

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: \$15.00 / Year - \$7.00 Spouse

(Life: \$150.00 / \$70.00 Spouse)

July - 2009

ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC - 2009

The N.B.H.A. Annual Summer Picnic was held on June 8, 2009 at the Museum. The weather was beautiful and the picnic was well attended. The Pie Baking Contest had 22 entries judged by the Golden Triangle's Village Administrators - Wayne York, Don Harrod and Jeff Eschmeyer. The three top pie winners were: 1st Place – Beverly Applegate, 2nd Place – Joyce Gilberg, and 3rd Place – Karen Eckert. The pies were auctioned off by Tim Eiting, with the proceeds going to the New Bremen Historic Association. Chicken dinners prepared by Wagner's IGA were served and enjoyed by everyone. The meal included pie and ice cream for dessert. Entertainment was provided by the Walt Schmitmeyer band. The winners of the candlelight Christmas dinners were Dot Ouwerkerk and John Dickman.



1st Place Winner - Bev Applegate



2nd Place Winner – Joyce Gilberg <<<<>>>>

RIGHT TOP: 3rd Place Winner – Karen Eckert.
RIGHT CENTER: Pie Judges - Village Administrators
Jeff Eschmeyer (New Knoxville), Don Harrod (Minster),
Wayne York (New Bremen).

RIGHT BOTTOM: Dancing to Walt Schmitmeyer's music.







[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.

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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 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 09 Means you are Paid through Dec. 2009.
- **★LM P-09** Means you <u>P</u>aid for a <u>Lifetime</u> <u>Membership in 20**09**.</u>
- ★LM D-09 Means you are a <u>Lifetime Member and made a Donation in 2009.</u>
- ★CM P-76 Means you are a <u>C</u>harter <u>M</u>ember and Paid \$75 for such by July 4, 19<u>76</u>.
- **★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



NEW BREMEN ROD & GUN CLUB



The New Bremen Rod & Gun Club had its beginnings nearly 80 years ago in January 1930 as the New Bremen Rifle Club - with 20 members.

In November 1934, it was re-organized as the New Bremen Rod & Gun Club – with 70 members.

Early meetings were held in what was then the Oddfellows Hall and later became the Woodmen Hall - above Schulenberg's.

In May 1935, the Club sponsored the organization of the Home Benefit Association (pg. 10) which is also still in existence.

In 1936, they sponsored the first fall Horse & Colt Show which evolved in 1939 into the Woodmen of the World Fall Festival and Homecoming and in the 1970s became "Bremenfest".

As early as 1937, there was talk of buying land, building a Club House, and incorporating, but not until November 1956 was this realized. It has been reported in the past that the organization was "established" in the 1950s, but it had already been in existence nearly 26 years before it became incorporated. The first meeting held in the existing Club House was in October 1957. The building has been modernized several times since its beginnings, especially in regard to the restrooms and the kitchen facilities. A well was drilled on the grounds in 1957. The Village of New Bremen now has a 99-year lease agreement on the well field.

The Club sponsored the Boy Scouts from 1956-1958.

They also conducted the beer sales at the New Bremen Racetrack for many years.

One of the Club's early activities was the propagation and release of rabbits and pheasants on area farms. This practice was discontinued in later years. They also had fox hunts, crow shoots, and hunted and trapped hawks.

An annual Feather Party & Turkey Shoot was and still is one of their major activities. There is also a weekly Trap Shoot on Thursday evenings.

The Club currently has approximately 300 members.

Beginning on the next page is a chronological listing of early happenings from January 1930-November 1956 (*New Bremen Sun* clippings) and from Incorporation in November 1956 thru December 1963 (Club minute book). If anyone has any old pictures and/or other pertinent information, we will do a follow-up in the future.

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HOME BENEFIT ASSOCIATION (Pg. 10)

Membership list (210) as of 10/6/1936. In January 1938, the Association suspended their membership drive, having reached their goal of 300. Today, the membership stands at 153.

CHARLES F. CONRADY (Pg. 11)

Gen Conradi recently translated some letters of her great-uncle, Charles Conrady, from German script. Conrady enlisted in the 1st U.S. Cavalry and was assigned to the West (Oregon & Washington). He married and settled out there after he was discharged.

NEW BREMEN RIFLE CLUB

1/30/1930: S.R. Buchanan, manager of the New Bremen Telephone Co., has been named president of the <u>newly-formed New Bremen Rifle Club</u>, with Albert Reiter as secretary-treasurer.

Twenty members attended the organizational meeting held last week. The club is affiliated with the National Rifle Clubs Association and has announced it will complete an outdoor rifle range this spring. An indoor range is planned for next winter.

3/20/1930: With the <u>charter approval</u> yesterday by the National Rifle Association, the New Bremen Rifle and Revolver Association became an active organization. It is one of more than 1900 rifle-shooting outfits functioning throughout the U.S. and its possessions.

The club's 25 charter members will now begin practice under the coaching of Arnold Heinfeld, executive officer. An inscribed charter is being sent to the club secretary, Albert D. Reiter. Other officers are: S.R. Buchanan, Pres.; Budd F. Rinehart, V.P.; and A.D. Reiter, Treas.

The N.B. Rifle Club will fire for medals awarded by the National Rifle Association and matches probably will be arranged in the near future with some nearby club.

Members include: Albert Bessel, W.J. Boesel, S.R. Buchanan, O.A. Diehm, Arnold Heinfeld, H.H. Huenke, Leo Huenke, Homer C. Isern, Waldimore Kettler, L.A. Kleinhenz, Ray Knipple, Harry Kuhlhorst, Leo Kuhlhorst, Lester Neuman, Wm. Nieter, John Paul, Albert Reiter, Budd Rinehart, Alton Schelper, C.A. Schrage, Cade Schulenberg, U.J. Schwieterman, Lewis Speckman, James Taylor, F.G. Wint.

2/25/1932: Distribution of 100 wild rabbits has been completed in the N.B. territory by the More Home Game Club, a group of local sportsmen headed by F.G. Wint. Others have been purchased and will be turned loose at a future date. The rabbits are being imported from Kansas in an effort to create a new strain here. Approximately \$100 has been raised for this purpose.

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NEW BREMEN ROD & GUN CLUB

11/16/1934: The newly-organized New Bremen Rod and Gun Club has elected these officers: Elton Bruns, Pres.; Earl Kuenning, V.P.; Lloyd Laut, Secy.; Howard Scheer, Treas. The Board of Directors is composed of Ewald Beickman, Chairman; Leroy Heinfeldt, Leander Landwehr, Wm. Nieter, Earl Speckman, F.G. Wint. The nominating committee included Cornelius Heinfeld, Ferd Rabe and Budd Rinehart.

The club membership now totals 70 and will probably increase to 100 within the next few weeks. Dues are \$1.00 per year. A constitution and by-laws will be presented at the November 19th meeting in the South Washington Street Town Hall. The club is sponsoring a public card party on November 26th in the I.O.O.F. lodge rooms (top of Schulenberg-Laut block – later Woodmen Hall).

2/8/1935: An open meeting of the N.B. Rod & Gun Club was attended by 72 members and more than 30 guests. Several reels of pictures were shown by the State Dept. of Conservation.

The club recently purchased 100 rabbits for distribution in the N.B. area. These will be released March 1st. Farmers wishing to have their lands restocked are asked to get in touch with the club's officers.

3/8/1935: Two boxing bouts served to thrill the more than 125 members who attended the March meeting of the Rod & Gun Club at the I.O.O.F. lodge rooms. Leroy Heinfeldt was declared the winner over Warren Burch of Piqua in a 4-round set-to. Billed as light heavy-weights, the two set a fast pace marked by plenty of slugging.

The second bout between Dick Weinberg and Bill Hollingsworth can best be marked up as a defeat for the referee, Frank Thompson. After playfully throwing a few gloves at each other, the fighters suddenly turned on Thompson and had him scampering for the corners in a vain effort to cover himself.

4/5/1935: A total of 182 members and guests viewed four reels of muskie and small-mouth bass fishing in Wisconsin, Michigan and Ontario, Canada, courtesy of the South Bend Bait Co. at the April N.B. Rod & Gun Club meeting.

Conservation officer Anthony Pfarr of Marysville pointed out that since January 1st, the fourth district has netted 1103 foxes and 150,000 crows in the vermin war. Up to the present time 200 hawks have been killed in Auglaize County alone.

The local annual pest drive was started this week. Ray Knipple's team consisted of Knipple, Ed Bambauer, Bob Bienz, Paul Boesel, Ed Burmeister, Wilbur Dicke, Gregore Gast, Henry Goll, Leroy Heinfeldt, Don Kettler, Richard Knost, Harry Kuhlhorst, Leo Kuhlhorst, Leander Landwehr, Howard McKay, Wm. Moeller, Ward Pape, Albert Reiter, Ralph Scheer, Lewis Speckman, Fred Uetrecht, Paul Uetrecht, Ed Wuebbenhorst.

F.G. Wint's team consisted of Wint, Carl Abbott, Elton Bruns, Forest Combs, F.H. Doenges, Kenneth Fark, George Gast, Fred Henke, Carl Knost, Wilbur Knost, Earl Kuenning, C.H. Kunning, J.C. Melchert, Paul Moeller, Tafe Mueller, Wm. Nieter, Budd Rinehart, Ed Roettger, C.W. Schnell, Harry B. Schroer, U.J. Schwieterman, Frank Thompson, Paul Tomhafe.

5/24/1935: Although applications have been circulated only a few days, 40 candidates for membership already have been secured by the <u>Home Benefit Insurance Association</u> (see pg. 10) sponsored by the New Bremen Rod and Gun Club. Organization of the new Association will be completed May 31st in charge of Ewald Beickman and Lloyd J. Laut, temporary officials named some time ago.

8/9/1935: Lee Heinfeldt was awarded the decision over Ralph Burch of Piqua in the main bout on the 10-round boxing card on the N.B. Rod & Gun Club's program in the I.O.O.F. building. The fight went four rounds. In two preliminaries, Richard Weinberg, Jr. defeated Bob Bienz in three rounds and two Piqua flyweights ended in a draw in three rounds. Judges were F.W. Rabe and Hollis Breece. Leander Landwehr was referee.

The club now has 210 members. Approximately 185 members and guests attended the meeting.

9/6/1935: More than 150 members attended the N.B. Rod & Gun Club's outdoor rally and fish fry at Grieshop's Landing on Lake St. Marys. Charles Block and his aides served a total of 105 pounds of sea trout. Lee Heinfeldt was the chairman of the committee.

A business session at 8:00 was followed by four wrestling bouts by a group of Sidney grapplers. An added thrill was a rather rough bout between Eddie Roettger and Lee Heinfeldt.

3/6/1936: Approximately 300 attended the N.B. Rod & Gun Club's March meeting in the I.O.O.F. building. Walter M. Lauffer of the State Conservation Dept. showed several reels of pictures that were taken at fish hatcheries operated by the state and at the Urbana game farm. Also of interest was a fishing tackle display arranged by Cade Schulenberg and the N.B. Hdwe. & Supply Co.

Chairman Frank Dine reported that 150 or more will enter in the club's muzzle-loading rifle match on April 19th which will be held at Speedway Park north of New Bremen.

Beer and lunch were served after the meeting, the beer having been donated by the Star Beverage Co. of Minster. Committee members were: H.H. Nussmeyer, Richard Pape, F.T. Purpus, Alfred Rabe, F.W. Rabe, H.W. Rairdon, Albert Reiter, Edward Roettger, Ferd Roettger and Gust Ruedebusch.

50 members selected for the club's annual crow shoot this spring are:

President's team: Budd Rinehart (captain), Robert Bernhold, G.H. Bertke, P.C. Bratten, Edwin Burmeister, Donald Fark, Carl Gieseke, Adrian Greber, Pete Heinfeld, Gilbert Hirschfeld, Harry Kuhlhorst, Leo Kuhlhorst, Oscar Lutterbeck, Tafe Mueller, J.H. Roediger, Kenneth Roediger, Howard Scheer, C.J. Sherman, Lewis Speckman, Fred Uetrecht, Paul Uetrecht, Robert Weinberg Jr.

Secretary's team: Lloyd J. Laut (captain), Forest Combs, Wilbur Dicke, Emil Donnerberg, Lee Eifert, Gregore Gast, Paul Geib, Cornelius Heinfeld, Leroy Heinfeldt, Don Kettler, Ray Knipple, Howard McKay, C.A. Meacham, Wm. Nieter, Ward Pape, Ted Scheer, Walter Schroeder, Harry B. Schroer, U.J. Schwieterman, Joe Senger, Ferd Wint, Laverne Wint.

4/3/1936: A quartette of Sidney men known as "The Singing Soldiers" will furnish some novelty musical numbers at the April meeting of the N.B. Rod & Gun Club. The committee in charge of arrangements consists of Paul Ritter, Orville Ruedebusch, Allen Ruese, Omer Ruese, Clem Ruhenkamp, Roy Rulmann, Elmer Rump, Tony Rupert, Clifford Scheer, John Scheer, Ralph Scheer, Ted Scheer, Wm. Scheer, Alton Schelper, Cade Schulenberg.

5/1/1936: Budd Rinehart, president of the club, announced that a <u>one-man</u> wrestling match staged by Donald Bird of Sidney will be the featured entertainment for the N.B. Rod & Gun Club's May meeting. No holds will be barred and Bird absolutely promises to throw his

man in record time. In addition there will be two boxing bouts. Bud Scheer will take on Jim Luedeke, whose home is in Nevada, in a four-round bout. Participants in the other match have not yet been named. It is also planned to have two Piqua colored boys appear in a tap-dancing contest.

Committee members are: U.J. Schwieterman (chm.), Vernon Schaefer, Herman Schmidt, C.A. Schrage, Walter Schroeder, Fred Schroer, Arlie Schwepe, Delbert Schwierking, Joe Senger, C.J. Sherman, Jos. A. Simons, Earl Speckman, Lewis Speckman, Herbert Staas, John Sunderland.

5/29/1936: The N.B. Rod & Gun Club completed distribution of 300 pheasant eggs brought by the District Conservation Officer. In addition to those supplied by the state, the club expects to obtain at least 200 eggs from the pheasants being cared for at the Henry Roediger farm northeast of N.B.

Committee members for the May 31st meeting are H.F. Schroeder (chairman), Norman Scheer, Harry V. Schroer, Norbert Schwartz, Edwin Schwepe, R.G. Snyder, I.J. Speckman, Herman Steinbrugge, Bernard Striehs, Oscar Tangeman, James Taylor, Wm. Thieman, Paul Tomhafe, Emil Topp.

7/3/1936: Officers of the N.B. Rod & Gun Club reported that more than 150 pheasants have been hatched from eggs supplied by the State Conservation Dept. As soon as they are strong enough to take care of themselves, the birds will be released in the N.B. area. Henry Roediger reported that he has also hatched 15 partridges from a setting of 17 eggs which he found while cutting clover in a field on his farm northeast of N.B.

7/10/1936: A lease was obtained this week by the Ohio Division of Conservation on the former Heitkamp farm ½ mile east of New Bremen. The State Dept. plans to convert the 100-acre tract into a rabbit area.

The N.B. Rod & Gun Club's annual fish fry at Grieshop's Landing at Lake St. Marys took the place of the regular July meeting. More than 200 members and guests attended and fully 100 pounds of perch fillets were served.

Alton Schelper was awarded the prize for catching the largest bass (approximately 2 pounds).

Committee members were F.G. Wint (chairman), Harold Speckman, Arthur Theis, Elmer Thielker, Leonard Thieman, Wilson Tostrick, Elmer Uetrecht, Fred Uetrecht, Paul Uetrecht, Emil Vornholt, Harry Vornholt, Wilson Vornholt, Irvin Wiehe, Laverne Wint, Irvin Wissman.

10/16/1936: Traps used for all match shoots sponsored by the N.B. Rod & Gun Club will be moved to their new location on the site of the old New Bremen Speedway.

Committee members are: John Brockie, Arnold Heinfeld, Clarence Heinfeld, Ray Knipple, Harry Kuhlhorst, Wm. Landwehr, Howard McKay, Roy McKay, Wm. Moeller, Earl Speckman, Lewis Speckman, F.G. Wint, Laverne Wint.

2/26/1937: N.B.'s first fox drive in many years will be staged tomorrow afternoon at 1:00 on the state game farm ½ mile east of N.B. It all comes about because a single fox, sly as all his brethren, decided some time ago the farm was all that paradise could ever mean to him and since then has been gorging himself.

No one under 21 years, unless a member of the club, will be permitted to join the drive. Shotguns may be used. Rifles will not be permitted. Gun carriers must have their 1937 hunting licenses. No one will be permitted to enter the farm until the signal is given. Final instructions will be given by county wardens and must be observed at all times.

3/5/1937: Members of the N.B. Rod & Gun Club voted by a margin of $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 to approve plans for establishing a game farm in the N.B. area. In addition to the land purchase, the project includes the erection of a club house with a kitchen and auditorium large enough to accommodate 500, the construction of a 9-acre lake, trap shooting grounds and a small bore and muzzle-loading rifle range. The farm will be incorporated.

Committee members were: Paul Gilberg (chairman), Herbert Garmhausen, Carl Gieseke, Milford Greber, E.R. Haines, Howard Hartman, Arnold Heinfeld, F.E. Hickman, Carmen Hirschfeld, Verlin Hirschfeld, Virgil Hirschfeld, Albert Huenke, H.H. Huenke, Leo Huenke, Wm. Huenke.

4/2/1937: The N.B. Rod & Gun Club will meet in the I.O.O.F. Temple on April 5th. Members of the Secretary's crow club will arrange for the banquet to be tendered to the President's team. The entertainment will feature tap dancing by Ruth Montague and Mary Wehner of St. Marys. They will also be seen in several novelty numbers.

Club officials have announced that several raccoons sent here by the State Conservation Dept. were released yesterday by Game Wardens Bailey and Wells.

Members in charge of the meeting are Leander Landwehr (chairman), F.T. Kamman, Don Kettler, Mortimer Klanke, Ray Knipple, Ivan Koeper, Ernst Kuck, Allen Kuenning, Carl Kuenning, Wilbur Kuenning, Harry Kuhlhorst, Clarence Ley, Leroy Ley, Wm. Lietz, L.S. Longworth.

4/16/1937: Committee members named for the purchase of land for the N.B. Rod & Gun Club are Frank Dine (chairman), Albert Huenke, Earl Kuenning, Budd Rinehart, Alton Schelper, August Schnelle.

6/11/1937: The N.B. Rod & Gun Club discussed plans for its 2nd annual 3-day Harvest Festival and Colt Show next fall (forerunner of the Woodmen of the World Fall Festival). Officials also announced that 350 pheasant eggs and 8 full-grown birds were sent here this week by the State Conservation Dept. A previous shipment of 100 eggs resulted in the hatching of 70 pheasants to be released in this area.

Committee members in charge of the meeting were Alfred Rabe (chairman), Harold Mohrman, Frank Moots, Earl Pepiot, Leo Purpus, Frank Quellhorst, Harry Quellhorst, Carl Quist, C.W. Roettger, Charles Ruedebusch, Gust Ruedebusch, Elmer Rump.

7/30/1937: The N.B. Rod & Gun Club released 72 pheasants in the area the past few days. Fifty of the birds were sent here by the State Conservation Dept. and the others were from the pheasantry maintained by the club at the Dr. Schmidt veterinary barns. The club still has more than 100 birds which will be released at a later date.

11/19/1937: The N.B. Rod & Gun Club will have their annual feather party November 23rd in the I.O.O.F. lodge rooms on West Monroe St. Ducks, geese and turkeys will be offered as prizes at "romps" (a card game). Bingo will also be played.

Members of the committee are Ewald Beickman (chairman), Walter Behm, Frank Buckloh, Al Friemering, Carl Gieseke, Paul Gilberg, Cornelius Heinfeld, Nevin Hirschfeld, Albert Huenke, Allen Kuenning, Harold Moyer, Walter Schroeder, Cade Schulenberg, Harold Speckman, Wilson Vornholt.

12/3/1937: The N.B. Rod & Gun Club reports that three hawks were caught here in the past week. Two of the birds were caught in a steel trap spotted by Wilson Tostrick. One of these had a wing spread of 42 inches and the other 50 inches. The third hawk was taken by Emil Koenig. Two of the birds probably will be mounted for the club.

12/10/1937: Frank Buckloh will succeed Ewald Beickman as president of the N.B. Rod & Gun Club for 1938. Beickman has held the office the past two years. Other officers named are: Frank Dine (V.P.), Howard McKay (Secy.), Gregore Gast (Treas.), Emil Fledderjohann, Harold Moyer and Alton Schelper (Directors). Hold-over members of the Board of Directors are Omer Ruese, Leo Schroeder and Irvin Wiehe.

Retiring officials are: Ewald Beickman (Pres.), Lloyd J. Laut (Secy.), Howard Scheer (Treas.), Wilson Vornholt and Robert Weinberg Sr. (Directors).

Members approved the purchase of 150 rabbits and an undetermined number of pheasants for propagation purposes next year.

Entertainment consisted of sound pictures made in Ohio, courtesy of the Standard Oil Co. of Ohio. The pictures included "Ohio At Play", showing the state's most popular amusement parks and "Ohio from the Air", the first picture of its kind ever made, a birdseye view of Ohio. More than 2500 miles were flown in making the latter.

The Rod & Gun Club has made provision for gathering discarded Christmas trees from residents' front yards and will build shelters and feeding stations in desirable locations around New Bremen.

1/21/1938: The N.B. Rod & Gun Club this week released 212 rabbits in the area. This includes 48 sent here by the State Conservation Dept. and 164 purchased in Kansas at a cost of \$121.00.

10/7/1938: The N.B. Rod & Gun Club is perhaps the most active and best functioning social organization of the town. Its membership is made up of sportsmen of village and rural sections. There is no sportsmen's organization in this sector that has been more active or has accomplished more in the way of stocking woods and fields with wildlife and protects game with care until opening of the game laws as the seasons roll by than the N.B. Rod & Gun Club.

12/2/1948: The State Dept. of Conservation recently leased for five years 60 acres of land one mile east of town belonging to Wilson Tostrick and an adjoining 155 acres belonging to Emil Koenig. The land is set aside as a game refuge. Local sportsmen believe that the refuge will do much toward propagation of game in this area.

12/16/1948: The N.B. Rod & Gun Club held its December meeting at the Woodmen Hall and held its annual election of officers. Following the business session Don Dicke, Lloyd Schroer, Jack Moyer and Billy Greber participated in several rounds of boxing. Carl Watkins acted as referee.

9/13/1951: The N.B. Rod & Gun Club will hold its first meeting of the new season September 17th in the W.O.W. building. Payment of 1952 membership fees are due at this time.

Marshall Becker is the Club's president. Other officers include Silas Fledderjohn (Secy.) and Richard Pape (Treas.).

6/25/1956: At its June meeting, the N.B. Rod & Gun Club voted to purchase 20 acres of land from Herman Streacker. Robert Byerlein has given the club buildings from his place, the former L.E. Souders property, if they will remove them from his premises. The date set for moving them is Saturday afternoon, October 27th. All members are requested to come and help, bringing tools such as saws, hammers, wrecking bars, etc.

11/21/1956: Secretary of State Ted W. Brown today issued a not-for-profit corporation charter to "The New Bremen Rod and Gun Club, Inc.", listing its principal office as the Village of New Bremen, Auglaize County.

Listed as Trustees until their first annual meeting were Paul Pape, Herbert Kellermeyer, Laverne E. Wint and Thomas Moeller. Attorney Edward S. Noble assisted them by preparing their Articles of Incorporation.

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CORPORATION RECORD MINUTES

11/8/1956: Wesley Howell was named as agent of the corporation hereafter to be known as "The New Bremen Rod and Gun Club, Inc.". Named as incorporators were Paul L. Pape, Herbert Kellermeyer Jr. and Laverne E. Wint. This "Appointment of Agent" was witnessed and notarized by Edward S. Noble.

12/11/1956: The first minutes recorded by Herb Kellermeyer, Secy.-Treas. are as follows:

"Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Pres. Paul Pape talked about the progress made by the club in the way of moving the buildings to the gun club site.

The water well was discussed. A Mr. Clark advised that it would be wise to wait until next year with drilling. Not too much information has been received from Mr. Clark in the way of laying out the gun club site.

Gun Club membership has reached 210.

Walter Maich gave a brief talk about the Boy Scouts.

Committee members were named as follows:

- 1 Representative: Ben Furry
- 2 Township Committee Chairman: Wesley Howell
- 3 Secretary-Treasurer: Duane Hartwig
- 4 Program Planning Committee:

Robert Weinberg (Chairman), James Cox (Co-Chairman)

5 – Advancement Committee:

M(yron) L. Kuck, J(ames) R. Cumming, Norb Roettger

- 6 Finance Committee: Carl Watkins (chairman), John Gilberg, John Wissman, Charles Wierwille
 - 7 Equipment & Supply Committee:

Jim Dicke (chairman), Paul Pape

8 – Special Activities Committee:

Richard Pape (chairman), Tom Moeller, Carl Pape Jr.

- 9 Scoutmaster: Dave Friemering
- 10 Assistant Scoutmasters:

Walter Maich, Bob Marshall, Wayne Brady

These officers and troop were to meet December 18th in the Industrial Arts room at the High School.

All members were to receive a copy of the Incorporation which was made up by the High School.

Pheasant report: About 40 bands have been returned to the club.

Rabbit report: Motion made by Dick Pape to restock rabbits at a cost of \$250; seconded by Bob Marshall.

Incorporation: Ed Noble spoke about the incorporation. Acceptance vote was tabled until next meeting.

Chicken House: Five members were appointed to get the chicken house on a foundation on a motion by Wesley Howell: Jim Hudson (chairman), Wesley Howell, Dick Wissman, Bob Gruebmeyer, Sax Harlamert, Greg Gast, Herb Kellermeyer.

It was suggested that the secretary write the Conservation Office for requirements to be met for state help in the way of restocking pheasants.

On a motion by Carl Knost, it was decided to give turkeys to Frank Niemeyer Jr., Carl Metz, and Jim Hudson in appreciation for their help in moving the buildings. Silas Fledderjohn seconded the motion. Jim Hudson gave his bird to Mr. Byerlein.

After a motion to adjourn by Duane Hartwig, seconded by John Gilberg, a program sponsored by Bavarian Brewing Co. was given by Jim Thomas, the Outdoor Guide. He gave a talk and showed movies." *Herb Kellermeyer, Secy.-Treas.*

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1/8/1957: Regular meeting of the Board of Directors and members held at the Woodmen Hall. Membership now 239.

Pres. Paul Pape reported on the restocking of 108 wild rabbits, state help in the restocking of pheasants, the soil bank, and beer sales at the racetrack.

Wesley Howell reported on the meeting of the Boy Scouts held at the High School.

The Code of Regulations was presented and adopted.

New officers elected were Wesley Howell (Pres.), Charles Wierwille (V.P.), Myron Kuck (Secy.), Bob Weinberg Jr. (Treas.). The Board of Trustees consisted of Bill Bushman, Pete Tester, Elton Moeller, Greg Gast, Dick Pape, Laverne Wint, Budd Rinehart, Paul Pape, Herb Kellermeyer.

Following the meeting, lunch and beer were served and movies were shown by Carl Watkins.

Herb Kellermeyer, Secv.-Treas.

2/12/1957: Meeting held at old Woodmen Hall.

Pres. Wesley Howell gave rabbit report. Pheasant restocking was discussed. Soil Bank program is being revised. Club can not put its acreage into the program at this time.

Motion made to proceed with well drilling. Committee of Tom Moeller and Carl Watkins to contact driller and select site.

County Surveyor completed surveying of property. Final deed should be forthcoming shortly.

Carl Watkins reminded that the Boy Scouts are to be selling "Utility Tongs".

A committee headed by Greg Gast and Laverne Wint is to procure facts, figures and ideas for the building.

Finance committee appointed to review ways and means of financing the building: Charles Wierwille (chairman), Earl Kuenning, Lloyd Laut, Wilson Thieman, A.E. Wiessinger, James Dicke.

Entertainment committee: Carl Watkins, James Cox.

A contract to sell beer at the New Bremen Speedway was accepted.

M.L. Kuck, Secy.

3/12/1957: Carl Metz has the ground leveled. A well driller can now be engaged.

<u>Finance Report</u> (Charles Wierwille): A sum of \$7000 for the building and \$2000 for retiring the Club's indebtedness to Herman Streacker. The total of \$9000 to be financed by a mortgage loan of \$6000 on the building and land from the local bank. The balance of \$3000 to be issued in the form of 60 notes of \$50 each which are to be payable in 5 years @ 3% per annum interest.

Building discussion: To get bids on 30'x60' and 40'x60' buildings. The west end is to be framed so the building can be lengthened at a future date.

The Boy Scouts' tong sale was a success and the sale of candy netted approximately \$60.

Pheasant report given by Auglaize County Game Warden Enzell.

Agreement reached with Frank Topp. Club is to pay \$25 per date for beer sales at the racetrack.

Soil Bank program: Further proceedings tabled in that the Club could realize no appreciable gains and would not even be permitted to raise pheasants on the acreage.

After the meeting, Frank Roediger showed colored movies of his hunting trip to Alaska for Kodiak bear and also his car trip to Alaska via the Alcan Highway. Some 70 members were in attendance.

M.L. Kuck, Secy.

4/9/1957: Meeting at Woodmen Hall. Resolutions and bylaws were accepted.

Brooder house: Jim Hudson and committee are to order block and mortar, pour the footers, etc.

Beer Sales chairmen (2 weeks each): Laverne Wint, Herb Kellermeyer (3 weeks), Dick Pape, Tom Moeller, Wesley Howell.

Boy Scouts were awarded their certificates of promotion.

M.L. Kuck, Secy.

5/14/1957: Meeting held at old Woodmen Hall.

The brooder house is being set on the foundation and the well drillers brought in their equipment. A limestone floor is to be incorporated into the brooder house.

Silas Fledderjohn, Larry Heinfeld and Tom Moeller are to fence the 2 acres of pheasants.

Trap Committee: Budd Rinehart (chairman), Dick Pape, Laverne Wint, Jim Hudson.

The Building Committee reported its decision to have a 40'x60' Club House built by (Kenneth) Westerbeck Construction Co. of Wapakoneta for \$7205.17.

There will be no meetings in June, July, August.

M.L. Kuck, Secy.

9/10/1957: Meeting held at old Woodmen Hall.

Tom Moeller reported that 630 pheasants have been received from the state.

Volunteers to paint the brooder house: Dick Pape, Cornelius Heinfeld, Luke Clune, Budd Rinehart, Paul Pape, Larry Heinfeld, Paul Shott, ______ Niekamp.

Motion to have Gast Construction Co. haul stone onto the leveled ground surrounding the Club House. Spouting is to be put on the building.

Members were asked to bring any furniture that could be used in the Club House. Oil space heaters were donated by Schwieterman's Drug Store and Friemering's Home Furniture Store. Carl Inman also donated a stove.

M.L. Kuck, Secy.

CLUB HOUSE NOW BUILT!

10/8/1957: First meeting held in the new Club House.

The first trap-shoot is to be held Sunday, Oct. 13th.

Discussion about Stag parties and Feather parties. First annual Feather party to be held Saturday night, Nov. 9th followed by a Turkey shoot on Sunday, Nov. 10th.

Decision to accept women as members.

M.L. Kuck, Secy.

11/12/1957: The club has purchased and installed two WPA toilets.

Sausage shoot to be on New Year's Day, 1958. Along with this will be a backbone and sauerkraut feed by Laverne Wint.

The Club House can be rented for \$25/night. Renters are to clean the building by 12:00 the next day or pay an additional \$10 for the Club to clean it - any damages or breakage to be paid for by the renters. Rentals are in charge of the Club president, Wesley Howell.

M.L. Kuck, Secy.

12/10/1957: Membership stands at 291.

Finances: \$2183.91 in the treasury. Duane Hartwig, Stanley Schroer and Paul Heitkamp appointed to audit books.

Pheasant report: 110 bands turned in.

New officers elected: Charles Wierwille (Pres.), Jim Hudson, (V.P.), Gaylord Smith (Secy.), Everet Topp (Treas.), Richard Pape, Greg Gast, Wesley Howell (Trustees).

M.L. Kuck, Secy.

1/14/1958: A committee is to promote a raffle earmarked to raise funds for adequate heating of the Club House and for resurfacing of the trap-shooting facilities. *G.E. Smith, Secv.*

3/18/1958: Trustees' meeting held at Wint's Restaurant. Items discussed were 1) Purchase of a new heating facility; 2) Raising the price to play cards; 3) Erection of a counter; 4) Purchase of a cash register.

Motion to purchase a 1955 model 1000-gallon gas tank from the North Star Blue Flame Corp.

Motion to purchase two 150,000 heating units from I.F. Wissman.

Motion to raise cost of playing cards from 25¢ to 50¢ because of the Club's desperate need of new chairs and card tables.

G.E. Smith, Secy.

5/13/1958: On April 25th, Pres. Wierwille signed a 5-year Soil Bank Conservation Reserve contract during which time (1958-1962) we will receive \$3.90/acre for 4.9 of our 7 acres. The 2.1 acres occupied by the game pens are not eligible.

On May 14th, the state is to plant a multiflora rose hedge around the Club's 20 acres. The hedge-type plant will be planted in two rows one foot apart and will number at least 15,000. Elton Moeller will furnish a tractor to pull the state's planter.

Moved to discontinue sponsorship of Boy Scout Troop 95 and Explorers' Post when their charter expires in November 1958.

G.E. Smith, Secy.

9/9/1958: Leroy Poppe reported that 120 pheasants were released at his farm on September 8th.

Appreciation was mentioned for Arlie E. Wiessinger's donation of the brooder.

Rental fee to be reduced from \$25 to \$15.

10/14/1958: Al Boeke, Silas Fledderjohn and Donald Luedeke volunteered to furnish our modern rest rooms with the lighting required.

Cornelius Heinfeld volunteered to supply trees from his woods for planting east and west of the Club House.

Sports Editors in our area are to be given Honorary Membership cards because of the courtesies, good will and information they have given us in the past.

11/14/1958: Moved to ban hunting on Club grounds.

Carl Gieseke to be given gift of appreciation for his splendid job as Maintenance man. *G.E. Smith, Secy.*

12/12/1958: New officers elected: Carl Watkins (Pres.), Paul Wint (V.P.), Gale Smith (Secy.), Richard Deniston (Treas.), Charles Wierwille, Everet Topp, Budd Rinehart (Trustees). *G.E. Smith, Secy.*

1/13/1959: Many committees appointed.

2/10/1959: Norbert Roettger, Rifle Comm. chairman, reported that arrangements have been made with Greg Gast to move dirt to build the necessary back-stop for a rifle range.

Pres. Watkins reported that High School students, Fred Pape and Wayne Fark, had agreed to take the job of clean-up crew.

G.E. Smith, Secy.

3/10/1959: Membership is at 275.

4/14/1959: Railroad ties necessary for the building of the back-stop are to be moved in Saturday morning, April 18th, by the committee: Dick Deniston, Gale Smith, Roger Freeman, Norbert Roettger, Carl Watkins, Greg Gast, Dick Pape.

Larry Heinfeld asked that farmers bring any pheasant eggs they might find to him to be hatched by his bantams.

Pres. Watkins mentioned that Lock Two residents had expressed some concern about the rifle range. They were assured that if the back-stops were built high enough, no interference would be likely to occur.

5/12/1959: Discussed were future needs of the Club in regard to kitchen, toilet and storage room facilities. A committee of Fred Saum, Sax Harlamert, and Myron Kuck are to draw up a plan showing the exact location of each facility and what material, labor, etc. would be required for the completion of this extension plan.

6/23/1959: Meeting of the N.B. Rifle & Pistol Club.

7/27/1959: Meeting of the N.B. Rifle & Pistol Club. Pres. Watkins reported that the 100-yard range was completed except for some necessary grading. He stated that the back-stop more than meets requirements set by the N.R.A. More work is needed on the 200-yard range before shooting will be permitted.

Carl Richey was appointed as Range Officer. He was to demonstrate the correct handling and precautions to be used while handling a firearm.

Rules and regulations were adopted for use of the rifle range.

G.E. Smith, Secy.

9/8/1959: Moved to have Secretary Smith execute a security bond for \$1100 for the Rifle & Pistol Club covering rifles, range equipment, etc. The Club must first state that The N.B. Rod & Gun Club, Inc. had authorized the Rifle Club to execute such a bond. *G.E. Smith, Secy.*

10/13/1959: Pres. Watkins advised that a shoot was being held each Thursday evening at the indoor rifle range. Gun Club members were invited to attend.

11/10/1959: "No Hunting" signs to be placed on club-owned ground.

12/8/1959: The Rifle Club has set up a slate of rules governing the use of the indoor range. Because the Rifle Club is a club within the Rod & Gun Club, the Gun Club has to go on record as approving or disapproving of these rules.

New officers elected: John Wissman (Pres.), Lloyd Blanke (V.P.), Nathan Hirschfeld, (Secy.), Tom Moeller (Treas.), Richard Deniston, Carl Watkins, Paul Wint (Trustees).

1/12/1960: Pres. John Wissman appointed Richard Deniston & Nathan Hirschfeld as a Publicity Committee to handle all trap shoots, stag parties, etc. for the year.

Lengthy discussion about possibility of adding a room for use as a kitchen and rest rooms.

Voted to "get rid of" half of the church seats.

Nathan Hirschfeld, Secy.

PERSONS HOLDING NOTES ISSUED BY The New Bremen Rod & Gun Club, Inc.

Barton, Lawrence Moeller, Elton Dammeyer, Wilbert Moeller, Tom Moeller, Wilson (2) Dicke, Frank Dicke, James Moyer, Harold (2) Dietrich, Ralph Mueller, Tafe Egbert, Levi New Bremen Speedway Fark, Donald Nieter, Virgil Fark, Robert Pape, Alvin Phlipot, Ernie Fledderjohn, Silas Fogt, Ralph Rinehart, Budd Gast, Greg Ripploh, Joseph Gilberg & Hegemier Roettger, Norbert Schroeder, Leo Harlamert, Alton ("Sax") Schroeder, Walter Harmony, Lee & Frieda Hasselman, Al (Mrs.) Schwieterman, Dave Heinfeld, Harvey Thieman, Wilson Home Furniture Store Topp, Emil Howell & Lampert IGA (9) Topp, Louis Kellermeyer, Herb Jr. Uetrecht, Paul Klose, Robert Waterman, Eudine Kruse, August Weinberg, Robert Jr. (3) Kuenning, Earl Westerheide, Henry Kuenning, Stanley Wierwille, Charles Laut, Lloyd Wiessinger, Arlie E. Luedeke, Omer (2) Wint, Laverne & Paul (5) Luedeke, Rav Wissman, Grover

3/8/1960: Moved to purchase a loud-speaker system. Motion for kitchen and restroom addition passed 28-1.

4/12/1960: Soil bank dropped on 4.9 acres.

5/9/1960: The Club will be receiving 900 pheasants. Pens and fences need to be repaired.

After the meeting, a movie of the N.B./Frazeysburg basketball game was shown. *Nathan Hirschfeld, Secy.*

9/13/1960: Omer Luedeke was thanked for taking care of the pheasants.

Committees appointed for Nov. 5th Feather Party.

10/11/1960: Small building on west side of Club House to be removed. It was later sold for \$10.

The Rod & Gun Club and the Rifle Club will alternate dates on future Stag Parties.

The Fire Dept. will help give the Club House floor a thorough scrubbing before the Feather Party.

Everet Topp, Charles Wierwille and Nathan Hirschfeld related experiences of their hunting trip. Three wildlife movies were shown.

Nathan Hirschfeld, Secy.

11/8/1960: "No Hunting" signs to be posted on Gun Club grounds.

Herb Kellermeyer to remove fence south of the Club House. Nathan Hirschfeld, Secy.

12/13/1960: New officers elected: Stan Kuenning (Pres.), Ferd Wint Jr. (V.P.), Roger Freeman (Secy.), Paul Heitkamp (Treas.), Walter Thieman, Wilton Dicke, Jim Scheer (Trustees). *Nathan Hirschfeld, Secy.*

1/10/1961: New locks were installed on the south and east doors. Emil Topp will clean the building this year.

Stag parties every 3rd Friday. Funds to go to new kitchen. Roger Freeman, Secy.

4/4/1961: Two fire extinguishers and one First Aid kit were put in the Club House.

A small pond was dug by Hap Ahlers for the watering of the pheasants.

Roger Freeman, Secy.

10/10/1961: Frankie Niemeyer to ditch around Club House and in front of traps. Club House roof to be repaired by Emil Topp.

Members may hunt on Club grounds, except for pheasant pen.

Roger Freeman, Secy.

1/25/1962: Special meeting held at Pres. Ferd Wint's house. Trustees approved building addition. Current Trustees: Paul Wint, Carl Watkins, Dick Deniston, John Wissman, Nathan Hirschfeld, Wilton Dicke, Stan Kuenning, Paul Heitkamp, Leo Schroeder.

2/13/1962: Movie of a pheasant hunting trip in South Dakota shown by Wesley Howell, Carl Pape Jr., Bob Weinberg, Greg Gast.

Roger Freeman, Secy.

9/18/1962: Club Life Memberships to date are 37.

Officers re-elected for a 2nd term are Ferd Wint (Pres.), Herb Kellermeyer, (V.P.), Roger Freeman (Secy.). New treasurer is Elton Stienecker.

Movies & slides were shown by Lee Harmony & Jim Moeller of their fishing trip to Canada. *R. Freeman, Secy.*

12/14/1962: Pres. Ferd Wint drew plans for the Club House addition, cost not to exceed \$9500. Treasurer was Tom Fledderjohann.

Archery Club given permission to shoot archery indoors.

Roger Freeman, Secv.

4/16/1963: New Bremen and Minster Senior class to be given free memberships. Roger Freeman, Secy.

5/14/1963: Lifetime Memberships are available for \$100. Upon death of the Life Member, the \$100 would be paid to his beneficiary. All Trustees must be Life Members – only Life Members have a vote.

After the kitchen and restrooms are completed, rent for the Club grounds will be: Summer - \$15 (\$20 w/kitchen); Winter - \$25 (\$30 w/kitchen).

8/7/1963: A fishing pond was discussed, but due to lack of funds, it was put off for 1-2 years.

Decision made to return to trap shooting. Discussed holding team shoots once a week in the evening which would require lighting. Roger Freeman, Secy.

9/4/1963: Annual Feather Party & Trap Shoot to be held November 4-5, 1963. *Roger Freeman, Secy.*

12/9/1963: New officers elected: Greg Gast (Pres.), Norb Roettger (V.P.), Paul Pape (Secy.), Maurice Stammen (Treas.).

Trustees for coming year (must be Life Members): Virgil Nieter, Paul Pape, Laverne Wint, Norb Roettger, Lloyd Laut, Budd Rinehart, Wilson Moeller, Dick Howell, Herb Kellermeyer.

Roger Freeman, Secy.

This was the final entry in the Minute Book that was recently turned in to the current president, Bill Woehrmyer.

HOME BENEFIT ASSOCIATION

We offer Health and Accident coverage on premium payments of \$5.00 per year. This protects you at the rate of \$1.00 per day for 91 days. Mortuary payments are \$1.00 for each paid-up member.

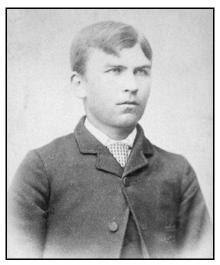
The following list of 210 members shows the community's faith in the soundness of this Association. [as listed in the 10/6/1936 issue of The New Bremen Sun]

Ahlers, Frank D. Grothaus, Alvin Mesenbrink, Fred Schroeder, Leo Ahlers, Walter Grothaus, August Mestemaker, Joe Schroeder, Omer Althoff, Walter Grothaus, Walter Miller, George J. Schroeder, Walter Bambauer, Edward Harmony, Lee Moeller, Carl Schroer, Fred Bambauer, Robert Hartman, Howard Moeller, Glenn Schroer, Leroy Behm, Walter Hegemier, Arnold Moeller, Oscar Schroer, Wilbur Moeller, William Schulenberg, Cade Beickman, Ewald Hehr, Ernst F. Heinfeld, Cornelius Bertke, Lester Mohrman, Harold Schwepe, Edwin Blanke, Lester Heinfeld, Ed A. Moyer, Harold Schwierking, Delbert Brady, Bernard Heinfeld, Gaylord Mueller, Frank Sollman, Arlon Bratten, Paul (Dr.) Heinfeld, Irvin Mueller, T.J. Sollman, Elmer Braun, Wilson Heinfeldt, Leroy Niekamp, Mervin Sollman, Lendor Braun, Woodrow Heitkamp, Wm. Niemeyer, Frank Speckman, Earl Breece, H.C. Henke, Fred Nieter, Emil H. Speckman, Harold Brockman, Ben Jr. Hirschfeld, Nevin Nussmeyer, Harry Staas, Herbert Hittepole, Adrian C. Owen, George W. Brucken, J.M. Steinbrugge, Edgar Pape, Adolph Buckloh, Frank Horn, Virgil Stienecker, Elmer Buirley, Wm. Huckriede, Roy Pape, Carl W. Tangeman, Carl Busse, Ray Huenke, Albert Piehl, Herbert Tangeman, Louis Combs. Forest Huenke, Howard Piehl. Reinhard Tangeman, Omer Huenke, Leo Poppe, Edwin Cooper, Robert Tangeman, Walter Dammeyer, Levi Huenke, Wm. Jr. Poppe, Raymond Thielker, Elmer Kellermeyer, Herbert Poppe, Wilfred Thielker, Harry Dammeyer, Otto F. Kettler, Donald Quellhorst, Clarence Dammeyer, Wilbert Thieman, W.E. Dicke, Edwin Kettler, John Quellhorst, Frank Thiesing, George Dicke, Herbert H. Kettler, Raymond C. Quellhorst, Richard Thiesing, Reuben Dicke, P.E. Klute. Wm. Quellhorst, Wilbert Tomhafe, P.H. Dicke, Wilbur Knipple, Ray Topp, Emil J. Quist, Carl Koenig, Adolph W. Topp, Leo Dicke, Wm. F. Rabe, Alfred Dickman, R.H. Koenig, Ray Rempe, Harry Tostrick, Wilson Doenges, Wm. Jr. Koenig, Victor Rinehart, Budd Vornholt, Emil Donnerberg, Alfred Koeper, Irwin Roettger, Edward Vornholt, Harry Donnerberg, Emil Vornholt, Wilson Koeper, Ivan Roettger, Ferd Komminsk, Harry Donnerberg, Harry Ruedebusch, Chas. Wagner, R.H. England, Robert Kruse, August Ruedebusch, Gust Warner, Leonard Erhardt, E.F. Kuck, Ernst Ruedebusch, Orville Warner, Louis Eversman, Harvey Kuck, R.W. Ruedebusch, Paul Warner, Ray Fark, Charles Kuenning, Carl Ruese, Allen Waterman, Arnold Fark, Donald Kuenning, Earl Ruese, Howard Wehrman, Edward Fark, Irvin Kuenning, Wilbur Ruese. Omer Wehmeyer, Paul Landwehr, Leander Rump, Elmer Wiehe, Harry Fark, Kenneth Fledderjohann, Emil A. Laut, Lester Rust, Philip Wiehe, Irvin Fogt, Clifford Schaefer, Alton Wint, Ferd Laut, Lloyd Froning, Harold Schaefer, Vernon Wint, Laverne Laut, Melville Scheer, Howard Wissman, Grover Garmhausen, Herbert Lishness, Macalan Gast, Gregore Ludwig, Herman Scheer, Lafe W. Wissman, I.F. Gensler, Geo. W. Luebkeman, Arnold Scheer, Sylvester Wm. Wittenbrink, Elmer Gieseke, Carl Lutterbeck, Geo. Schelper, Alton Woehler, Walter Schmedt, Albert Wuebbenhorst, Edward Gilberg, O.H. Lutterbeck, Oscar Greber, George Schmidt, Carl McCollum, Walter Zahn, John Greber, Milford Schmidt, Herman Ziegenbusch, Elmer Mecksroth, Earl Greiwe, Carl Meckstroth, Ed Schmidt, L.H. (Dr.) Greiwe, Homer Melchert, J.C. (Rev.) Schnelle, Gustave

OFFICERS: Ewald Beickman, President – Lloyd J. Laut, Secretary-Treasurer DIRECTORS: Lester Blanke, Ernst Kuck, Earl Kuenning, Emil Vornholt, John Zahn

CHARLES F. CONRADY

Charles F. Conrady was born in New Bremen on Christmas day, 1853. He was the first-born son of Carl Friedrich Wilhelm and Julianne (Dickman) Conradi. Charles was given the same name as his father but he changed it to Charles after he left home and learned to speak and write English. He also changed the spelling of his last name to Conrady. Charles attended school in Ober Bremen and was confirmed on April 8, 1868 in St. Paul Church in New Bremen.



Charles F. Conrady (Carl Friedrich Wilhelm Conradi)
Confirmation Picture 1868

Charles had brothers and sisters. His mother had a daughter, Elisabeth Marie Dickman, born in 1850 from a previous marriage. Two more sons were born to the parents of Charles. William (Friedrich Wilhelm #1) was born in 1858 and Frederick (Friedrich Wilhelm #2) was born in 1860.

Tragedy struck the family the following year in 1861. Both the sister Elisabeth and the baby Frederick died in the month of August. The following year Julianne (the mother) died of chest fever. Carl was left with two small sons, Charles, 8½ years and William, almost 4 years old.

The word spread in New Bremen that Carl Conradi was left a widower and needed a wife and mother for his two small children. Just about that time Gertrude Bruetsch and her brother Ambrose Bruetsch had arrived in New Bremen from Neulussheim, Baden, Germany and a marriage was arranged. Carl and Gertrude married in 1863 at St. Peter's Church in New Bremen and set up housekeeping on the Shelby County farm he owned near New Knoxville. Carl operated the farm and continued his shoemaking business in New Bremen on Main Street. Their first two children, Wilhelmina and Ludwig (Louis) were born at the Shelby County farm.

In 1865 Carl sold the Shelby County farm and the lot in New Bremen and purchased a farm in German Township just east of New Bremen. Louis was six weeks old when the family moved to the new farm in German Township. At that time the family consisted of the parents, Carl and Gertrude, and the children Charles, William, Wilhelmina, and Louis. Charles was 11½ years old when they moved to the new farm.

Carl and Gertrude had five more children - all born on the family farm in German Township. August was born in 1866, Edward–1869, Louisa-1870, Emil-1872 and Albert in 1875.

Charles left home at an early age, probably age 15, in 1868 or 1869, and learned the blacksmith trade in Cincinnati and how to shoe horses. He also lived in Dayton for a time and milked cows and drove a milk wagon. In 1871, just a few days before his 18th birthday, he enlisted in the First United States Cavalry at Louisville, Kentucky and was assigned to the West.



Charles F. Conrady – 1st United States Cavalry

Charles served ten years in the First United States Cavalry in the west. He was in the Modoc war and the Bannock war. He was assigned to Fort Klamath in Oregon during his first enlistment. During his second enlistment he served at Fort St. Louis in Missouri and Fort Colville and Fort Spokan in the Washington Territory and Fort Lapwai in northern Idaho. He remained in Washington after his cavalry service and became one of the leading heavy mine owners in Stevens County, Washington. He married Mary A. King in 1882 and they were the parents of thirteen children.



Charles F. Conrady & Mary Louise King Conrady



Charles F. Conrady & wife, Mary with six of their 13 children

Charles was young when he left home and he wrote many letters to his parents and to his brother William. The early letters were written in the old German script and surprisingly have somehow survived all the years of storage in the attic. But more surprising is the courage that young Charles displayed when he traveled so far from home with limited knowledge of the English language to embark on such a dangerous career.



William and Margaretha Heidt Conradi on their wedding day in 1888

This is a picture of William, the brother of Charles, and his wife, Margaretha Heidt, taken on their wedding day in 1888. Notice that William has a finger missing on his left hand. When Charley and William were small boys they were playing with a sharp hatchet and one dared the other to lay his finger on a block and he would chop it off. William took the dare and lost a finger. The two little boys were frightened when it happened and feared the wrath of their father. The mother took off her apron, wrapped the little hand in the apron and told them to hide under the barn until the father went to bed.

Charles arrived at Fort Klamath, Oregon shortly after his enlistment in December of 1871. He wrote to his father in the spring of 1872 to tell him where he was and that he was a soldier. He told him that it was the first chance that he had to write. The army infantry and cavalry were being used in the northwest to quell the antagonism between the settlers and the Indians at that time in history.

The Modoc Indian tribe had resided in the valley of Lost River land for 40 years prior to 1872. This land was on the northern border of California and the southern part of Oregon, just east of the Cascade Mountains. It was a very desirable land with fertile valleys, mountain streams, fish, waterfowl and game and mild winters with little snowfall. When the settlers arrived to this land there was considerable distrust between them and the Indians. The Modocs were considered treacherous and bloodthirsty with the settlers and so combative among themselves they could not live in harmony. There were attempts to remove the Indians to a reservation in 1857 and 1864 but those attempts had failed.

The Modoc tribe was camped on Lost River in the summer of 1872. The Indians and settlers had negotiated several treaties to allow cattle grazing and other living arrangements but the settlers were not satisfied. The Indian Commissioner decided to remove the Modocs from the area because the Oregon settlers had so many complaints. A band of soldiers, Troop B, 1st U.S. Cavalry, from Fort Klamath was selected to carry out this task and Charles F. Conrady was in this band of soldiers.

Under the leadership of Captain Jackson they were ordered to battle the Modocs at Lost River.

They left Fort Klamath at noon on November 28, 1872 with 35 men in a pelting rain. They arrived at Lost River just before daylight on the 29th. They took the Indians by surprise but the Indians recovered and resisted the soldiers. They began firing at each other and the Modocs rushed at the soldiers with demon-like yells. The soldiers charged and drove the Indians from the area. The Modocs then settled in the Lava Beds of northern California. The Lava Beds were remnants of a lava flow that left solidified hard blackish rock and intricate passages and caves. This area became a stronghold for the Modocs.

Charles wrote a letter to his parents on January 2, 1873 and described the battle of Lost River. He wrote how they fought hand to hand at times and that the Indians fought "like the devil". He described how many were killed and injured and that their troop was awaiting orders from Washington to attack. More soldiers were dispatched to the area and the next battle took place on January 17, 1873.

In March of 1873 he wrote that the battle with the Indians was over and that life was good for him. He was working in the blacksmith shop, tending to some cows and had a day off every 3 or 4 days when he would go fishing. He said some of the soldiers were in the Wyoming Territory but he felt fortunate that he remained in the fort.

Then on October 6, 1873 he wrote about the hanging of the four Modocs at Fort Klamath. This letter has been translated from German. He said that he had been away from Fort Klamath from April 27th until August 29th to escort General Davis to Walla Walla, a round trip of 1500 miles on horses. Then he had a trip to Fort Warner until September 20th and he had no rest. He then described how a gallows had been built at Fort Klamath while he was gone and the four chiefs - Captain Jack, John Schonchin, Black Jim and Boston Charlie - were led unto the scaffold, ropes were placed over their heads and they were hanged on the 3rd of October, 1873 and he said the sight was not beautiful. This event ended the Modoc War.

<<<>>>

Later that month, about two years after his enlistment, he wrote his first letter in English.

My Dear Brother, I would like to *corspond* with you in English writing, for I like it better then the German writing. The Indians for a *wile* won't bother us and so I'd have time to answer every letter you write. Herewith will I close my lines... <<<>>>

His knowledge of English and his ability to communicate in English showed steady improvement. Just two months later he wrote:

Fort Klamath Oregon Dear Brother,

Jan. 25, 1874

It has been some time since I last wrote to you, but I will now take the opportunity to give you a few details of my present course of life. I am at the present time under the Teacher's charge. I am teaching school under his superintendence. I am at present in my school room writing this letter which you will find is not very delicately written, it is something like *Apollo's* first attempt to the Roman *Apistol* at 69 B.C. But I will no longer retain you from the more interesting subjects which you would rather hear then all of *Apolos* or *Peter Of Cortunas* works put together.

Just think, my Dear Brother, if you was in the same situation as I am at this time, thousands of miles away from all of my friends and parents and brothers and sisters, just think how you would feel in such a position. But I am consoled at the present time at least by our kind teacher, Father *Hequanburg*, Chaplain of Fort Klamath. I thank him from my very heart for my present position in my wild career as a Soldier in the United States Army.

I am making great progress in my English Studies. I am also sexton of our church at Fort Klamath...

I remain yours, your ever loving Brother.

"Patience and perseverance overcame Mountains."

<<<>>>

In April of 1875 he began to sign his letters as "Charles" rather than Carl. His handwriting was more flowing and deliberate and the content informative.

Fort Klamath Oregon

April, 1875

Dear Brother,

In the midst of dissipation a man is in *missery*. But in the midst of honesty and in the *reallyty* of truth, a man is nearer to God and happiness than at any other time of his existence...

My Dear Brother, we have a great time here now, hunting and fishing. When I was on signal-service on the Cascade Mountains, I shot a Buck Deer that weighed 110 pounds with one of our carbines or Army-guns.

As I was speaking about signaling, I will tell you all about it. We signal with red, white and blue flags. We hold the flag straight over our heads, then when we make one motion to the right, it counts one, and when we make one motion to the left it counts (2) two.

Our signal Alphabet is thus:

A is 22	C is 121	E is 12
B is 2112	D is 222	F is 2221
G is 2211	L is 221	Q is 1211
H is 122	M is 1221	R is 211
I is 1	N is 11	S is 212
J is 1122	O is 21	T is 2
K is 2121	P is 1212	U is 112
V is 1222	W is 1121	X is 2122
Y is 2222	Z is 111	& is 1111
ing is 2212	tion is 1112	That is all.

With flags and these numbers, we send Messages, Letters, and Signatures, just the same as with the Telegraph-wire for 10 and 20 miles distance.

Dear Brother, I have only one year and eight months to stay in the U.S. Army, then it will only take me one month to come home to you at New Bremen...

<<<>>>

Later that year he wrote:

Fort Klamath Oregon Dear Brother,

December, 1875

I have not got much to tell you at present. I would like to be with you once more. I tell you My Dear Brother I often get homesick, especially when I receive a letter from home, but I have only one year and 17 days to stay out here. Then I will get my discharge and \$400.00 to come home with, and be a citizen of the United States

man...

<<<>>>

once more, which will make me a worthy and happy

His command of the English language continued to improve and the next month he wrote a very long letter to his brother William in which he describes what is to be seen and encountered when traveling to Oregon and urges his brother to be careful and read every word of his letter. (This will appear in a separate article in the future.)

Fort Klamath Oregon January the 9th A.D.1876 Dear Brother,

When you get into this valley, that is Klamath Valley, you will be walled in on all sides by high mountains and a large lake called Klamath Lake. This is the place that I now reside at.

Now we turn to weather. We have $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet of snow at the present time. It is pretty cold too, the *cimometon* showed 23 degrees below freezing. Every other way the weather is quite pleasant.

Now I will tell you something about myself. Instead of being a non-commissioned officer, I am now in the Post Hospital - an assistant steward. I get \$6.00 extra each month, whereas if I was a non-commissioned officer, I would only get \$2.00 extra per month. I have all the Medical books at my disposal. I have learned the use of Medicine and can also better my prospect in this world a great deal. I am now getting about \$8.00 per month. My time is out next December - 22nd day of that month. I will have my discharge and \$348.50 outside of my passage money home. With this I would have \$432.75. That, my Dear Brother, is my future that I worked on for 5 long years in the U.S. Army.

We have another good prospect for an Indian war up in Washington Territory near Walla-Walla. The Indian chief Joseph married one of the Snake princesses, or the daughter of a Snake chief, named *Ochiko*. The daughter's name is *Alduna*. She is a very pretty and handsome woman. When I was over at the Yainox Indian Reservation I saw her and spoke to her personally. She can speak English almost fluently. She is of medium size, coal black hair, but a very white skin. I chatted with her for about an hour and she is very pleasant and communicative.

Well, Joseph is a very good looking half breed Walla-Walla Chief. He came down to ask Ochiko for his daughter, but Ochiko told him he could not have her. So Joseph asked to talk to Alduna for a little while and he would go back to his own tribe. It was granted him to *Royala* or talk to her for an hour. During this time they made it up to go together to Washington Territory. So they agreed that Alduna was to leave her camp that night, and come to a certain place in the woods, where the chief Joseph was to await her, which they did, and they started together for the Walla-Walla Camp, which they reached 7 days after they left the Yainox camp.

The Snake Indians found out the next morning where Alduna had left the camp. The Chief Ochiko sent a spy to watch where she was going. In 13 days after the deserters had left the Yainox camp, the spy returned to inform Ochinko that Alduna had taken up her residence with the chief of the Walla-Walla tribe. The Snakes then went on the warpath against the Walla-Walla tribe, but they first cleaned out a lot of settlers in the *Umatilla* valley near Walla-Walla, Washington territory. Colonel Perry was ordered out to stop the *muss*, but we have not heard whether he has stopped it or not. If he can't stop it, we will have to march up there, and then it will be another Modoc war, which I am afraid will cost a good many soldiers. Love is Life, so the Bible said...

<<<>>>

Charles's five year enlistment ended on December 22, 1876 and he came back to Ohio for a visit and then reenlisted on September 21, 1877 in St. Louis, Missouri. He told his brother that he could make more money in the Army than he could in New Bremen and that he would probably stay in St. Louis and not fight any more Indians.

St. Louis Barracks - St. Louis, Mo. Nov. 11th, 1877 My Dear Brother,

Excuse me for not answering your letter of the 29th of October. But my dear brother, I will make up for it by writing so much more now. I will tell you all the news in and around St. Louis. St. Louis is a very large city. It takes a man a half day to write only one half of the names of the streets down on paper. And it takes 5 hours to ride through it on horseback. The Barracks are right in the city and right on the river's bank. I can look right into the Mississippi River from the house that I live in. I live in the second story of the Quarters and I can look way out over the city.

The St. Louis Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad runs close by the Barracks. On the 4th of this month we had the first snow here. About a week ago there was a very large Steamboat by the name of Bismarck burnt up in the river, outside of the Post. They say that she was worth \$35,000. I think my dear Brother that I will stay here at St. Louis for 5 years. If we go away from St. Louis, we will go to Indianapolis, Indiana...

I wish, Willie, you would tell Mother to knit me a couple of pairs of gloves if she gets any spare time and send them out to me and I will send the money for them as soon as I get it from the paymaster. I get \$13.00 per month clear of all expenses. I am going to try to make \$600.00 by the time I am discharged.

<<<>>>

St. Louis Barracks, St. Louis Mo. Dec. 31, 1877 My Dear Brother,

Do you know, Willie, what the man's name was that broke his leg unloading ties on the Lake Shore Railroad between St. Marys and New Bremen? I am very proud to know that there is a Railroad running through the town of my birth.

How much do you get for working on the Road per day? I expect you don't get very much. You say St. Marys isn't a very pretty town. The reason of that is that it can't build up on account of the St. Marys River making such a deep cut right there...

We were mustered today for two months pay, but we won't get any money until next March. We live very well here at St. Louis, we have meat two times every day for breakfast and dinner, and we have stewed Apples, Syrup, Milk and bread for supper. We have a good house to sleep in, nice warm clothes to put on, so you may know that we ought to be content...

Postscription

I forgot to ask you, Willie, in the course of my letter, on which side of the Town the Railroad is going to run (or on which side of the canal, on the east or the west side?). Are they going to *finish* the Railroad this winter as far as Minster or not? Tell Louis to write me a few lines in your next letter. That is all for this time.

<<<>>>

Conflicts with the Bannock Indian tribe reached a climax in the spring of 1878. Charles had hoped to remain in Missouri and not be involved in the Indian Wars

but this was not to be and he was reassigned to the northwest at Fort Colville in the Washington Territory. Charles fought in the Bannock War and participated in the famous charge up Birch Creek Hill under Captain Parnell on July 8, 1878.

The Bannock War, also called the Paiute and Bannock War, originated with a tribe of Indians in Idaho called the Bannocks or Snakes. The conflict began over the Big Camas Prairie, a meadow-like valley that had provided food for the natives but dwindled when the white settlers arrived. The buffalo disappeared, jackrabbits were scarce and the root which was similar to a sweet potato was destroyed by the settlers' grazing pigs. The Bannocks were starving and decided that they had to fight for their land. In November, after the war, the Indians were taken as prisoners and marched to a reservation 350 miles away.

Charles probably wrote home during 1878 but there are no letters in the collection from that time. The next letter is from November 1879 and he tells about his promotion and life at the fort.

<<<>>>

Fort Colville W. T. November 10, 1879 My Dear Brother,

...Well Willie, I want to tell you what a change there is in my company since I have been 1st Sergeant. You recollect I informed you some time ago that we lived so bad, that a good many men thought seriously of deserting the service just to get out of the company. Now since I have been 1st Sergeant, I find that there has been some robbing going on all the time and of course the Company had to suffer for it.

At present time we live as good as any 2nd class Hotel in Washington Territory. We have an abundance of vegetables of every variety you can mention. Well our ration allowance is as follows:

Beef, fresh, 11/4 pounds or Pork, 3/4 pound.

So we can take either Beef or Pork.

1 pound and 4 oz. of flour

3 oz. sugar

3 oz. beans

11/2 oz. coffee

1½ oz. of rice

32 gills of vinegar

2 oz. candles

3/4 oz. of soap

and as many more articles as we can buy in the commissary.

Now then, with all this, put in a good garden and you may know where there is 60 rations drawn every day, it makes quite a bulk. We have a good cook and a man that is willing to take hold of work, clean and diligent...

We are having our first snow here tonight, and I think we may look forward to a severe winter to come. Our hunting season is just commencing here. Whenever the snow makes his appearance on the Mountain tops, then the game comes to graze in the Valleys below and that is where they can be hunted. I suppose that you will enjoy yourself hunting cottontail rabbits and turkey out in woods this winter at home...

In December of 1879 Charles wrote a newsy letter to his brother in German. In this letter he talked about a new shooting rifle that the Army had issued them called the Hotchkiss Carbine. He also talked about the Indians in his region that were friendly now but there was unrest in Colorado and the Indian Territory. He identified the land near the Okanogan River and the Columbia River where a reservation for Chief Moses and his tribe was to be located. He reminded his brother that he would be 26 years old on December 25th. This was the last German letter in the collection.

<<<>>>

Fort Colville W. T. September 8, 1881 My Dear Brother,

It was with pleasure that I received Your Kind, loving, Brotherly letter a week ago today. But as I was off on Detached service building a new road from Fort Colville to Spokan Falls, I could not answer it, as I had no writing material with me. But I am happy to hear that you are all well and doing well... It pleases me to hear that our folks have threshed such a lot of wheat at home, for I am sure they need and deserve it more than anyone else...

You say the Thermometer indicated 103 in the shade; that is pretty high. Our Register shows 93 degrees to be highest at this Post for many years.

My time is up in 1 year and 15 days from today, and as I was not sent on Recruiting service, it will be impossible for me to come home unless I come home after my time expires, and that is improbable. I have a pretty little place here and expect to be married as soon as my time is out, and settle down to farming in this Valley...

We expect to have the Railroad passing through this Valley in less than 5 years hence. We are now 70 miles from the Railroad, that is the Northern Pacific at Spokan Falls, Spokan County, Washington Territory.

If you come to this country, Willie, it will take you 7 days to come from home to San Francisco, 3 days from San Francisco to Portland (Oregon), 1 day from Portland to Spokan Falls, and 2 days from Spokan Falls to Fort Colville (by stage) - that will be thirteen days in all...

The wheat is yielding good in this country. But they raise no Corn here excepting a very little in the Gardens...

<<<>>>

Camp Spokan W. T. January 6, 1882 Dear Brother Willie.

...I am quite well and not very happy, for I have been sent away from the one I love; I wasted a good many words, trying to remain at Fort Colville, but they would not let me stay there. I have been at Camp Spokan since December 7, 1881.

We will have to remain here until spring; this post is on the Spokan River, about ¾ of a mile from the Columbia River. But Fort Colville is a paradise to this place. My Intended is quite well as far as I know. I am acting 1st Sergeant of the Detachment of 15 men of "H" Troop, 1st U. S. Cavalry...

And dear Brother, if I have good luck in my undertaking out in this country, I shall let you know and you can come anytime if you feel so inclined. The smallpox are raging pretty bad in the southern part of the Territory at present...

<<<>>>

Camp Spokan was established October 21, 1880 by the U.S. Army troops under Lt. Col. Henry Clay Merriam. The camp was located 56 miles northwest of present-day Spokane at the junction of the Columbia and Spokane rivers. This location was selected because it was between the Colville and Spokane Indian reservations and would allow the soldiers to provide protection for the settlers and Northern Pacific Railway. In 1881 it is reported that some of the troops were still living in tents

Spokan Falls was the original name for Spokane and was incorporated on November 29, 1881 with a population of 350. The "e" was added to the name in 1883 and the "Falls" was dropped in 1891.

Charles and Mary Louise King were married on September 28, 1882, just five days after his enlistment date was ended. Several letters in the collection describe his life and excerpts from those letters follow.

<<<>>>

Addy, Washington March 20th, 1891 Albert, my dear Brother,

...I see too from your writing that you are fond of hunting and that you even break the law for the sake of killing a few quail or bob-whites as we used to call them. If you were with me you would enjoy a deer, bear, grouse, duck, or pheasant hunt very much, I am sure. I hunt altogether with the rifle. I use a Ballard Rifle nearly 4 feet long that shoots a 40 caliber, 85 grains of powder, and 370 grains of lead cartridge. I reload my cartridges and they cost me a fraction over a cent each in this way.

With this gun on my shoulder I am ready for any emergency. I am as sure to take the head off a pheasant as I am to hit a deer almost. And then with this gun I am very reasonably sure of killing a deer at a distance of a quarter of a mile, and at less than 100 yards I can hit a pheasant every time if the wind does not blow too hard. You can shoot rabbits any day you like, pheasants are about equally plentiful, grouse during harvest are very numerous, deer are always plenty, bear are getting scarce on account of being hunted so much for their fur and oil.

We will start plowing next week if nothing happens. Fall or Winter Wheat looks very well here and will make a good crop this year, but then we raise principally spring wheat in this valley. We do not cultivate land here as you do at home; the land here is so rich and is continually nourished by flow of water from the neighboring hills either caused by rains or the melting snows in the spring. There are fields in this valley that have been continually cropped that is sowed to wheat or oats every season since 1856, or say 35 consecutive years, and they (the fields, I mean) will yield from 20 to 35 bushels of Wheat or from 40 to 60 bushels of oats per acre now, so you see there is virtually no wear-out to the soil here.

I have about 55 to 60 acres of land ready for the plough this spring and about 15 or 20 acres in timothy hay and 2½ acres I have planted to Fruit Trees. This land I also use for raising garden vegetables for our own use and for the market. Then I shall use the balance of the clear land with some timberland for pasture. It is through this portion of the farm that the Colville River flows. By the way, I wish we had the variety of fish in this river that you are blest with in the State of Ohio, we should then certainly be happy indeed, but we have a very good gamy fish - the Trout, some of them weighing 4 pounds and over. We also have a carp - (sucker) we call them, that are very good for a substitute for fish if you can get no better.

The duck season is now at hand and I will find abundant sport shortly with my Double-barrel *Breuch* loading Shotgun, a No. 12, and my dog Bessie. I have killed as many as 112 Ducks in one month, and I have killed 7 deer in 20 minutes. But this is bragging on myself, so no more.

We find it hard work to hunt here. We have to climb mountains for Deer and grouse and crawl and scramble through bush and thorn and wade through great sloughs for Ducks and Pheasants and Rabbits. Times are a little hard here at present on account of the scarcity of money. But the farmers are preparing to put on a large crop of grain this season...

<<<>>>

Bluecreek, Wash. 2-14-1902 Mr. Louis Conradi, New Bremen, Ohio My dear Brother:

...I understand you are living on the old homestead. Is it anything like it used to be some 25 years ago? Do the trees in the old orchard still bear well? How far is Brother William's place from the old house? What has become of the Bridenauer and Dettenbruck places? Do the Geibs still live where they used to live 25 or 30 years ago? If so, how many of them are still living? Lizzie Geib is my schoolboy sweetheart - I always liked her, she was a good girl. I expect she is married long ago and the mother of a numerous family, like myself...

Our family consists of myself, my dear wife, Mary L., and our children according to age as follows: Mary L. (now Mrs. G.W. Smith); Martha E.; Lena A.; Edna J. (Died 1896 at Boarding School); Carl F.; Alice A.; Etta and Effie (twins); Albert A.; Loyd P.; Mable C.; Walter M.; and the baby unnamed.

I have lived in Stevens County, State of Washington since October 10th, 1878, which will be 24 years the 10th of next October. I have always made a good living at Farming, Merchandising, U.S. Mail Carrier, Teaching in several Districts in the County. Some years ago I branched off into Prospecting and Mining and I must say I have met with unlooked-for success and I hope it will continue. This Country is only just awakening to its wonderful resources in mineral and marble and will develop rapidly in the near future...

It is now 4:30 P.M. at my home one mile west of Bluecreek on the S. F. & N. Railroad, on what is known

as the Locke Road that runs across the Huckleberry Mountain Range to Hunters on the Columbia River. I can look out on the orchard from my desk at the window, thence over and beyond the orchard I can see a spur of the Findlay Mountain, which is covered with a forest of large trees of fir and pine. The ground is covered with about 7 inches of snow, and the twins and Albert and Loyd are coasting at the Pond; Carl is doing up the chores; Mattie and Lena are preparing the evening meal; Mable and Walter are romping on the floor; Baby is asleep on the Rocking Chair; Mama is fixing up something for the Baby; Alice is visiting at her Grandmother's 3 miles east of us.

Bluecreek Springs are about 150 yards southwest of our house and the discharge of water from these springs form a nice stream known as Bluecreek, which flows east one mile and empties into the Colville river at the village of Bluecreek on the R.R. It is stocked with Brook Trout, and in the Spring quite large Salmon Trout come up the creek as far as our house. It is a crystal clear stream with a blue gravel bottom, whence its name. Bluecreek at present contains a General Store, Blacksmith shop, Saw Mill with a daily capacity of 20,000 feet, Boardinghouse and Post Office and 10 dwellings. It has a spur on the S.F. & N. R.R. where hay, wood, stulls, grain, vegetables, ores and ties - yes, and lumber, are constantly loaded for shipment to various points.

Stulls are mining timbers - round, 16 feet 2 inches long and 12 inches in diameter at the small or top end, with the bark peeled off, and are used for the internal timbering in mines of a shaly nature or any formation that is not firm and for that reason would be dangerous without timbering.

Quite a lot of Stulls, Wood and Ties are being hauled past our house to the spur for the northern market at Northport, Wash. and Rasland, B.C. A good deal of hauling is now done as the sleighing is pretty good and would be better if it would freeze up some more; it gets too soft during the day. The thermometer ranged from 40 to 60 degrees Far. for 2 or 3 days but it turned somewhat colder and froze some last night...

<<<>>>

Bluecreek, Washington March 9th, 1902 Dear Brother Louis, Sister Hanna, and Niece and Nephew, Clara and Walter,

...We have a daily mail. It takes a letter 3 days from Chicago here.

Our place is now free from snow and we will make garden in a week or two as soon as it dries off a little more. The frost is all out of the ground as I dug some parsnips day before yesterday; they keep very nice by leaving right in the ground. The cabbage we turn upside down in rows and throw a little earth up against each side - enough to cover the head and let the roots remain uncovered; in this way they keep perfectly fresh and firm and sweet.

We will get our Garden Seed today from R.N. Shumway, Rockford, III. We get our seed from him as we have found his the most reliable seed of any house we

ever patronized. And we raise the best garden in our whole neighborhood; in fact people wonder how we can do it. It is simply on account of good seed.

You say you get 75 cents per cord for cutting wood? We pay from 75 cents to \$1.00 per cord for cutting Fir, Tamarack and Pine 4 foot wood, and one man can cut 2 cord a day. Two men frequently cut 5 and even 6 cord per day and cord it up.

The Colville Valley is about 60 miles in length, running nearly north and south and it is from 1-1/8 to 4 miles wide with some beautiful valleys running up its lateral tributaries. It has its source in Loon Lake and empties into the Majestic Columbia at the town of Kettle Falls. The Valley is skirted on the east by the Pend d'Oreille Mountains and on the west by Huckleberry Mountains. The S.F. & N. R.R. enters the Valley at Loon Lake running along its sandy shore for fully 2 miles, then running along the Colville River the full length of the valley, crossing and re-crossing many many times until it passes out of the Valley up the Columbia towards Bossburg, Marble, Northport, B.C. There are farms in this Valley that are worth \$25,000 and orchards over 100 acres in extent...

<<<>>>

Portland, Oregon January 20th, 1916 Mr. Louis Conradi, New Bremen, Ohio Dear Brother:

Just a line from a lost one from the North Pole. I returned from Alaska on the steamer North Star of Portland last fall. Have wintered here in the City. Intend to return to Alaska in course of a month or so. I hope these few lines will find you all enjoying good health and prosperity. I am well and happy and weigh 185 lbs.

Affectionately, Your Lost Brother Charles

<<<>>>

Charles F. Conrady died March 31, 1928 and is buried in Los Angeles in the Veterans Administration Facility, a Veteran of the Indian War. [translations, etc. by Gen Conradi]

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From the Mailbox

Lucille: 1/27/2009

Just finished reading the January 2009 issue of *The Towpath* and wanted to tell you how much we enjoyed the article on my Grandfather Oliver Solms. We have collected a lot of information on him, a lot with Tom Braun's help, but we did not know about his Farm Bureau connection until we read the article.

Thanks again and keep up the great work. We look forward to receiving each issue of *The Towpath*.

E-mail from Carl Solms - Ivins, Utah

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3/22/2009

Subject: Towpath "Flashbacks" - January 2009 issue When I read the Schwieterman's N.B. Sun ad in the January 2009 issue of The Towpath, I smiled. I know who won the doll contest in 1945. I won first prize which was a bride doll. The large window of the drugstore, facing Washington Street, was filled with the dolls. There was a bride doll in the middle, surrounded by dolls that were dressed like attendants. I'm not sure what ALL the dolls looked like, but I had my heart set on that bride doll. The contest involved purchasing merchandise and receiving points for the amount of the purchase. My parents bought so much stationery that we had enough for many years. I remember calling my aunts and uncles to ask them to give the points if they purchased anything Schwieterman's. When the big day finally arrived to announce who had won, I could hardly wait. I was ecstatic when they called and said I had won. I still have my bride doll today, along with the box she came in. The box is pretty beat up from all the times I took her in and out, but I still have fond memories of that day.

E-mail from Bev (Tangeman) Applegate – N.B.



Lucille: 4/9/2009

I want to compliment you for the most excellent April 2009 issue of *The Towpath*. There's more information about military people than I have ever read before and I think it's a wonderful work. You are to be highly complimented. My thanks to you. *Wally Hirschfeld – N.B.*

Lucille: 4/30/2009

I just wanted to let you know that I was sent 2 copies of the April 2009 issue of *The Towpath*. I sent the duplicate copy to my brother, Richard Ahlers, in Riverdale, Georgia (near Atlanta) where he is in a nursing home. He was in the service with many of the men sent to Normandy. He broke his glasses and was sent later to the South Pacific. He will be 89 in June.

His wife, Lucille, called me and said he really enjoyed reading *The Towpath.* I told him who your parents were and he remembered them.

I look forward to *The Towpath* every three months. You do an excellent job. *Alberta (Ahlers) Loffer – St. Marys*

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Lucille Francis:

4/19/2009

Enclosed are the belated annual dues for *The Towpath* for myself and my brother, Donald Haeseker.

Thanks for all the work you are doing. I find something of interest in each issue. Your April 2009 issue with information on the Normandy American Cemetery was quite timely as my wife, Dottie, and I are taking a river cruise in May from Paris to the beaches at Normandy.

Thanks again, Bob Haeseker – El Cajon, CA

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From Gen Conradi:

5/1/2009

I received a call from Barbara (Cashdollar) Ziegenbusch regarding the April 2009 issue of *The Towpath* and the article about "The School Grounds". She said she enjoyed reading the article and wondered if I remembered the merrygo-round. She said she remembers clearly the day it was installed on the northwest corner of the school grounds near Poplar and South Herman Streets. She said she and some friends stayed close by as the men worked on the installation and probably drove them crazy with questions and impatience. When the job was completed she and her friends rode round and round, faster and faster and so often that she became rather ill.

Barb went on to say, "I got violently ill the first day from riding too much. If you ran really fast and pushed the merry-go-round and then jumped on, you could get up more speed than just pumping with your hands & feet. That's how I chipped my tooth. As I jumped on, my tooth hit some metal. That merry-go-round would surely be deemed unsafe in today's world. How did we grow up? We played on gravel, rode bikes without helmets, drove cars without seat belts, and the teachers gave spankings for bad behavior. (Not that I ever got one.) I'm amazed at the vivid memory of the merry-go-round, hadn't thought about that in years."

She said she also remembers the cafeteria and the good food that was served there. She contradicted my statement that only children who lived far from the school were allowed to eat in the lunchroom. She said she ate there every day except for the occasional lunch at the Hotel with her dad.

Then my daughter Johanna called and said she enjoyed reading the article also but that she detected a bit of anger when I described scraped knees for girls, priority for boys' sports and girls' basketball rules. I agreed with her observation and explained that those inequalities laid the groundwork for the women's movement in the 1960s and 1970s so that those issues no longer plague our modern day girls.

Gen Conradi

I really enjoy *The Towpath* and look forward to the articles. This past issue was excellent! What a great time to remember our military from our hometown who gave their lives for us. Donald Mohrman was my first cousin. His mother, Marie Topp, was my Dad (Walter Topp)'s sister. Mother (Angie Berning Topp) said on his last visit home, he came to see me as a newborn, which would make sense as I was born in August of '43.

Keep up the great work you do for our lovely hometown of New Bremen. I would like to purchase Katy Gilbert's book (A Military Memoir of W.W.II). She is a first cousin from Mother's side - her dad was Mother's brother, Rich Berning. Small world, isn't it? Give my love to Dennis and all other classmates that you see along the way. I wish I lived closer.

Love, Doris (Topp) Carr – Gladstone, MO

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E-mail to Tom Braun:

While I'm currently a resident of Idaho, I am an Ohio native, as was my family. My mother, Wilhelmine Magdalena Kuenzel, was born in New Bremen 3/8/1900. Her father, Godfrey/Gottfried Kuenzel and his brother Ewald were proprietors of the Kuenzel Woolen Mills in New Bremen. After the brothers' deaths, the firm was managed by my uncle, Felix Kuenzel, until it closed in the 1950s when the demand for woolen blankets lessened due to cheaper imports and the introduction of synthetics.

I'm now retired and now that I have time I'm beginning to sort out the family genealogy. I will be vacationing in the east in September and have arranged my route to come through New Bremen on my way across country. I'd like very much to visit any remaining Kuenzel or Havemann (my maternal grandmother's maiden name) graves while there. I would greatly appreciate it if you could provide the locations of local graveyard(s). If the Association has any genealogical information on the Kuenzel and Havemann families or any history of the Kuenzel Mills which you would share, I would be most grateful. (see The Towpath - April 1998 & January 2001)

Sincerely, Jon Carter - Meridian, Idaho

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To Genevieve Conradi:

6/1/2009

5/26/2009

Thanks for the article about deaths in children in the early days of New Bremen. I had no knowledge of the Amsterdam epidemic, so explored the website. All was very informative. So tragic.... I remember seeing a book of pictures of dead children all dressed up. It was a common practice, to remember their faces.

Sandra Conradi - Mount Pleasant, SC

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Greetings: 6/8/2009

I was so surprised and pleased to find the 1933 print of Lock Two for sale through your catalog. Tom Braun told me that the float sponsored by Lock Two Mills was for the 100-year anniversary of the village of New Bremen. The print also shows the two Garmhausen houses and the Garmhausen Store. Please send me a copy. My check is enclosed.

Many thanks, Janet (Garmhausen) Bock - Columbus, OH

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Dear Lucille: 6/7/2009

After my husband, Jim Halsema, son of E.J. & Marie (Boesel) Halsema, died in 2005, I came upon a scrapbook that his mother had made during their years in the Philippines where E.J. was District Engineer of the Mountain Province in Luzon and Mayor of Baguio for over 20 years before WWII. The book contains newspaper clippings of the social life in Baguio and Manila and also of many members of the Boesel family. It has tons of items about people in New Bremen often arranged 5 to a page in an accordion-like mounting.

The Halsemas were interned by the Japanese and after the first year, Marie and E.J. were held in "house arrest" as being too old for internment. Jim, his sister Betty, and her husband and infant son were moved to Manila with the rest of the internees on the two days that the USAF lacked fuel to continue bombing the escape route to Manila. Therefore, when E.J. was in the hospital and felt that the construction of the bathroom was sturdier than the air raid shelter, he was killed in the destruction of his city, leaving Marie to take refuge on the mountainside in an Igorot (Native Tribal) hut until Jim could get through the battle of Manila and hitch a ride up into the mountains to rescue his mother. [see the April 2009 "Towpath" – pg. 8]

Let me know if you'd like to have the scrapbook for your museum and I will send it. I enjoy *The Towpath*. Thanks for all your hard work.

Alice Halsema – Glenmoore, PA

[Editor's Note: Previous letters from Alice Halsema have appeared in the January 2006 and July 2006 issues of "The Towpath".]

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NEW MEMBERS THIS PERIOD (THRU 6/18/09)

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

6/12/2009 Carter, Jon - Meridian, Idaho

4/30/2009 Clark, Joseph - Melbourne, FL (LM)

4/14/2009 Heidt, Bonnie (Topp) - New Knoxville, Ohio (LM)

5/2/2009 Ziegenbusch, Josh - Concord, California (LM)

ADDITIONS TO LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

4/30/2009 Clark, Joseph^ (new)

4/30/2009 Clark, Saundra (Woehler)

4/14/2009 Heidt, Bonnie (Topp)(new)

5/2/2009 Ziegenbusch, Josh (new)

MEMBER DEATHS THIS PERIOD

6/9/2009 Kettler, Robert F. (died 6/4/09)

4/17/2009 Schroer, James (died 4/17/09)

MEMORIAL / HONORARY DONATIONS

The following donations have been received this period:

In memory of Ferd & Bertha (Wietholter) Ahlers

by their children: Richard, Donald (dec'd.), Eugene, Deloris Rasor and Alberta Loffer

In memory of Lodema (Egbert/Knost) Dicke by Jack & Susan Knost

MEMORIAL / HONORARY DONATIONS

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

VERNON ROETTGER ANOTHER W.W.II CASUALTY

On pages 6-7 of the April 2009 issue of *The Towpath*, there was a list of the New Bremen area's World War II casualties. Not included in that list was Staff Sgt. Vernon C. Roettger, age 25, son of Alfred & Laura (Luedeke) Roettger, then living near St. Marys, but of New Bremen heritage.

Vernon was Killed in Action on April 16, 1945 in Italy. He had been with the Coastal Artillery until being transferred to the Infantry a short time before he was killed. He had served in Africa, Sicily and Italy.

In addition to his parents, he was survived by 3 sisters and a brother. His family had never seen him in uniform because he had never received a furlough since entering the army 3 years earlier. He had been overseas for 2½ years. He is buried at Schwaberow's Cemetery.

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Dear Lucille:

5/22/2009

I enjoyed reading the April 2009 issue of *The Towpath*. It brought back a lot of memories that my father, Carl Wuebbenhorst, had told me over the years about W.W.II. Listed were his classmates who had died during the war. Dad was the lucky one. Reading *The Towpath* inspired me to write another story for publication about my father and his part in W.W.II. God bless all those who have and are currently serving our country.

Thank you,

Kathi (Wuebbenhorst) Overley

[EDITOR'S NOTE: There wasn't enough room for this story in this issue. We will make every effort to include it in the October issue.]



GRAND OLE FLAG

by George M. Cohan

You're a grand old flag, you're a high flying flag
And forever in peace may you wave.
You're the emblem of the land I love.
The home of the free and the brave.
Ev'ry heart beats true 'neath the Red, White and Blue,
Where there's never a boast or brag.
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
Keep your eye on the grand old flag.



I'M A YANKEE DOODLE DANDY

Chorus from a patriotic song in the Broadway musical "Little Johnny Jones", written by George M. Cohan

I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy, a Yankee Doodle, do or die;
A real live nephew of my Uncle Sam's,
Born on the Fourth of July.
I've got a Yankee Doodle sweetheart,
She's my Yankee Doodle joy.
Yankee Doodle came to London just to ride the ponies
I am the Yankee Doodle Boy.



Best wishes to all for a Happy 4th of July.

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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