

#### **NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION**

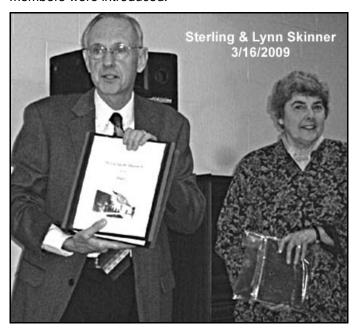
P.O. Box 73 - New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073 MUSEUM located at 120 N. Main St. (founded in 1973)

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)

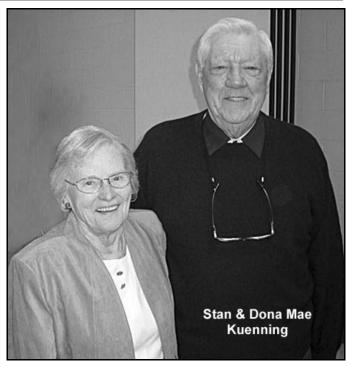
April - 2009

On Monday, March 16, 2009, the New Bremen Historic Association held its Annual Dinner at Holy Redeemer Church's parish hall in New Bremen. President Larry Dicke welcomed members and guests. The dinner, prepared by Ruth Krieg, was enjoyed by everyone. A short business meeting was held to elect new trustees, and the trustees and appointed board members were introduced.



Special guests, Sterling and Lynn Skinner from Beloit, Wisconsin presented the Association with a copy of Phillip Jacob Maurer's diary/day book, which includes information about his emigration to America and New Bremen on August 8, 1833. Sterling is the great-great grandson of Phillip Jacob Maurer (12/11/1791-9/9/1833). He showed the original book (which begins in 1809) to the group and said he planned to donate it to the Ohio Historical Society for safekeeping and research purposes. [NOTE: To read Jack Densmore's translation of the diary/day book see Life of Phillip Jacob Maurer (.pdf) in the genealogy section of our website. Also see color pictures on the website.]

The speaker for the evening was Stan Kuenning. Stan was born in New Bremen and has lived here all his life. He graduated from New Bremen High School in 1946. In 1948 he married Dona Mae Speckman, who is also from New Bremen.



In 1953, Stan and Dona Mae purchased the Western Ohio Hardware store located on the northwest corner of Monroe and Water Streets in New Bremen. The business prospered in those early years and their sons, Tim and Scott, joined them in the store. In 1976 they purchased Hoying and Westerheide Hardware in Minster and appointed Scott as manager of that store. In 1987 they purchased three acres on State Route 66 halfway between New Bremen and Minster and moved both stores under one roof. Scott now owns and operates the store with the help of his five sons. Stan continues to help out in the store.

Stan is proud of his New Bremen heritage and his activities within the business community and grateful for and honored by the friendships he has formed over the years. He has been a keen observer of the special people and events that make up New Bremen and he enjoyed sharing his memories of the "Good Old Days in New Bremen" as the speaker.

About 150 people attended this event. We thank Ruth Krieg for another delicious meal, Holy Redeemer Church for the use of their Fellowship Hall and the Holy Redeemer youth group for their excellent service and clean-up. [photos & article by Gen Conradi]

#### **♦** "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 [E-mail: Imf\_towpath@verizon.net]

[printed & mailed by Messenger Press – Carthagena, Ohio]

## WEBSITE - <u>www.newbremenhistory.org</u> Lucille Francis ------ Johanna Schroer

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#### **♦ WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE ◆**

Delores Stienecker (chairman), Joyce Holdren, Amy Scheer, Carolyn Smith, Dennis Dicke

#### **ASSOC. MEETINGS ARE HELD FIRST TUESDAYS**

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

#### **MEMBERSHIP DUES**

\$15.00 per year (\$7.00 extra for spouse) Lifetime Membership - \$150.00 (\$70.00/spouse) Payment is required by March 15<sup>th</sup> 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 09** – Means you are **P**aid through Dec. 20**09**.

**★LM P-09** – Means you <u>P</u>aid for a <u>Lifetime</u> <u>Membership in 20<u>09</u>.</u>

**★LM D-09** – Means you are a <u>Lifetime</u> <u>Member and made a <u>Donation in 2009.</u></u>

**★CM P-76** – Means you are a **C**harter **M**ember and **P**aid \$75 for such by July 4, 19**76**.

**★CM D-09** – Means you are a <u>Charter Member and made a <u>Donation</u> in 20<u>09</u>.</u>

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

#### LETTERS FROM FRANCE

November 10, 2008

May I introduce myself. My name is OMONT Henri and I am French. I was born June 6, 1944 close by the Normandy landing sites. I am respectful for those foreign soldiers who came over and much grateful for what they did. Every year, D-Day is still respectfully commemorated all around in Normandy as the population is always grateful to their liberators.

A few years ago, an association was created called "les Fleurs de la Mémoire" (flowers of memory) that aimed at finding volunteers to lay flowers on the graves of soldiers killed in action during landings so that no grave remains without visitors.

As a member of this association since its creation, I regularly lay flowers on the grave I am in charge of. This grave is your husband's: Gerald L. Shaffer, origin OHIO, Army 12th regiment infantry, 4th division, grade: private, A.S.N. 35 293 938, decoration P.H. killed in action on June 20, 1944, social security #282-20-7154, birth date August 2, 1925, interred in American Mlitary Cemetery located Colleville-sur-mer. The grave is located: Plot F - Row 5 - grave #19. I give you full details to be more credible. I obtained all relevant information from the Department of the Army who, upon my request, sent me the Individual Deceased Personnel Files (IDPF) pertaining to Gerald L. Shaffer.

I am very proud to commit myself in this, but it is nothing compared to what was accomplished by all those soldiers wounded or killed in action, alone, out of their country and family. Gerald was out of his young wife, out of his family – both somewhere in OHIO.

I thought that you may be happy to learn that the grave of your husband gets flowers and is visited regularly.

This encouraged me to try to find his family and after so many years it is not so easy when you only get a name, an A.S.N. and OHIO. I go ahead slowly and by the time being I know that Gerald was married and I found in the file mentioned some addresses where you lived, Mrs. Goldie, as well as his parents. I wrote letters and sent them to each address, like bottles in the sea, hoping one of them would reach you in person or your family after so many years. I do hope to come to something somehow.

As I don't speak English, my niece, Christine Talamoni, kindly offered her assistance and will be pleased to translate eventual letters and forward them to me.

Yours sincerely, Henri OMONT

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The above letter was sent to Mrs. Goldie E. Shaffer, R.R.1, New Bremen, Ohio. Another letter was addressed to "New Bremen Town Hall". Both letters were delivered by the Post Office to the only person in New Bremen with the name of "Schaefer" – Dale Schaefer. When he got the letters, he called to see if I knew a "Goldie Shaffer". He then brought me the letters and thus began a flurry of e-mail communications between myself, Lester Topp (Goldie's brother), and Sarah (Shaffer) Belton (Gerald's niece) with Christine Talamoni, Henri Omont's niece. That resulted in receiving pictures and in doing more research about the American military cemeteries in foreign countries. I hope you will find this information and pictures as interesting as I did in putting it together.

A December 30th follow-up letter from Mr. Omont after our responses said: "This positive outcome of my investigations brought me great satisfaction. It was very complicated, but I never gave up. I simply promised myself to do all I could to find Gerald's family and let them know that from time to time he got flowers and kind attention. Since my commitment into this, I can tell you that in a way Gerald belongs to our family now."

Sincerely, Henri & Bernadette OMONT

## Les Fleurs de la Mémoire [Flowers of Remembrance]

When American soldiers were killed in Normandy during WWII, they were buried in temporary graves near where they fell. Later, they were re-interred in a more permanent site, landscaped and well cared for by the United States government.

Over the next few years, families were given the option of having their loved ones returned to the United States for reburial in their local cemetery and family plot to facilitate frequent visits by all family members.

On the other hand, many families made the soulsearching decision to have their beloved son or husband remain on the foreign soil where he had fallen, along with his comrades, to be among the others who had sacrificed their lives for the same reason.

The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) was established by Congress in 1923 to commemorate the service, achievements, and sacrifice of U.S. armed forces where they served overseas (since 1917) and within the U.S.

All military cemeteries on foreign soil were donated to the government of the United States for all time. The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) was given the task of beautifying each site on its own merits for size, landscaping and the general layout plan. Many of these graves were later adopted by members of the association, "Les Fleurs de la Memoire".

"Les Fleurs de la Memoire" (Flowers of Remembrance) was organized by Claude and Marie Therese Lavielle on December 15, 2000, in Saint Lo, Normandy, France - a city which, after the June 6, 1944, bombing raids, was called the Capital of Ruins.

This Association, located in the department of La Manche, was created to perpetuate the memory of the soldiers, sailors and airmen buried in the American Cemeteries of Colleville-sur-Mer and Saint James, both in Normandy, by placing flowers on their graves once a year to remember their sacrifices.

From the Association's Preamble: "The peace we know in Normandy and France was paid for by the sacrifice of the young lives of Allied soldiers.

In the American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, there are 10,944 brave Americans remembered; in the American Cemetery in Saint James the markers of 4,908 Americans remind us of the supreme sacrifice paid for France's liberation from the yoke of the Nazis. Today we know the liberty and happiness of freedom. We can never forget those that are buried in our country. Two generations have passed that do not know the horrors of war."

A dedication ceremony of "Les Fleurs de la Memoire" was held on June 8, 2002, at the Normandy-American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer, Normandy, France.

The members of the Association and their families commit in writing to carry out this responsibility of placing flowers, if possible on America's Memorial Day.

The grave the family puts the flowers on is the grave of a soldier who fought in the region and is determined by

the Association, which informs the family by giving it a card to that effect. The family who takes on this responsibility will pass the responsibility on to its children to ensure the perpetuation of the obligation. If the family is unable to continue to meet this obligation, the Association will try to find another family to continue the act of remembrance.

The 720 members of Les Fleurs de la Memoire put aside their differences, religious beliefs, and their origins and come to meditate in silence or in prayer. Then, in an affectionate gesture, they place flowers at the base of the soldiers' headstones. It is not uncommon to see grandparents, accompanied by their children and grandchildren, moving along the rows on the way to find "the" grave. In silence, at the foot of each white marble cross or star of David, the one who comes to meditate feels close to "his" or "her" soldier.



http://fleursdelamemoire.free.fr/static.php?op=enlocalis.txt&npds=1

#### **NORMANDY AMERICAN CEMETERY**

**Colleville sur Mer**: In the department of Calvados, in the overhang of OMAHA BEACH.

#### **BRITTANY AMERICAN CEMETERY**

**Saint-James**: In the department of La Manche. In the South of Avranches and Mont Saint-Michel.

## Normandy American Cemetery (Colleville sur Mer)

At the conclusion of the fighting in Normandy, there were more than ten American cemeteries on the battlefield, with hundreds of small burial grounds and isolated graves. The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) repatriated at least 60% of these burials back to the United States, and concentrated the remaining casualties into two main cemeteries - Normandy and Britanny.

The 172.5 acre cemetery at Colleville sur Mer is one of fourteen permanent American World War II cemeteries constructed on foreign soil. Free use as a permanent burial ground was granted by the government of France in perpetuity without charge or taxation.

The cemetery is rectangular in shape. Its main paths are laid out in the form of a Latin cross. Inside, beyond the visitor's building, filling most of the eastern end of the cemetery, is a beautiful semi-circular memorial with a memorial garden and Tablets of the Missing to its rear. Facing west towards the United States, the Memorial overlooks a large reflecting pool, two flagpoles from which the American flag flies daily, the grave areas and the chapel.



The Memorial consists of a semi circular colonnade with a loggia housing battle maps at each end. Centered in the open arc of the memorial, facing toward the graves is a 22 foot bronze statue, "The Spirit of American Youth Rising from the Waves". Either side of this are huge wall maps engraved in stone and embellished with colored enamels showing the campaign in the European Theatre of Operations (ETO). In the floor directly behind the statue are two curved garden plots.



"The Sprit of American Youth Rising from the Waves"

The limestone chapel in the graves area has an altar of black and gold marble with the inscription "I GIVE UNTO THEM ETERNAL LIFE AND THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH", engraved across its front.



The Garden of the Missing is located behind the memorial structure. Its semi-circular wall contains the names and particulars engraved on stone tablets of the 1,557 "Missing" in the region who gave their lives in the service of their country but whose remains have not been recovered or positively identified. An asterisk identifies those subsequently recovered or identified. Included among these are twin brothers. They came from 49 of the 50 States of the Union, the District of Columbia and Guam.

The graves area contains ten grave plots, five on each side of the main mall. Interred within them are the remains of 9,387 servicemen and women, 307 of which are Unknowns (whose remains could not be identified), three Medal of Honor recipients, and four women. In addition there are 33 pairs of brothers buried side by side. A Star of David marks the grave of those of the Jewish faith, a Latin cross all others. The precisely aligned headstones against the immaculately maintained emerald green lawn convey an unforgettable feeling of peace and serenity.

The cemetery is surrounded on the east, south and west by heavy masses of Austrian pine, inter-planted with laurel, cypress and holly oak. The lawn areas of the Garden of the Missing are bordered with beds of polyantha roses, while elm trees grow within them.

The Normandy American Cemetery at Colleville sur Mer was dedicated July 18, 1956. The architects for the cemetery's memorial features and landscape were from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and the bronze urns and bronze statue were designed in New Jersey.

The cemetery borders on the left flank of <u>Omaha Beach</u>, and overlooks the sector where the 1st Division landed on D-Day. There is a viewing platform with a useful map, and paths which take you down the slopes and onto the beach.

The Normandy American Cemetery is the largest American Cemetery from W.W.II, but not the largest in Europe: that is the Meuse-Argonne Cemetery from W.W.I with more than 14,000 burials.

Several famous personalities buried in the Normandy American Cemetery are:

- 1) Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. eldest son of President Theodore Roosevelt, and who fought in both World Wars. He earned numerous medals and died of a heart condition July 12,1944. He is buried beside his youngest brother, Quentin, who was killed July 14, 1918 as a pilot in W.W.I.
- 2) Sgt. Robert Niland, 505th PIR and 2nd Lt. Preston Niland, 22nd Infantry two brothers who inspired 'Saving Private Ryan'. Robert was killed on D-Day and Preston on June 7th. A third brother was thought killed in the Pacific, so the fourth was allowed to go home. However, the brother in the Pacific actually survived the war. It was their story which inspired the script writers for 'Saving Private Ryan'.

Normandy American Cemetery

Omaha Beach 14710 Colleville sur Mer – France

e-mail: Normandy.Cemetery@abmc-er.org

website: http://www.abmc.gov

http://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries/cemeteries/no.php

### Brittany American Cemetery (Saint-James)

The 28 acre cemetery at Saint James was constructed on the site of a temporary cemetery established shortly after the area was liberated on August 2, 1944 by the U.S. 8th Infantry Division. After the war, the remains of American military dead whose next of kin had elected interment on foreign soil were moved from temporary cemeteries to this, one of fourteen permanent sites. The use of the land was granted to the United States government in perpetuity by the people of France in recognition for the sacrifices in liberating Europe. Most of the interred died in the Breakout of Avranches, the fierce fighting in Saint-Lô and Mortain, and the liberation of Brittany.



The memorial chapel consists of an antechamber and tower, museum room and chapel. At the east end is a limestone sculpture group, "Youth Triumphing Over Evil".

Over the entrance door is another sculpture group consisting of an eagle, shield, stars, laurel and arrows representing the Great Seal of the United States. Below the sculpture is the inscription: "IN MEMORY OF THE VALOR AND THE SACRIFICES WHICH CONSECRATE THIS SOIL". The dedicatory inscription reads "1941-1945 IN PROUD REMEMBRANCE OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HER SONS AND IN HUMBLE TRIBUTE TO THEIR SACRIFICES THIS MEMORIAL HAS BEEN ERECTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA".

The chapel is at the east end of the museum, separated by a low granite divider and wrought iron gates. The face of the granite divider bears the inscription "O LORD SUPPORT US ALL THE DAY LONG UNTIL THE SHADOWS LENGTHEN AND OUR WORK IS DONE - THEN IN THY MERCY GRANT US A SAFE LODGING AND PEACE AT THE LAST".

The Tablets of the Missing are inscribed with the name, rank, organization, and state of 498 of our Missing. They gave their lives in the service of their country but their remains were either never recovered or if recovered, not positively identified. One, later recovered, is denoted by a bronze rosette. On the walls below the flagstaffs is the inscription "HERE ARE RECORDED THE NAMES OF AMERICANS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY AND WHO SLEEP IN UNKNOWN GRAVES 1941-1945".



The graves area contains the remains of 4,410 American military dead who lost their lives in the area of Northwestern France. They represent 43 percent of the burials originally made in the region. Their 4,408 headstones are set in 16 fan-shaped plots, curving from the central mall. These dead who gave their lives in our country's service came from every state in the Union, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, and Alaska, as well as Canada.

Ninety five of the headstones mark the graves of "Unknowns", whose remains could not be positively identified. Two of these graves contain the remains of two unknowns who could not be separated. Here also, in twenty instances, two brothers rest side by side.

At the far west end of the mall is a rectangular stone cenotaph (empty tomb). Carved upon it are a torch and laurel wreath and the words "PRO PATRIA 1941-1945".

The architect for the cemetery, its memorial, and the landscape architects were from Boston, Massachusetts. The sculpture groups were designed in Easton, Maryland.

The Brittany American Cemetery at Saint-James was dedicated July 20, 1956.

Brittany American Cemetery 50240 St James – France

e-mail: Brittany.Cemetery@abmc-er.org

website: http://www.abmc.gov

#### **Manila American Cemetery**

The Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in the Philippines occupies 152 acres. It is located within the boundaries of the former Fort William McKinley (later renamed Fort Bonifacio) and contains the largest number of graves of our military dead of World War II - a total of 17,202 - most of whom lost their lives in operations in New Guinea and the Philippines. The headstones are aligned in 11 plots forming a generally circular pattern, set among masses of a wide variety of tropical trees and shrubbery.

The chapel stands near the center of the cemetery. In front of it are two large hemicycles with large rooms at each end. Twenty-five mosaic maps in these rooms recall the achievements of the American Armed Forces in the Pacific, in China, India and Burma. On limestone piers within the hemicycles are inscribed the Tablets of the Missing containing 36,285 names. Rosettes mark the names of those since recovered and identified. Carved in the floors are the seals of the American states and its territories.



NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL Washington, D.C.

www.wwiimemorial.com

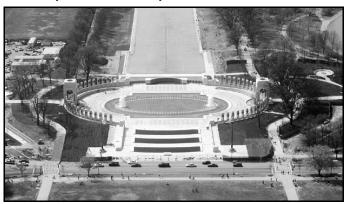
Nearly 59 years after the end of World War II, the National World War II Memorial was dedicated in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, May 29, 2004.

The dedication celebration spanned four days and was the culmination of an 11-year effort that started on May 25, 1993, when the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) was authorized by Congress to establish a World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The American Battle Monuments Commission is an independent, executive branch agency with 11 commissioners and a secretary appointed by the president. The ABMC administers, operates and maintains 24 permanent U.S. military cemeteries and 25 memorial structures in 15 countries around the world. (See Normandy American Cemetery – pg. 3)

The W.W.II Memorial honors the 16 million who served in the armed forces of the U.S., the more than 400,000 who died, and the millions who supported the war effort from home. The memorial is a monument to the spirit, sacrifice, and commitment of the American people.

President Clinton dedicated the Rainbow Pool site at the east end of the Reflecting Pool between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument during a formal ceremony on Veterans Day, 1995.



View from the Washington Monument

Construction began September 4, 2001. The memorial opened to the public on April 29, 2004, and was dedicated on Saturday, May 29, 2004. The memorial became part of the National Park System on November 1, 2004, when it was transferred from the American Battle Monuments Commission to the National Park Service <a href="https://www.nps.gov/nwwm">www.nps.gov/nwwm</a>, which now operates and maintains the memorial. The memorial is open to visitors 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The W.W.II Memorial was funded primarily by private contributions and received more than \$197 million in cash and pledges. This total includes \$16 million provided by the federal government. Donated and pledged funds were used to cover the total project costs of approximately \$182 million. Remaining funds are held in a Trust Fund to be used solely to benefit the World War II Memorial.

#### **World War II Registry**

The memory of America's World War II generation is preserved within the memorial and also through the World War II Registry of Remembrances, an individual listing of Americans who contributed to the war effort. Any U.S. citizen who helped win the war, whether a veteran or someone on the home front, is eligible for the Registry. Names in the Registry will be forever linked to the memorial's bronze and granite representations of their sacrifice and achievement.

The Registry combines four distinct databases that can be searched for names of those whose service and sacrifice helped win the Second World War. The Registry includes the names of Americans who are:

- 1) Buried in American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) overseas military cemeteries.
  - 2) Memorialized on ABMC Tablets of the Missing.
- 3) Listed on official War and Navy Department Killed in Service rosters now held by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).
- 4) Honored by public enrollment in the Registry of Remembrances.



#### **NEW BREMEN AREA'S W.W.II CASUALTIES**

[KIA=Killed In Action; DOW=Died Of Wounds; DNB=Died/Non-Battle]
[MIA=Missing In Action; POW=Prisoner Of War]

★Listed in W.W.II Memorial Registry

★10/18/1943 – David E. Koenig (KIA-lost at sea)

1/22/1944 (MIA) – Carl G. Wissman (POW-14 mos.)

- ★3/13/1944 Frederick J. Luebkeman, Jr. (KIA)
- ★5/19/1944 John H. Zahn, Jr. (KIA-lost at sea)
- ★6/20/1944 Gerald L. Shaffer (DOW-6/22/1944)
- ★7/4/1944 Donald H. Mohrman (DOW-7/7/1944)
- **★**7/7/1944 John C. Coss (KIA)
- ★7/11/1944 Richard L. McNett (KIA)
- ★7/27/1944 Warren K. Knipple (KIA)

10/5/1944 – Dorothy Wittenbrink (DNB-Cadet Nurse)

11/5/1944 (MIA) – William J. Koenig (POW)

- ★12/3/1944 Vernon H. Dickman (DNB)
- **★**12/? /1944 William Thieman (DOW-12/14/1944)

3/13/1945 - Richard Kettler (Wounded)

3/15/1945 - E.J. Halsema (POW-killed by U.S. bombing)

★5/26/1945 – George W. Gensler, Jr. (DNB)

#### 2nd Lieut. David E. Koenig (KIA)

David Koenig, 23, was the first New Bremen serviceman to be reported "Missing In Action" on October 18, 1943 near Cape Orford, New Britain in the South Pacific. He was a B-25 bomber pilot in the U.S. Army Air Force and was returning from a bombing mission when the plane was attacked by 40-50 Jap Zeros. After an hour-long battle, the bomber was forced to land on the water 10 miles from shore. The navigator and the gunner survived and swam ashore. David was presumed to be "lost at sea". A memorial service was held at Zion's Church on April 30, 1947 and a memorial monument was placed at German Protestant Cemetery by the family. He is also listed on the ABMC's "Tablets of the Missing" in the Manila American Cemetery at Fort Bonifacio, Manila, Philippines.

#### PFC Carl G. (Pete) Wissman (POW- released)

Carl Wissman, 19, of Lock Two, was the second to be reported Missing In Action on January 22, 1944 near Italy. In April, his fiancé and his mother both received postcards from Carl stating that he was a German Prisoner Of War. He spent 14 months in Stalag B in northwestern Germany and spent his time working on a 700-acre prison farm. He was liberated by American forces on April 13, 1945. He was honorably discharged on November 29, 1945.

#### Pvt. Frederick J. Luebkeman (KIA)

Frederick Luebkeman, 21, lost his life at the Anzio Beachhead in Italy on March 13, 1944. A memorial service was held for him in St. Paul Church in New Bremen on April 23, 1944. His remains were returned to New Bremen on August 12, 1948 and re-interred in German Protestant Cemetery on August 14th.

#### 2nd Lieut. John H. Zahn, Jr. (KIA)

John Zahn was reported as Missing In Action on May 19, 1944. On August 1st, his family was notified that he had been Killed in Action over Germany while serving as navigator on the Flying Fortress, "That's All, Brother". John was the second N.B. serviceman to be lost at sea.

#### Pvt. Gerald L. Shaffer (DOW)

Gerald Shaffer, 19, of Lock Two, was wounded in action on June 20, 1944 during the invasion of Normandy Beach in France and died of his wounds on June 22nd. He is buried in the ABMC's Normandy American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer, France in Plot F, Row 5, Grave 19. (see page 2, 9, 10)

#### Pvt. Donald H. Mohrman (DOW)

Donald Mohrman, 19, was seriously wounded in action in LeSaflons, France on July 4, 1944 and died of his wounds on July 7th. His remains were later returned to New Bremen and re-interred in German Protestant Cemetery on June 10, 1948.

#### Sgt. John C. Coss (KIA)

John Coss was Killed in Action in the Battle of Saint-Lo in France on July 7, 1944 and is also buried in the ABMC's Normandy American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer, France in Plot D, Row 20, Grave 24. The Coss family lived in New Bremen in the former Julius Boesel

"mansion" north of town in the 1930s until about 1943-1944. John was the youngest of four children. His brother, Frank, and two sisters, Raeanna and Betty Jane, graduated from New Bremen High School in 1932, 1934, 1937. Frank died in 1967 as a result of injuries and disease contracted in the jungles of the South Pacific during W.W.II.

#### Pvt. Richard L. McNett (KIA)

Richard McNett, 19, was Killed In Action during the invasion of France on July 11, 1944. He belonged to the Medical Detachment of the 22nd Infantry and was the third McNett son to be serving his country. His two older brothers were Lieut. Lowell McNett at Atlanta Army Air Base in Atlanta, Georgia and Pvt. Atmer McNett at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana.

#### Pvt. Warren K. Knipple (KIA)

Warren Knipple, 22, was Killed In Action at St. Jean de Baisants, France on July 27, 1944. He was in the Chemical Warfare Division and was in a forward observation party during an attack when telephone connections with the rear element of the unit were severed. He repeatedly tried to repair the lines, but repeatedly they were rendered useless by the enemy. Finally, radio communications were established and Pvt. Knipple assumed the job of radio operator. While he was performing this mission, he was killed by an enemy mortar shell. His remains were later returned to New Bremen and re-interred in German Protestant Cemetery on February 8, 1948.

#### **Dorothy Wittenbrink (DNB-Cadet Nurse)**

Dorothy Wittenbrink, 19, graduated from New Bremen High School in May 1943 and on September 1st, she entered Miami Valley Hospital School for Nurses at Dayton as a Cadet Nurse. She received her cap on January 8, 1944. In March, she became ill with cancer and died at her home on October 8, 1944, cutting short a budding career.

#### The Cadet Nurse Corps 1943-48



In 1943, a shortage of nurses, exacerbated by World War II, prompted the Government to establish the Cadet Nurse Corps (originally called the Victory Nurse Corps) within the Public Health Service.

Women qualified if they were 17-35 years old, had graduated from high school, had earned good grades, and were in good health. They were expected to graduate in 34 months and to provide essential nursing services for the duration of the war, either

in the military or in civilian life.

At the end of the war, it was decided to terminate the Cadet Nurse Corps program. October 15, 1945, was the final date for new admissions, and the last Cadets were graduated in 1948.

#### Lieut. William J. Koenig (POW)

William Koenig, 21, son of Mr. & Mrs. Fred E. Koenig of St. Marys, was shot down over Holland on November 5, 1944. He lived with the underground for four months before the German Gestapo found him and put him into a civilian prison in France. After six weeks in the prison, the Germans discovered he was an American flier and sent him on to Stalag Luft III. He was home to visit his parents in September 1945 after his release from prison.

#### Staff Sgt. Vernon H. Dickman (DNB)

Vernon Dickman, 23, was a member of the ground crew at the Army Air Base at Muroc, California. He was killed when a jet motor being tested came loose from the testing block and struck him full force, causing instant death. He was buried December 9, 1944 in the Dickman family plot at German Protestant Cemetery.

#### PFC William Thieman (DOW)

William Thieman, 22, was wounded in Germany and died later in Belgium on December 14, 1944. He was buried there in Henri Chappel Cemetery. His remains were returned to New Bremen and re-interred in German Protestant Cemetery on December 14, 1947 with a graveside military funeral. American Legion members from New Bremen and Minster and the Minster school band accompanied the cortege to the cemetery. Also, a three formation cortege of army planes criss-crossed over the town and the cemetery while the services were in progress. At the proper time, flowers were dropped from a low altitude upon his casket. The fliers were Tom Kuenning of New Bremen, John Smith of Minster and Jim Vogelsang of Fort Loramie, all servicemen and friends of Mr. Thieman.

#### **PFC Richard Kettler (Wounded)**

Richard Kettler, 27, of Lock Two, was severely wounded March 13, 1945, when he stepped on a "shoe" mine in Italy and lost his left foot and also injured his right foot and his hands. He had been in the Army since March of 1942 and was sent overseas in November 1942. His parents were Mr. & Mrs. August Kettler.

#### 2nd Lieut. George W. Gensler, Jr. (DNB)

George Gensler, 21, was inducted into the Army Air Corps November 27, 1942. On November 22, 1944, he was sent overseas and served in the China-Burma-India theatre as the first pilot of a C-47 troop carrier until he died on May 26, 1945 as a result of injuries he received when his parachute didn't open as he was bailing out of his crippled plane. He was buried near Kunming, China with four other Americans. His remains were returned to New Bremen on February 8, 1949 and re-interred in German Protestant Cemetery on February 12, 1949.

#### **Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day)**

was May 7 and May 8, 1945, the dates when the World War II Allies formally accepted the unconditional surrender of the armed forces of Nazi Germany and the end of Adolf Hitler's Third Reich. On April 30, Hitler committed suicide during the Battle of Berlin, and so the surrender of Germany was authorized by his replacement, President of Germany Karl Dönitz. The act of military surrender was signed on May 7 in Reims, France, and May 8 in Berlin, Germany.

#### E.J. (Jay) Halsema (POW-killed by U.S. bombs)

Eusebius (Latin name for James) Julius Halsema, 62, was born in New Bremen and was a brother of Geciena and Elizabeth Halsema, long-time N.B. Telephone Co. operators above the old Post Office at Main and Monroe Streets, and John Halsema, one time principal of New Bremen High School. The Halsema family lived in the two-story brick house west of the Home Furniture Store.

After graduating from New Bremen High School in 1899, "Jay" went to Ohio State University and graduated from there as a civil engineer in 1907. For a short time, he was engaged in government engineering on the west coast and in Yellowstone National Park, and in October 1908, he went to the Philippines where he became an American engineer for the Philippine government's Bureau of Public Works. He served with the U.S. Army in 1918. From 1920-1937, he served as Mayor of the city and province of Baguio.

When the Japanese took over the Philippines on December 27, 1941, the Halsema family – Jay, his wife (the former Marie Boesel of New Bremen, daughter of Julius Boesel), and their two children, James and Betty and Betty's husband (Rupert Foley), were taken civilian prisoners and were kept interned for over three years. In 1943, Jay and Marie were allowed to live outside the internment camp under constant surveillance, but James, Rupert and Betty (and their son, Michael, who was born inside the camp in June 1942) were kept behind barbed wire in a Manila prison until they were liberated on February 1, 1945, when the Americans recaptured the islands.

The Japanese tenaciously held on to Baguio, however, and it became necessary for the U.S. to bomb the district. In mid-March, remaining Americans gathered at Notre Dame Hospital due to the danger of the bombing and the Japanese occupation of their homes. On the morning of March 15th, the bombers came over earlier than usual. Most people went to the air-raid shelter, but Jay Halsema, recovering from a bout of dysentery, preferred to stay in the hospital in a concrete-walled room next to the doctor's office.

He was killed when several bombs hit the hospital. His body was found crushed under the concrete walls. All those who were killed were buried that same day near the grotto at the back of the hospital. Marie was rescued on April 27, 1945, when Baguio was freed by units of the 37th Division of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

Both E.J. Halsema and his wife, Marie, are now buried in Baguio, which had been their home for over 30 years.

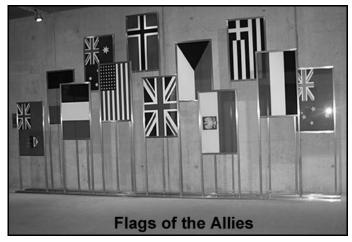
Check out this Halsema website to read more about this family. http://www.halsema.org/people/eusebiusjuliushalsema/history.html

## Victory over Japan Day (V-J Day aka Victory in the Pacific Day (V-P Day)

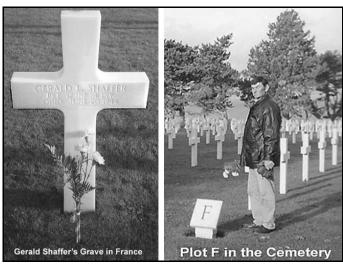
is the day on which the surrender of Japan occurred. The term has been applied to both the day on which the initial announcement of Japan's surrender was made (August 15, 1945) as well as the date of the formal surrender (September 2, 1945).



Aerial view of Normandy Cemetery

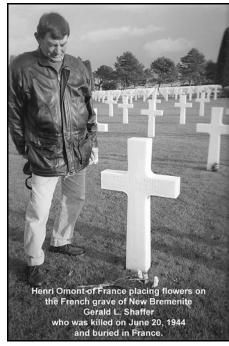














#### New Bremen Men in United States Armed Service – August 15, 1942

[from "The Evening Leader" – 8/18/1942]

Eight families (Ahlers, Bienz, Dammeyer, Kettler, Rupert, Schwartz, Tontrup, Waterman) had 2 sons in the service.

One family (Ernst & Lucinda Topp family) had 3 sons in the service of their country. In 1943, a son-in-law, Gerald Shaffer, was also inducted. He was wounded on June 20, 1944 and died on June 22nd (see pages 2 & 7).

"Good to view Normandy info videos. One briefly mentioned Saint Lo. This is shortly after breakthrough from Omaha beach - some 3-4 days. Brother Izzy (Israel) was hit by shrapnel from German "88" artillery and flown back to England for extensive facial & side surgery - some 5-6 months hospital stay. Ironically he met Harold (Sparky") Kettler from the great hamlet of LOCK TWO! I hadn't left for the Navy yet and remember Mom getting 3 "regret to inform you" telegrams within a 24 hour period, informing us of Izzy & Gerald's injuries (June 20th), then the one of Gerald's death (June 22nd). Our 'cousin', Donald Mohrman, died shortly after (July 7, 1944) from injuries he received on July 4th. These were followed by various notices about so many other New Bremen and Lock Two guys, re: MIA, Prisoner of War, etc." [Lester Topp]

Axe, Charles	Fischbach, Orville	Kuenning, Thomas E.	Schwartz, Lawrence
Ahlers, Donald	Forwerck, Charles	Kuhlhorst, Leroy W.	Schwartz, Louis
Ahlers, Richard	Froning, Paul	Landwehr, Elton	Selby, Isaac W.
Bendure, Herbert	Greber, Arlen	Landwehr, Louis	Simon, Richard
Bessel, Albert	Griner, Howard	Ley, Chester	Sunderman, James F.
Bienz, John S.	Heil, Arthur	Lietz, Paul August	Tangeman, Harold
Bienz, Robert	Henke, Carl	Luelleman, Carl	Tontrup, Louis Elmer
Block, Karl	Howell, Dillon J.	McNett, Lowell	Tontrup, Richard H.
Boesel, Jacob W.	Huckeriede, Frederick	Moeller, John Thomas	Topp, Frank
Brose, Milton G.	Isenberger, Robert	Moeller, Kenneth	Topp, Israel
Busse, Roger	Jung, Milton	Olin, Harold G.	Topp, Warren
Coss, Frank	Kettler, Frederick Wiliiam	Pape, Carl W., Jr.	Waterman, Eudine
Dammeyer, Norman	Kettler, Richard	Quellhorst, Chester J.	Waterman, Robert
Dammeyer, Richard	Kettler, Howard G.	Roediger, Vernon C.	Waterman, James
Duncan, Dale Robert	Kettler, Leroy	Roettger, Lowell	Weinberg, Howard
Elking, Louis M.	Klosterman, Walter	Rupert, Orval D.	Wenning, Norbert John
Fark, Kenneth	Koenig, David E.	Rupert, Richard E.	Wint, Paul
Fark, Vernon	Kuck, Homer	Schneider, Victor	Wissman, Richard G.
Fischbach, Merlin	Kuck,William H.	Schrolucke, Carl A.	

[To read more World War II stories, get Katy Gilbert's book "A Military Memoir of World War II]

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Yarns for Army and Navy Blankets & Knitted Outerwear

#### The Streine Tool & Manufacturing Co.

Shearing Equipment for Planes, Tanks, Landing Mats, Etc.

[New Bremen Sun – 4/13/1944]

## ROSTER OF VETERANS - MAY 31,1937

#### SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR VETERAN

Eayre R. Haines

#### WORLD WAR I VETERANS American Legion Post No. 241 - New Bremen

#### **GOLD STAR MEMBERS**

Leo J. Gast Curt Ihle Fred Klute Herman H. Soelman

#### **HONORARY MEMBERS**

Fred Dorsten Homer C. Isern Edward Rempe Ferdinand Wiehe

#### **LIVING W.W.I VETERANS - MAY 31,1937**

Walter Althoff
Albert Bambauer
Alfred Barth
D. R. Bendure
Henry Borgeding
M.H. Briggs
Irvin Dammeyer
William Donnerberg
Edward F. Erhardt
Harvey Eversman
Leo Greber
Sylvan Griner
Franklin Grothaus
Walter W. Grothaus
Edward Harjehausen

Harvey Hegemier Ervin Heinfeld Harvey Heinfeld Leander Heitkamp Elwin Hespe Francis Hickman William Huenke Hugo F. Kettler Mortimer Klanke Herbert Klute Raymond Knipple Irwin Koeper Ivan Koeper Reinhart W. Kuck S. Hunter Kuenzel

Roscoe Lanfersieck Herman (Bud) Laut Melville H. J. Laut Herman W. Ludwig Rudolph May Walter C. May Raymond Moeller Frank Mueller Edward Nedderman Leo Nedderman Carl Pape, Sr. Ward Pape Lewis Poppe Harry Quellhorst William H. Rabe Budd Rinehart
Frank Ruedebusch
Gustave Ruedebusch
Omer Schroeder
Louis Schulze
Earl Speckman
John Stueve
Leo F. Sunderman
Raymond C. Tomhafe
Fred Vogelsang
Henry Vomholt
Leonard Waterman
Edward B. Wellman
Fred Wills (Ferd Will?)
Alfred Wint







#### OUR SOLDIER, SAILOR AND MARINE DEAD

IN MEMORIAM - MAY 31,1937

#### Company C, 37th O.V.I.

Abeler, Wm.: steamer Sultana explosion/Mississippi river.

Angelbrock, August: explosion on Mississippi river.

Bambauer, Chas.: killed at Vicksburg, Miss. Bambauer, Jacob: killed at Vicksburg, Miss. Behm, Chas.: killed at Princeton. W.Va.

Behm, John: killed at Logan Courthouse, W.Va. Bergmeier, Frank: killed at Vicksburg, Miss.

Boetcher, August: Vicksburg, Miss. Cook, Chas.: killed at Vicksburg. Dicke, Wm.: killed at Vicksburg. Klatte, Henry: Milligan Bend, La. Klatte, Herman: Milligan Bend, La. Luedeke, Wm.: Missionary Ridge, Tenn.

May, Henry: Princeton, W.Va. May, Jacob: Vicksburg, Miss.

Seidenberg, Henry: Princeton. W.Va.

Siemer, Fred: Sultana explosion on Mississippi river. Sundmacher, Henry: at Missionary Ridge, Tenn. Wiedeman, Wm.: Kenesaw Mountain, Tenn.

#### KNOWN GRAVES

Barienbrock, Herman: died at Robinson, III.

Nebel, August: died at Cincinnati. Nieter, August: died at Dayton. Friederich, Anton: Minster, O. Coseman, Herman: Minster, O. Kettler, Henry: Piqua. O. Schuette, John: Lockington. Schindler, Barney: Indiana. Schindler, Stephen: Indiana. Schulenberg, J. H.: St. Marys.

Tangeman, Bernhardt: Minster, O.

Buhr, Fred: died at Wapakoneta.

Conradi. Chas. F.: 1st U. S. Cav., R.A., California.

#### **BURIED IN VILLAGE (St. Paul Church) CEMETERY**

Schucraft, William

Vick, William: Co. C, 37th O.V.I. Staas, Frank: Co. C, 37th O.V.I.

#### **BURIED IN PLANK ROAD CEMETERY**

Goll, Philip: Co. C, 37th O.V.I. Hilgeman, Fred: Co. C, 37th O.V.I. Steinebrey, Otto: Spanish-American War



#### **BURIED IN GERMAN PROTESTANT CEMETERY** Company C, 37th O.V.I.

Adam, George Kohlhorst, Wm. Boesel, Charles Meyer, Henry Buchholz, John Meyer, Rudolph Dickman, Fred Roettger, Christ Eisenhut, Wm. Roettger, H. F. Finke, Henry Schaefer, Henry Frey, Jacob Schulenberg, Benj. Gress, Philip Schulenberg, Wm. Henke, Christian Tellman, Fred Hoewischer, Wm. Thieman, Wm. Knost, George Vornholt, Wm.

Behm, Fred: Co. I, 1st O. Cav. Burmeister, George: Co. H., O.V.I. Gibson, Theo.: Co. E., 67th O.V.I. Gille, Henry: Co. E., 58th O.V.I. Hunter, S.H.: Co. C., 14th III. I. Jueneman, John: 4th O. Cav. Kleboeker, Wm.: Co. F, 8th Ind. Cav. Moeller, Herman: 196th O.V.I. Pape, Wm.: Co. F., 37th O.V.I. Schulenberg, Fred: Co. E, 1st O. Cav. Tschudy, Wm.: Co. E, 28th O.V.I. Zwez, Julius: Co. E., 68th N.Y.I.

#### **Mexican War**

Hering, Ernst: Co. M, 1st O.L.A. Keegan, Mike Hermsmeyer, Gottlieb: 4th O.V.I. Metz, Casper

#### Spanish-American War

Grundisch, Emanuel Tomhafe, William

#### **BURIED IN WILLOW GROVE CEMETERY** Company C, 37th O.V.I.

Aue, Christ Schulte, William Blase, John Stark, Fred Schroeder, D. Wagner, Peter Dreyer, Henry: Co. A, 52nd O.V.I. Fenneman, Henry: Co. K., 29 O.V.I. Rump, J.H.: Co. F., 37th OVI. Speckman, Louis: Co. H, 106 O.V.I. Tecklenberg, Henry: Co. D, 24 Illinois Waterman, J. W., Co. H, 37th O.V.I. Schaefer, William: Mexican War Hering, Henry: Spanish-American War

#### **WORLD WAR VETERANS (W.W.I)**

Ihle, Curt: Hdq. Co., 10th U.S.I., St. Augustine Cemetery Silk, Leo: buried at St. Marys.

Soelman, Herman Henry: 58th Co., 15th Bat., 119th D.B., buried in Schwaberow cemetery.

#### **German Protestant Cemetery**

Klute, Fred: Bat. E, 332 Reg. Rempe, Edward: 158 D.B. Isern, Homer C.: Co. A, 308th Eng.

Cummings, Chas. A. (unmarked?)

Quellhorst, Eric D.: U.S.M.C., Managua, Nicaragua

Wiehe, Ferdinand: Medical Corps, RA (moved to Washington, D.C. in 1957)

#### DEATHS OF CHILDREN IN EARLY NEW BREMEN

[by Gen Conradi]

I have been helping Lucille Francis make a listing of the persons who were buried in each of the early cemeteries in New Bremen. It is a tedious job and entails going through the card files at the Library and recording the information that is on each card. This information will be available on-line for genealogists or for those persons interested in knowing more about their ancestors.

One of the things that struck me as I worked on these files was the number of children that died during those early years in New Bremen. A few of the babies were stillborn; some were a few days or a few weeks old; many were of school age. The very young ones were often not named. Church records show that babies were usually baptized about a month after they were born, thus if they died before this time they were not named.

The young children had a variety of diagnoses. One diagnosis that appeared frequently was "Summer Complaint". In my studies and nursing career I had never heard this diagnosis. After research I learned that Summer Complaint was an acute condition of diarrhea in infants and children to three years of age that occurred during the hot summer months. It was caused by bacterial contamination of food associated with poor hygiene. It was also known as cholera infantum.

As I continued to look at the cards and diagnoses I noticed that most of the diagnoses in the deaths of the children were linked to infectious disease. I frequently saw the diagnoses of typhoid fever, dysentery, and cholera which were all related to contaminated drinking water. Feces and vomitus of infected persons would contaminate the dug wells or streams or other sources of drinking water and infect the family.

Whooping cough and diphtheria claimed many young lives but is now rarely seen because of the effective immunizations given to infants. Today we treat streptococal infections such as scarlet fever and tonsillitis with antibiotics so that we rarely see quinsy (extensive form of tonsillitis) or other severe diseases that come from this infection such as rheumatic fever, Sydenham's chorea (St. Vitus dance) or kidney damage.

Colds and croup continue to plague us but respond to treatment and rarely claim lives as they did in those early years. Bacterial meningitis remains a threat to our young adults but also can be treated. Measles, a viral illness, has been tamed with effective immunization of our children. With today's hygiene practices we rarely see typhus, a rickettsial disease spread by the body louse, or worm fever or worm fits caused by internal parasites. Malaria, spread by the mosquito, remains a threat in some parts of the world.

The idea of germs was not present in the early years of New Bremen or any place else in the world. In 1847 Ignaz Semmelweis, a doctor in Vienna, noticed that women developed fewer cases of puerperal fever (childbed fever) after childbirth if the physicians washed their hands prior to the delivery. He was laughed at by his colleagues who did not believe in the germ theory. In 1854 John Snow traced a cholera outbreak to a central

water supply in London and this was the first connection that cholera might come from contaminated drinking water. 150,000 Americans died of cholera between 1832 and 1849.

A cholera outbreak in New Bremen in 1849 claimed many lives and probably arrived on the canal boats. Body wastes were dumped into the canal from one side of the canal boat and drinking water was dipped from the other side. The ingested cholera organism caused debilitating diarrhea and dehydration and death could occur in less than twelve hours. The entire town of Amsterdam, on the canal between New Bremen and Minster, was wiped out that year. St. Paul Church in New Bremen recorded 109 deaths in a two month period. People could not understand why all the deaths were occurring.

The scientists worked diligently in the late 1800s to identify the causes of illness and infection. The Pasteur Institute was opened in 1888 and tried to convince surgeons that dirty hands and dirty instruments spread germs. Lister developed antiseptics to prevent wound infection in surgery. Nevertheless the opposition to the germ theory continued for many years among the physicians in spite of the growing body of evidence that germs were real. Doctors had limited formal education in those early years. There was little means to keep up with new trends and many openly resisted new ideas.

Sometimes the cause of death among the children was trauma or accidents such as burns, falls and drowning. One three year old child drowned in a cistern. Sometimes the cause of death was a symptom and did not name the cause of death. Examples of this were weakness, fever, brain inflammation, teething, throat trouble, vomiting, or breathing problems.

The parents of these young children must have been a hearty breed and determined in their quest for a new life. They left a well ordered life in Germany and traveled to a wilderness bringing their young children with them. Some of the young children did not survive the trip. Death was a constant companion to these early families and a reminder that life was difficult. My great-great grandfather brought his wife and seven children from Germany to New Bremen in 1847. He died of malaria one month after arriving and two of his children died of cholera in 1849. My grandmother was seven years old in 1899 when her mother died in childbirth due to infection. My grandfather, who was quite musical, never sang again after his eight month old daughter died of whooping cough in 1908.

The card files in the Library record the deaths of our ancestors and their children but they do not reflect the far reaching effects upon the families. When the father died, the widow had to find a new way to support herself and her children. The widower had to find childcare for his newborn baby and other children when their mother died. The parents experienced lost dreams and hopes when children died. I feel sad when I read the names and causes of death of the children but I know how important each child was to their parents. Let us not forget them.

For more information about the New Bremen cholera outbreak in 1849, visit <a href="https://www.newbremenhistory.org">www.newbremenhistory.org</a>

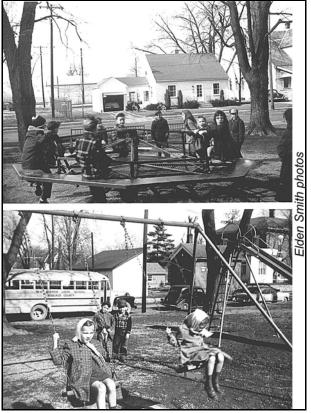
"Cholera and Amsterdam"
St. Paul Church Cholera Deaths (.pdf)

#### **MEMORIES OF THE 1950s**

THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

[by Gen Conradi]

I grew up in the 200 block of South Franklin Street, in one of the oldest houses in New Bremen. It was a very short walk to the grade school, just in the next block. The school bell rang each morning to call the children to school. I remember being allowed to ring the bell when I was in the sixth grade and I can still feel that rope in my hands as I carried out that task. I also remember a trip to the attic of the school with Emily (Grothaus) Reisner and "Squire" Luedeke to see the bell and bell tower. What I remember most was Mr. Luedeke telling us about the owl that lived there and seeing the pellets that had been regurgitated by the owl. Today I can google owl pellets and learn a great deal about owls, but in the 1950s there were no computers and few televisions, so our method of learning was by reading or experience.



We called the area surrounding the school "the school grounds" and this was a favorite place to play. The tall cottonwood trees sheltered the swings, slides, and merrygo-round on the west and north side of the school. The fire escapes and the cellar doors were supposedly off limits, thus a favorite place to play. There was some grass near the city sidewalks but the play area was covered with gravel. We played tag and a game which required the boys to catch the girls. We spent a lot of time running and jumping on the gravel. The girls were more prone to scraped knees because of their clothing. Girls had to wear dresses or skirts so there was little protection for the knees. I also remember running headon into Denny Wint when I was in the third grade. Dr. Fledderjohann said my nose was broken and he was able to make that diagnosis without an x-ray or subsequent treatment.

There were two baseball diamonds and a basketball court to the south of the school. The two diamonds were designated for boys or girls. The boy's diamond had a fence backdrop and a real home plate. The girls' lot did not have those features. During school hours the boys played on the boys' lot and the girls played on the girls' lot. After school hours it was first come, first served, but the boys always seemed to have priority. Perhaps that was because I had an older brother and he ruled.

We often played a kind of game called Scrub baseball after school hours. This game was played when there were not enough players to form teams. Scrub baseball incorporated all the aspects of baseball with batting, fielding and running bases but was played without teams. The players numbered off with the one being the batter, two the pitcher, three first base, four second base, five third base and six or higher in the field. When the batter was out he or she took the last field position and everyone moved up a spot. Rules for the game had to be negotiated at the beginning of each game because there were few formal rules.

Kathy (Schmieder) Nedderman and Barbara (Cashdollar) Ziegenbusch lived near the school in the 100 block of South Franklin. The baseball diamonds were almost in Barb's backyard. We spent many hours there throwing softballs, batting, and negotiating rules for our games.

Our interest in baseball or softball was greatly influenced by Lloyd "Pete" Blanke, the fifth grade teacher. He was interested in sports and formed a girls' team when we were in the fifth and sixth grades and organized a trip to Kettlersville each year for a game. This was the only time that I played on a school team. Girls' sports in the school were nonexistent in the 1950s. We had physical education classes, but there was little physical activity. We played a strange type of basketball for girls that then used only half court and no ball dribbling. I quess we were just supposed to watch the boys play.

Our classrooms in the school building had high ceilings and large windows on two sides of each room. I remember that one year all the desks were placed on runners to facilitate the janitors' job when he cleaned the floors. The slate blackboards were on the two walls opposite the windows. Students were selected to wash the blackboards and clean the erasers. I do not have any memories of the lunchroom because I went home for lunch. Only the children who lived far from the school were allowed to eat in the lunchroom. Our music room was in the basement.

I spent six years in this building - grades one through six. We did not have a kindergarten then. In the 7th grade we were moved to the high school building on South Walnut Street and changed rooms for classes. In 1956, when we were in the 8th grade, we moved into the new elementary extension that opened there that year.

I have happy memories of my elementary school years but I am sure there are things I do not remember. I would love to hear what you remember about your school days so that we can share the memories.

## From the Mailbox

Hi: 1/24/2009

My mother, Jane C. (Block) Watson, passed away December 20, 2008. Because of her large family growing up in New Bremen and my lifelong ties to the town, my interests in my heritage, as well as the history of New Bremen, I wish to become a Lifetime Member of the New Bremen Historic Association.

Also, I am including a memorial gift for my mother. Mom had a happy childhood in New Bremen and we always came to town a couple of times a year, with Mother visiting relatives in the area and enjoying this beautiful community.

I look forward to learning more about my roots and the history of New Bremen. David G. Watson – Dayton, Ohio

---♦□♦♦♦□♦---

To Genevieve Conradi:

1/24/2009

I thoroughly enjoyed your "Hoboes in New Bremen" article in the January 2009 issue of *The Towpath*. It brought back my very early childhood and a story my Mother often told about me. I vaguely remember the event too.

We lived a block east of the railroad track. I believe it was the Nickel Plate that came through daily. The hoboes would walk down the street toward town, pass our house, and be searching for a meal or some newspapers for a bed on the hard floors of the train cars. My Dad often gave them papers when they came into Schulenberg's Store. I must have been about 5 years old (1935), and was sitting on the steps just after an early supper one summer Saturday when a hobo stopped. He asked if I thought perhaps my Mother might have something for him to eat. I said I didn't think so, because we already had supper, but I pointed to the Gilberg house across the street, and I said that they ate later and was sure he could get supper there. I pointed to their back kitchen door.

Mother heard me through the screen door and quickly called Pauline Gilberg to tell her what I had said. Then she came out on the porch and told me that was not a good thing to do - the Gilbergs had a big family and times were hard. I'm sure the outcome was that Pauline fed him, because she was a generous woman. So was my Mother - at a later time she fed a hobo she found to be so pleasant but very depressed. She called Mrs. Quist whose husband was about the man's size and while he waited, the two women put together a suit, tie and shirt for the man, so he could look proper when applying for a job. About six months later both women received a thank-you from the man - he had found a job.

Trying times and tender touches, all bound together.

Susan Schulenberg Rabe – Geneseo, NY

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#### **NEW MEMBERS THIS PERIOD (THRU 3/31/09)**

[\Spousal Memberships @ \$7.00 or \$70.00/LM]

1/21/2009	Busse, Nancy	(Lampert) -	Minster, Ohio
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1/26/2009 Eckert, Karen (Dabbelt) - New Bremen

1/26/2009 Eiting, Tim (LM) - New Bremen

1/17/2009 Fark, Brian - Trenton, Illinois

2/3/2009 Garrett, Gary - Plano, Texas

3/13/2009 Greber, Mary L. - Tappahannock, Virginia

1/13/2009 Kelch, Charlene (Schroer) - Eaton, Ohio

1/23/2009 Kuenning, John (LM) - St. Petersburg, Florida

1/23/2009 Kuenning, Matthew (LM) - Champaign, Illinois

2/2/2009 Nagel, Roberta (Lyday) - Germantown, Ohio (TR)

1/26/2009 Phlipot, Mary (Streacker) - New Bremen

1/30/2009 Rabe, Susan (Schulenberg) - Geneseo, New York

2/10/2009 Schulenberg, Ruth - Nokomis, Florida

3/13/2009 Sollmann, ^Virginia (Althoff) - Bradford, Ohio

1/17/2009 Steiner, Nancy - Lima, Ohio

1/24/2009 Watson, David G. (LM) - Dayton, Ohio

1/23/2009 Wetzler, Nancy (Kuenning) (LM)-Bainbridge Island, WA

#### ADDITIONS TO LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

2/25/2009 Conradi, Diane

2/2/2009 Eisenhardt, Ann (Howell)

1/26/2009 Eiting, Tim (new)

2/2/2009 Gehle, Don

2/2/2009 Gehle, Roberta<sup>^</sup> (Rempe)

2/25/2009 Hay, James M.

1/23/2009 Kuenning, John (new)

1/23/2009 Kuenning, Matthew (new)

1/9/2009 Schroer, Steven

1/21/2009 Shroyer, Danny

2/25/2009 Sudman, Kenneth

1/24/2009 Watson, David G. (new)

1/23/2009 Wetzler, Nancy (Kuenning) (new)

#### **MEMBER DEATHS THIS PERIOD**

1/17/2009 Dicke, Lodema (Egbert/Knost)(LM)(died 1/17/09)

3/13/2009 Greber, William (d.1/26/09)

2/9/2009 Koeper, Dorothy (Dicke) (died 2/9/09)

2/2/2009 Nagel, Charles (died 2/2/09)

12/24/2008 Phlipot, Edwin (died 12/24/08)

2/25/2009 Shelby, Wilma (CM) (died 2/25/09)

1/24/2009 Watson, Jane (Block) (died 12/20/08)

3/20/2009 Wint, Mary (McCluer)(LM) (died 3/20/09)

#### MEMORIAL / HONORARY DONATIONS

The following donations have been received this period:

In memory of Jane C. (Block) Watson by David G. Watson

In memory of Lloyd Laut

by Betsy (Garmhausen) Hunter

In memory of Valentin Rabe by Susan (Schulenberg) Rabe

In memory of Catherine Grilliot by Jerry & Sue Maxson

In memory of William Greber

by Mary L. Greber

#### **AUGLAIZE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS**

On <u>Sunday, April 19, 2009</u>, from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m, the Auglaize County Historical Society will present a tour entitled "The Sacred Art and Architecture of Southwest Auglaize County". The event is free and open to the public. Participating churches include:

St. Augustine Catholic Church, Minster

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Egypt

Church of the Holy Redeemer, New Bremen

St. Paul United Church of Christ, New Bremen

St. Peter's Church. New Bremen

Olive Branch United Methodist Church, Shinbone United Methodist Church of New Knoxville

First United Church of Christ, New Knoxville (3-4 pm) [4:00 p.m: organ concert by Nicholas Bowden]

Tourgoers may begin at any of the participating churches, where they will receive a free booklet with information about the congregations and a listing of all tour stops. For more information, call the Auglaize County Historical Society, 419-738-9328.



On <u>Tuesday</u>, <u>April 21</u>, <u>2009</u>, at 7:00 p.m., the Auglaize County Historical Society will host a special workshop entitled "Caring for Collections" at the Parish Life Center of St. Joseph Catholic Church located at the corner of Pearl & Blackhoof streets in Wapakoneta. The program will be presented by Virginia Weygandt, Director of Collections for the Clark County Historical Society.

"Caring for Collections" will address issues that face many historical societies today - how to collect, preserve, and share historic artifacts so that they can continue to tell the stories of the places from which they came. The presentation is ideal for staff, trustees, and volunteers of local and regional historical societies.

Admission is free, but advanced registration is suggested. For more information, call the Auglaize County Historical Society, 419-738-9328.

# N.B.H.A. ANNUAL COMMUNITY PICNIC

**SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2009** 11:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

#### PIE BAKING CONTEST

Contest Pies must be submitted by 9:30 A.M. Auction of top 3 pies at 12:15 P.M.

#### CHICKEN DINNERS

Dinners will consist of 3 pcs. Wagner's chicken, cole slaw, roll with butter, chips, beverage, homemade pie and ice cream.

PRICE: \$7.00

Dinner tickets must be purchased **BY JUNE 1**ST.

Entertainment by Walt Schmitmeyer & his band

For more information, Call 419-629-2685

#### **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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