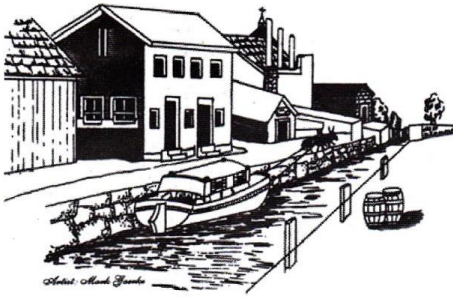


4-08



THE TOWPATH

Published quarterly
(January - April - July - October)

NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

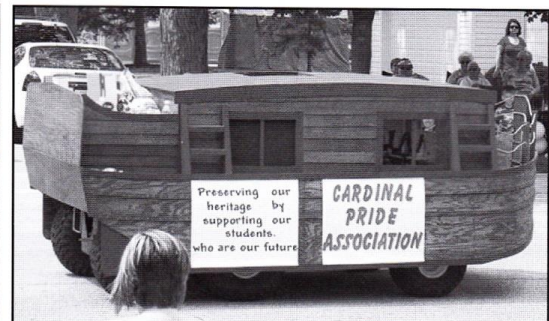
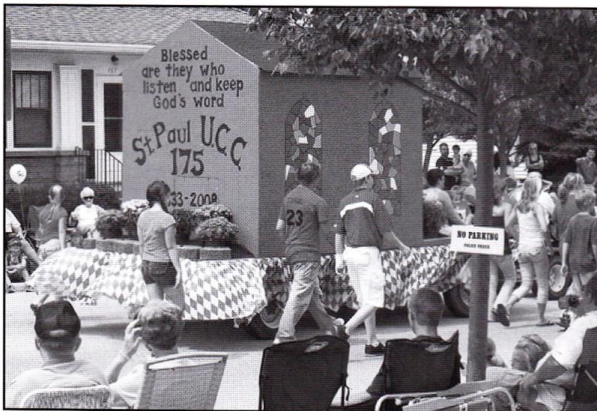
P.O. Box 73 - New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073

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) October - 2008

Bremenfest Parade - August 17, 2008



Celebrating New Bremen's & St. Paul Church's 175th Anniversary

◆ "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
[printed & mailed by Messenger Press - Carthage, Ohio]

WEBSITE - www.newbremenhistory.org

Johanna Schroer-----Webmaster

◆ OFFICERS OF N.B. HISTORIC ASSOC. ◆

(09) Larry Dicke, President/Trustee ----- 419-629-1903
Larry Dicke (e-mail: lldicke@nktelco.net)
(09) Carl Roediger, V. Pres./Trustee----- 419-629-2549
(09) Diane Paul, Secretary/Trustee ----- 419-629-2856
Diane Paul (e-mail: rdpaul@nktelco.net)
(10) Thomas Braun, Treasurer/Trustee ----- 419-629-8902
Tom Braun, Genealogy (e-mail: TGBraun@nktelco.net)
(10) James Bruns, Trustee ----- 419-629-2474
(10) Dennis Klingler, Trustee----- 419-629-2454
(11) Kurt Gottschlich, Trustee ----- 419-629-1819
(11) Mary Moeller, Trustee ----- 419-629-3635
(11) Amy Scheer, Trustee ----- 419-629-3268

◆ "APPOINTEES" ◆

Delores Stienecker, Curator----- 419-629-2685
Delores Stienecker (e-mail: stien@roadrunner.com)
Joyce Holdren, Curator ----- 419-629-3474
Joyce Holdren (e-mail: tojoho@roadrunner.com)
Carolyn Smith, Corresponding Secretary----- 419-629-1366
Genevieve Conradi, Historian's Scrapbook ----- 419-629-2764
Gen Conradi (e-mail: gen@nktelco.net)
Susie Hirschfeld, Membership Archives ----- 419-629-2133

◆ WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE ◆

Delores Stienecker (chairman), Joyce Holdren,
Gen Conradi, Amy Scheer, Carolyn Smith

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 15th of each year
to assure uninterrupted delivery of "The Towpath".

Check the line above your name
on your address label for your

★★★MEMBERSHIP STATUS CODE★★★

★PD 08 - Means you are Paid through Dec. 2008.
★LM P-08 - Means you Paid for a Lifetime
Membership in 2008.
★LM D-08 - Means you are a Lifetime Member and
made a Donation in 2008.
★CM P-76 - Means you are a Charter Member and
Paid \$75 for such by July 4, 1976.
★CM D-08 - Means you are a Charter Member and
made a Donation in 2008.

Please keep us informed of any address changes.
Send to P.O. Box 73 - New Bremen, OH 45869

2008 GRAND MARSHAL OF BREMENFEST PARADE



Dr. Ron Riebel was born September 1, 1937 of German heritage and was raised in the north end of Columbus. As a child, he spent a lot of time on his grandparents' farm near Ashville, Ohio. He would go to town with his grandfather and was impressed with how so many of the townfolk would wave and call "Hi, Grover" as they passed by. He says he knew then that he'd like to live in a small town.

During his senior year at O.S.U. Dental School, Doc was being taught how to work with a dental assistant by Frances McNett of New Bremen. She asked him where he wanted to set up practice when he graduated. Riebel told her he'd like to find a small town somewhere. When she asked "Would you consider New Bremen?" he replied, "Sure. Where is it?"

On August 15, 1968, Doc Riebel opened his dental practice at 105 S. Washington St. Of his 40th anniversary there, he says "I have a nice dental practice and a great staff. I see my patients wherever I go and we wave and say "Hi" just like with Grandpa. It's great! I'm proud to be chosen as this year's Grand Marshal in the Bremenfest parade. It's an honor and means a great deal to me. I've been fortunate to see New Bremen evolve from a nice small town to what I consider to be a showcase example of Small Town America."

On Saturday afternoon, August 23, 2008, Dr. Riebel and his staff threw a 40th anniversary "patient appreciation" party at the Crown Pavilion on West Plum Street, complete with music, a magician and door prizes.



1976 GRAND MARSHALS OF BREMENFEST PARADE



On Sunday afternoon, August 29, 1976, Dr. Michael Rabe and his wife, Margarete, were the parade marshals for the Bremenfest Bicentennial parade.

Dr. Rabe, M.D., also chose a small German town when he came to New Bremen in July 1940 after leaving Germany in October 1938. He practiced family medicine here for 31 years and retired in 1971.

Dr. Rabe died November 9, 1981 at the age of 92. Margarete died February 3, 1986 at the age of 86. They had three sons: Peter (deceased), Valentin and Andreas.

[photo from Vilma Rump collection]



HUENKE SCHOOL (GRADES 1-8) - 1904-1905

[from the Vilma Rump collection – picture originally provided to newspaper by Lorma (Lietz) Montgomery]

TOP ROW: Hilda Quellhorst, Luetta Dickerson, Leona Wierwille, Ernest Botkin (wrote New Bremen's school song).
 ROW 2: Emma Brueggeman, Melva Schroeder, Clarence Schroeder, Ferd Greber, Albert Huenke, Alice Greber, Jennie Huenke.
 ROW 3: Omer Schroeder, Otto Koenig, Leo Schroeder, Alma Schroeder, Ida Brueggeman, Lorma Lietz, Leona Lietz, Gladys Dickerson.
 SEATED: Emil Koenig, Edward Brueggeman, Elmer Schroeder, Harry Thielker, Fred Koenig, Reuben Koenig, Herbert Quellhorst.
 TEACHER: Alfred Steinebrey.

Mrs. Montgomery recalled that teacher Alfred Steinebrey taught with the aid of a hickory stick. A number of the children (especially the boys) are wearing buttons on their jackets (possibly for the presidential campaign of 1904? Or possibly Sunday School attendance awards?).



The Huenke School – built in 1902
[Remodeled in 1976 by the Stieneckers]
[first called the Wagner School – see July 2008 "Towpath"]
 Located on the southeast corner of
 County Road 66A & Southland Road.



Dist. No. 1 – St. Marys Tp. – 1902
 Luebke & Schaefer Co., Builders

[Stone plaque above door]

THE MERCHANDISER
Wapakoneta Daily News
July 4, 1984

[from the Vilma Rump collection]



TOP: Wayne Brady, Dorothy Moeller, Henry Greber, Ruth Westerbeck, Beverly Rump
ROW 2: Mary Fischbach, Mark Woehler, David Friemering, Carolyn Wellman, Betty Holdren
ROW 3: Betty Jo Schwieterman, Louise Lamphar, Harold Wuebker?, Andreas Rabe, Carl Maurer
ROW 4: Jean Moeller, Dorothy Billger, Delores Bertke, Sally Abbott, Peggy Speckman
BOTTOM: Robert Westerheide, Howard Fark, Miss Eloise Blanke *Beverly (Rump) Plattner collection*

1952 GRADUATES (23): Sally Jo Abbott, Delores Bertke, Wayne Brady, Mary Brueggeman, Howard Fark, Robert Finke, Mary Fischbach, David Friemering, Kenneth Greiwe, June Hirschfeld, Stanley Hirschfeld, Betty Holdren, Louise Lamphar, Carl Maurer, Dorothy Moeller, Jean Moeller, Marilou Richey, Beverly Rump, Betty Jo Schwieterman, Peggy Speckman, Gene Stebbins, Carolyn Wellman, Robert Westerheide.



James F. Melchert, Susan (Schulenberg) Rabe, Val Rabe
[November 1, 2007 - Letchworth Park - Castile, New York]

[photo provided by Donna (Greber) Conradi, fellow classmate]

James Melchert, Valentin Rabe and Donna Greber were confirmed the same year (1945) at St. Paul Church. They were also in the same class in school, along with Susan Schulenberg, who attended Zion's Church.

Donna and Susan graduated from New Bremen High School in 1948. Val Rabe attended New Bremen Schools until 1946 and graduated from Cranbrook School in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan in 1949 (*"The Towpath"* - April 2002). James Melchert moved with his family to Mansfield, Ohio, in June 1947, after his father, Rev. John C. Melchert, resigned as pastor of St. Paul Church.



Rev. & Mrs. John C. Melchert & sons
John Jr., Paul & James - 1933

Rev. John C. Melchert served as pastor of St. Paul Church for 25 years - from June 1, 1922 to June 1, 1947.

Mrs. Hulda Melchert became the new organist in 1931, when Anna Schwepe resigned after 25 years of service. Under the direction of Rev. & Mrs. Melchert, many musical events and Christmas pageants enriched St. Paul Church's program.

In March 1939, Rev. Melchert initiated the Boy Scout movement in St. Paul Church.

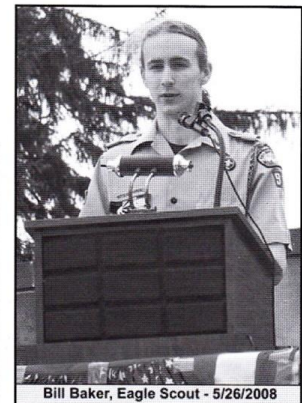


Rev. & Mrs. John C. Melchert - 1947

Rev. Melchert resigned in 1947 to accept a call to St. John's Church at Mansfield, Ohio. He delivered his farewell sermon on May 25, 1947. Thus, after 25 years of faithful service, the Melchert family left the New Bremen area.

Read more about the Melchert period
and other St. Paul Church information in the book:
"St. Paul UCC - 175th Anniversary - 2008"

BILL BAKER'S EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT



Bill Baker, Eagle Scout - 5/26/2008

On Monday, May 26, 2008, a dedication was held after the regular Memorial Day services at German Protestant Cemetery for the markers (shown above) which had been placed on tombstones of deceased New Bremen firefighters. This was a project undertaken by Bill Baker about a year before.

After gathering the names of all deceased and honorary (retired after 15 years service or documented disabling illness) living firefighters, he located the burial places of the 28 deceased members and placed markers on their tombstones. Firefighters so honored were:

German Protestant Cemetery - New Bremen:

Donald Coble, John Garman (*2003), Gregore Gast Sr., Robert Gruebmeier, Henry Hartwig (*1892), Wesley (Freeze) Howell, Kenneth Jutte (*2003), Carl Knost, Rodney Miller, Robert (Bud) Niemeyer, Paul Pape, Richard Pape, John Scheer, Lufe Scheer, Jr. (Jack), Richard Tonttrup, Wilbur (Pete) Tonttrup, Irvin Wissman, Richard Wissman, Elmer Wittenbrink, Willis Wittenbrink, Eugene Woehler.

(*These 3 firefighters died in the line of duty.)

Willow Grove Cemetery - New Bremen:

Ross Rupert, Jr.

St. Augustine Cemetery - Minster:

Donald Poppe, LaVerne Wint

Resthaven Cemetery - Wapakoneta:

Carl (Pete) Kuenning, Warren Moeller

Greenlawn Cemetery - Wapakoneta:

Lester Neuman

St. Martin's Cemetery - Osgood:

Clarence Topp

BOY SCOUTS of AMERICA

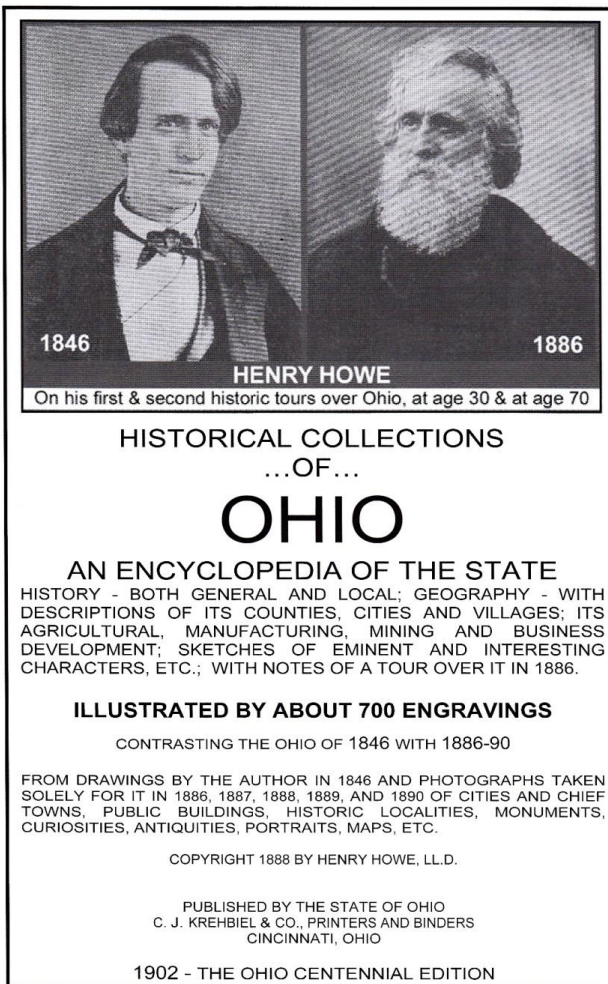
The Boy Scouts was founded by Sir Robert Baden-Powell in August 1907 in England. Two years later, on February 8, 1910, scouting was brought to the United States and the Boy Scouts of America was incorporated.

Part of the requirements to attain scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout is to participate in service projects. Only about 5% of all Scouts attain that rank, which requires serving as a troop leader for 6 months, earning at least 21 merit badges and completing a community service project.

New Bremen Scouts, in conjunction with the American Legion, honor the Veterans by placing American flags on their graves prior to Memorial Day each year.

Two famous Eagle Scouts are astronaut Neil Armstrong and former president Gerald Ford.

Boy Scout slogan: "Do a good turn daily."



Historian Henry Howe was born in New Haven, Connecticut on October 11, 1816 of Puritan ancestry, the youngest of seven children. He was educated in New Haven, clerked in his father, Ezekiah Howe's bookstore, was a typesetter in his father's print shop, helped print the Webster's Dictionary, and was a surveyor in New York at the age of eighteen. In 1840, he began working with John W. Barber on the "History of New York".

In 1846, he began on his own to tour Ohio, starting at Marietta on foot. At Delaware, Ohio he bought a horse. He covered the counties in Ohio gathering material from their original sources, and published his first work in 1847. In 1885, he began his second tour of the state which was completed in 1891. The Ohio legislature bought 1,200 copies which enabled him to finish it. He had mortgaged his work, and his wife had added her fortune. He petitioned the legislature to buy the plates. When he died in October 1893, the Ohio legislature paid his widow \$20,000 for the plates.

[Orton G. Rust's 1934 "History of West Central Ohio"]

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION PUBLISHED IN 1847

In 1831, John W. Barber of New Haven, Connecticut, prepared a history of that city which combined history, biography and description and was illustrated by engravings connected with the city's rise, progress and current condition. The work's success suggested to him the preparation of one on a similar plan relative to the state of

Connecticut. For this project he traveled through the state from town to town, collecting materials and taking sketches. In 1836, the historical "Collections of Connecticut" was issued - a work derived from a thousand different sources, oral and published. The book was circulated solely by traveling agents who thoroughly canvassed the state until it found its way into the homes of thousands of families - in retired farmhouses equally with city mansions.

That book, so novel in its character, was received with great favor, and was highly commended by the public press and the leading minds of the state. Its simplicity of style, fullness of detail, introducing minor but interesting incidents, caused it to reach more minds and be more extensively read than any regular state history ever issued. This publication became the pioneer of others, including two books co-authored with Henry Howe (New York-1841, New Jersey-1844) and a book authored by Henry Howe alone (Virginia-1845).

OHIO was the seventh state work published on the original plan of Mr. Barber, all of which were favorably received in the states to which each related.

Early in January 1846, Henry Howe began his tour over Ohio, it being the fourth state through which he traveled for such a project. Over the course of more than a year, he passed through seventy-nine of the state's (then) eighty-three counties, making sketches of objects of interest, and everywhere obtaining information by conversations with early settlers and men of intelligence. He also availed himself of all published sources of information, and received about four hundred manuscript pages in communications from gentlemen in all parts of the state.

He was able to present a larger and more varied amount of material about Ohio than ever before, giving a view of its current condition and prospects, with a history of its settlement and incidents illustrating the customs, the fortitude, the bravery, and the privations of its early settlers.

He wrote: "Whoever expects to find this volume entirely free from defects has but little acquaintance with the difficulties ever attendant upon procuring such material. In all of the many historical and descriptive works whose fidelity we have had occasion to test, some misstatements were found. Although we have taken the best available means to insure accuracy, yet from a variety of causes some errors may have occurred. If anything materially wrong is discovered, the reader will confer a favor by addressing a letter to the publishers, and it shall be corrected.

Our task has been a pleasant one. As we successively entered the various counties, we were greeted with the frank welcome characteristic of the west. Evidence of interest in the enterprise has been variously shown, not the least of which has been by the reception of a mass of valuable communications unprecedented by us in the course of the seven years we have been engaged in these pursuits. To all who have aided us, to our correspondents especially, some of whom have spent much time and research, we feel under lasting obligations, and are enabled by their assistance to present to the public a far better work than could otherwise have been produced."

[Henry Howe - 1847]

◆◆◆◆◆

A people that take no pride in the achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote generations.

...Macauley

**INTRODUCTION IN THE HENRY HOWE CENTENNIAL EDITION
published in 1902**

© 1888 by Henry Howe

"When in 1847 I wrote the preceding preface, I could little imagine that forty years later I would make a second tour over Ohio and put forth a second edition. In view of what I have been able to do for a great people, I regard myself as being one of the most fortunate of men.

A spot is now reached which even in my dreams could not have been envisioned, and I here rejoice that in 1839 I turned my back on Wall Street, with its golden allurements where I had passed more than a year, to follow an occupation that was congenial with my loves and would widely benefit my fellow men. *'He that labors to spread knowledge in the form of good books that will reach the humblest cabin in the wilderness will feed his own soul, and earth and sky be a delight in his eyes all his days through.'*

When, in 1846, my snow-white companion, "Old Pomp", carried me, his willing burden, on his back entirely over Ohio, it was a new land opening to the sun. Its habitations were largely of logs, many of them standing in the margins of deep forests amid the girdled monsters that reared their somber skeleton forms over a soil for the first time brought under the benign influence of human cultivation.

In September 1847, I published my book in Cincinnati with 177 engravings, mainly from my drawings. Seven years of my young life had been given to the travel, very much of it pedestrian, over four states of the Union and making books upon them - New York and New Jersey in connection with Mr. J. W. Barber, and Virginia and Ohio alone. For thirty years, Cincinnati was my home. There my children were born and there I devoted myself to the writing and publishing of books, a very secluded citizen, mingling not in affairs of church or state, still paying my pew-rent and always voting on election days a clean ticket. In my life a third of a million of my books have gone out among the people and done good - gone out exclusively in the hands of canvassers numbering in the aggregate thousands and penetrating every state in the Union.

In 1878, I returned to my native city - New Haven, Connecticut. In September 1885, I resolved to again make the tour of Ohio for a new edition. The romance of the project and its difficulties were as inspirations. Since 1846, Ohio had more than doubled in population, while its advance in intelligence and resources no arithmetic could measure.

No publisher or capitalist had the courage to unite with me - the enterprise was too risky, involving years of time, many thousands of expense, its success depending upon the uncertain tenure of a man entering his seventieth year. Furthermore, any publisher would have looked upon my enterprise simply from the money-making point of view. I would have been hampered for the means to make the work worthy. I could brook no restrictions and would not give the people of this great state any other than the best and most complete results of my efforts. The book must be brought down to the wonderfully advanced point of the Ohio of today. I could not in the years of labor required supply the capital to do this, but my health was perfect, and I had a light body to move. I formed my plan - first I went among my fellow townsmen of means for a subscription loan to fairly launch me upon the soil. They responded nobly, more than glad to aid, looking on me as the instrument for a public good. Some of them had been school boys with me. Judge Taft, Gov.

Hoadley and former president, Rutherford B. Hayes, wrote me encouraging words. I had known the three from their early lives. Hayes invited me to his home and was my first subscriber in the state.

My plan for getting over Ohio was by obtaining advance-paying subscribers and so good was the memory of the 1846-7 book and so strong the love of the state with its leading men upon whom I called that it worked to a charm. I was continually greeted with expressions of gratitude for the good my book had done in feeding the fires of patriotism and in giving an accurate knowledge of the state.

Everywhere I made arrangements with local photographers and took them to the standpoints I selected for views to be taken. These were for new engravings to make a pictorial contrast of the Ohio of 1846 with that of 1886. About one hundred were seen.

In March 1887, my tour finished, I returned my family to Ohio, to Columbus, for a permanent home where, in connection with my son, I am now publishing the work, and will endeavor to give every family in Ohio an opportunity to obtain it through township canvassers. In no other possible way can the people be reached and a fair remuneration given for the extraordinary labor and expense.

Introductory articles are written by the best capacity in the state upon the subjects treated. Sketches of those contributors are given with their articles, as I wish the public to know about the gentlemen who have thus aided me. As for my own part, no one living has had an equal and like experience, and my self-appointed task has absorbed the best of which I am capable.

Sketches of living men with their portraits are herein, which they will never learn from me personally. None have been allowed to pay their way into this book and where portraits have been engraved for it, they have been at my expense.

Traveling notes combine the four attractions of history, geography, biography and travels. The observations of one traveling over the same ground after a lapse of forty years would naturally be interesting. When I began this work I did not anticipate bestowing upon it so much time and labor, but as I progressed, my ambition enlarged and so I enlarged the plan.

My old townsmen in New Haven, Connecticut first aided me for a start in 1885. From the citizens of Ohio I have received no direct pecuniary aid other than by advance payments of subscriptions. One exception was Mr. Henry C. Noble of Columbus, who, in the last dark, trying moment, most generously came to my rescue, and then the fog lifted that had gathered around the very summit of final success.

I must close with the observation that I have passed the allotted age of human life, and, although in sound health, cannot expect for many more years to witness its mysterious, ever-varying changes. But it will be a just satisfaction to me if, in my declining days, I can see that this work is proving of the same widespread benefit to the present people of Ohio as did that of my young life to those of forty years ago."

[HENRY HOWE - 41 Third Avenue - Columbus, Ohio - January 1, 1889]

◆◆◆◆◆

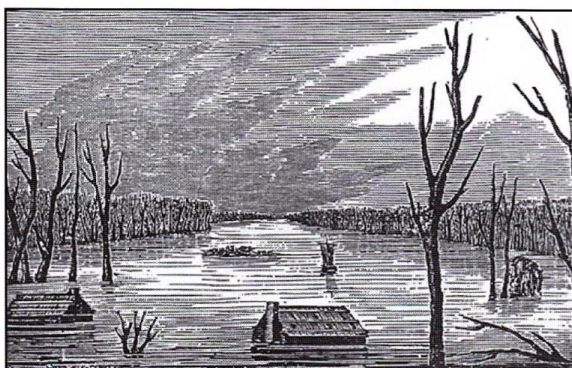
*People will not look forward to posterity who never
look backward to their ancestors.*

...Burke

HOWE'S TRAVELING NOTES - MERCER COUNTY

This is Thursday evening, December 9, 1886, and I am in Celina, county-seat of Mercer County, and the southernmost of the wild counties of Ohio on the Indiana line. I got here by rail from Paulding near sunset, in a freight train with a caboose attached, and through the woods nearly all the way. This entire wild region of woods and swamps of Northwestern Ohio fill one with an indescribable emotion of coming greatness from its great fertility when cleared and drained. In the meanwhile its wood crop yields full reward for manly toil.

Celina, with its effeminate soft-sounding name, is small and has the aspect of newness as though the place itself was but newly arrived. From its name we should look for a refined and gentle population. Its main street is very broad, and I walked in the beautiful crisp air and in the bright moon to its foot where lies the great artificial lake. Boys and girls were there skating - their glad voices rang on the air.



Drawn by Henry Howe in 1846
THE MERCER COUNTY RESERVOIR
Said to be the largest artificial lake on the globe

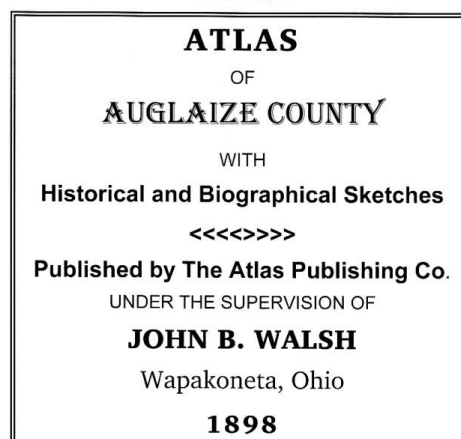
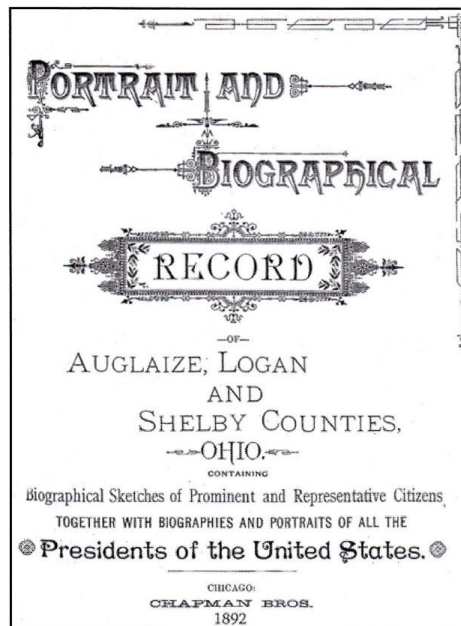
Lines of fish-houses are on the banks. The old picture which I took in 1846 of the lake was at the St. Marys end ten miles east. In it are shown dead forests standing in the water. These now have disappeared everywhere and in their places stand decayed and decaying stumps, projecting a few inches above the water, their many miles of black heads showing where the forests had been a singular appearance for the surface of the lake. Under the water the wood is preserved from decay by its continuous immersion. By the rise and fall of the water the exposed part of the stumps decay. The decayed vegetable matter when the water is low fills the air with a horrible odor, which I am told is some summers so sickening as to almost drive the people away. In time this will be remedied by a systematic clearing away of the stumps, or sawing them off below the lowest water line.

Several small islands are in the lake, one of which, Eagle's Island, is the abode of a professional fisherman; another is a pleasure resort for picnic parties, hunting and fishing, which is reached by a small steamer and various other boats. The fish are largely caught by nets, as black and rock bass, catfish, roach, bull heads, ring perch, etc. During the spring and autumn of each year wild fowl gather here in large and incredible numbers, and as a fishing and hunting resort it is very attractive, and large parties come here for that purpose from all parts of the state.

It is now nine o'clock and I am in the depot at Celina, and make this note: "In a few minutes shall start south." It has

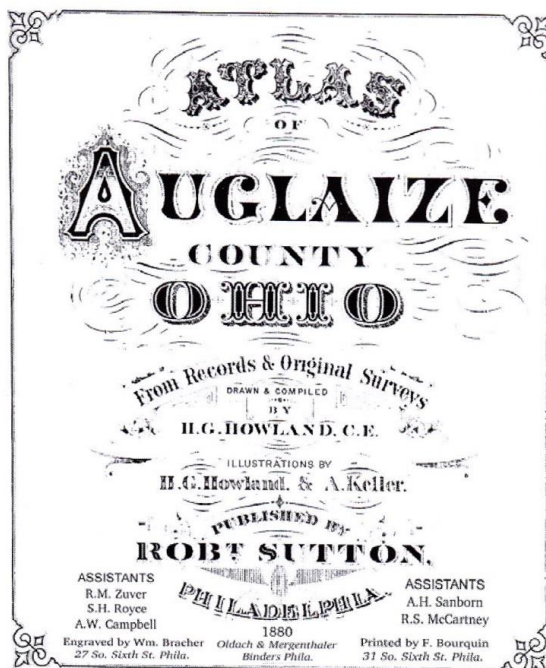
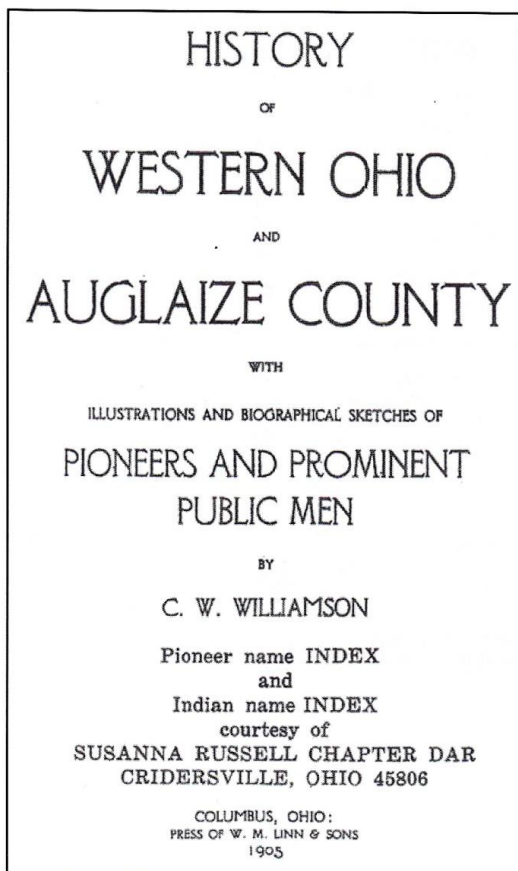
been a clear, glorious, sunny winter day; no overcoat wanted. Mere existence has been joyous. The sun has set bright over a dead level forest country and the full moon risen huge in the east. But the train is approaching; its big headlight looms up in the distance, seeming to say, "I'm coming to bear you on your way." Slow, stumbling "Old Pomp" has had his day. [Henry Howe - 1886]

A biographical history of the prominent citizens of Auglaize, Logan and Shelby Counties is being worked on by Chapman Brothers, publishers, at Chicago. Mr. M. H. Holsington is canvassing agent and is at present in New Bremen interviewing our people on their personal history preparatory to the publication of the work. (N.B. Sun-4/30/1892)



John B. Walsh was born in 1857 in Allegheny, Pennsylvania. He was an Auglaize County surveyor from 1884-1893. He also served as a councilman for Wapakoneta (1898). He died August 4, 1908 at the age of 51 and is buried in Greenlawn Cemetery in Wapakoneta.

[1898 Atlas - pages 13 & 21]



Biography is the only true history. ...Emerson

PROFESSOR C. W. WILLIAMSON

Charles W. Williamson was born in Perry County, Ohio on 5/12/1835. His father was John W. Williamson, who traced his ancestry to the pilgrims of the Mayflower and the heroes of the Revolution. John Williamson was a farmer.

C.W. Williamson took advantage of every opportunity to achieve a good education. In 1856, at the age of 21, he entered Heidelberg College at Tiffin, Ohio. He was compelled to teach in order to defray his expenses. In the meantime, he studied law and graduated from the Cleveland Union Law School.

In 1868, he became superintendent of the Wapakoneta schools, replacing Lenard Alleman, who had been the first superintendent in 1867 and had been dismissed the same year because of incompetence. Williamson declined a re-election to the position and devoted his time to civil engineering and served as County Commissioner.

In 1870, he married Maria L. Timmonds, a native of Mercer County, and they had one son, Howard, who also became an attorney.

In 1880, Williamson became the superintendent of the Napoleon, Ohio schools, but two years later he returned to Wapakoneta and purchased a half interest in the *Auglaize County Democrat*, which he edited for a year.

In 1881, Williamson became the superintendent of the New Bremen schools, however in 1886-1887, he resumed the superintendence of the Wapakoneta schools.

On 5/24/1901, an article in the *New Bremen Sun* reported that former New Bremen school superintendent, C.W. Williamson, had spent an evening at the Hotel Central while he was on a surveying tour for the "electric road". At that time, he was engaged in writing a history of Auglaize County and he exhibited pictures of some of the forts built in the county and of Indian Chiefs who formerly lived near Wapakoneta. In August of 1904, he was again in town to gather information for use in the "History of Auglaize County".

In 1905, C.W. Williamson published the book "History of Western Ohio and Auglaize County". In his 12/1/1905 preface, he outlines the contents of the book: The first half of the book is devoted to the Indian occupation of Ohio, including the military campaigns of Harmar, St. Clair, Wayne, Hull and Harrison. This is followed by an extended history of the Shawnee Indians and the great Indian Treaties of Western Ohio.

The second half of the book deals with the history of Auglaize County and its townships and includes illustrations and biographies of some of the pioneers and prominent residents. A pioneer name index and also an Indian name index were provided by the Susanna Russell Chapter of the DAR of Cridersville, Ohio.

In 1880, the "Atlas of Auglaize County, Ohio" was published by Robert Sutton. On page 20 is an article about the geology of the county, written by C.W. Williamson. In the 1898 "Atlas of Auglaize County" published by John B. Walsh, Williamson's biography appears on page 41. In the 1917 "Atlas and History of Auglaize County", published by J.H. Meyer, Williamson's "Indian Biography" appears on pages 92-96. This was taken from his 1905 history book.

Charles W. Williamson died December 31, 1918. Maria L. Williamson died January 19, 1917 at the age of 77. They are buried in Greenlawn Cemetery in Wapakoneta.

1917 ATLAS & HISTORY OF AUGLAIZE COUNTY



J. HENRY MEYER, Publisher of
1917 Atlas of Auglaize County

J. HENRY MEYER was a well known architect and consulting engineer of Wapakoneta. He was born in Wapakoneta May 9, 1889, a son of William H. and Minnie L. (Schmidt) Meyer. He received his early schooling in St. Joseph's parochial school and graduated from the city high school. He then entered Ohio State University, where his studies were directed along the lines of architecture and civil engineering.

Upon qualifying himself for this profession, he returned to Wapakoneta where, in 1910, he was elected city civil engineer. About the same time he was also elected county surveyor at a time when some of the county's most important drainage and highway problems were being worked out. He served in that office for four years, from 1911-1915.

J. Henry Meyer was recognized as one of the leading architects in Ohio. As county surveyor, he did much to advance the cause of better drainage and better highways in Auglaize county. It was he who "sold" the people of the county on the good roads proposition, even as it was he more than any other who "sold" the people of Wapakoneta on the important proposition of paved streets. In 1917, when the Auglaize County Good Roads Federation was organized, he was made both director and secretary of that organization.

Meyer's business as an architect constantly grew and his service in that line expanded to other fields covering a wide territory. In 1911, he became the general manager of the B. H. M. Cement Products Company. In 1914, he added to his other activities the management of the Brown theater in Wapakoneta.

One of the initial services rendered by Mr. Meyer in behalf of the public was when, in 1910, fresh from college, he issued a comprehensive atlas of the county, his maps and original surveys bringing up to date a service that had long been neglected.

In 1917, he recognized the need of a further revision of the county atlas and revised his former atlas, bringing all surveys up to date, compiling new maps and additional data to which he added much comprehensive information of an official historical character. He then published a new "Atlas and History of Auglaize County," a work of 166 pages carrying complete farm maps of every township in the county and plats of all towns and villages, setting a new standard in local map publication.

Unfortunately, the great expense attendant on this publication was such that there could be no hope of profit, and Mr. Meyer confronted a deficit when he came to balance his books and "close the files" on that enterprise. He had been stripped of the savings he had

accumulated during the time of his other activities. However, in compiling that Atlas he rendered an important public service and the book is a monument to his enterprise that cannot now be detracted from.

Pocketing his losses with the ever ready smile with which he was able to meet all situations that might arise, Mr. Meyer buckled down to his continuing daily tasks and charged off to "experience" his unfortunate foray into the publishing field at the age of 28.

[McMurray's 1923 History of Auglaize County - Pgs. 72-75]

ATLAS and HISTORY
OF
AUGLAIZE COUNTY

WITH
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Compiled and Drawn
BY

J. H. MEYER
Architect and Engineer
Wapakoneta, Ohio

1917

Printed by
The Magee Bros. Co. - Piqua, Ohio
Printers and Binders

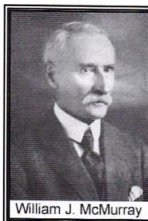
FOREWORD

"In presenting this volume to the people of Auglaize county, the author feels that he has covered in a more or less condensed manner all of the subjects which should be treated in a first class Atlas. The first part of the work is devoted to Township, Village and City maps, and the latter part to a short history of the county and its political sub-divisions, with biographical sketches of many of the county's most prominent citizens.

While all the work has been covered by a careful process of triple re-checking, and every effort has been made to eliminate errors, we are conscious of the fact that some have, undoubtedly, crept into it, and we shall ask our readers to remember that we have had to deal with much information, concerning which no reliable records were available. Whatever criticisms are given the work can be applied directly to the author, as he has had no outside help in its compilation. Six years has been necessary for its completion, and the task has indeed been large and tedious.

The following authorities have been consulted as references in the preparation of the historical and biographical matter: Sutton Atlas of Auglaize County, Ohio (1880); Walsh Atlas of Auglaize County, Ohio (1898); Howe's Historical Collections of Ohio (1902); History of Western Ohio and Auglaize County (C.W. Williamson - 1905); Atwater's History of Ohio, and Knapp's History of the Maumee Valley."

[J. H. Meyer - Wapakoneta, Ohio - April 30, 1917]



HISTORY OF AUGLAIZE COUNTY, OHIO
 TWO VOLUMES (Illustrated)
 Volume II (Biographies)
 Edited by WILLIAM J. McMURRAY
 Wapakoneta, Ohio
 HISTORICAL PUBLISHING CO.
 Indianapolis, Indiana - 1923

WILLIAM JAMES McMURRAY, editor of the 1923 "History of Auglaize County", was born near Newport, Kentucky on October 17, 1849, the youngest child of Robert, Jr. and Mary (Hurst) McMurray, both of whom were natives of England.

William J. McMurray's GRANDPARENTS: The grandmother, Sophia (Heywood) McMurray, was born in Liverpool, England in 1789, and died at her home in Wapakoneta on September 17, 1877, at the age of 88. She toured Wales while still a young girl and remained in that country long enough to speak fluently the Welsh language. She was married at an early age to Robert McMurray, in Edinburg, Scotland, and later located at Wigton, a suburb of the city of Carlisle, England. Here they conducted a general store and lived in a house located on the banks of the river Eden, near the Carlisle Castle, famous in the history of England and Scotland.

In time they resolved to seek a home in the United States with the hope that their children might have better opportunities. Robert McMurray, Sr., together with the eldest son, Robert, Jr., went in advance for a year or two to see if the family could do better in America. Mrs. McMurray then sold their real estate and chattels and, with eight children, left for Liverpool to sail to America.

While in Liverpool awaiting the departure of the sailing vessel, two of the children became afflicted with smallpox, which was epidemic in the port, and both of them died. It was many weeks before they were out of quarantine and enabled to sail, but finally the heartbroken mother and the children set their faces westward, little realizing that they had other sorrows to face. During the twelve week voyage, two of the remaining children took sick and she was compelled to witness their burial at sea.

The father and the eldest son met the family with great joy and yet with sad hearts when they learned of the deaths of four of the children. Robert McMurray, Sr., upon landing in America had placed his eldest son, Robert, Jr., in school in New York City and had sought employment as superintendent of a cotton factory. The family later moved to Philadelphia, then located in Newport, Kentucky and then Dayton, Ohio, where Robert McMurray, Sr. became proprietor of the Mansion House (hotel). After some years he bought a farm on the Auglaize / Shelby County line where he was successful as a stockman.

In 1852, he sold the farm. After making a trip to New York City, he and his wife located in Wapakoneta, where they spent the remainder of their days.

PARENTS: William J. McMurray's mother, Mary Hurst, was born in Manchester, England, April 2, 1818, and emigrated to the United States in 1831. The family located in Philadelphia, Pa. for a few years and then moved to Newport, Ky. After living in Newport for some years, the Hursts moved to Grants Lick, Kentucky, where the family lived contentedly until an accident befell Mr. Hurst which resulted in his death. Grandmother Hurst lived until eighty-eight years of age.

In 1840 Mary Hurst married Robert McMurray, Jr. Their eldest son, Robert McMurray III, distinguished himself during the Civil War as a captain in the 67th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. After the war he became postmaster of Wapakoneta,

served two terms as recorder of Auglaize county, was admitted to the bar and was elected mayor. The only daughter, Sophia, became the wife of Andrew Jackson Morey, and was the mother of six children. William J. McMurray was the youngest child. He was but an infant when his father died and he never knew what it was to have a father's care. He spent several years of his childhood with his maternal grandmother and his aunt. His mother, Mary (Hurst) McMurray, lived until October 24, 1896.

William James McMurray attended private schools in Newport and Covington, Ky. and also one term in a select school near Grants Lick, Campbell county, Kentucky. In 1859, at the age of 10, he accompanied his mother and sister in their move to Wapakoneta, his elder brother having preceded them.

After coming to Ohio, William J. McMurray attended school at St. Marys for one year, and then went to Wapakoneta, where he lived with his paternal grandparents and attended the Wapakoneta public schools for six years. Having been too young to enter the service of his country during the Civil War, Mr. McMurray had no military record. He served five years, however, in the Ohio National Guard.

In the spring of 1867 (at the age of 17), he accepted a position as a clerk in John Shawber's dry goods store, where he worked for twelve years. During his twelve years as salesman, he saved enough money to purchase a farm of 45 acres near the village.

Before embarking in larger business undertakings, Mr. McMurray spent much of his time in reading, and was later seized with the wanderlust of his forbears. Accordingly, in the winter of 1880-1881, in company with a friend, he planned a trip to the West Indies to satisfy a longing desire to spend a winter in Havana, Cuba.

Returning from Cuba in May 1881, he was urged by prominent Republicans to establish a new Republican newspaper in Wapakoneta. He had no experience in the printing or publishing business other than being an occasional contributor to the local and city press, however, the pressure became so great that he reluctantly agreed to start a newspaper. He secured a partner in the person of Robert Sutton, who at that time was engaged in getting out the (1880) Atlas of Auglaize County. They issued the first number of the weekly publication, *The Auglaize Republican*, on August 18, 1881. This partnership lasted about two years (until 1883), when Mr. McMurray bought the interest of his partner and edited the paper alone until 1887, when he sold a half interest to William R. Duvall. This partnership continued until 1890, when Mr. Duvall sold his interest. Mr. McMurray then became sole owner of *The Auglaize Republican* and conducted the paper alone until 1915, when he sold the plant to his nephews, William B. Morey and Charles Sumner Whiteman.

When the electoral college met in Columbus in January 1893 to cast the vote of Ohio for President and Vice President of the United States, Mr. McMurray was chosen the messenger to carry the returns to Washington. Though never having held public office, Mr. McMurray held many offices of trust and honor in civic and industrial organizations. He was also a charter member of the Knights of Pythias, Duchouquet Lodge No. 165.

On May 31, 1912 (at the age of 62), William J. McMurray was married at Knightstown, Indiana to Louise Nagel, daughter of Philip and Hermania (Menges) Nagel of Wapakoneta. Louise McMurray passed away March 4, 1914, at the age of 43, after less than two years of marriage. In 1923, at the age of 74, William J. McMurray published the two-volume set of the "History of Auglaize County, Ohio". He died September 8, 1931 at the age of 81. He and his wife are both buried in Greenlawn Cemetery in Wapakoneta.



HISTORY OF WEST CENTRAL OHIO

THREE VOLUMES (Illustrated)
Biographical Section - Pages 609-1278

by ORTON G. RUST

HISTORICAL PUBLISHING CO.
Indianapolis, Indiana - 1934

ORTON G. RUST was born August 14, 1882 in Clark County, Ohio. He attended National Normal University at Lebanon and taught school from 1901 to 1903. In 1904, he and a brother organized the J. W. Parmenter Co., where he remained until 1922, when he became city treasurer of Springfield until 1924. In 1925, he became connected with the *Springfield Sun* and later with the combined *Sun* and *News*. One of Mr. Rust's main interests was the development of a historical consciousness in his section.

"FOREWORD: In preparing this history of West Central Ohio, I have attempted to create a unified history from the viewpoint of the inside looking out, to establish more just proportions in the erection of the historical structure, to separate the history of West Central Ohio from that of Eastern Ohio in its earlier developments, detaching it from Marietta and more justly uniting it with Kentucky and Virginia through Cincinnati, and fourth, to draw attention to some errors of statement made concerning events and characters associated with West Central Ohio.

Errors are inseparable from history. It is a man-made record and subject to human failings. The compositor, the proofreader and the author are alike subject to slips or mistakes. Errors once injected seem cursed with a faculty of being impossible to get corrected. Authors copy authors and repeat mistakes. Also, tradition and memory are allowed too much play in the earlier American records. Dates are confused, events misplaced and locations fixed in a hit or miss fashion.

Historical errors are of three kinds: of facts, which can be corrected; of conjectures and surmises which are difficult to eradicate; and worst of all, of proportion, emphasis and omission which, once made with the weight of great names and reputations behind them, are virtually impossible to wholly correct."

[Orton G. Rust - Springfield, Ohio - 2/10/1934]

EDITOR'S NOTE: In scanning Volume I of Mr. Rust's "History of West Central Ohio", I observed that he, himself, used a lot of "conjectures and surmises" - using words such as "probably" in the first 350 pages which dealt mainly with the Indian era.

Allen, Auglaize, Shelby, Mercer and Van Wert Counties were the last extension of the thrust of immigration up the Miami from Cincinnati. This largely had to await the construction of the Miami canal which in reality opened these counties. Shelby County is where West Central Ohio history begins to emerge at Pickawillany. The German element and influence is more strongly marked in this section than any spot west of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, save some sections of the Missouri Valley. Pierre Loramie was the first white man to settle Shelby County.

The Quakers established a mission at Wapakoneta. The Indian agency under Col. John Johnston continued at Wapakoneta until 1829 and in 1832 the Indians were removed west by treaty, leaving the whites the right to plat Wapakoneta in 1833. Saint Marys was early a point of white settlement by the Tory and renegade traders and Indian agents of the British Crown. New Bremen and Minster are in the heart of the German settlement area which was settled in 1832 from Cincinnati.

Early settlers lived in ignorance of the presence of other families. Nothing else could illustrate the social poverty and barrenness of pioneer life than to read of hunters blundering on neighbors some miles away, all ignorant of each other's existence.

Combined Atlases 1880 ~ 1898 ~ 1917 Auglaize County Ohio

With New Every Name Index

New Illustration Section

of Early Scenes of the County



Windmill Publications, Inc.
6028 Uebelhack Rd., Mt. Vernon, IN 47620

Nineteen Hundred Ninety Five

In 1975, through the sponsorship of the Auglaize County Historical Society, the Atlases of 1880, 1898 and 1917 were combined into one book, indexed and reproduced by Unigraphics, Inc. of Evansville, Indiana.



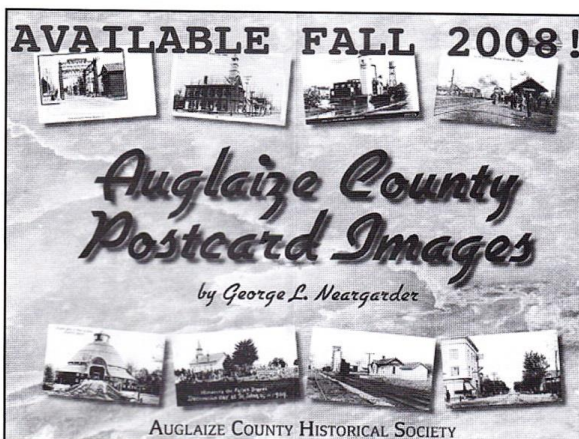
George & Patricia Neargarder -1998
on their 50th Wedding Anniversary

Twenty years later, in 1995, this publication was revised by then president of the Auglaize County Historical Society, George Neargarder, using a new layout that eliminated many previously blank pages. Elmer C. Spear, born in 1943 in Villa Nova (St. Marys), re-indexed all three Atlases. These indexes contain over 20,000 names and are a big help to Auglaize County researchers.

A "HISTORICAL PHOTO SUPPLEMENT" of over 100 pages was compiled, edited and added to this book by George Neargarder and his family. These contain randomly-selected photos of Auglaize County that were provided by various historical societies of the county and other interested individuals. Included in this segment is a comprehensive article about the Auglaize County railroads, which was written by Wayne York, New Bremen's current village administrator.

In addition, a 4-page listing of Auglaize County's World War I veterans, taken from William J. McMurray's 1923 "History of Auglaize County", was included.

At the end of the book, on pages 111-124, are copies of the 1934 Township Maps of Auglaize County containing land owners' names of that period.



The Auglaize County Historical Society
is pleased to announce its newest publication

Postcard Images of Auglaize County
by George Neargarder

Postcard Images of Auglaize County is a HARDBOUND, FULL COLOR, 232-page collection of more than 600 historic postcards of Auglaize County. Learn about our county through the scenes and stories revealed by these postcards, many of which have never before been published. St. Marys historian, George Neargarder, worked with local historians, historical societies, postcard collectors, and others to compile this unparalleled set of images of the communities. The Golden Triangle area of the county consists of 184 postcards: New Bremen-82, New Knoxville-54, Minster-40, Lock Two-8.

A great gift for family and friends, this limited-edition volume will only increase in value through the years.

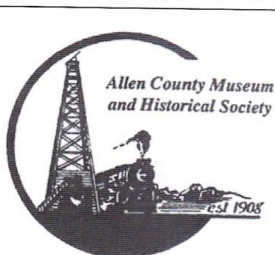
Auglaize Co. Historical Society member price = \$42.80
Non-member price = \$53.50 (including tax)
10 books or more bulk price = \$40.00 each + \$2.80 tax

Auglaize Co. Historical Society members, order from:
206 W. Main St. - Wapakoneta, OH 45895
Phone: 419-738-9328

Shipping charge = \$5.00 per book

New Bremen Historic Association member price = \$42.80

New Bremen Historic Association members, order from:
P.O. Box 73 - New Bremen, OH 45869-0073



The Allen County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogy Society & the Allen County Historical Society are co-sponsoring a **Beginning Genealogy Class** on two Saturdays, October 11 & 25, from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Allen County Museum - 620 West Market Street, Lima, Ohio 45801. A continental breakfast is provided. Lunch on your own.

Registration: \$15.00 for members of Allen Co. Genealogy Society & Historical Society - \$20.00 for non-members.

Patricia Smith, Director - Allen County Museum (419-222-9426)

Download registration form at:
<http://allencogenealogysociety.homestead.com>

N.B.H.A. GIFT SUGGESTIONS

MEMBERSHIPS / "TOWPATH" SUBSCRIPTIONS

\$12.00 / Year ***** \$120.00 / Lifetime

Collection of Back Issues ***** \$20.00 (+\$4 S/H)

Available from our "Museum Store"

BOOKS & GAMES:

Canal board game	15.00
"A Journey Through Time" Canal book	22.00
"Then & Now" (village pictures) book	15.00
"Company C-New Bremen & the Civil War" book.....	20.00
"Military Memoirs of W.W.II" book (by Katy Gilbert) ..	10.00
"History of Firefighting in New Bremen" book.....	13.00
"Preserving/Abundance, Food Legacy" cookbook	7.00
"Recipes/Reminiscence" cookbook (John Dickman)...	8.50
"Ralph May Remembers" book.....	7.00
"Niekamp family" genealogy book	50.00+6.00 S/H
"New Bremen Marriages" book.....	8.50
"Towpath" back issues book.....	20.00+4.00 S/H
"Klanke Furniture Factory" catalog	2.00

SCHOOL COMMEMORATIVES:

Porcelain Trinket Boxes (1929 High School).....	15.00
Porcelain Medallions (ornaments)(High School)	10.50
Porcelain Medallions (ornaments)(Central School)...	10.50

COLOR PRINTS:

"Interurban on Main St." color print.....	40.00+6.00 S/H
"Monroe St." color print.....	40.00+6.00 S/H

CLOTHING:

Grover Wissman (barber) shirts	12.00
Polo shirts (Lock One)	30.00
Caps (Lock One).....	13.00

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

175-year Commemorative Coins.....	20.00
Mugs (tan / brown - N.B.H.A. Museum design)	6.00
Christmas ornaments (glass-museum in blue).....	2.00
Notecards (parchment-sketches of buildings)	2.00/pkg.

PLEASE ADD \$2.00 PER ITEM S/H

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

For More Information: Call 419-629-8902

Or E-mail: TGBraun@nktelco.net

\$10

\$15

S/H=\$3

FOR THESE TWO BOOKS, CONTACT:
St. Paul Church - P.O. Box 6 - New Bremen, OH 45869
419-629-2502 <>> E-mail: stpaulnb@stpaulnb.org

Curators' Corner

♦♦♦RECENT ACQUISITIONS♦♦♦

[Last Acquisition Report – October 2007]

♦Donated by Luke Stienecker

Walnut board (siding) from old lockkeeper's house, (2) pike poles used to load ice blocks, booklet (Transportation in Cincinnati).

♦Donated by Dorothy (Doe Wallace) Zarley – Eaton, OH

Memorabilia of her mother, Bendetta (Schelper) Wallace:

Photos, Bendetta's baby spoon, 3-prong meat fork, hand-made embroidered mesh apron, 8-drawer wooden spice cabinet, wooden serving tray with butterflies and other natural "weeds" under glass, cookbook published by Doe Zarley.

♦Donated by Dru Meyer – 10-day typing course.

♦Donated by Diane Paul – (9) Various books.

♦Donated by NBHS Library – Mrs. This, Librarian

(50) Miscellaneous books, mostly regarding Ohio.

♦Donated by STAMCO (former N.B. business)

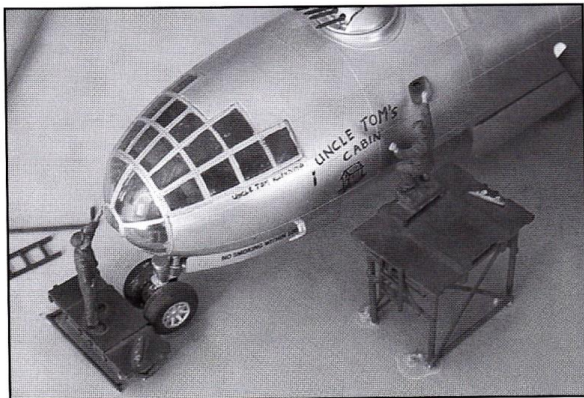
(46) Listings of trays, carousels, binders of slides dealing with the now defunct business's operations.

♦Donated by the family of Thomas E. Kuenning, Sr.

Programs: Commencement 1938 and Memorial Day 1943; W.W.II dress uniform (USAF) with medals; numerous photos, news clippings and pilot's gear items related to Tom's service in the Air Force (1941-1969); news articles and photos related to Tom & Doris's 1944 wedding, Doris's wedding dress, family photos, 36" replica of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" (B-29 airplane).



36" REPLICA OF TOM KUENNING'S B-29 AIRPLANE
"Uncle Tom's Cabin"



FROM WORLD WAR II to VIETNAM

Tom Kuenning's first aviation memories were of Charles Lindbergh's 1927 flight across the Atlantic Ocean. Tom was just 7 years old, but already knew he wanted to fly. He learned to fly in an open cockpit plane in the pre-World War II days and went on to serve in 3 wars.

After graduating from N.B.H.S. in 1938, Tom went to Miami University. When Franklin Roosevelt called for young men with some college education, Tom signed up and became a part of the U.S. Army Air Corps, the predecessor of the Air Force.

In Tom's early W.W.II service, he searched the Atlantic Ocean in the New England area for German U-boats. Soon he was sent to North Africa where he was again on anti-submarine duty - flying B-24s, one of the earlier military bombers. It was there that he sank his only submarine. Submarines then were diesel-powered and had to surface to recharge. Tom cut his engine and pointed the nose down for the B-24 to drop a load of depth charges. He saw the sub go to a 45 degree angle and it was later confirmed that it had sunk.

In 1943, Tom returned to the U.S. to train in the B-29. By May 1944, he was ready to go to another theater of operations and was sent to the Pacific Ocean to head up one of 20 flight crews for 15 B-29s at Saipan in the Mariana Islands. His missions were to fly 1500 miles to Japan, drop a load of bombs and return, which took 14-15 hours of air time and used up about 2/3 of the fuel en route. The return trip was easier since there was less fuel and no bombs. He flew three different B-29s during this time. He said most of his flights were routine. "We would spend hours of boring flying and have just a few moments of terror."

In 1945, after W.W.II, Tom returned to New Bremen and worked at Advance Auto Co., his father Earl's auto dealership on West Monroe St. He and Doris lived across the street until they built a house in the new housing development, Eastmoor Court, on the east end of town.

In 1953, Tom was reactivated when the Korean Conflict began. He didn't go to Korea, but worked at a desk job. He oversaw the Strategic Air Command at various bases during the Cold War.

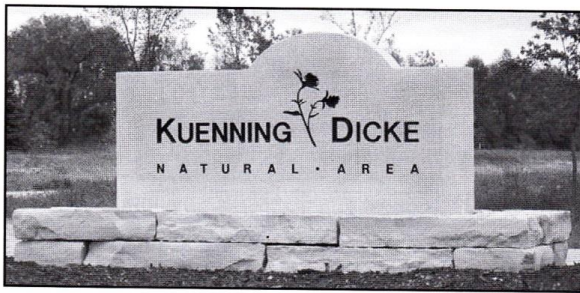
Then, when trouble began in Vietnam, he was pulled from his desk job to fly forward air supply. This time he flew C-130s, the largest cargo planes, and went from the Philippines to the many U.S. bases in Vietnam. On one of these flights, one of his "passengers" was New Bremen's Jon Belton who was stationed at Saigon and hopped a flight for some R & R.

By 1969, at the age of 49, Tom decided to retire from the military as a Lt. Colonel, and the family moved back to New Bremen into the house they had built some years earlier in Eastmoor Court. Tom worked for Riggs Food Express and later for the First National Bank. He was also an original board member for the Neil Armstrong Airport at New Knoxville.

Tom & Doris Kuenning had 4 children: Tom Jr., Nancy, John and Matthew. Their oldest son, Thomas E. Kuenning, Jr. followed in his father's footsteps, making the military his career, where he rose to the rank of Brigadier General in the Air Force and at one time commanded the same unit in which his father flew during W.W.II. Daughter, Nancy, married Harry Wetzler, also an Air Force man. Son John also served in the Air Force.

Tom Kuenning died December 7, 2002. In addition to his wife & children, he was also survived by a sister, Erline Campbell. Doris Kuenning died April 27, 2008.

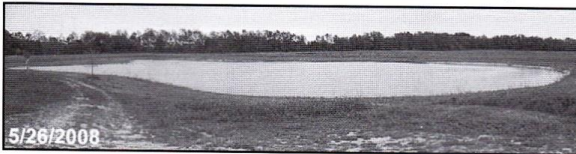
It was Tom Kuenning, Jr. who, in 2005, had a vision of creating a natural-area park on land that had been in the Kuenning family since 1913. Thus was born the Kuenning-Dicke Natural Area between New Bremen and Lock Two.



WELCOME TO THE KUENNING-DICKE NATURAL AREA

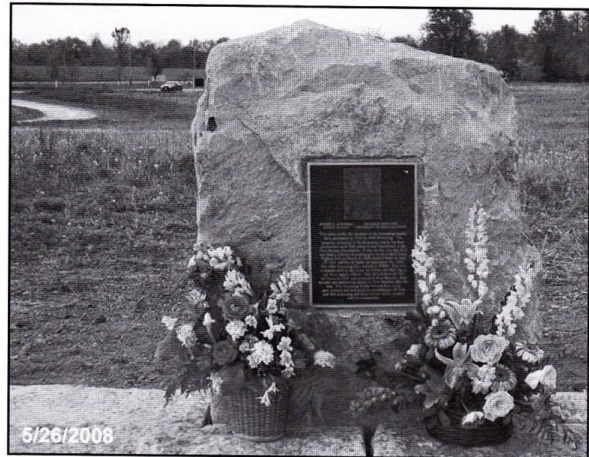
*Entrance located on Lock Two Road
[across from German Protestant Cemetery]*

Visitor Information: The Kuenning-Dicke Natural Area, located along the historic Miami and Erie Canal, between Lock One and the former site of Lock Two, offers 67 acres of wildlife protection and a peaceful site for outdoor recreation. More than 400 trees have been planted in the park to spur the return of native plant and animal species to the area. A three-acre lake provides ample opportunity for catch-and-release fishing, and trails are available for walking, running, hiking and biking.



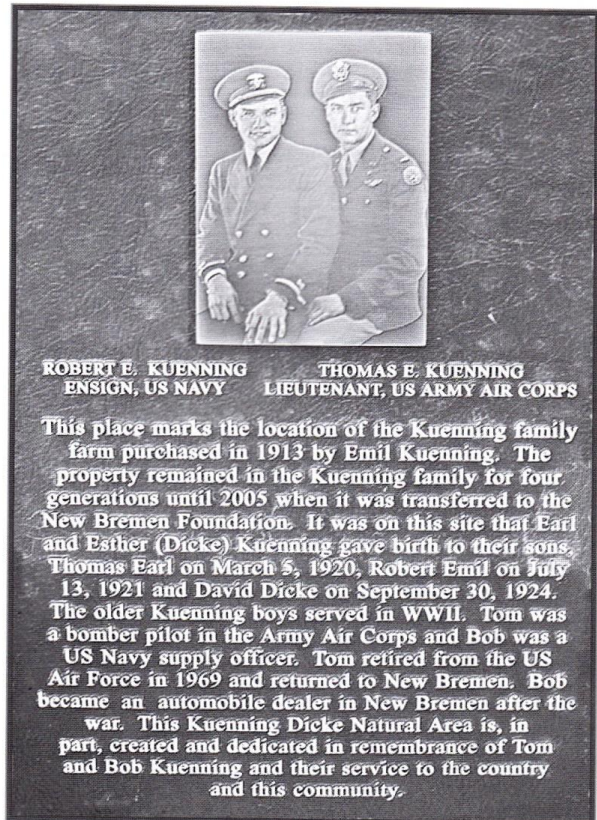
W.W.II MEMORIAL

"Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices."
President Harry S. Truman



KUENNING HOMESTEAD MEMORIAL

This memorial marks the former location of the Kuenning family's home. Robert and Thomas Kuenning, who served in World War II, were both born in that home. The property remained in the Kuenning family for four generations until it was transferred to the New Bremen Foundation in 2005.



**Brigadier General
Thomas E. Kuenning, Jr.**

Tom Kuenning, Jr. was the speaker at the May 26, 2008 Memorial Day Service at German Protestant Cemetery.

After the service, guests were given a tour of the Kuenning-Dicke Natural Area across the road from the cemetery. (see pages 14-15)



**New Bremen Flyers Rode Skyways With V.I.P.
— Riding in on the President's coat-tails —**

Politicians have been doing it for a long time but for two New Bremen flyers, Omer Tangeman and Tom Kuenning (Sr.), it was a new experience last week as they were getting a first-hand look at flood conditions in Kansas.

Circling over the big municipal airport at Kansas City without an answer to their request for landing instructions, the two suddenly saw a big plane swoop down out of the skies to a graceful landing on the longest runway. Without further ado they also settled on the same strip, although at a safe distance behind the first ship.

By that time they realized something very special was going on because the attention of everyone at the field seemed to be riveted on the big plane, but they were unprepared for what happened next. As the door swung open, out stepped President Truman smiling broadly and waving his hat. The President was on the same mission as the New Bremen flyers. He, too, was inspecting flood conditions.

Tangeman, an amateur flyer, and Kuenning, an Army pilot in World War II, returned Friday from their three-day jaunt. They flew a two-seater Ercoupe owned by Tangeman and Emil Donnerberg, another New Bremen flyer. Besides stopping at Kansas City, they visited with relatives and friends at Ellinwood and Greensburg, Kansas and Auburn, Nebraska. (N.B. Sun - 9/13/1951)

**6th ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS
DINNERS**

Wednesday, December 3, 2008

Friday, December 5, 2008

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Friday, December 12, 2008



**SANTA'S
OPEN HOUSE**

Sunday, December 14, 2008

For more information, Call 419-629-2685



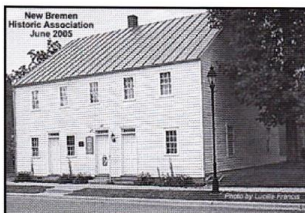
175-Year Commemorative Coin
For Sale - \$20.00

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.

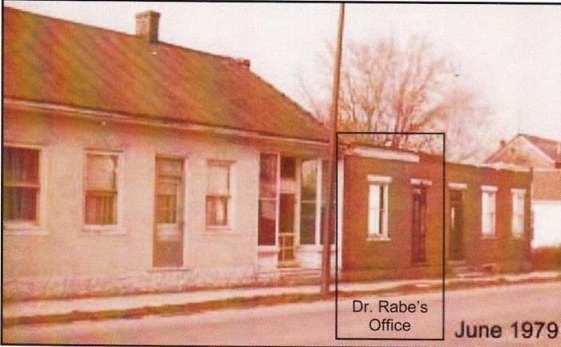
IF YOU CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS in any way (even if it is only to/from a Post Office Box number, **PLEASE LET US KNOW.** It costs us to find that out from the Post Office!

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
New Bremen, OH 45869
Permit No. 41

Address Service Requested

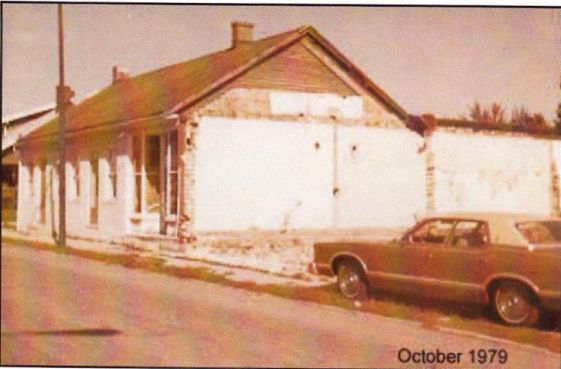
Razing of the buildings on West Monroe Street to make way for a parking lot for Gilberg's Funeral Home & Howell's IGA at Monroe & Franklin.

Photos provided by Alice (Gilberg) Hartwig.

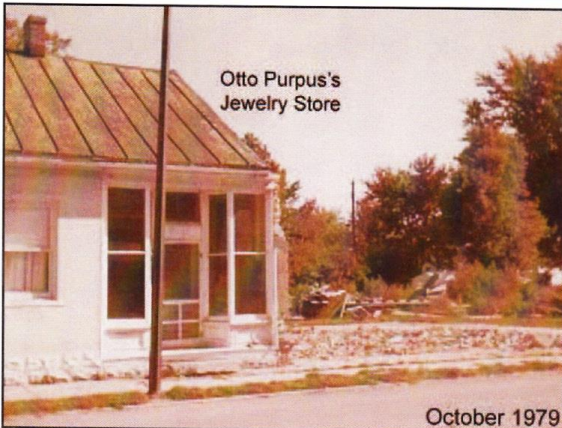


Dr. Rabe's Office

June 1979

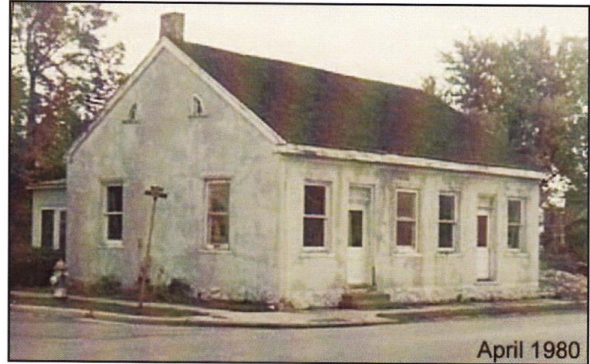


October 1979

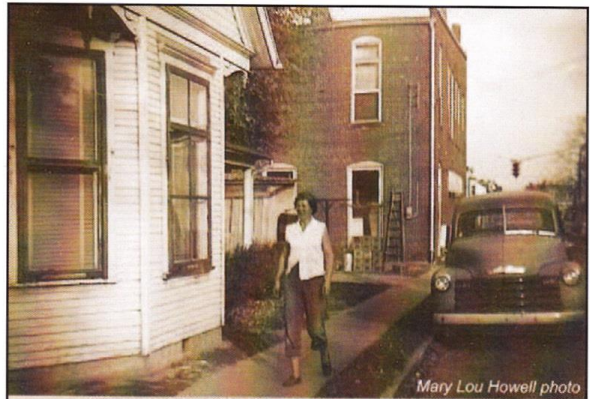


Otto Purpus's Jewelry Store

October 1979

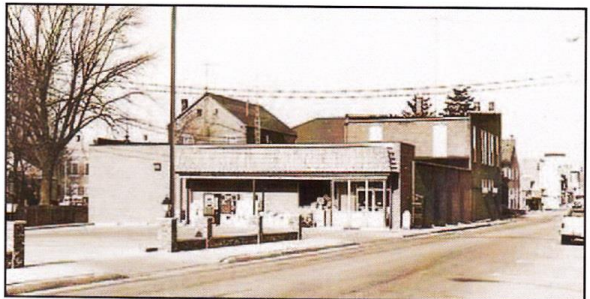


April 1980



Mary Lou Howell photo

House at 212 West Monroe Street (behind the IGA)
[Marge Howell walking]



After addition to Howell's IGA and parking lot.

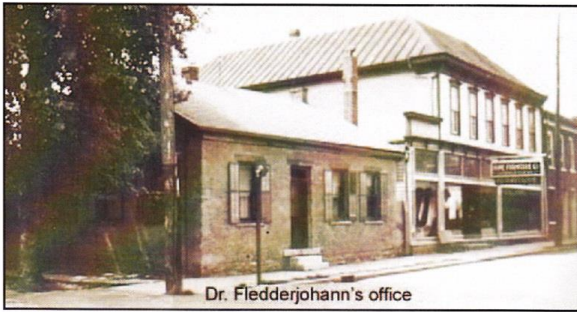


Marge Lietz photo

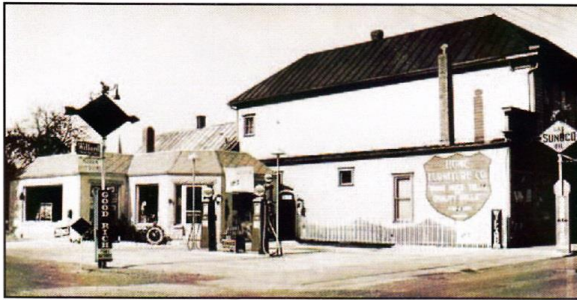
1991

"The Towpath" – October 2008

i



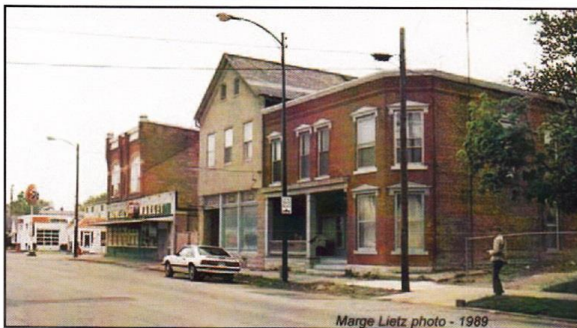
Dr. Fledderjohann's office



Friemering's & Ida Heinfeld house
House Razed 4/26/1993



Marge Lietz photo



Marge Lietz photo - 1989

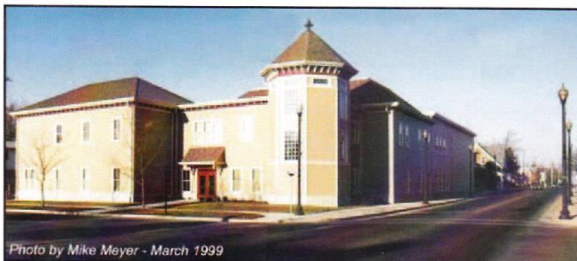


Photo by Mike Meyer - March 1999

The Crown Training Center (above) replaced Rump's Service Station (formerly Sunoco, then Pure Oil, then Union 76), Friemering's Home Furniture Store, and the Ida Heinfeld house in 1998.

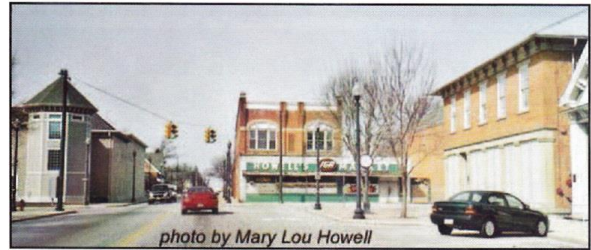
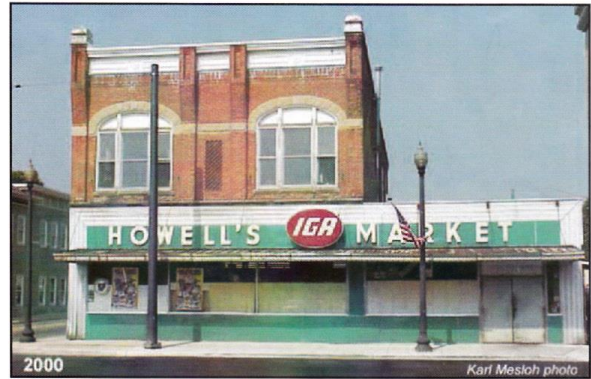
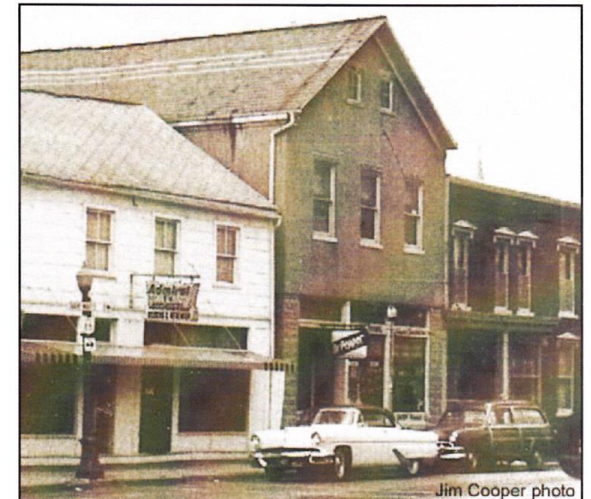


photo by Mary Lou Howell



2000

Karl Mesloh photo



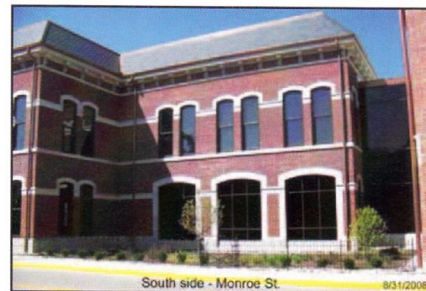
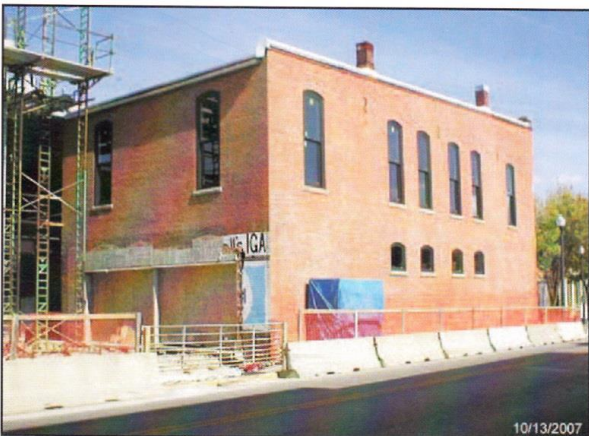
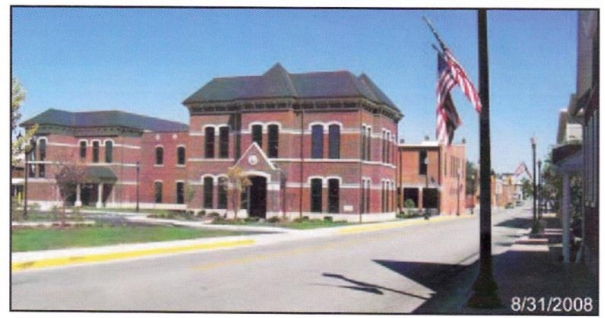
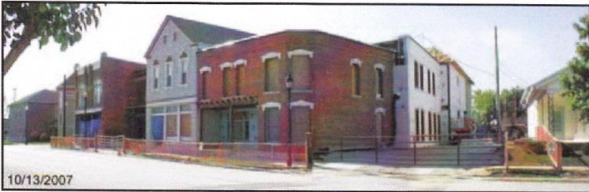
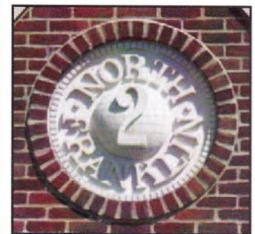
Jim Cooper photo



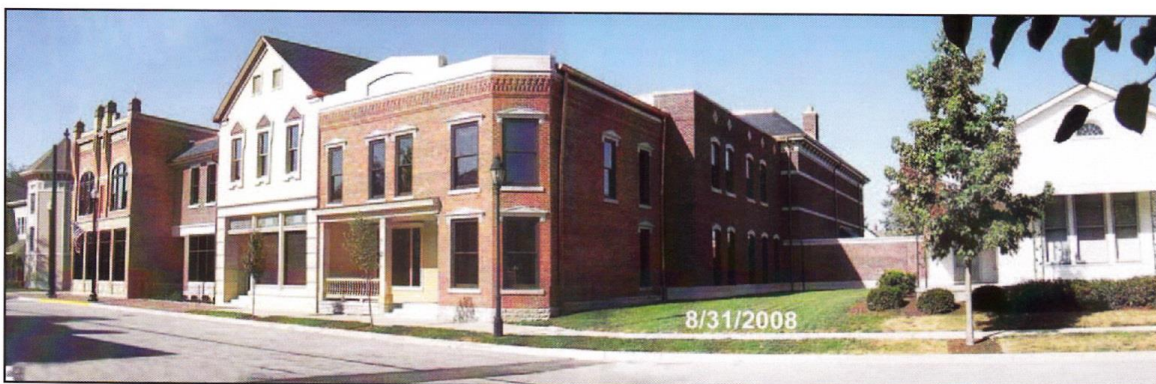
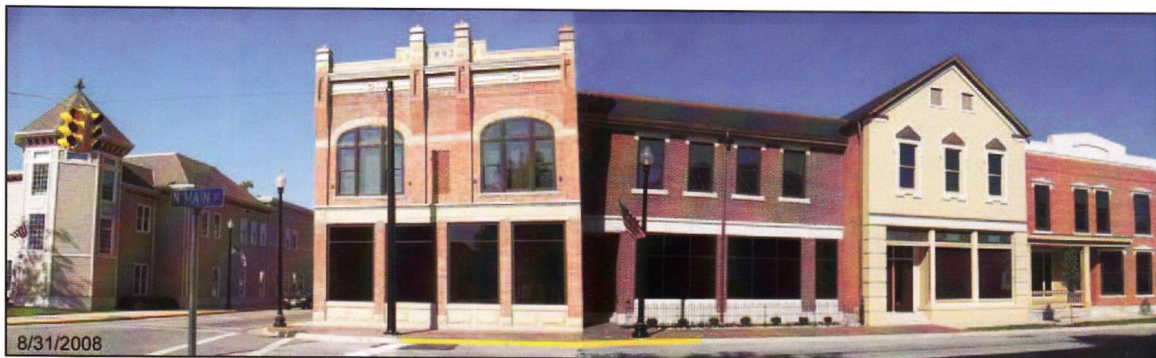
Marge Lietz photo



photo by Mary Lou Howell



"The Towpath" – October 2008



This concludes documentation of the "new look" at the corners of Main & Monroe and Monroe & Franklin Streets that has taken place over the past 10 years. In 1998, the Crown Training Center replaced the service station, furniture store, and the Otto & Ida Heinfeld house on the southwest corner of Main & Monroe.

This past year (2007-2008), renovation of the buildings north of Monroe Street took place, along with construction of the Jim Dicke building facing North Franklin Street as an addition to the existing buildings.

I hope you have enjoyed this colored 4-page supplement to the October 2008 "Towpath".