjunction with the Fire Department's 150-year celebration. [Dru Meyer, Secy.]



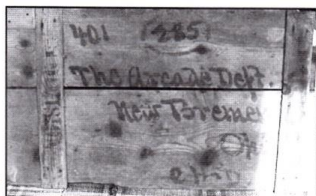
## Curators' Report

### RECENT ACQUISITIONS

♦MUSKET found in 1940 in the chicken coop of the property formerly owned by the Christ & Malinda (Waterman) Hartman family across from the White Mountain creamery west of town. [lettering: WTW – H (Company H? in the Civil War?)]

donated by Judy (Sharp) Tremain – Chagrin Falls, Ohio  
(The Sharp family lived on the former Hartman place at that time.)

♦Pillow with lace edging – donated by Martha Plattner.



♦CRATE LID? – printed with "The Arcade Dept." and found in their barn, statements from former N.B. businesses, hand-made knotted comforter, shoe lathe repair kit with storage box - donated by Louis & Julia (Dammeyer) Fark.

♦BOOKS, including "Uncle Sam's School Songs", "Victorian Service Songs", and "German Religion"; Blueprint of N.B.'s poles & wires.  
donated by Larry Wissman (N.B. Utility Dept.)



♦(3) Cane-seated wood chairs, (2) sets of child's dishes, "Lord's Last Supper" small plate & cup, Valentine & Christmas cards, all from the Carl & Esther (Fearing) Quist collection.  
donated by Mary Ann Olding

♦W.W.II Gideon's New Testament Bible given to a soldier - from the Carole (DuBois) Gruebmeier estate.

donated by her children: Diane Gast, Gail Mescher, Dennis Gruebmeier.

♦1939 framed appointment of Herman Laut as New Bremen Postmaster, signed by Franklin D. Roosevelt & Postmaster General James Farley; HATS and Hat Boxes, all from the Viola (Hirschfeld) Headapohl Estate.

donated by Diane (Headapohl) Paul

♦Paper doll & clothes, photos of Waneta (Timmerman) Holdren's ancestors.  
donated by Bob & Mary (Holdren) Finke

♦Miscellaneous New Bremen photos.

donated by Ralph & Louise (Haines) Dietrich

♦1912 advertising plate - First National Bank.

don. by Ruth (Sunderman) Ellerthorpe, via Kathleen (Luedeke) Mascaro

♦Lock Two Grain & Milling Co. stock books – 1936, 1946.

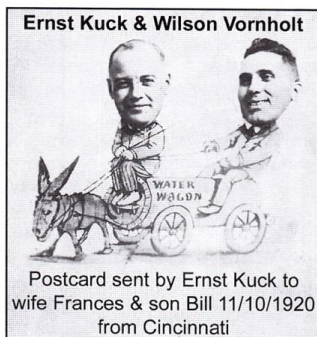
donated by Kevin Miller as a gift from his father, Bill Miller (dec'd.)

♦"Valuable Paper Holder" from the White Mountain Creamery.

donated by Ruth Lichty – Spencerville, Ohio

♦From the Verdella Schaefer Estate: Lock Two Mill cake & pastry flour bag, "Valuable Paper Holders" from the White Mountain Creamery, items related to sale of NY, Chicago, St. Louis RR Co. to Crown Controls; WARRANTY DEEDS (1896-1920): Bie(g)man, Gritzmaker, Lester, Roettger, Wissman, Smith, Block; will of Alwina Gritzmaker; dolls, women's clothing including mink neckpieces, hats, hat box, baptismal dress & bib, night shirt, old-fashioned hair curlers, Christmas decorations, old school books, crocheted "pineapple" doilies, dishes including IGA's promotional yellow wheat pattern, canning jar sealer, metal jar opener, "dampening" sprinkler for sprinkling bottle, sewing supplies including old sewing machine.

donated by Dale & Shirley Schaefer



church, who was sent to Brazil in 1922 to serve as a Professor in a seminary (both letters are printed on pages 10-11.)

donated by Bill Kuck – Findlay, Ohio

♦Booklet: "Memories of Mildred (Vornholt) Schulenberg.

donated by her son, Ted Schulenberg - Kerrville, Texas

♦Brown man's Stetson hat, (2) black women's hats, fur muff, opera coat, satin skirt, blouse & skirt (all black), framed photo of Mary Ellen (Schemmel) Kurtzman wearing this outfit; Union suit (off-white) that belonged to Dwight Kurtzman's grandfather.

Donated by Dwight & Mary Ellen (Schemmel) Kurtzman – Van Wert

♦Bakhaus & Kuenzel daily planner, used by Richard G. Ruppert (lived 1905-1974?)  
donated by James Bruns

♦Dickman family reunion postcards: 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932.  
Unidentified Donor

♦1873 "Golden Circle" piano song book, originally belonged to Katie (Hoffman) Dinkle.

- donated by her granddaughter, Marjorie (Schmehl) Stienecker – St. Marys, Ohio.

(see pg. 4 of the April 2007 issue of "The Towpath".)

♦WOODMEN OF THE WORLD Memorabilia: Hanging light from the W.O.W. home (formerly the Jacob Boesel home); PHOTOS (also posters): inside the Woodmen home, W.O.W. Homecoming Festival queens, including first queen in 1939 – Edna (Marshall) Cress, floats & cars in festival parades, children with Santa; clothing worn for W.O.W. festivals; W.O.W. Festival tickets: 1966, 1972, 1973; record book of workers & money from festival; metal & paper negatives; NEWSPAPERS: Community Post, New Bremen Sun, The Evening Leader; miscellaneous books; PHOTO of N.B. Broom Co. employees; and MUCH MUCH MORE!

donated by Mrs. Merlin (Mary Ellen) Ahlers – Columbus, Ohio

Merlin & Mary Ellen Ahlers were members of the Woodmen of the World and were the long-time caretakers of all things pertaining to the history of the organization. Merlin died in April 2003 and Mary Ellen recently moved into a retirement home, resulting in her donation of this collection to the Historic Assoc.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: To read about the Woodmen of the World Fall Festivals, see the October 1998 issue of "The Towpath".]

♦PHOTOS copied from the Pape photo album, including the 1914 W.O.W. Trolley League baseball team.

donated by Cheryl (Pape) Barlage

♦BOOKLET: "A Long Time Ago", written & illustrated by her neighbor, Terri Tangeman, about Bernice (Doenges) Dilger's life.  
from the Eleanore Moots collection, donated by Lucille Francis

♦St. Paul Church yearly directories with financial statements: 1941, 1942, 1945, 1946, 1947. Originally given to Marge Lietz by the Edward ("Red") & Viola (Schierholt) Eversman family after their deaths in 1990 & 1991.  
donated by Lucille Francis



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## THE HOTEL CENTRAL



### Henry J.C. Laut

Henry Johann Christian Laut was born in Cincinnati on 5/21/1853, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of 10 children of Christian & Catherine (Wiegiers) Laut. The family came to New Bremen in 1856. Although he was very young, Henry vividly remembered some of the incidents of the trip over the Miami and Erie Canal from Cincinnati to New Bremen and the events surrounding the family's arrival here.

At that time, before the Civil War, and just after the cholera scourge which the community had suffered in 1849, New Bremen was a town of less than 700. Henry remembered that West Monroe Street had just 3 buildings along it from Washington to Main Streets.

Mr. Laut apprenticed at an early age with a wagon maker, and wasn't yet old enough to vote when he launched upon his first business venture in 1873 with his oldest brother, Herman Laut, Sr. They established a saloon on Monroe St. WEST of Water St. Two years later, they dissolved their partnership and Henry then purchased a saloon on North Main St. near the French House, which he sold in August 1891. Successful from the start, in May 1891 he had become interested, along with William Schulenberg, in the erection of the Schulenberg-Laut block on West Monroe St., the west half of which became "The Central" Saloon & Restaurant which opened in October 1891 (see "The Towpath" - April 2002). In 1896, he organized a company for the building of the "Hotel Central". His associates were Jacob Boesel (until his death 8/17/1896, thereafter his heirs), Henry C. Kuenzel, Lemon G. Neely & Robert B. Gordon Jr., the latter two from St. Marys.



Henry J.C. Laut

In June 1900, Henry J.C. Laut sold his hotel & saloon interests to Edward Klanke for \$9000 and moved his family to Dayton, where he managed the Wehner House Hotel, but in 1905 the family moved back to New Bremen and Henry became the local representative of the Star Brewing Co. of Minster. Seven years later (1912?) Henry re-entered the saloon business when he bought the F.B. Speckman & Son Saloon at Washington & Front Sts. (part of the Arcade).

## CENTRAL HOTEL PROGRESSING NICELY

The new hotel movement is progressing nicely. Plans and specifications have been prepared by Architect Chapin of Lima and contractors' bids will probably be solicited by next week.

The hotel will be built next to the west side of the Schulenberg & Laut block, using their west wall and a portion of their south wall. It will be 115' long, 22' wide in front, and 27' wide in the rear. The building will be 3 stories tall. Besides a commodious office room, there will be some 30 nice large and well-appointed bedrooms. (N.B. Sun - 5/1/1896)



## HOTEL CENTRAL FORMALLY OPENED TO PUBLIC

The Hotel Central, New Bremen's new hotel and the pride of the town, was formally dedicated last Wednesday night, 12/16/1896. People were there from home and abroad, making the occasion a glowing success. Numerous were the comments made on the excellencies of interior equipment. The hotel is fitted with modern hotel appurtenances such as electric light, electric call bells and water works. Each room has a window light and plenty of ventilation.

The evening served the purpose of a reunion of fellow townsmen and their friends. They congratulated themselves and the projectors of the enterprise on the realization of a long cherished want. The many substantial additions made to the buildings of New Bremen actually filled existing wants.

Exactly 113 guests filed in to the first tables after 9:00 p.m., being accommodated by the ushers, porters, clerk and the entire hotel force. Rev. Bertram gave a neat dedicatory address followed by the blessing. His effort was impromptu and quite opportune. While the guests were feasting and for some time before, the Little Six Band played their best in an adjoining room. The banquet continued until late into the night.

The corps of assistants that helped to make the opening a success were: USHERS: Oscar Kettler & Herman Hermismeyer; PORTERS: William Heinfeld & William Blase; WAITERS: Louella Laut, Matilda Hirschfeld, Mollie Wellman, Kate Lanfersieck, Matilda & Lorine Schwaberow, Clara Heinfeld; COOKS: Mrs. Henry Laut, Miss Lizzie Schelper, Mrs. August Heinfeld; CLERK: Lafe W. Kunning; BAR TENDERS: Adolph Laut & Will Dorfer; BELL BOY: Harvey Laut.

Names taken from the Hotel Register for the evening were:

FROM MINSTER: B. Frierott

FROM SIDNEY: Henry Wagner

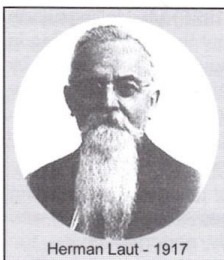
WAPAKONETA: Hy. Hellbush, S.W. McFarland, J.J. Walter.

ST. MARYS: J.H. Arbogast, D.A. Clark, O.E. Dunan, H.H. Fenton, J.H. Goeke, A.H. Herzing, H.G. McLain, L.G. Neely, Charles H. Pauck, D.A. Robinson and their wives; Messrs. E.A. Gates, Robert B. Gordon Jr., J.A. Hay, F.J. Vornholt.

NEW BREMEN: Mrs. Catherine Laut (mother); Misses Clara Boesche, Lena Kuenzel, Frances Solms; Mr. Herbert Schulenberg & lady; F.N. Allen, Adolph Boesel, Julius Boesel, H. Elbert, Fred Ende, August Heinfeld, George Klanke, John A. Koeper, C.H. Kunning, G. Kuenzel, Gottlieb Laut, Herman Laut, Edward Purpus, Henry G. Schmidt, Herman Wiegiers and their wives; Messrs. Fred Behm, Rev. F.W. Bertram, F.J. Boesche, C.J. Boesel, Charles Boesel, Otto Boesel, A.C. Buss, Dr. M.S. Ekmeyer, Herman Hermismeyer, Oscar Kettler, William Koeper, G.A. Kunning, Lafe W. Kunning, Henry Kuenzel, Christ Laut, Ferd Laut, John Laut, August Mueller, Theodore Rabe, H.W. Rairdon, William Schelper, Charles Schneider, William Schulenberg, Henry Schwaberow, H.B. Schwepe, Theodore Steinebrey, Ernst Tomhafe, August Wehmann, Henry Weinberg, Christopher Witte. (N.B. Sun - 12/18/1896)



## THE HOTEL LAUT



**Herman Laut, Sr.** was born in Cincinnati on 9/29/1849, the oldest of 10 children of Christian & Catherine (Wieggers) Laut. The family came to New Bremen in 1856. When his father died 8/9/1868, 18-year-old Herman and his mother took charge of the general store that had been conducted by his father at (109) North Main St. It was here that he first learned the liquor business. In 1873, he disposed of this store and he and his brother, Henry, went into the saloon business on West Monroe St. (later the Emil Wissman Saloon). After a number of years, he sold his interest to Mr. Wissman and again entered business in a building located on state ground on the west side of South Washington St. After several years, he moved the business across the street to the building that later became Kamman's, then Wint's, where he also had a bowling alley (1898). In July 1900, he took his oldest son, Emil Laut, into partnership with him.

Edward Klanke was not in charge of the Hotel Central for long after purchasing it from Henry Laut in June 1900. By September 1901, Henry Kuenzel had purchased the furniture and was looking for someone to take over the business. In October, Mr. Berend of Cincinnati took charge. In March 1902, Ed Klanke sold the building to Herman Laut and his son, Emil. Emil Laut became the owner & manager of the saloon business.

On July 1, 1903, the South Washington St. saloon business of Herman Laut & Son (Emil) came under the management of Herman's other son, Frank Laut, and Herman's nephew, Clarence Laut. The firm was to be known as Laut & Laut and the saloon was called "Elk Cafe".

By August 1903, the Hotel Central, which had been closed to the public since the middle of June, again opened its doors under the new management of Herman Laut & his son, Emil. It was then known as "Hotel Laut" until January 1, 1915, when the new owner of the business (since 2/9/1912), Frank B. Hollingsworth of Tipp City, changed the name to "Hotel Hollingsworth".

In August 1904, Herman Laut sold his interest in the saloon to his son, Frank, who, together with Emil, then conducted the business until 1913, when they retired from the liquor business and opened a billiard and pool room in the same location (next to the Hotel).



Clara's death, he married her sister, Ella Koeper on 9/14/1899.

**Frank H. Laut** (9/13/1881-3/2/1934) was the 5<sup>th</sup> child of Herman & Dorothea (Purpus) Laut. He was a partner in Laut Brothers, owners of the Hotel Laut Cafe. Prior to that, he had operated a bakery business (in partnership with John Merkle) and was a representative of the Western & Southern Life Insurance Co., both in Wapakoneta. He was also affiliated with his uncle, Theodore Purpus, in the Purpus & Laut Insurance Agency. He married Anna Pfenning on 10/10/1906. He was survived by a son, Edward, and a daughter, Mary Laut.

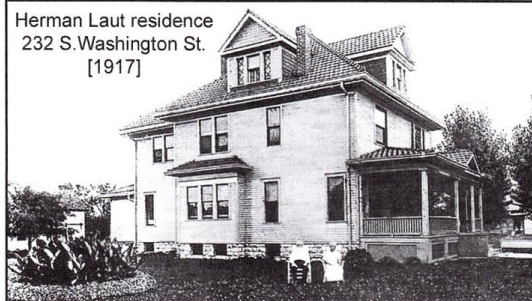
## THE LAUT FAMILY

Christian (9/21/1825-8/9/1868) & Catherine (Wieggers) Laut (7/18/1830-3/28/1906) were married in Cincinnati in 1848 and had 10 children, the first 4 of which were born in Cincinnati. They then came to New Bremen in 1856. Their children were: Herman (9/29/1849-6/20/1919), Henry J.C. (5/21/1853-7/14/1934), (both of whom were owners of the Hotel - at different times), Christ (7/28/1855-3/31/1901), John (9/25/1857-2/26/1942), Bernhard (9/27/1859-3/16/1884), Ferd (2/22/1862-5/30/1915), Mrs. Fred (Georgina) Ende (6/15/1865-3/14/1953), Gottlieb (9/9/1867-6/9/1928) and 2 who died as young children.

### The Herman & Dorothea Laut Family

Herman Laut, Sr. & Dorothea Purpus (7/27/1854-11/22/1920) were married August 18, 1870. In addition to Emil & Frank Laut who conducted the Laut pool room & cigar store with their father, they had 9 other children: Robert (1874-1956), Mrs. Dan (Leona) Headapohl (1884-1959), Mrs. Ralph (Hulda) Heffner (1888-1957), Mrs. Charles (Esther) Moore (1891-1978), Mrs. Ray (Louise) Knipple (1895-1976), Herman Jr. ("Bud") (1898-1963) and three who died as infants.

On June 20, 1919, Herman Laut and his son, Frank, left the pool room and cigar store shortly before 11:30 a.m. to walk home for lunch. They wended their way along the west bank of the Miami & Erie Canal, a favorite walk often undertaken by Herman when leaving his place of business for home. He had scarcely remarked that the water stage in the canal had dropped considerably since the day before, when he fell to the ground and immediately lost consciousness. A doctor was summoned who pronounced him dead as the result of a stroke of apoplexy. With the assistance of several men, he was carried home on a stretcher.



The first & only tile-roofed house in New Bremen.

Herman Laut also dealt in real estate, having had in his possession something like 12 business blocks and residences in New Bremen, together with extensive real estate holdings in other towns, including farm property. [So many "New Bremen Sun" news items mentioned "the Herman Laut property" when referring to a property that it is often difficult to know which property was being referred to.]

### Henry J.C. & Minnie Laut Family

Henry J.C. Laut was married 11/26/1874 to Minnie Künning (9/16/1854-9/12/1930), the daughter of Court Henry & Maria (Schulte) Künning, and they had 5 children: Adolph (1875-1911), Mrs. William (Louella) Dorfer (1876-1950), Harvey (1881-7/19/1900), Mrs. Mont (Paula) Youngs (1889- ), Mrs. Robert (Bernice) Weinberg (1894-1967). In 1930, Henry & his wife lived on South Main Street. Henry died 7/14/1934.

Henry Laut, a former citizen of New Bremen, but now of Dayton, is again heard of. Henry, being annoyed by one of Dayton's newsboys swiping lunch off of the counter, became angry at the persistent efforts of the lad and brought his fist down on the counter with a force that shook the building, saying to the lad: "I don't want you to bother me any more and the next time you 'come in', I want you to stay out." The lad interpreted the English as she is spoken. (N.B. Sun - 9/27/1901)



## HOTEL HOLLINGSWORTH

**Frank B. Hollingsworth** was one of the best-known & most successful businessmen of New Bremen, and perhaps was known by more non-residents than any other person in town. The hospitality and service of the Hollingsworth Hotel attracted many people and became their favorite stopping place.



Frank & Nora (Bruns) Hollingsworth

Frank Hollingsworth was born 4/7/1872 on a farm near Tippecanoe City (now called Tipp City) to Thomas and Elizabeth Hollingsworth. On 10/9/1902, he married Elnora Bruns, daughter of the late William and Magdalene (Buckloh) Bruns, who had also been residents of Tippecanoe City, formerly citizens of New Bremen. *[William Bruns served 2 terms as Mayor of New Bremen (1884-1885 & 1887-1889) and had a marble-cutting business in New Bremen on North Main St. which he sold in May 1900, having moved to Tippecanoe City to become engaged in the grocery business with his son, Fernando W. Bruns. He died 3/23/1901 in Tipp City.]*

On 2/9/1912, Frank Hollingsworth purchased the business of the Laut Hotel from Herman Laut, and that is when Frank and Nora, along with their daughter, Corrine, came to New Bremen. According to their great-granddaughter, Deb (Schnell) Kuck, they came up the Miami & Erie Canal on a canal boat, bringing all their household furnishings with them.

Marked changes have been made in the lobby of the Laut Hotel. Room has been added to the office at the rear almost half the original size and the basement entrance has been transferred to the corridor along the west side, improving both convenience and appearance. Frank Hollingsworth is justly proud of the improvements. (N.B. Sun - 4/12/1912)

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

F.B. Hollingsworth, the able, pleasant and corpulent landlord of New Bremen's famous hostelry heretofore known as Hotel Laut, has concluded that henceforth he will make his own name responsible for the reputation of the hotel. The place will now be known as "Hotel Hollingsworth". (N.B. Sun - 1/1/1915)

The business became known as the Hotel Hollingsworth in 1915, however Mr. Hollingsworth did not purchase the building until 1922, then spent a large sum of money in rebuilding and modernizing it. He also held stock in several industries in New Bremen.

Improvements completed at the Hotel Hollingsworth last week have made this hotel one of the finest hostelries to be found in this section of Ohio. Under the management of F.B. Hollingsworth, who took charge in 1912, the local hotel has been a favorite stopping place for many salesmen on their regular trips through this territory. It is also popular with tourists lured here on weekend fishing trips to either the Grand or Loramie Reservoir.

Mr. Hollingsworth and his family moved to New Bremen from Tippecanoe City in 1912. The hotel at that time was known as the Laut Hotel. Mr. Hollingsworth purchased the building in 1922 and since then has spent a large sum of money in rebuilding and improving it.

The first step in improvement was the laying of a concrete floor the whole length of the basement which previously had only a board flooring. Early this spring (1925) Mr. Hollingsworth decided to install running water throughout the entire building in the belief that the added convenience would be appreciated by the traveling public. The plumbing contract was given to the Heinfeld Mfg. Co. which started the work several months ago. Lavatories have been placed in 25 guest rooms while 10 shower baths have been installed on the 2 main floors.

Painters and decorators also were put to work in the building at the same time. The whole interior has been repainted and more than 30 rooms have been newly papered, giving the interior an appearance of newness and attractiveness. This work was carried out by Henry Hoffman. (N.B. Sun - 5/14/1925)

The Pioneer Heat Regulator Corp., which recently moved to New Bremen from Bloomington, New Jersey, this week installed a thermostat furnace control in the Hotel Hollingsworth, saving a lot of time and coal and providing uniform heat throughout the building. Officers of the Pioneer Heat Regulator Corp. are Allen A. Dicke of Montclair, New Jersey, Pres.; Carl H. Dicke of New Bremen, Vice-Pres./Secy.; and J.T. Carlson of New Bremen, Treas. (N.B. Sun - 12/24/1930)

### Hotel Hollingsworth

Breakfasts, 6:30-9:00 a.m. — Lunches, 11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

Dinners, 5:30-7:00 p.m. — Saturdays, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Open only to registered guests on Sundays.

Meals served for as low as 35¢.

(N.B. Sun - 4/9/1931)

When Frank Hollingsworth died on 5/6/1932 at the age of 60 after a 2 month illness, a funeral service was held at the Vornholt Funeral Home by Rev. J.C. Melchert of St. Paul's Church. Mr. Hollingsworth was affiliated with both the Oddfellows (I.O.O.F.) Lodge and the Masonic Lodge, and the Masons also conducted a brief service. Burial took place in Maple Hill Cemetery in Tippecanoe City.

Frank Hollingsworth was survived by his widow, Nora, a daughter and son-in-law, Corrine & Clayton ("Whitey") Schnell; a son, William T. Hollingsworth; a grandson, Jim Schnell; and a brother, Charles Hollingsworth of Tippecanoe City who died 7/27/1934. Two brothers and a sister preceded him in death.

(Obituary: N.B. Sun - 5/12/1932)

**The first legal sale of 3.2 percent beer** was to begin on 4/7/1933 after over 13 years of prohibition which began on 1/16/1920, during which time the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages was banned.

When that date arrived, however, nobody was in a position to take advantage of the new law. Temporary bottling permits had been granted to The Star Beverage Co. in Minster and the Koch Beverage & Ice Co. in Wapakoneta, but nobody in Auglaize County held either a distributor's or retailer's permit.

Added to the frenzy was the fear that the beer would be too expensive, it being rumored that it would retail for \$2.50 per case of 24 bottles due to the heavy federal, state, and sometimes even city taxes being added. (N.B. Sun - 4/6/1933)

**5/3/1935:** A new restaurant for New Bremen was made certain this week when **Clayton ("Whitey") Schnell** rented the Speckman building at 38 South Washington St., formerly occupied by the Speckman Furniture Company. "Whitey", as his many friends know him, expects to open the restaurant about May 18<sup>th</sup>. He also has applied for a 3.2 beer license.

**5/24/1935:** The first retail liquor license to be obtained in New Bremen was by Ferd G. Wint, proprietor of Wint's Annex, on 5/23/1935. Application for the license had been made some time before, and after being obtained, liquor was sold by the glass at the Annex.



## THE GRILL

New Bremen's New Eating Place

Will Open Saturday, May 25, 1935  
at 38 South Washington St.

Good Food - Best In Drinks - Courteous Service



Clayton (Whitey) Schnell  
& his brother, Howard Schnell  
1944

The Grill, New Bremen's new restaurant, will be opened to the public for the first time tomorrow, May 25, 1935. It is located at 38 South Washington St. and will be under the management of Clayton Schnell. Mr. Schnell will be assisted by his brother, Howard Schnell, and Fred Longworth.

7/19/1935: Remodeling of the Hotel Hollingsworth was started this week and when the work is completed, the hotel will have a new dining room & other improvements. The hotel, owned by Mrs. Nora Hollingsworth, is managed by her son-in-law,

Clayton (Whitey) Schnell. Mr. Schnell several months ago opened The Grill, a restaurant on South Washington St., and it is expected that the restaurant will be moved to the hotel in the next few weeks.

7/26/1935: Opening of The Grill at the Hotel Hollingsworth is announced for tomorrow, Saturday, July 27, 1935. The restaurant formerly was located in the Speckman building on South Washington St. The change became necessary this week when C.W. Schnell, owner of The Grill, took over the management of the Hollingsworth.

Announcing the Opening of

## THE GRILL

at Hotel Hollingsworth

Saturday, July 27, 1935

Music — 8:00 to 12:00 p.m.

A cordial invitation is extended to the public  
C.W. Schnell, Manager

### Hollingsworth Hotel Acquires Interest In Emil Laut's Cigar Store & Pool Room

Last week, the Hollingsworth Hotel acquired the Laut interest in the Schulenberg and Laut block on West Monroe St., adjoining the hotel building. Also purchased were the fixtures in the former Emil W. Laut cigar store and pool room (which had been located in the west/right half of the building).

Hollingsworth Hotel manager, Clayton ("Whitey") Schnell, plans to move the saloon out of his hotel building into the acquired room (to the east) and arrange a ladies' annex in the hotel building. The present dining room in the hotel is to remain and will be operated as previously.

By the acquisition of the additional property, the hotel comes into possession of much needed room and will find the project offering facilities that were not possessed heretofore.

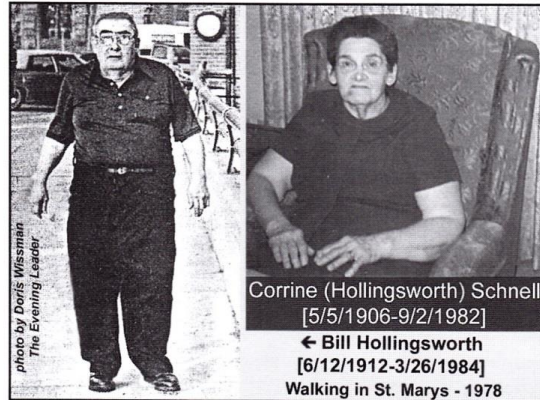
(N.B. Sun — 7/13/1944)

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3/1/1945: The entire force at the Hollingsworth Hotel is working like beavers on the change-over from the old to the new quarters for the kitchen and bar room. Much time and money has been expended on the marked improvement which will be appreciated by the patrons of the hostelry.

4/12/1945: Continuing the program of improvement begun some months ago, Manager Whitey Schnell of the Hollingsworth Hotel yesterday put a gang of plasterers to work in the dining room and later will have a composition floor constructed in that room similar to the one he has in the bar room.

"Whitey" Schnell died 12/2/1946 at the age of 47. Nora Hollingsworth died in October 1955, and the Hotel Hollingsworth became the property of her children, Corrine Schnell and William Hollingsworth. Corrine continued to run the business, with the help of her brother & her children, Jim & JoAnn Schnell.



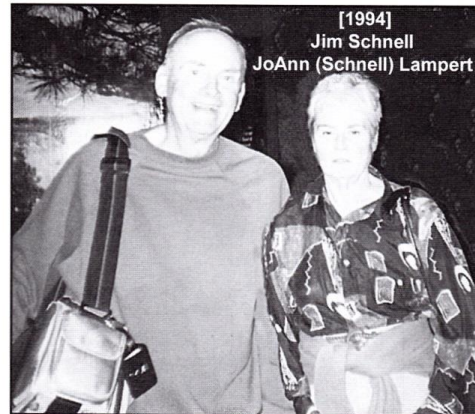
Corrine (Hollingsworth) Schnell

[5/5/1906-9/2/1982]

← Bill Hollingsworth

[6/12/1912-3/26/1984]

Walking in St. Marys - 1978



[1994]

Jim Schnell

JoAnn (Schnell) Lampert

### Hollingsworth Hotel Robbed!

Burglars broke into the Hollingsworth Hotel on Monroe St. here early Friday morning, 6/10/1960, and escaped with a money bag containing approximately \$500 in cash. Entrance was gained by smashing a basement window, climbing stairs and breaking through an office door. The money bag was taken from a desk.

Normally, that amount would not have been on hand, but Thursday was pay-day in several New Bremen factories and the Hotel had obtained the cash to accommodate patrons in cashing of checks.

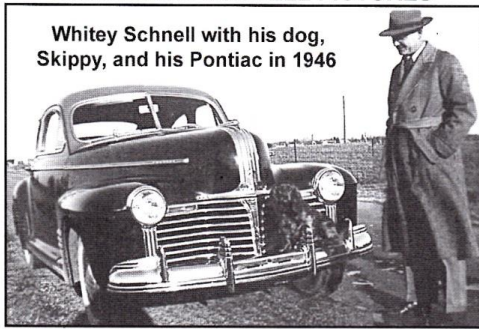
The robbery was discovered by Mrs. Clayton (Corrine Hollingsworth) Schnell, manager of the hotel. It is believed to have occurred between 1:00 and 3:45 a.m.

(N.B. Sun — 6/16/1960)



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### ADDITIONAL SCHNELL PICTURES



Whitey Schnell with his dog, Skippy, and his Pontiac in 1946



Corrine (Hollingsworth) Schnell - 1/5/1953  
Christmas tree was made by her  
Grandfather William Bruns

[all Hollingsworth & Schnell photos provided by JoAnn Lampert]



Sign on side of Hotel  
says "Hotel Laut"

After 1903

"Over the span of years in which the Lauts & Hollingsworths operated the hotel, salesmen rode the Interurban into New Bremen, spent a night or a week at the hotel and displayed their wares in a basement 'sample room' provided by the management. Laut's Bar (left of the Hotel) had a front outside entrance to the basement (see picture above) where a barber shop and a bowling alley were located. Several pool tables were located on the main floor and thus it was called the Pool Hall by many.

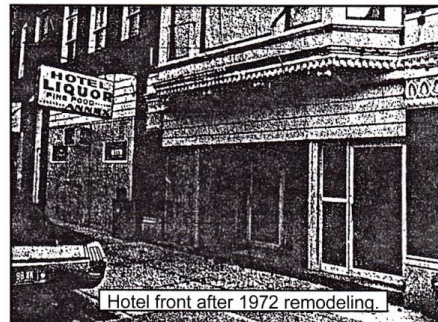
Rooms in the Hotel Hollingsworth were rented to travelers until about 1965, when they were closed except for the private living area on the second floor which was occupied by the Hollingsworth/Schnell family."

[Alice Hartwig - 1983]



James Ashbaugh photo - ca. 1969

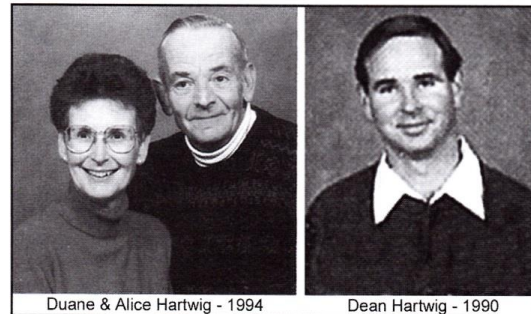
"In 1966, Jim and Shirley (Christler) Schnell purchased the business from Jim's mother and uncle. Around 1969, the twin towers were removed (see above). In late 1972, they remodeled the bar and dining room and changed the entrance and the front of the buildings."



News photo provided by JoAnn Lampert

### HOTEL BAR & RESTAURANT

"In June 1977, Duane Hartwig and his son, Dean, purchased the buildings and the business and began operating as the 'Hotel Bar & Restaurant'.



Duane & Alice Hartwig - 1994

Dean Hartwig - 1990

A focal point of the smaller dining room to the rear of the building is the original tin ceiling and ornate cornice (see photo, next page). In the bar room is a back bar with a 3'x12' mirror which was moved there from its original location in the hotel.

While owned by the Hartwigs, there were 3 round tables with unfinished oak tops and heavy metal bases which were said to have been there since the Lauts owned the bar. Almost every afternoon, at least one table was used by a group of men to play knock rummy and there was always someone there with whom to pass the time of day."

[by Alice (Gilberg) Hartwig - 1983 N.B. Sesquicentennial book]



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### NEW OWNER - NEW NAMES

On May 14, 1990, the Hotel Bar & Restaurant was purchased by Crown Equipment Corp. After re-opening, for a short period the restaurant was called "**Lock One**" with John Lee as the manager.

The Hotel Bar & Restaurant, New Bremen, will close Thursday afternoon, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1990 and will reopen on Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 a.m. under new management and name,

### "Lock One"

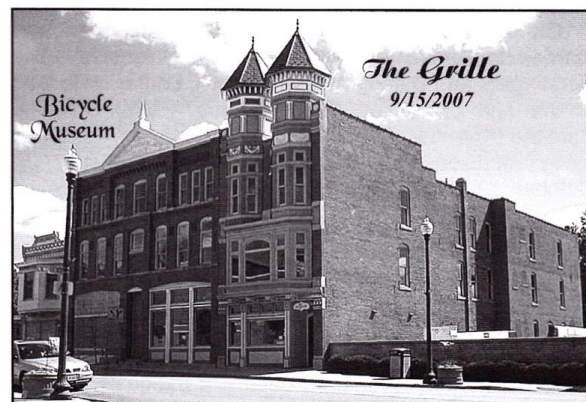
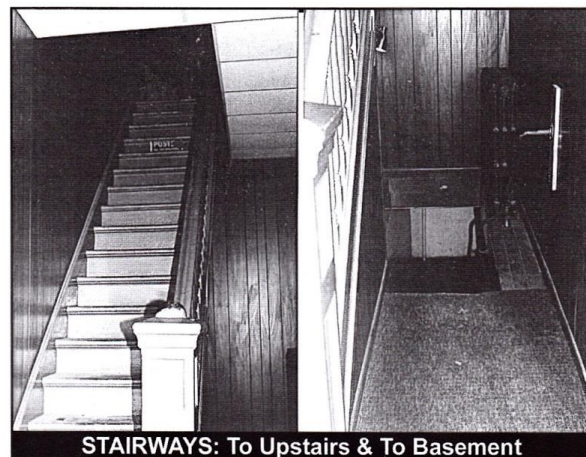
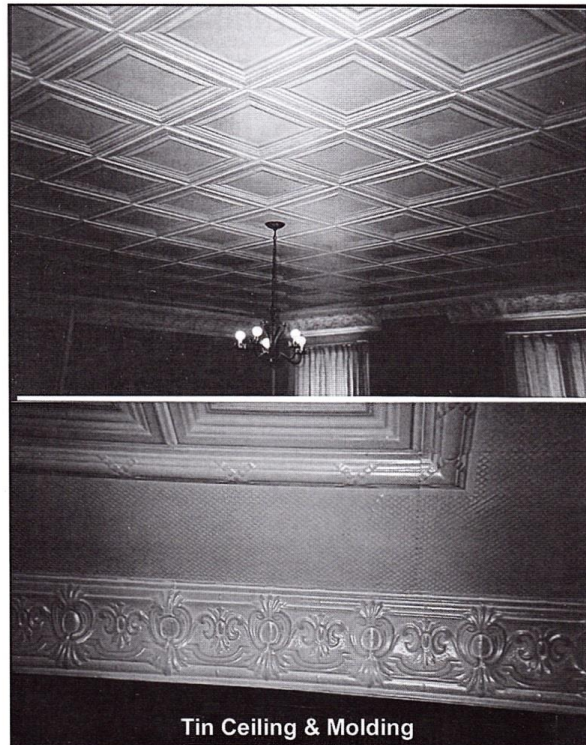
We want to wish John Lee, the new manager, the best in his new endeavor. We, the Hartwigs, would like to thank all our customers for their patronage and support the past 13 years.

Duane & Alice — Dean & Kate

In 1991, the Hotel again underwent extensive remodeling and restoration to the front of the buildings and then reopened as "**Oh Baloney!**", operated by Neal & Ann Forsthoefel. The name has since been changed to "**The Grille**", bringing it back to the same name (different spelling) given it in 1935 by "Whitey" Schnell.

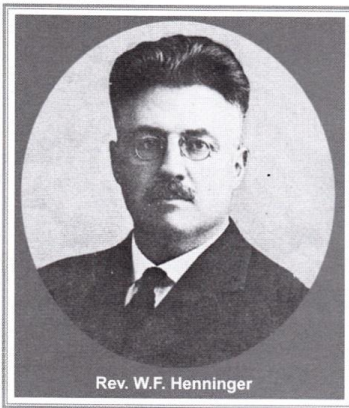
Now, in 2007, Crown Equipment Corp. has restored the twin towers to the top of the hotel building and has also done restorative work on the brick front of the Schulenberg & Laut building / Bicycle Museum. (see picture at right). Painting is still in progress.

Thanks to Alice Hartwig for the historical pictures and information on these 2 pages.





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**REV. W. F. HENNINGER**

Rev. Walter Frederick Henninger accepted the call to become the 9<sup>th</sup> pastor of St. Paul's Church in New Bremen in September 1907 after having served as pastor of St. John's German Evangelic Church in Tiffin, Ohio for 5 years previously. He succeeded Rev. Philip Wittich who withdrew from St. Paul's to form the 4<sup>th</sup> church in New Bremen - Christ Church.

During Rev. Henninger's tenure, the new parsonage (below) was built for a cost of about \$8500 and was completed on October 10, 1909.



Walter F. Henninger was born at Herman, Missouri on 12/2/1873, the son of the Rev. Frederick & Maria (Lenz) Henninger. His father had churches in southern Illinois, Missouri, and Nebraska and was a former professor at Elmhurst. When Walter was 11 years old (1884-85), his father died and his mother took him to Europe to be educated at the Moravian church's school for boys at Nieski, after which he returned to this country and entered Eden Seminary at St. Louis. He was ordained there in 1894 and his first church was in South Webster, Ohio (southeast of Chillicothe). In 1897, he went to Waverly, Ohio and in 1903, he was called to St. John's church at Tiffin.

On June 29, 1897, while at Waverly, Walter was married to Christine Kuehner at South Webster. The Henningers had 3 daughters and a son, Lothar, who died at the age of 1½ at Waverly, Ohio. Mrs. Christine Caroline (Kuehner) Henninger died January 11, 1919 of a malignant disease and was buried at South Webster. On October 12, 1920, Rev. Henninger re-married, to Alice Hubach of Tiffin.

An outstanding occasion for St. Paul Church was when they hosted the 22<sup>nd</sup> quadrennial conference of the German Evangelical Synod of North America from September 28<sup>th</sup> to October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1921. It was during this conference that Rev. Henninger accepted the call to become a professor in New Testament Exegesis, Church

History, and History of Philosophy at a seminary in Cachoeira, Rio Grande Do Sul, Brazil which was maintained by the synod. Rev. Henninger delivered his farewell sermon on January 29, 1922 and in February, he, his wife, and his daughter Isolda, sailed for South America. While in charge of St. Paul's Church, he officiated at 604 baptisms, performed 204 marriages, confirmed 505 catechumens and served communion to 10,620 members.

He served in South America from 1922 until June of 1927 when he was compelled to resign to seek relief at Bad Nauheim, Germany from the ravages of the tropical Brazilian climate. In October 1927, he and his wife returned to the United States. His last appearance in New Bremen was in December of that year when he came to deliver a series of sermons in St. Paul's and St. Peter's Churches. In February 1928, he became pastor of Immanuel's Church in Manchester, Michigan until his death on 2/2/1929. Rev. Henninger was survived by his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife and 3 daughters - Gretchen, who graduated from N.B.H.S. in 1915, married Edward Siemans of Quincy, Illinois on 7/27/1921 and was living in San Francisco in 1929; Brunhilda, who graduated in 1921, married Dr. Clarence Rawers and lived in Bergholz, (eastern) Ohio; and Isolda, who graduated in 1922 and lived in Columbus. Funeral services for Rev. Henninger were conducted by Rev. Emil Klutey of Tiffin, a brother of the late Rev. Henry C. Klutey of New Bremen, a former minister of St. Peter's Church.

In addition to being known in church circles, Rev. Henninger was widely and favorably known in the world of science as an eminent authority on ornithology, mammalogy, and entomology. He was a member of the Wilson Ornithological Club and through his writings (he was the author of several books on ornithology and entomology), he was known throughout the world.

The following are 2 letters Rev. Henninger wrote from Brazil to William Schulenberg. These were recently donated to the N.B. Historic Association by Bill Kuck of Findlay, son of Ernst & Frances (Schulenberg) Kuck & grandson of Wm. Schulenberg:

&lt;&lt;&lt;&lt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;

"My dear old friend (Wm. Schulenberg): 10/20/1922

Mrs. (Anna Schulenberg) Langhorst's last letter informed me that your estimable wife is still suffering from the consequences of the fall she took some months ago. I had seen the newspaper report (*N.B. Sun*) that she had taken a fall, but as nothing since then had been stated about her condition, I assumed that she was alright again and was surprised to hear that she was improving so slowly. I hasten to express my sincere sympathy to you all and hope she will soon be restored to perfect health. And how are you getting along? Still gardening and beautifying the canal bank as of yore?

By the way, I must tell you an interesting story from this region. On September 9<sup>th</sup>, while on my way to the Synod meeting at Agúdo here at the foot of the mountains, I met the delegation from Santa Maria at Restinga Sécca, a place that was like the border towns in the Wild West of the early 1860s. After we had walked a mile and crossed the river on some planks, we got into a springless wagon drawn by 3



horses over roads that were mostly imaginary and reminded me of my childhood days in Missouri and Kansas. In our rig was an old gentleman - 83 years old, straight as a palm tree, an expert bowler, spry as any man my age - hopping on and off the wagon like a youngster. When he heard that I was an American, he said, 'I was in America for 10 years and what's more I fought in the Civil War for 3½ years.' Well, we talked on and he told me he had been a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Jersey Cavalry Regiment, was clear down to Jacksonville, Florida, New Orleans, and with Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley. He left America in 1869, went back to Germany and fought in 1870-71 at Weissenburg, Wörth, Sedan and Paris. For 53 years, he had not spoken a word of English, but he had not forgotten it and we had quite a conversation. It was an interesting meeting. One thing he did not like was that in the World War, we went against Germany. He loved America alright and thinks a lot of it, but this had not pleased him. Well, I never dreamt that I would meet an old veteran of the Civil War way down in the wild mountains and primeval forests of Brazil. You know what an interest I have always taken in every soldier who served his country and that I have a warm spot in my heart for every one. Two weeks later I again met him at Santa Maria, where I had to speak at a festival and again had quite a talk with him.

Altogether the men you meet are travelers who have been in various countries and conversation is always spirited and interesting. Portuguese is the native tongue, of course - next to that German, which will carry you everywhere. Then comes French and then Italian or Spanish. English does not get you anywhere. Let our young people think of that. If they want to travel, if they want to lay claim to any culture, if they want to be able to meet people on a level, they must know at least one if not two other languages besides English, and these should be German first of all, next to that Spanish. The killing off of German in school and church in America is an educational folly.

Well, how are things going in church? I thankfully remember your wise counsel and faithful help to me at so many occasions. I was so wont to turn to you in so many things that came up in the church and am only anxious to know whether such is the case with the present regime (Rev. John Melchert) or not. We often get homesick for New Bremen and even my wife, who after all, had not met you so often, speaks frequently of you and we all hope that you will keep in good health so that we can have a good chat together once more when we get back to the States.

We got accustomed to the life here, tho many things are vastly different from the United States. However, I think I am getting along well with my new duties to which I have been called and as I left New Bremen not lightly, but only after long and careful consideration, feeling that God wanted me at this new post, and a very responsible one at that, so I rest secure in that feeling and at the same time feel that the members of St. Paul's see it in the same light. I hope the time will come again when I have finished my missionary work here that I may see all the old familiar faces again back in the States.

Please remember me to your family, especially your wife and tell her we all pray for her ultimate recovery and send the best wishes from all to all.

Faithfully yours,

W.F. Henninger"

#### LETTERS FROM REV. W.F. HENNINGER (continued)

Another letter written by Rev. Henninger around Christmas 1923 congratulated William Schulenberg on achieving his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday (on 9/7/1923) "for anyone can be young, but not everyone can be old" and wished the Schulenberg family a "Happy Christmas Season".

He also said "*The New Bremen Sun*, when it gets here, which is not always the case, gives me the town news, but it does not tell me how the individual friend and his family are faring and that's what I want to hear. It's the personal relationships I've had with so many thru so many years that counts and that I want to hear from - not town news or church news, as I judge they are both running alright.

As for my staying down here, the men here want to keep me for the rest of my life, at least 10 years, but I feel that if I have accomplished what I was sent down here for, my work is done. People and country are alright in a way, although there are too many 'niggers' down here and they have equality of races. Then the ants are something terrible. If you don't have a tin around a plant or tree, if you are not continually poisoning them, they do not leave a leaf or a blade of grass around the house or in the garden. It simply cannot be described - it must be seen. The climate is abominable and diseases simply rage. The Brazilians are so terribly immoral, so saturated with disease that if the least little sickness comes along, they die right in their tracks. Tuberculosis, bubonic plague and smallpox are an everyday affair - lepers you see quite often too. Still, I knew a lot of this before I went. Let no one think who goes out into tropical countries for church work that he is out on a pleasure trip. One must indeed know and feel that a higher power has called him and sustains him or he'll be a miserable failure. That the youth of today have no more heroism for that work is lamentable, that pleasure and material gain alone count is not a good sign.

Mrs. Henninger and the rest are all in good health, very fat and saucy. I myself have not been well - first they said I had arterial sclerosis and forbid alcohol, tobacco, meat, etc. Well, I got better in spite of that and was fine for 3 months in winter, June, July and August. Then it started over. My present doctor says it's all kidneys. Since I suffered from kidney stones in New Bremen, I guess he's right. Beef or veal I dare never eat again - at present chicken and fish, later on pork. I dare drink wine, but no beer or liquor, but dare smoke. Guess I'll stick to this doctor - Ha Ha! He has reduced my weight from 225 pounds to 206 pounds and wants me to get down to 200.

Quite often I take short hunting trips. I've shot about all the species of birds close by, among them several parrots which make an excellent soup. On September 16<sup>th</sup>, I got a female howling monkey and we ate her. Let me tell you that fried monkey is one of the finest dishes I ever ate. Isolde especially could not get enough of it. Every monkey I get we'll eat, I'll tell you! Wish you could enjoy it with us!

There are a lot of things to be learned here. We are right at the edge of civilization and the gauchos of the plains in their wild costumes are a common sight. The revolution here has played havoc with trade and commerce and everything else. For a while it looked serious, but now we seem to be safe, although the trouble goes merrily on. It gives you all kinds of diversion, let me tell you, and life does not grow dull in the least. If I'd want to tell it all, I'd have to write two books. Anyhow I am trying to give you an inkling of how things are in an entirely different world.

Please remember me to anybody that inquires about me. Ask Mrs. Gress (*Charles P. Gress?*, half-brother to Mrs. Schulenberg) why they don't answer my long letter to them. Give my best to the entire family and keep a good portion of it for yourself.

Yours as ever,

W.F. Henninger"



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## JACOB SCHLESSELMAN'S SAWMILL

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In the July 2007 issue of "The Towpath", I was asked about Schlesselman's Lumber Mill. Since then, Leland Stroh and his sister, Nancy (great-grandchildren of Jacob & Anna Schlesselman), came to visit me, bringing me an article that had been printed 9/7/1942 in the "New Bremen Sun" and was written by Fernando W. Bruns (aka "Snurb") in his "Do You Remember?" column. Here is the article:

### DO YOU REMEMBER? (Wehst du Noch?)

By Snurb (Bruns spelled backward)

Do you remember the old Jacob Schlesselman sawmill located on Second St. along the west bank of the Miami & Erie Canal? The mill was owned and operated by Jacob Schlesselman for many years and during the height of his business career, he employed from 20-25 workmen – loggers, haulers and plant employees – throughout the year.

As a youngster of 10 (about 1882), I can still picture Christ Wierth, the engineer; Wm. Buchholtz, who carted the sawdust from the mill pit to the huge sawdust pile located several hundred feet to the north of the plant; then came Wm. Fenneman, a lumber off-bearer, Christ Klosterman, who followed Mr. Buchholtz as sawdust wheeler; Fred Henke, the timber buyer; and Wm. Siegman, husband of Louise (Wischen) Siegman. She was commonly known as Siegman Wischen and was the chief coffee-maker of St. Paul Church's Frauen Verein.

Mr. Schlesselman was the head sawyer and was very efficient in this capacity even though he was crippled and did the job with the aid of a cane.

The Schlesselmans, besides operating the sawmill, also raised a lot of pigs which rounded out in fattened hogs by the middle of November, when a butchering bee was held. From six to eight hogs were butchered to tide the family over until the spring of the year. Among the delicacies prepared was summer sausage in quantities to provide the family 'til the mid-summer months. This delicacy was timed so that it would ripen with the beginning of the "New Year", because on those occasions, the Schlesselmans would hold "Open House" from 9:00 p.m. New Year's Eve until 12:00 on New Year's day to welcome the revelers who would start to shoot the Old Year out and the New Year in at 9:00 on the preceding night. In addition to serving the well-wishers with "Summer Wurst", coffee would also be brewed and served and what a feast it was!

I can substantiate this statement because Lafe W. Kunning, Emil ("Puddy") Langhorst, Gustave ("Amshel") Heil, F.T. Purpus (the dean of the N.B. insurance agents) and I would hie to the Schlesselman home to exchange greetings and, of course, satisfy our summer sausage desire. This custom prevailed in the Schlesselman home for many, many years - as late as 20 years ago (1922). Yep, those were happy days and will be remembered by those who participated for years to come.

### THE JACOB & ANNA SCHLESSELMAN FAMILY

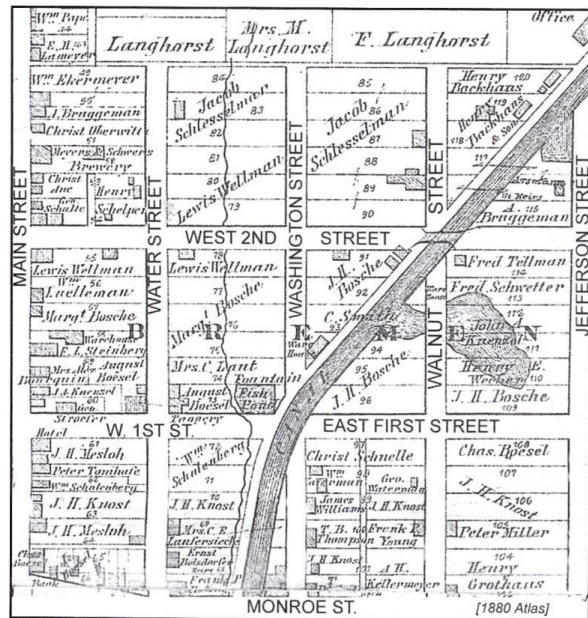
Jacob Schlesselman was born 11/14/1831 in Germany and immigrated to America in 1857, landing at New York on 4/14/1857. He remained in New York for 2 years, after which he came to New Bremen. On 6/12/1859, he married Dorothea (Gieseke) Kettler who died 8/2/1868. On 7/8/1869, he married Anna Mary Peters and they had 9 children: Mrs. Ferd (Anna) Pohlman, Mrs. Jacob (Emelie) Drexler, Jacob Schlesselman, Mrs. Henry (Rosina) Schaefer, John Schlesselman, Mrs. Frank (Alwina) Quellhorst, and 3 who died as infants.

Mr. Schlesselman was the owner of a sawmill and was actively and successfully engaged in sawing timber for a number of years. He was a portly man and suffered much from rheumatism. He died from heat prostration and fatty degeneration of the heart on 8/19/1900. Anna Schlesselman died 12/1/1940 at the age of 92 at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Rosina & Henry Schaefer at 202 N. Water St.

The Schlesselman's son, Jacob, worked on his father's farm for several years after leaving school, however farm life not being to his liking, he secured employment in the D-handle factory and became a skillful finisher. After several years (about 1902?), he decided to try his luck in a handle factory at Evansville, Indiana. In the fall of 1902, he returned home for a "visit", but was prevailed upon to remain at home and again accepted a position with Mr. F.N. Allen in the handle factory. He died in October 1903 at the age of 27 of bowel trouble, malaria and dropsy.

Ferd & Anna (Schlesselman) Pohlman had a daughter who married Edwin Stroh of Wapakoneta. The Strohs were the parents of Leland & Nancy Stroh (mentioned earlier).

Henry & Rosina (Schlesselman) Schaefer had 2 children: Wallace Schaefer and Gabrielle Herring. Known grandchildren are: Roseann, Louise, Carolyn & John Schaefer and Margaret Herring.



1870 – Jacob Schlesselman owned lots 83 & 84. A house valued at \$450 was on lot 83 facing Water St. The house on lot 83 (216-218 N. Water St.) was a duplex for some time – my aunt & uncle, Frank & Alma Mueller, lived in the north half in the late 1950s-1960s. Schlesselman & Henke owned lots 85-89 between Washington & Walnut Sts. There was a house valued at \$125 on lot 87 and a mill valued at \$600 on lot 89.

1880-1890 – Jacob Schlesselman owned lots 82-90.

January 1899 – Fire Insurance maps show the vacant Jacob Schlesselman sawmill on lots 88 & 89 – mostly on lot 89. There was a dwelling on lot 86 (later designated as 213 N. Walnut St. and another small building on lot 85.

1910 – Jacob Schlesselman (his widow?) owned lots 82 & 83. Ferd Pohlman (son-in-law) owned lot 84. He had married Anna Schlesselman (the daughter) on 10/27/1892.

2/18/1909 – Rosina Schlesselman married Henry Schaefer. They lived on lot 79 (202 N. Water St.) at the corner of Second & Water Streets.

My research indicates that lots 85 & 86 later belonged to Busse's Stockyard and are where the Municipal building is now located. The small houses were torn down to make room for the parking lot. The sawmill was located at what is now 209 N. Walnut St.



## From the Mailbox

Hi Tom:

3/13/2007

First of all, I should introduce myself. My name is Bailey W. (Bill) Bush and I live in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Recently, my cousin, Diana (Ross) Coates of Maryland, has been sending me information about my mother's hometown, New Bremen. She recently sent me a large package she got from you and I have to admit that after going over it all, I learned more than I had previously known about the town, especially about my grandfather, Ernest Tomhafe. I also received a smaller package from you with some of the same information. I thank you for taking the time to do all that for me.

My mother was Eva Tomhafe and she grew up in New Bremen. Each year for the past 5 years or so, I have visited New Bremen to gain more knowledge of just where my mother's family came from. I'm also interested in my father's family, who lived in and around St. Johns. My father was J. Bailey Bush, who died in 1988. He and my mother, who died in 2004, are both buried in Columbus.

My wife, Marjorie, and I were raised in Columbus and both are OSU grads. We have lived in Tulsa since 1973 and don't get back to Ohio often – just in the summer and for an occasional football game. Marjorie's parents are both still alive – her father is 96 and her mother is 93. They live in Worthington.

Each summer Marjorie and I visit her parents and I take all or part of a day to explore your part of the state. I have seen the canal or what's left of it. My mother told me many stories about the canal and it is a good thing that the town has seen fit to preserve at least part of it. I've also seen the Bicycle Museum and explored most of the downtown area. I've been to the (Willow Grove) cemetery where my grandparents and most of my mom's family are buried, having been there numerous times with her.

One year, I stopped in at the Chamber of Commerce in New Bremen and a lady there made me aware of the New Bremen Historic Association. It has been closed each subsequent time I have visited. Next time I visit I will phone ahead to see if I can see your museum. Thank you again for all your information.

*Bill Bush – Tulsa, Oklahoma*

Dear Lucille:

6/26/2007

I wish to answer your letter of June 4<sup>th</sup> – great to hear from you. Tears just rolled out when I saw the package with the "Towpath" back issues (*sent to replace his loss in the tornado that struck Greensburg, Kansas, destroying his home & town*). They still come when I look over the many copies, which bring great joy to me. A big, big Thank You.

I also received a letter from my cousin, Otie (Fark) Busse, giving me names, addresses and phone numbers that I lost.

I now live in Pratt, Kansas. It is 30 miles east of Greensburg and a much larger town. Lots of people from home are here, some in the same apartment with me - I'm around people of my own age.

I like going to church here - also the Red Cross, Salvation Army and the churches are sharing so much – they are good to us. (The tears are coming again.)

They hope to get the Big Well Park fixed sometime in Greensburg, but it will take years. (See *Towpaths: 1/2000, 1/2003*)

Bless you all – Many Thanks.

*Richard Huckriede – Pratt, Kansas  
[former 50+ year “soda jerk” at Hunter Drug Store in Greensburg, KS]*

3-

Dear Sneaky Historians:

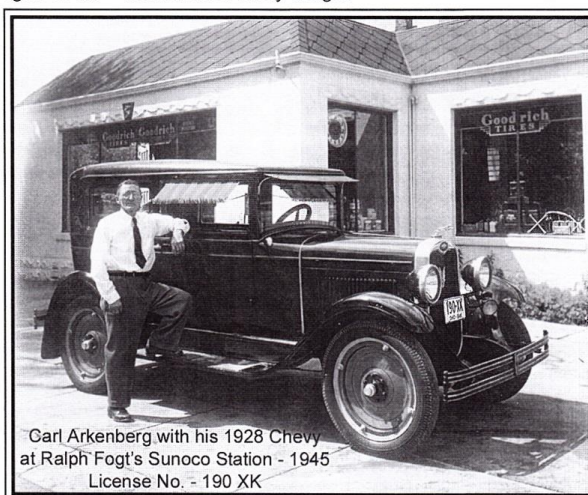
7/6+10/2007

How the dickens did you find me here in Mansfield, Ohio? Sure, I was born in New Bremen, spent summers with Grandma and Grandpa (Carl) Arkenberg and Great-Grandma and Great-Grandpa (Edwin) Jung, but how did you find me?

Yes, my husband and I were recently counting memorial stones out at the German Protestant Cemetery. Were you hiding behind a stone taking notes? Did you want to ask when the Ohio Historical Society, quartered in Mansfield, is open because you want to come and research?

Fun aside, as I read the names in the complimentary copy of the July 2007 issue of *The Towpath*, I was reading them with the German accent I heard as a child – automatically, easily! “Dicke, Mueller, Wissman, Schwieterman” - are they why I studied German?

In response to the item on page 8, "A Proud Automobile Owner", about my grandfather, I am enclosing this picture of him with the love of his life, his well-polished 1928 Chevy. The car had little canvas awnings over the windows and an always immaculate interior. My sister, Carol Jelley of Florida, says she well remembers the thrill of being admitted to that car and the thorough dusting – lights to tail – that followed every usage.



The Arkenburgh family immigrated to Shelby County from Germany in 1831. Ferdinand Arkenburgh, born in Berlin in 1822, went to California in the gold rush, then returned to acquire part of Fort Loramie. Growing up, I never knew any of the Fort Loramie/Minster Arkenbergs because of the Catholic/Protestant conflict, but these were my grandfather's kin. I knew during my childhood that Carl's Catholic family and my father's (John Franks) Coldwater Catholic family lacked the Lord's blessing.

Do say hello to Roger Mueller for me. Roger & Ruth (twins) were the delights of my visits to Grandma's house and the garage home of the 1928 Chevy next door to the Muellers on South Walnut Street.

Enclosed is payment for a membership in the N.B.H.A. and an extra gift for the N.B.H.A. "Sneakies". Please send 2 copies of the July *Towpath* for my sister and brother, Carol (Franks) Jelley and James Franks. Most delighted.

Joan (Franks) Brown, daughter of John & Evelyn (Arkenberg) Franks



Joan (Franks) Brown is a retired psychotherapist. She is also a former newspaper writer, a playwright and the creator of a traveling puppet theatre. She enclosed two books which she wrote: *Putting Mother Down* (2004), and *The Date/Mate Column* (2005). They have been donated to the N.B. Library.





**THE BENJAMIN & ANNA (KUCK) VORNHOLT FAMILY**

STANDING: Mildred Schulenberg, Helen Tecklenberg, Huldreich Vornholt, Herman Vornholt, Esther Conradi/Freytag, Alfrieda Moeller.

SEATED: Ben Vornholt, Pauline Gilberg, Norma Sharp, Anna Vornholt.

Dear Lucille:

7/23/2007

On Friday & Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, 125 descendants of Benjamin & Anna (Kuck) Vornholt held a family reunion in New Bremen. Cousins came from Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Connecticut, Tennessee, Florida, Nebraska, Texas, New Mexico and Italy to attend.

On Friday evening, the festivities started with a gathering of 50 in & out-of-town guests for dinner at the home of Jim & Pat Moeller. On Saturday, the cousins & their spouses attended a luncheon at "The Grille" in New Bremen. Thirteen of the 15 living cousins attended the lunch. Unable to attend were David Vornholt of Dallas, Texas and Bill Gilberg of New Bremen.

The 2 sons and 6 daughters of Ben & Anna Vornholt and their children are:

ALFRIEDA & Raymond Moeller: Tom Moeller (dec'd.), Louise Hay, James Moeller, Jack Moeller, Pauline Dunham (dec'd.)

ESTHER Conradi/Freytag: Joan (Conradi) Beier (dec'd.), daughter of Vernon Conradi; Richard Freytag (dec'd.), son of Herman Freytag.

HULDREICH & Frances Vornholt: David Vornholt

NORMA & Harris Sharp: Don Sharp, Jay Sharp, Judy Tremain.

PAULINE & Paul Gilberg: Alice Hartwig, John Gilberg, Jane Talan, Kay Beel, Bill Gilberg.

MILDRED & Elton Schulenberg: Bill Schulenberg, Jean Dunbrook (dec'd.), Ted Schulenberg.

HELEN & Roger Tecklenberg: Joyce Shutt, Steven Tecklenberg (dec'd.)

HERMAN VORNHOLT

[photos & write-up provided by Jim Moeller]

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

Dear Lucille:

7/30/2007

I recently came across a marvelous article posted to your museum's website titled "Cleaning Mother's House" which I would like permission to use in our Kerrville Genealogical Society newsletter. We would, of course, give credit to the New Bremen Historic Association.

My husband Ted & I were in N.B. in July for the Vornholt family reunion which was a huge success. New Bremen is such a pleasant town to visit. We always enjoy a trip back to Ohio.

Very truly yours, Janet Schulenberg - Kerrville, Texas



**THE VORNHOLT FAMILY REUNION - 2007**

STANDING: Jack Moeller, Jim Moeller, Jay Sharp, Don Sharp, Bill Schulenberg, Ted Schulenberg, John Gilberg (all 1st cousins), Karl Mesloh (Karl's grandmother, Caroline (Vornholt) Mesloh, was a sister to Ben Vornholt).

SEATED: Louise (Moeller) Hay, Alice (Gilberg) Hartwig, Kay (Gilberg) Beel, Jane (Gilberg) Talan, Judy (Sharp) Tremain, Joyce (Tecklenberg) Shutt.

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

Dear Lucille:

6/1/2007

After reading and re-reading the 6/30/1905 *New Bremen Sun* article about the 1905 Boesel-Mesloh reunion and comparing the identifications to your picture and article in the January 2006 issue of *The Towpath*, I have finally concluded that the only adult remaining unidentified in the picture (#1 in Row 3) is most probably Mrs. William Ernest (Nora) Boesel (not Mrs. William C. (Emma Boesel) Schmidt, listed as questionable, but further identified in my 5/12/06 letter which appeared in the July 2006 issue of *The Towpath*.)

This leaves 9 children yet to be identified. Regrettably, I've run out of Boesel descendants to contact for the children's IDs. I am very grateful to you, Tom Braun, John Dickman, my cousins Caroline Konecny and William Mesloh for your help and theirs with the identifications. We started with 39 known IDs and now have 56 of the 65!!

Cordially,

Karl Mesloh

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

To Mrs. L. Francis:

6/6/2007

The F. Bordewisch mentioned on page 7 of the January 2007 issue of *The Towpath* as one of the charter members for the Ober Bremen Fire Co. was my great-grandfather. His full name was probably Hermann Friederich Heinrich Bordewisch. He was born 1/25/1821 in Dielingen and came to New Bremen before 1843 with his parents, Arend Heinrich & Maria Sophia (Goath/Mölers) Bordewisch.

Thank you for compiling and publishing *The Towpath*.

James F. Bordewisch - Dayton, Ohio

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

Thank you for the wonderful article in the July 2007 issue regarding my grandfather, August Mueller's clothing business. It included information and dates which I didn't have and always wondered about. I really enjoy reading about people in New Bremen which I remember my grandparents talking about when I spent the summers with them as I was growing up.

Jerry Mueller - Williamsburg, Ohio (7/9/2007)

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

Lucille Francis:

7/14/2007

You provided so much information for me about the H.H. Schroerluke Dry Goods Store advertising plate - great articles in the July 2007 *Towpath*. Learning that there were indirect ties with the 20 North Main St. home where my grandparents, Charles and Emilie (Schowe) Heil, lived was fascinating. As a child, I spent so much time in that house. Your wealth of knowledge of New Bremen is awesome. Thank you again.

Dorothy (Huenke) Huwer - St. Marys, Ohio



-15-

A Note from David Poulson (LM):

7/9/2007

David & Florence (Connelly) Poulson lived in New Bremen from 1950-1957 while David taught vocational agriculture/FFA at both New Bremen (1950-1957) and Fort Loramie (1950-1955). While living in New Bremen, Florence was a news correspondent for the *New Bremen Sun* (see pg. 6 of the October 2006 *Towpath*). David wrote to tell us that Florence died on April 20, 2007. We extend our sympathies to David and his family.

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To the N.B.H.A.

7/16/2007

A few weeks ago (7/5/07), our family experienced the passing of our husband and father, Francis Harrod. At the funeral services, the family received a memorial gift that was donated to your Association in his memory. On behalf of the Francis Harrod family and in memory of Francis, please accept this donation. We are all sure that Francis would be very pleased that we are honoring his memory by helping an organization such as yours.

Donald &amp; Ida Lou Harrod

*Editor's note: Francis & Ida Lou Harrod's children are Douglas (N.B.'s police chief), Donald, Daniel, David, and Victoria (Dennis) Braun. We thank them for this donation and extend our sympathies to their family.*

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N.B. Historic Assoc:

8/8/2007

The New Bremen Community Improvement Corp. has chosen to honor the memory of Lowell Ziegenbusch with a contribution to the N.B. Historic Association. Lowell was a strong supporter of this community and the efforts that were undertaken to preserve its history. We are pleased to honor him by contributing to an organization of which he thought so highly.

Karen L. Mauch, Village Planner  
Secy./Treas., New Bremen CIC

Here is a poem I found recently in scrapbook pages given to me by Julie (Dammeyer) Fark that I thought was rather amusing:



Oh, horse, you are a wondrous thing.  
No horns to honk, no bells to ring,  
No license buying every year,  
No sparks to miss, no gears to strip.  
You start yourself, no clutch to slip.  
No gas bills mounting every day  
To steal the joy of life away.

Your inner tubes are all O.K.,  
And, thank the Lord, they stay that way.  
Your spark plugs never miss and fuss,  
Your motor never makes me fuss.  
Your frame is good for many a mile,  
Your body never changes style.  
Your wants are few and easily met,  
You've something on the auto yet.



#### 47 SALOONS IN COUNTY IN 1907

##### 6 Were Located in New Bremen

December 20, 1907 was the last day for proprietors to pay their semi-annual tax of \$500 each which entitled them to continue business in Auglaize County for the next 6 months. Included in the list of names were •from New Bremen: Fred Kamman, Wm. Klanke, Laut Bros., Wm. Schwepe, F.B. Speckman & Sons, Emil F. Wissman •from German Twp.: Henry Heinfeld •from Minster: Drees & Vallo, J.B. Friemering, John B. Goeke, Laufersweiler & Dorsten, Laut & Fischer, Bernard Sommer; •from St. Marys: Louis Pauck, B. Schwepe, G.C. Schwepe & 12 others; •from Wapakoneta: C.G. Schnell, The Steinberg Hotel Co., Vossler Bros., Werst & Kantner, Jacob Zint & 10 others. •Also listed were Cridersville, Geyer, Kossuth, Pusheta Twp., & Uniopolis.

(N.B. Sun - 12/27/1907)

#### NEW MEMBERS THIS PERIOD (THRU 9/14/07)

[\*Spousal Memberships @ \$6.00 or \$60.00/LM]

7/7/07 Brown, Joan (Franks) - Mansfield, Ohio  
8/21/07 Dicus, Kent - Silver City, New Mexico (TR)  
7/15/07 Donnerberg, Miriam (Seigle) - N.B. (TR)  
6/19/07 Freytag, Carol - Royal Oak, Michigan (TR)  
8/2/07 Jones, Linda (Coble) - Yorktown, Indiana  
6/5/07 Koch, Connie (Forwerck) - New Bremen (TR)  
8/22/07 Rais, Martha (Opperman) - Woodstock, GA  
6/16/07 Stroh, Nancy A. - Wapakoneta, Ohio  
8/3/07 Tangeman, Larry - New Bremen (TR)  
6/25/07 Topp, Betty (Lutterbeck) - New Bremen (TR)  
7/16/07 Tremain, Judy (Sharp) - Chagrin Falls, Ohio  
6/16/07 Warner, Susan - New Bremen (TR)  
7/11/07 White, Steve - Englewood, Ohio

#### ADDITIONS TO LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

##### MEMBER DEATHS THIS PERIOD

7/16/07 Ashbaugh, James Fricke (LM)(died 2/14/07)  
8/21/07 Dicus, Sue (Schowe) (died 8/21/07)  
7/15/07 Donnerberg, James (died 7/15/07)  
6/5/07 Forwerck, Cleora (Fark) (died 6/5/07)  
6/19/07 Freytag, Richard (died 6/14 /07)  
6/27/07 Schaefer, Verdella (died 6/27/07)  
8/3/07 Tangeman, Leola (Dicke)(died 8/3/07)  
6/25/07 Topp, Robert (died 6/25/07)  
6/16/07 Warner, Evelyn (Gieseke) (died 6/16/07)  
7/30/07 Ziegenbusch, Lowell (LM)(died 7/30/07)

#### MEMORIAL / HONORARY DONATIONS

The following donations have been received this period:

##### In memory of Verdella Schaefer

by Dale & Shirley Schaefer, Ed & Mary Philipot, Elodie Sollman

##### In memory of Francis Harrod

by the Harrod family

##### In memory of Christ & Malinda (Waterman) Hartman

by the Hartman family

##### In memory of Lowell Ziegenbusch

##### (designated for the new Lock Tender's House project)

by Douglas & Donna Albers, Margaret Cashdollar, Ned & Nancy Conradi, Pat (Gels) D'Alessio, Terri D'Andrea Appraisals, Barbara Egbert, Philip & June Frantz, Doug & Susan Harrod, David & Patricia Hartman, Hemmelgarn LLC, Glenn & Christine Hoehne, John & Merrill Hoffman, Robert & Gayle Kelley-Sachs, Dianne Komminsk, Don & Jacqui Kuck, Kris & Heather Kuck, Karl & Ethel Mesloh, Minster Bank, N.B. Community Improvement Corp., ReMax of Southern Ohio, Dr. Ronald Riebel, Edward J. Rump, Brian & Susan (Conradi) Toomey, Robert & Dixie Wierwille, Lee Wissman, Barbara Ziegenbusch, Dr. Kenneth & Kitty-Hunt Ziegenbusch, Wayne & Margery Ziegenbusch.

##### MEMORIAL / HONORARY DONATIONS


Donations to memorialize the deceased or to honor the living are welcomed in any amount. When donations in memory of or in honor of any one person or couple have reached \$100.00, a brass plate engraved with their name(s) is attached to the Memorial Plaque.

##### MAN'S BIOGRAPHY IN A NUTSHELL

Born, welcomed, caressed, fed, amused, grown, studied, examined, graduated, in love, engaged, married, quarreled, reconciled, suffered, deserted, taken ill, died, mourned, buried, forgotten.

(N.B. Sun - 8/7/1896)





**5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
CHRISTMAS  
DINNERS**

Wednesday, November 28, 2007  
Friday, November 30, 2007  
Wednesday, December 5, 2007  
Friday, December 7, 2007

## SANTA'S OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, December 9, 2007

For more information, Call 419-629-3495

### 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 address below.

(Membership Dues information on pages 1 & 2.)

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The History of Fire Fighting in New Bremen

Then and Now (Village Pictures)

A Journey Through Time (Miami-Erie Canal)

CANAL Board Game (related to book)

Recipes and Reminiscence (by John Dickman)

A Military Memoir of W.W.II (by Katy Gilbert)

Ralph May Remembers New Bremen

New Bremen Marriages (genealogy)

### SCHOOL COMMEMORATIVES:

Central School: Paperweights, Pencil Caddies

1929 High School: Trinket Boxes

BOTH: Medallions (make nice tree ornaments)

### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

"Interurban on Main St." print

"Monroe St." print

N.B.H.A. Shirts & Caps

N.B.H.A. Mugs & Pencils

N.B.H.A. Christmas Ornaments

N.B.H.A. Note cards

**For More Information: Call 419-629-8902**

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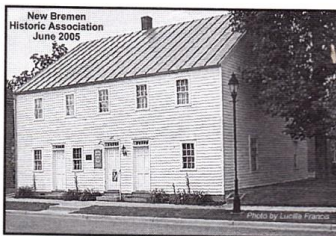
**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE**

[www.newbremenhistory.org](http://www.newbremenhistory.org)

**New Bremen Historic Association**

**P.O. Box 73**

**New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073**



NBHA Museum – 120 N. Main St.

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