

THE TOWPATH

Published quarterly
(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) July - 2008

N.B.H.A. ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC

The New Bremen Historic Association hosted its annual summer picnic on Sunday, June 1, 2008. The theme this year was a birthday party for the 175th anniversary of the founding of New Bremen. The tables were decorated with colorful birthday hats, confetti, and candies. Chicken dinners from Wagner's IGA in Minster were served, along with home-made apple dumplings and ice cream. The T.R.S.S. Drum Corps from Dayton provided rousing entertainment. The event was well attended and the weather was delightful.



Guest drummers with the Drum Corps were Dennis Dicke (above), Gen Conradi and Mayor Jeff Pape.



WINNERS OF THE NEW BREMEN VILLAGE SEAL COLORING CONTEST sponsored by the N.B.H.A. were named at the picnic. Each winner received a New Bremen Canal Game. The winners were:

BACK: Hallie Hemmelgarn & Tara Springer (both 8), Koby Paul (9), Cody Springer (11). Not present was Elizabeth Wells (13).

FRONT: Melissa Waterman (4), Devon Thieman (6), Taylor Paul (5), Madison Pape (7).

[photos & report by Gen Conradi, Historian]

◆ "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.

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ASSOC. MEETINGS ARE HELD FIRST TUESDAYS

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

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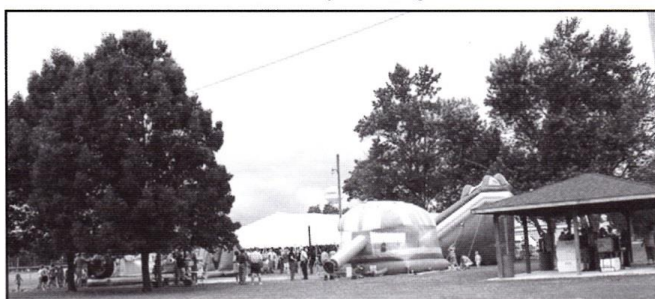
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Send to P.O. Box 73 - New Bremen, OH 45869

New Bremen is 175 Years Old!

St. Paul Church's Celebration - June 29, 2008



The congregation assembled for a group picture in front of the church after Sunday morning's services.



People then went across the street to the picnic grounds for a barbecued chicken dinner and entertainment. The children were kept entertained with games, snow cones and cotton candy.



Christian music was provided by the band, "God's Company".

Rev. Leah Matthews introduced past ministers and sons & daughters of the church. Present were Rev. Roger & Jeannie Perl, Rev. Carolyn Mann, Rev. John & Karen Tostrick, Rev. Eugene & June Hegemier, Rev. Joyce & Steve Schroer. Also introduced were past Parish Worker/ Christian Education Director, Alice Hegemier, and present Director of Youth Ministries, Carrie Cutlip.

175-year History Book available - \$10 (+\$3, if mailed)
"Joyous Echoes" book by Marge Lietz - \$15 (+\$3, if mailed)

For more information, call the church office at 419-629-2502

OR

Send order to St. Paul Church - P.O. Box 6 - New Bremen, OH

NEW BREMEN'S CEMETERIES

Prior to 1865, burials were made in the two cemeteries on Herman Street opposite St. Paul and St. Peter's Churches, and in the Plank Road Cemetery west of town along State Route 274.

In 1865, a new burial ground outside of town was suggested because ideas of sanitation and public welfare became concerns of the village council during the last half of the 19th century. (In 1849, the congregation of St. Paul Church had sustained a severe loss in the death of 122 members because of the cholera epidemic. A mass grave was dug on the church cemetery on Herman St. for the burial of these victims.)

On December 1st, 1865, the trustees of the German Protestant Graveyard met, and 52 acres (more or less) of the Totgenhorst's land in the SW¹/₄ of Section 2 were sold to the highest bidder for the amount of \$3760. Fifty lots were sold on that day. The first known burial in this cemetery was on December 26, 1865.

Another cemetery named Willow Grove Cemetery was put in the NE¹/₄ of the same section (Section 2). Papers were filed on March 21, 1866 with Mr. James H. Skinner, Auglaize County Recorder, with eighteen signatures. First known burial in this cemetery was on August 26, 1866.

Burials were still made in the old Plank Road Cemetery on the south side of the plank road (State Route 274) as late as 1938.

Another cemetery east of town on the south side of State Route 274 (in Shelby County) is the Schwaberow Cemetery. No history is known about its date of establishment.

In September 1948, plans were outlined for a ball field and playground area on the site of the original village cemetery west of St. Paul Church on Herman Street. Because of a village ordinance passed in the 1860s prohibiting burials within the corporation, it was felt that this would be an excellent use of this church-owned property. A notice was released for families having loved ones buried there to have the right to relocate those graves. A few were relocated, however the majority of the remaining headstones were buried on top of each respective grave and leveling of the area took place over a period of several years.

There are several markers in both German Protestant Cemetery and Willow Grove Cemetery dating earlier than the dates of the cemeteries' establishments. These were probably moved from the church cemeteries when they were closed. The only records for the church cemeteries are the churches' death records as recorded in the card files in the New Bremen Public Library under "Deaths".

I've got shoes – You've got shoes;
Everybody's gotta have shoes.
But there's only one kind of shoe for me -
GOOD OLD BUSTER BROWN SHOES!
[see picture & story on page 10]

The Graveyard Groomer

<p>This tombstone</p>  <p>before</p>	<p>GRAVEYARD Groomer</p>  <p>after</p>
<p>restored by...</p>	<p><i>John "Walt" Walters</i> Cemetery Restoration Professional 4521 South County Road 375 West Connersville, IN 47331 (765) 825-7313 graveyardgroomer@skyenet.net</p>

For the past 2 years, the Auglaize County Historical Society has sponsored a comprehensive workshop about historic cemeteries and their preservation. Demonstrated were methods of cleaning, leveling, and resetting tombstones using the proper techniques and materials (no concrete).

Featured demonstrators for both occasions were husband and wife, John & Mickie Walters of Connersville, Indiana. They are professional cemetery restorers, having honed their craft over the past 12 years. Their assistant is Kelly Luke, also of Connersville.

Attending these seminars were several people from the New Bremen Historic Association and the local cemetery associations. This year, on June 14th, Lowell Quellhorst and Daryl Koenig, trustees of the German Protestant Cemetery Association, attended the seminar in Shinbone (near Wapakoneta). Both assisted with the straightening and leveling of a tombstone.

On July 1st, the German Protestant Cemetery trustees met with Walters and his wife at the cemetery and discussed the possibility of having them work on the many fallen, leaning, broken and buried tombstones in our cemetery.

Agreement was reached that the "Graveyard Groomer" should return to our cemetery for a week in September and work on our very worst and dangerously leaning stones. The cost for 2 men for 1 week will be from \$3500-\$4000, including materials, travel / lodging.

We are hopeful that after people see the kinds of improvements that can be made in our cemetery, some of the relatives of the people whose tombstones have deteriorated will consider making donations to help us accomplish this ever mounting task.

If you would be interested in funding restoration of a relative's stone(s), or if you would just like to help with this necessary project, you can contact any of these trustees: Lowell Quellhorst, Pres. (419-629-3352), Daryl Koenig (419-629-3537), Don Scheer, Treas. (419-629-2792), Bill Tostrick, Vice Pres. (419-629-2852), Allen Bushman (629-2959), or Lucille Francis (629-3148).

WALK IN THE STEPS OF HISTORY WALK IN THE STEPS OF OUR GRANDPARENTS

By Kathi S. Wuebbenhorst-Kramer-Overley
Great-Great-Great Granddaughter
of Johann Christoph Wübbenhorst

[Dedicated to my father, Carl E. Wuebbenhorst]

In Harpstedt, Germany on December 12, 1831, Johann Christoph Wübbenhorst, along with his wife and children, made application to emigrate to America.

The first step was taken. A new life's journey was about to embark; a journey on which they would travel on unknown paths and paths to be created by them. Some paths would lead to happiness, while others would lead to fear and loss. The paths that they paved would lead to today and this story.

Johann Christoph Wübbenhorst was born 2/12/1797 in Harpstedt, Hannover, Germany, the eldest son of 6 children of Johann Gehrd Wuebbenhorst (b. 5/29/1777 in Holingen, Germany) and Anne Margarethe Hohnhorst (7/8/1777-2/25/1829), born in Ehrenburg, Holingen, Hannover, Germany.

Johann Christoph's wife, Anne Magdalene Adelheit Siemer (b. 4/19/1802) was the daughter of Harm Siemer (8/26/1769-3/31/1822) and Catharine Adelheit Bruns (b. 10/14/1770), both of Harpstedt, Germany.

Johann and Anne (Maria) joined their hands in marriage on November 15, 1821 in a small local church.

So why would this young family choose to leave their family and friends behind? Well, Johann Christoph's father was a tenant farmer, or as they were called in Germany, a heuerlinge. Heuerlinges were farm laborers who took a lease on a house and a piece of land; some were given a cow or two. They made their payment by working half the week for their landlord, and the remainder of the week they spent farming "their" land to provide for themselves. The future of this family would hold no other means of support other than to also be heuerlinges. Opportunities to become more than that were non-existent.

Johann Christoph wanted more than that for himself and his family. He wanted FREEDOM; freedom from the oppression of Germany, freedom from poverty, and freedom of religion. Germany was in a state of government and economical disaster.

The emigration papers state the reason of emigration are: "The charm of emigration and to try a change. It is to be recorded that the hope to find an easier and a better existence are the motives of all individuals emigrated."

On February 14, 1832, the Wübbenhorsts made ready to sail to the United States of America and leave behind family and friends and the only life they knew to depart on a voyage that would change their life and the lives of all generations to come. Leaving Bremen, Germany, the family traveled by ship and wagon to Cincinnati, Ohio, arriving in early summer of 1832.

One can only imagine the experiences of their travel, the loneliness and homesickness of leaving behind loved ones, the fear of raging seas and rugged countrysides

and traveling with three young children in tow. Could they survive these conditions? I wonder if at any time during their journey they considered turning back to the security of the life they knew before.

They indeed survived the journey and on July 23, 1832, Johann Christoph Wübbenhorst and 32 other men of the company of Germans organized in Cincinnati signed for the purchase of 10 acres of land which would become the village of New Bremen.

Johann's signature would be the 19th name on the Actum Cincinnati. Because the original document was written in German, the translator grossly misspelled the Wübbenhorst name, spelling it Wippenhorst.

Johann Christoph was a farmer by trade and had no interest in building on the lots that were owned by him in this tiny new town. His New Bremen lots, #28 and #77, were sold, and with the money Johann purchased about 116 acres of land on the outskirts of New Bremen. His first purchase of 75.87 acres located in German Township (Twp. 7S, Range 4E) in Section 2 was made 11/27/1833. On 10/9/1835, Johann made an additional purchase in St. Marys Township (Twp. 6S, Range 4E) in Section 35. These adjoining lands are located just north of New Bremen, east of the new State Route 66. This valuable land remained in the family until the early 1920s.

Johann Christoph and Anne Maria became parents of five children: 1) Margarethe Elisabeth, b. 2/5/1822 in Germany. She married Johann Diedrich Heinrich Buckloh on 10/7/1839 and together they had 9 children. Margarethe died of typhoid fever on 8/14/1859 in German Township.

2) Our gr-gr-grandfather, Johann Gerd Heinrich, b. 1/21/1828 in Holingen, Germany. (More later)

3) Anna Sophia Caroline, b. 8/8/1829 in Germany. She married Wilhelm August Friedrich Meyer on 1/10/1850 and passed away 9/21/1863 in German Township shortly after the birth of their 5th child.

4) Margaretha Louise was born 10/18/1837 in German Township. Nothing more is known about her.

5) Johann Dietrick was born 9/24/1840 in German Township. He died of whooping cough at the age of five months on 2/25/1841.

Johann Christoph bravely faced the new world for the betterment of his family. Life would not have been easy for him as a husband, father, and new landowner. Winters were long and cold; summers were filled with clearing farmland, planting fields and then harvesting. The hardest part was having to bury his youngest son.

Johann was only in this country for 17 years as he died during the cholera epidemic in 1849. He is presumed to have been buried in the Herman St. Cemetery across from St. Paul Church.

Grandmother Maria kept the farm running with the help of her children. Later the land and deed was passed on to Johann Gerd Heinrich, the oldest son. Maria passed away at the age of 74 and is buried in the Wuebbenhorst plot in German Protestant Cemetery.

2) Our gr-gr-grandfather, **Johann Gerd Heinrich** (Henry) was the only son to carry on the Wuebbenhorst name. Having sailed the ocean at the age of 5, Henry would make his mark in the world as a distinguished land owner, patriot, family man, and church-goer of German Township and New Bremen.

On 3/14/1850, Henry married the German-born Sophia Wilhelmine Quellhorst. Sophia, b. 9/29/1831, was the daughter of J. Herman Quellhorst and Catherine Vogelsang. They would grow old together and prosper in this new country.

The children of Henry and Sophia were 1) Johann Herman (2/16/1853-6/3/1853) who died at the tender age of 3 months from unknown causes.

2) Maria Magdalena, b. 8/26/1854. Maria married Wilhelm Christian (Julius) Kettler on 4/30/1874. She passed away in 1927.

3) Sophie Elisabeth (b. 9/8/1857). Sophia married Johann Hermann Tangemann on 3/14/1878.

4) Dietrich Wilhelm was born 7/16/1859 and died 1/7/1921. William never married and helped farm the land his entire life.

5) Our grandfather, Johann Heinrich Florenz, was born 7/14/1862. (more later)

6) Carl Heinrich (12/11/1864-3/5/1912) was married to Emma Wilhelmine Dicke Kawell on 10/4/1905. This was her second marriage. Henry & their daughter, Maria, died in a street car accident at New Bremen in March 1912.

7) Sophia Martha (2/15/1867-3/10/1928) married Friedrich Dietrich Dicke on 12/2/1886.

8) Herman Julius was born 6/15/1870 and married Sophia Wehmeyer.

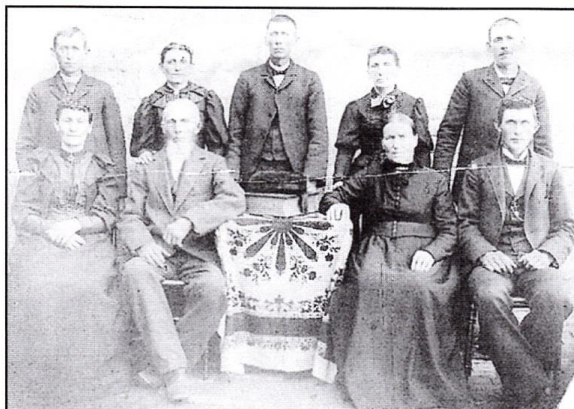
9) Wilhelm Edward was born 10/22/1873 and died 8/5/1874 of cramps & teething.

Henry and Sophia lived a long and fulfilling life. Not only did they raise their own children, but took part in raising the children of his sister Margaretha Elisabeth and John Buckloh after their death in 1859. For raising the youngest of the children, he was willed their land directly across from the Wuebbenhorst land. This land was sold soon after.

Although born in Germany, Henry felt this country was a part of him and his family. Thus he became the first family member who would proudly serve in our country's military services. On July 6, 1861, he enlisted in the Ohio 28th Infantry and served in the Civil War. The 28th Infantry was organized at Camp Dennison, Ohio, but the regiment was stationed mostly in West Virginia and Virginia. Henry mustered out 7/23/1864.

According to the *New Bremen Sun* newspaper clippings, Henry was a well known, respected local farmer and a member of St. Peter's Church.

On 5/7/1896, at the age of 69, Henry died of cancer. Sophia would follow him in death 5/29/1899 at the age of 67. Both are buried in German Protestant Cemetery in the Wuebbenhorst plot. Henry was laid to rest beside his mother Maria.



THE HENRY & WILHELMINE WUEBBENHORST FAMILY
[ca. 1890s]

BACK: Dietrich Wilhelm, Maria Magdalena, Carl Heinrich, Sophia Elisabeth, Johann Heinrich Florenz.

FRONT: Sophia Martha, Johann Gerhard Heinrich (Henry), Sophia Wilhelmine, and Herman Julius.

This picture was found in the Wuebbenhorst family Bible. In this Bible is a passage that tells of the family's immigration to the United States plus, of course, names and dates of family members.

As you can see in the picture, there is a Bible lying on the table. That Bible is still being passed from generation to generation.

Since the eldest son, William, did not marry and produce heirs, the family farms were passed to Johann Heinrich Florenz, the second eldest son.



Florenz & Mina Wuebbenhorst
[married 9/22/1887]

Johann Heinrich Florenz (our great grandfather) married Wilhelmine (Mina) Cathryn Meyer, daughter of William Meyer & Wilhelmina Magdalene Schulenburg, on 9/22/1887. They would share precious little time together. While living on the Wuebbenhorst family farm, Mina gave birth to four children:

1) The eldest, Bertha Wilhelmine, was born 7/11/1888. Bertha never married. she passed away 4/16/1952.

2) Clara Wilhelmina was born 6/6/1891 and married Johann August Ahlers. Clara and Gus had a son, John.

3) The youngest daughter, Laura Sophia, was born 1/10/1894 and also never married. She died in 1970.

4) Edward Heinrich Wuebbenhorst was born 8/22/1895. (More later)

Florenz Wuebbenhorst spent his lifetime farming and raising his family. Disaster, however, struck the family on 6/2/1901 when Florenz died at the age of 38 from lung fever. How devastating for this young family. In 1887, he had helped to build St. Peter's brick church. After his death, Mina kept the farm going with the help of her brother-in-law, William. According to the 1910 census, the farm is listed as owned by Mina but rented out.



THE WUEBBENHORST FARM - Late 1890s
Clara, Laura, Mina, Bertha, Edward, Florenz Wuebbenhorst



THE WUEBBENHORST FAMILY & BARN - 1890s
William, Edward, Mina, Laura, Bertha, Clara, Florenz



Edward Wuebbenhorst
[born 8/22/1895]

The Wuebbenhorst family name was passed on through Florenz and Mina's only son, Edward.

Edward stayed on at the farm as a young man and helped his mother keep the farm productive. During W.W.I., the state of Ohio would discharge any man who was in the industrial or agricultural enterprise. Even though Edward registered with the army on September 12, 1917, he was discharged from having to serve because of his farming status.

Edward married Anna Louise Miller on February 12, 1919. Once from a neighboring New Knoxville farm, Louise was now living with her father in New Bremen. She was born 6/30/1899, the youngest of five children of Frederick William Miller and Sophia Caroline Finke.

It was around that time when the family farm was sold. Edward purchased a home for his mother, Mina, and "old maid" sisters, Bertha & Laura, at 315 North Main St., New Bremen and he took up residence with his new wife and her father. Louise was her father's caregiver and the home was deeded to her in 1934 for caring for him.

The Wuebbenhorst farm had been in the family for approximately 85 years. From wooded wilderness to productive farm land, the Wuebbenhorst men chopped, dug, planted, and harvested with blood, sweat and tears while the Wuebbenhorst women raised the children, ran the households, and supported their husbands.

Edward and Louise lived in New Bremen at 213 West Ash Street all of their married life. Edward worked at the White Mountain Creamery and Louise took a "home mail course" to become a nurse. Together they had two children, Carl Edward (my father) and Helene Louise (Richey).



THE EDWARD WUEBBENHORST FAMILY
Edward, Carl, Helene, Louise

I have no heroic tales to tell about the years of sacrifice my grandparents gave for their future generations. No diaries have been found - my sources of information have been the family Bible, birth certificates, church certificates, pictures, and research. But WOW, what an adventure they must have lived!

The most important thing that was passed down through good times and bad, from generation to generation were the good morals, Godliness, and family commitment. **They had patterned their life for me.**

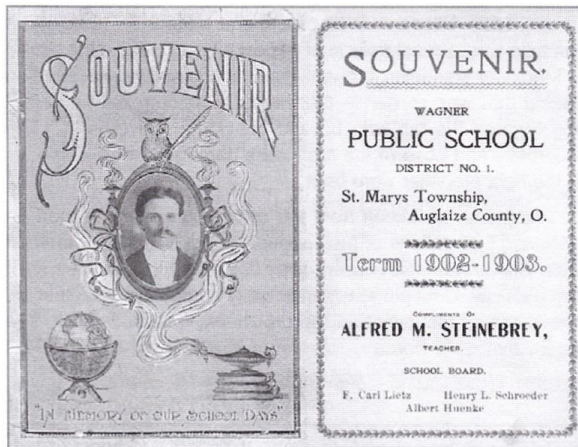
Kathi Overley - Wapakoneta, Ohio

THE HUENKE SCHOOL

The Huenke School was built in 1902 for \$200-\$400 by a group of volunteers because area residents felt that a new school was essential. Previously, all of the students had been attending the Botkin School in St. Marys Township, District No. 1. The Botkin School, built in 1838 on the Botkin farm in Section 28, stood on the west side of the present County Road 66A, just ½ mile north of the Huenke School.

The first teacher of the "Huenke" School was Alfred M. Steinebrey. A 1902-1903 Souvenir booklet, compliments of Alfred M. Steinebrey, called the school "Wagner" Public School, District No. 1.

(see photo below)



According to Esther / "Sis" (Wagner) Evans, granddaughter of Peter Wagner, her grandfather donated the corner of land on which the school was built (approximately 2 acres? of his farm).

[April 2004 "Towpath"]

The school was later named the "Huenke" School after Albert Huenke Sr., a neighbor, who is said to have landscaped the land.

PUPILS.	
Ernest Botkin	Harry Doenges
Fredellis Doenges	Leo Greber
Ferdie Greber	Albert Huenke
Willie Huenke	Emil Koenig
Freddy Koenig	Adolph Koenig
Otto Koenig	Carl Lietz
Freddy Lietz	Lloyd LaFoy
Ferd Niehing	Harry Guellhorst
Herby Guellhorst	Harvey Schroeder
Elmer Schroeder	Clarence Schroeder
Leo Schroeder	Omar Schroeder
Gladys Dickerson	Luetta Dickerson
Clara Doenges	Verona Doenges
Sabine Doenges	Alice Greber
Jennie Huenke	Larna Lietz
Ruth LaFoy	Hilda Guellhorst
Lillie Schroeder	Malvey Schroeder
Alma Schroeder	Leona Wierwille

William Huenke, son of Albert, had his first job as the janitor for the Huenke School at the age of ten. He opened the building each day, cleaned and started the coal-burning stove and rang the bell to signal the start of each school day. For this work, William was paid \$1.50 each month.

Mary Kathryn Maze, granddaughter of Albert Huenke, asked her father why there were so many apple trees at the school. Her father told her that her grandpa had planted them because he thought the kids would be hungry at recess.

Other teachers at the Huenke School included N. B. Mills, Ethel Edwards, Ernest Botkin (*who wrote the New Bremen School song*), Ruby Heckler, Clara (Fledderjohann) Boesel, Sophia Reed, Mrs. Preston, Bernice Ludeka, Ruth Yahl, Ailene (Grundish) Grunden, Dorothy (Geib) Harlamert and F.F. Eversman who taught music. The older children helped these teachers by looking after the younger children and even teaching them at times.

The Huenke School was in operation for 42 years until its abandonment in 1944. The few pupils that were left in the area were relocated to the Dohse School on State Route 364, now (in 2008) the location of the St. Marys Township Fire Dept.

In 1944 Arthur and Grace Drake became owners of the one-room schoolhouse. Grace Drake was an artist. People would go out to the schoolhouse and draw with her. When Mr. Drake died, Grace moved to Beavercreek, Ohio, selling the schoolhouse to the Grace Baptist Church, who turned it into a place of worship, installing pews and red carpet and lowering the ceilings. Due to financial difficulty, however, the church was forced to sell the schoolhouse.

Jim and Janice Steinecker bought the property in 1976. Before they could turn the place into a home, they had to tear out all the pews and the red carpet. They also raised the ceilings back to the original height. They divided the one-room schoolhouse into a living room, kitchen and a couple of bedrooms. Finding the house too small for their family, they built on an addition, which held a two-car garage, a utility room, extra closet space, a master bedroom and a bathroom.

In 1988, Ron and Sue Walter bought the schoolhouse and were married on their new property. Following the wedding ceremony, the couple rang the original 1902 bell which rests atop the roof.

The former Huenke schoolhouse still stands (in 2008) on the southeast corner of Auglaize County Road 66A and Southland Road, in the northwest corner of Section 34. There is a stone plaque on the front of the building with the district, township and year (1902) engraved on it. There are scratchings on the outside brick from children keeping score during their schoolyard games. The former schoolhouse is now occupied by the Howard Carpenter family.

Thanks to Julia Fark for the the 1902-1903 booklet shown here. Many of her relatives are among the pupils listed at left.

Thanks also to George Nearing for providing newspaper articles originally written by Sherri Gruebmeier for "The Weekly Leader".



"OPERATION CORN FIELD"

Dismantling of the big C-119 Packet transport that made a forced emergency landing in a corn field on the Harold Schmidt farm near Kettlersville on Thursday, September 17th, was halted yesterday when Wright-Patterson Air Force Base officers decided it will have to be flown back to Dayton. Wright-Patterson officials decided that the salvage program would not justify the cost of the ship, estimated at better than ½ million dollars.

The transport, on loan from the USAF to Aeroproducts at Dayton for propeller testing, and flying in and out of Cox Municipal Airport, has been grounded here since it crash landed a week ago on the Dan Headapohl farm and cut a clean swath through a corn field in which Headapohl was working before ripping away a fence and coming to a stop on the Schmidt farm.

Rollie E. Martin, chief test pilot for Aeroproducts, was at the controls and was highly commended for the way he maneuvered the transport to a perfect belly landing. Neither he nor his co-pilot or engineer were injured. They reported they were in constant touch with their home base after the left engine went bad at an altitude of 5000 feet and they were unable to maintain enough altitude to return home, and that a helicopter was on its way here before the landing was made.

Martin, with Aeroproducts since 1944, formerly was with the Army Air Force. Cliff Harris, New Bremen, who has flown with him many times, says he generally is credited with having been the first flyer to successfully parachute from a P-47. Martin also is a friend of Elliott Polansky (*husband of Ruth Evelyn McKay*), former New Bremen pilot, now flying a New York to Europe route.

Shortly after arriving here yesterday afternoon for a final checkup, Wright-Patterson officers stated that the plane, even if partially dismantled, will be too wide to truck along the highways. They ruled against tearing it down completely because it then would have to be shipped back for factory reassembling.

Flying the plane from the Schmidt farm will involve clearing sufficient take-off space in the corn field. The cargo craft then will be jacked up and shot off the ground by jet-assist takeoff bottles.

(N.B. Sun - 9/24/1953)



Huge Plane Gets Off Under Own Power

After being grounded for more than a month in a corn field east of New Bremen, an Air Force packet took off Tuesday, October 20th, from a 7000 foot improvised runway and after a wobbly sprint across parts of two farms, became airborne and

regained its place in the "wild blue yonder", headed for WPAFB near Dayton where it will undergo "treatment" for further experimental tests.

During its occupancy of the open-air Shelby County "Corn Port", the huge twin-engine, 40-ton cargo plane attracted hundreds of visitors, and travelers along St. Rt. 274 stopped and looked in amazement when they saw the two tail-fins of the big ship towering above the surrounding fields of corn.

For more than a month it was the greatest single attraction of this area, and despite a rigid guard maintained by the Air Force, nearly everybody got a good look at the incapacitated sky monster.

The jets for the planned jet take-off were not installed when it was found that the hard-packed, excessively dry earth was suitable for a runway takeoff.

The crash landing of the huge ship, under loan to the Aeroproducts-Allison division of General Motors Corp. based in Vandalia was a masterpiece of expert piloting. The pilot, Rollie E. Martin of Vandalia, brought the plane down in a wheels-up landing that was so gentle that he cut a smooth path 400 feet long through the tall corn but did not gouge the ground. The underbelly and nose of the craft were damaged and two blades on the right propeller were bent.

The plane, at takeoff from the corn field airstrip, carried an estimated 600 gallons of fuel, enough to get it home. It took off under full throttle and soared away like an eagle released from long captivity. The plane will eventually be flown to Middletown, Pennsylvania for overhaul before being pressed back into service by the Air Force.

(N.B. Sun - 10/22/1953)



At left: Dan Headapohl & his son-in-law, Henry Dicke



Paul Headapohl & his dad, Dan Headapohl (at right)

✈ KORN FIELD ✈

Korn Field at Montra, Ohio, was established by Eddie and Milton Korn. Eddie Korn made Sidney's first "aeroplane" flight from the Sidney fairgrounds on 11/11/1912. On 8/13/1913, his brother, Milton, died in a tragic crash and Eddie chose to become a chiropractor and moved to New Jersey.

In 1946, another brother, Arlington Korn, reopened Korn Field and operated it until his death in 1957. Scores of pilots, many of them members of the Flying Farmers Club, were trained and flew out of Korn Field *(including those mentioned at right from New Bremen)*. *(Sidney Daily News - 11/9/2004)*

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Telephone New Bremen 104 (Clifford Harris)
for information.**

(N.B. Sun - 5/29/1946)



Elliott Polansky, manager of the New Bremen Airport, Monday morning boarded one of the Airways' planes for a business trip to St. Louis.

Mrs. Elliott Polansky (Ruth Evelyn McKay) and son, Mark, of New York, visited Monday in Cincinnati and are spending the week with Mrs. Polansky's brother, David McKay & family, at Matthews, Indiana. Mrs. Polansky came to New Bremen to visit in the home of her parents, Mr. & Mrs. Howard McKay, East First St., and to attend the (Esther) Rabe-Yarrington wedding on Saturday, July 7th. *(N.B. Sun - 6/28/1951)*



Sidney Airplane Lands On Julius Luedeke Farm

On Tuesday morning, May 28, 1918, at 7:00 a.m., an airman from Sidney made a surprise unannounced flight above New Bremen. His mission was to advertise the Shelby County War Chest Drive, however he somehow strayed from his intended course over Shelby County. At some places he flew very low, almost touching the roofs of New Bremen houses.

The machine was not as huge as the one on display at the 1917 Labor Day picnic, but made just as much racket. After making a complete circuit of the town and setting out for his homeward course, the motor failed to perform its proper functions, necessitating the driver to alight, which he did on the Julius Luedeke farm 5 miles southeast of New Bremen.

He made the necessary repairs and then ran along on the ground for a short distance in order to ascend. However, because of the saturated condition of the ground, he was unable to do so and the machine darted headlong with considerable speed into a wire fence.

The airplane sustained serious damage and the driver wired for assistance from the airplane factory at Dayton. Later in the day several men came in an auto truck to take the disabled machine to Dayton for repairs. *(N.B. Sun - 5/31/1918)*

Korn Field Pilots Name Officers for 1951

Emil Donnerberg and Omer Tangeman, both of New Bremen, have been named joint chairmen of the Korn Field Pilots entertainment committee for the coming year. The group held an outing Sunday afternoon, 6/3/1951, at the Korn Field near Montra. Among those from New Bremen who attended the outing were Mr. & Mrs. Donnerberg, Mr. & Mrs. Tangeman, Mr. & Mrs. Louis Schwartz and their children, Dale & Roseann, and Mr. & Mrs. Earl Meckstroth and their children, Ray & Judy.

The Korn Field Pilots now list 36 flying members.

(N.B. Sun - 6/7/1951)



The Orville Wright Story

In the early years of the Farmers' Picnic at Kuenning's Grove, there seemed to be a lot of "airplane" activity. Frank D. Kuenning's daughter, Hulda (Kuenning/Gross) Diedrich, told the following story about events that are supposed to have happened in 1919-1920, however no other confirmation of her story can be found in the *New Bremen Sun*:

According to Hulda: One day in 1919, the plane of Orville Wright had flown about as far as it could and sputtered out in Frank Kuenning's pasture. Orville Wright came to the Kuenning farmhouse to use the telephone. *(Hulda describes him as the "young" Orville Wright.)*

Hulda had been instructed by her mother not to dial any numbers other than those in the telephone book because the phone company would charge more for those calls, so when Orville came to the door and asked to use the phone, she politely asked "Is the number in the book?"

Orville called Dayton, and his crew then drove to the Kuenning farm and effortlessly lifted the plane over a fence into a flatbed truck. After that first flight, Wright's plane came often to the Kuenning farm.

Hulda's story goes on to say that as her father was preparing the grove for the upcoming Farmers' Picnic to be held on "August 15, 1920", Orville Wright flew over the site and landed. Frank Kuenning invited the aviator to fly his plane during the picnic and to give plane rides to anyone wanting to fly. Hulda, "then 19" (she was actually born 7/13/1899, so she would have been 21 in 1920), was given the first flight. As wonderful as the experience was, Hulda never flew again and said "I'd rather ride horses."

NOTE: If Hulda was 19 when she went for her plane ride, it would have happened in 1918, when the Farmers' Picnic was held on August 15th (as she stated). In 1920, the picnic was held on Thursday, August 12th. (See the comparable 1918 story at left and the 1920 Farmers' Picnic story on page 4 of the January 2005 issue of "The Towpath" which states that "2 aeroplanes" came from Bellefontaine to give plane rides for \$10 each. Nothing was mentioned about Orville Wright in the *New Bremen Sun's* Farmers' Picnic write-ups for any of these years. In addition, according to a Wright brothers flight timeline published by Mark Bernstein in a newspaper (*Dayton Daily News*?) on 12/12/2000, Orville Wright made his final flight as a pilot on May 13, 1918, flying an early 1912 model biplane. He would then have been about 47-48 years old, not so "young", as Hulda described him.



BUSTER BROWN was a cartoon character created by Richard Felton Outcault in 1902. Buster had a sister, Mary Jane, and a dog, Tige. Outcault sold trademark rights to his hero in 1904. At one time, more than 50 products carried the Buster Brown label. Later, however, only a textile line and shoes made by the Brown Shoe Company in St. Louis survived.

Up until 1930, the shoe firm frequently sent midgets dressed in Buster Brown costumes barnstorming around the United States as a promotion gimmick. One of the midgets was Edmond Ansley, who traveled the country for 27 years promoting Buster Brown children's shoes. The 4'2" Ansley was hired by the Brown Shoe Co. when he was 22 (1910?) to promote its line of children's shoes. As Buster Brown, Ansley appeared in a blond wig, red suit and hat, blue tie, knickers and white shirt with what became known as a "Buster Brown collar". A series of 5 Boston terriers named Tige appeared with him. He retired in 1937 and died in Hugo, Oklahoma about 1972 at the age of 84.

EARLY COMIC STRIPS

The first American cartoon with the essential characteristics of a comic strip was drawn by Richard Felton Outcault and appeared in the series "Hogan's Alley" first published on May 5, 1895, in the New York *Sunday World*. The setting was squalid city tenements and backyards filled with dogs and cats, tough characters, and ragamuffins. One of the urchins was a flap-eared, bald-headed, Oriental-looking child with a quizzical yet knowing smile. He was dressed in a long dirty nightshirt. The printers, experimenting with yellow ink, chose the urchin's nightshirt as a test area. The yellow was a success, and so was the "The Yellow Kid," as he became known.

When Outcault left the *Sunday World*, he began to draw "The Yellow Kid" series for the *New York Journal*. The series proved that comics sold newspapers and they rapidly

became a newspaper staple. The most popular early strips included "Buster Brown", also created by Outcault.

The first successful daily comic strip, by Bud Fisher, began under the title "Mr. A. Mutt" and was later retitled "Mutt and Jeff." It first appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle* on November 15, 1907.

Newly formed newspaper syndicates such as King Features, founded in 1914, made mass circulation of comics possible. Eventually American comic strips were distributed worldwide. "Blondie" by Chic Young was probably the most widely syndicated comic strip of the mid-20th century.

[Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2001]

? IS THIS LOIS HARDWICK ?

Lois Hardwick was born in 1917, the daughter of Stanley & Agnes (Langhorst) Hardwick, and a granddaughter of Ed & Anna (Schulenberg) Langhorst of New Bremen.

Lois was first heard of in the movies when she played in "Alice" comedies for Winkler Productions. She also worked in comedies turned out at the Hal Roach studios in Hollywood. In 1928, at the age of 11, she had a contract with Stern Brothers, producers of "Buster Brown" comedies, 2-reel movies which preceded the featured attraction.



In the Buster Brown comedies, she starred as Buster's sister "Mary Jane" in 26 comedies, having been selected from a field of 500 applicants. Lois made brief summer-time visits to New Bremen when she was young. She died in Chicago in 1968. Her ashes were interred in the Langhorst family plot at German Protestant Cemetery near Lock Two.

[N.B. Sun - 6/14/1928]

["The Towpath" - April 2001, July 2002]

From the Mailbox



photo donated by Bill Kuck
ST. PAUL CHURCH'S WOMEN'S CIRCLE
 Mrs. Ernst (Frances Schulenberg) Kuck, Mrs. Heisler, Mrs. Marvin
 (Bernice Schroeder) Blanke, Mrs. Willis (Leta Bertke) Quellhorst, Mrs.
 Harry (Frieda Dammeyer) Schroeder, Mrs. Elwin (Louise Meckstroth)
 Hespe, Mrs. Frank (Marie Dicke) Buckloh, Mrs. Arlando (Irene Tontrup)
 Schmidt.

[Picture taken at Heisler's cottage at Behm's Landing - 8/11/1954]

Name wrong in January 2008 issue – not Irene Schmidt!
 Can anybody identify this lady???



Dear Lucille: April/24/2008
 I have enclosed a copy of my grandparents' history. My gr-gr-grandfather was one of the original 33 men who founded New Bremen. I would greatly appreciate it you would consider this story for an issue of *The Towpath*. Thank you for taking the time to read my history. Kathi (Wuebbenhorst) Overley - Wapakoneta, Ohio

[EDITOR'S NOTE: See pages 4-6]



Dear Lucille: 5/31/2008
 Enclosed is a check for the "back issues" collection of *The Towpath* and a year's subscription. Thanks for the complimentary copies you have sent over the years. They were always interesting.

As far as my interest in history is concerned, I used to hate history when I was in school. I don't know why, but we never had anything on local history. I never knew what happened at Fort Recovery until I came home from the service. I checked it out and have been interested ever since.

I am looking for a copy (to buy) of the 1905 C.W. Williamson "History of Western Ohio and Auglaize County". If you ever hear of anyone willing to sell a copy, let me know!

I've been working on updating the Kuenning centennial book and on the Bertke family. Most of Mom & Dad (Wilbur & Ada Bertke Kuenning)'s photos were destroyed years ago and I've been trying to locate some. I am also interested in seeing the Otte family history when you get it done.

It's been a long time since those family visits around the kitchen table! Thanks for your trouble.

Jack Kuenning – St. Marys, Ohio

Lucille:

6/13/2008

I plan to write a book about Lima and am looking for people to interview. Would you please place this info in *The Towpath*? Thanks for your help.

Author is in search of people who lived in Lima, Ohio during the Great Depression (1929-1940). If you are willing to share recollections of your life during this period in Lima's history, please contact me to set up an interview. These memories may be included in a forthcoming local history book. Any contribution to this project will be voluntary - regrettably no financial compensation will be awarded.

Renee Jayne - 166 Queensland Blvd. - Perrysburg, OH 43551
 [419-874-4235 or 419-699-1699]



NEW MEMBERS THIS PERIOD (THRU 7/2/08)

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

- 4/3/2008 Belton, Merle (rejoined) - Lima, Ohio
- 6/4/2008 Gottschlich, Kurt - New Bremen
- 7/2/2008 Hegemier, Roger - Newark, Ohio
- 4/10/2008 Klein, Debra (Vornholt) - New Bremen
- 5/31/2008 Kuenning, Jack R. - St. Marys, Ohio
- 6/28/2008 Rogers, Kathleen (Tangeman) - Rio Rancho, New Mexico
- 5/9/2008 Shapiro, Kay (Slattery)(rejoined)-Cullowhee, North Carolina
- 6/23/2008 Tangeman, Anne - Jasper, Indiana

ADDITIONS TO LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

- 6/16/2008 Baur, Evelyn (Bassler)
- 5/9/2008 Dougherty, Kim (Slattery)
- 4/10/2008 Evers, Joyce (Klein)
- 6/5/2008 Hirschfeld, Faye (Pfenning)
- 6/18/2008 Meyers, David
- 5/9/2008 Shapiro, Kay (Slattery)(rejoined)
- 6/14/2008 Young, Thomas

MEMBER DEATHS THIS PERIOD

- 7/1/2008 Belton, Marjorie (Braun) (died 7/1/08)
- 4/21/2008 Boesel, Jacob James (LM) (died 2/27/08)
- 6/3/2008 Grilliot, Catherine (Luelleman) (LM) (died 6/3/08)
- 5/20/2008 Heyne, Nancy (Maurer) (died 5/20/08)
- 4/26/2008 Kuenning, Doris (Heidgerd) (LM) (died 4/26/08)
- 5/9/2008 Maurer, Walter (CM) (died 5/9/08)
- 6/11/2008 Rump, Vilma (Gruebmeier) (died 6/11/08)

MEMORIAL / HONORARY DONATIONS

The following donations have been received this period:

In memory of James Meyer

by Roger & Cheryl Barlage, Rich & Mary Broerman,
 Bill Hemmelgarn, Fred & Betty Opperman,
 Dale & Shirley Schaefer, Wally Schmidt, John & Cindy Storer,
 Ted & Terry Wagner.

In memory of Doris (Heidgerd) Kuenning

by Malcom & Molly (Kellermeyer) Manley

In memory of Frances (Ruese) Kuenning

by Stanley & Dona Mae Kuenning

In memory of Catherine M. (Luelleman) Grilliot

by G.E. & M.E. Brant; Esther Dicke; Louise Dicke; Ralph & Louise Dietrich; Nicholas & Susan Dingleline; James & Jennifer Hayden; Irene Jarvis; Stan & Dona Mae Kuenning; Bill & Ann McCollum; Ralph & Beverly Plattner; Paul & Dorothy Quellhorst; Christopher, Molly & Levi Ruth; Steve Smith; Everet & Anna Mae Topp; Wilhelm & Barbara Wagner.

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.

New Bremen History:
1833-1899: 83 acres platted for town. First business, Kuenning & Sons, opens Cincinnati to Toledo. Canal opens. Bremen and Ober Bremen merge and Central School built. Klenke Furniture opens. White Mountain Creamery becomes largest in Ohio. Railroad arrives. Several mills established, powered by canal.
1900-1950: Canal era ends. New Bremen becomes noted for bridge company. Arcelor Department Store established. O.O. Peckham becomes Stearns Tool and Iron Co. A world leader in tool processing. Klenke Furniture destroyed by fire and becomes Auglize Furniture. Dierker Building exploded and replaced by First National Bank. Mortimer Fire Department. Auglize Furniture closes and New Bremen Rubber Company begins production on that site. Opening of the New Bremen Speedway. Crown Controls, now Crown Equipment Corporation, with world headquarters in New Bremen emerges as largest employer.
1951-2008: Due to increasing population, new schools, housing developments and parks are built. Expansion of the business district and the industrial park occurs. Additional village improvements include the establishment of the New Bremen Historic Association Museum, the New Bremen Library, Bicycle Museum of America and Chamber of Commerce. Canal refurbished.

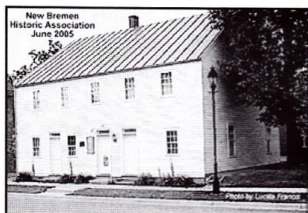
175-Year Commemorative Coin For Sale - \$20.00

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.)

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



NBHA Museum - 120 N. Main St.

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OTHER BOOKS & RELATED ITEMS:

Company C - New Bremen and the Civil War
 Preserving/Abundance-New Bremen's Food Legacy
 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 information)

SCHOOL COMMEMORATIVES:

Central School: Paperweights, Pencil Caddies
 1929 High School: Trinket Boxes
 BOTH: Porcelain Medallions
 Snow Globes

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

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