A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME ...

Listen, the wind is rising,
And the air is wild with leaves,
We have had our summer evenings,
Now for October eves.

Humbert Wolfe

Attendees at the Annual New Bremen Historic Assoc. Dinner were treated not only to one of Ruth Krieg's fabulous and famous roast beef dinners but also to a most interesting and stimulating presentation of boyhood reminiscences by Crown Equipment Corporation Chairman and CEO, Jim Dicke II. None of the many memories he shared produced a stronger flashback to "the old days" for me than his mention of the smell of burning autumn leaves. Psychologists tell us that aromas and smells are among the most powerful stimuli to bring us back to the past. I'll bet that you can smell those burning autumn leaves as you read this article (even though the practice has been outlawed for years) and recall times and events that you haven't thought of for years.

I began to recall other aromas and smells peculiar to New Bremen in the 1930s and 1940s.

Every community raked and burned leaves, but burning of another source was quite specific to New Bremen and it emanated from "the broom shop" on South Herman Street. Broom corn trimmings and stalks produced in the manufacture of brooms were periodically burned to get rid of them, and the summer breezes from the west wafted the very distinctive odor over the town. It was neither pleasant nor unpleasant, just different, and quite different from tree leaf smoke.

The Seiberling Rubber Company on West Plum Street was another contributor to the aromas of New Bremen. It was a fascinating factory that manufactured dipped latex products, chief among which were rubber gloves. One could peer through a window of the dipping room at the row upon row of white porcelain molds of the human hand ready to be dipped into the liquid latex as the first step in the production of a rubber glove. I don't know the source of the aromatic organic compounds that were responsible for the "rubber company smell", but it could be quite penetrating, especially on damp spring days and in concert with the smoldering broom shop offal.

The White Mountain Creamery on West Monroe Street generated waste byproducts derived during the manufacture of its various dairy products. The volume of these byproducts was much too great to route through the municipal sewage-treatment system, but there was considerable land south of the creamery buildings and running along the Nickel Plate Railroad tracks on which tank trucks spread the liquid byproducts. Having a dairy product origin, one can imagine the odors that could arise in the fermentation process.

A rare summer breeze from the north might bring with it evidence that Bremco Mills was busy dehydrating alfalfa. It produced an odor reminiscent of the Anheuser-Busch brewery here in Columbus, when the plant is roasting hops.

One might get the impression that New Bremen was a stinky town, which it certainly was not. These aromas did permeate the air from time to time - not like a Georgia paper mill town, but just enough to be a memory jogger at their mention. Remember the smoking punk with which we used to light fire crackers on the Fourth of July? You can smell it right now, can't you? ... by John T. Dickman
"THE TOWPATH" is a historical reflection of New Bremen and the surrounding area - researched, written, and/or edited by Lucille (Topp) Francis, EDITOR, and published quarterly by the New Bremen Historic Association. Any stories and/or pictures that our readers are willing to share are welcomed.

Lucille Francis, Editor & Membership 419-629-3148 [printed & mailed by Messenger Press – Carthage, Ohio]

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THE HARPLADY

[From "The Folk Harp Journal" – Winter 2007]
by Carol (Dammeyer) Cook

The Harp Lady - that's what they call me in the hospital where I play my harp (Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital in Houston, Texas.) After taking classes in the “Music for Healing and Transition” program, I became a volunteer when the chaplain invited me to play for the patients there. That was about seven years ago (2000), and I'm still enjoying it.

I've had many wonderful experiences - some funny, a few awful, but mostly gratifying in one way or another. I keep a journal to remember and learn from every experience.

I usually play on one floor a week and then finish in the lobby. If I ask the nurses whom I should play for, they will say, "Play for us first!" So I sit by the nurses' station and play as people pass by - nurses seem to need soothing as much as anybody else. But I kid them that if they start to yawn, then it's time for me to move on. We wouldn't want them getting too relaxed!

Sometimes the patients come out of their rooms to talk, many times on crutches or in a wheelchair. Other times a family member will ask me to go to a room to play for a patient, so I do that as long as it is OK with the nurses and I don't interfere with any medical activity going on in the room. Recently a woman asked me to play for her mother who had always loved to sing, so I went to her room. But a doctor was there, so I waited outside until he was finished and then the daughter waved me in. There were two other people in the room with the woman who was lying quietly in her bed.

They didn't request any certain tune but I thought of "Love's Old Sweet Song", a pretty melody that my mom used to sing years ago. (That's another thing - when I play those really old songs for older people, they will say, "I haven't heard that song in fifty years!" and they really seem to appreciate it.) I heard the daughter softly gasp and looked up to see her pointing at her mother. Her mouth was moving, and the next thing we knew, she was singing the song! Her family was so surprised and happy to hear her singing and the doctor came back in the room to see what all the commotion was about. He was surprised and pleased, too, to hear his patient singing in her hospital bed and gave me a big smile and a pat on the back when he went out!

Another time, in ICU, I was playing "Danny Boy" and a nurse started to sing along. He had a nice tenor voice, and the other nurses enjoyed his singing too. One of them went around and opened the doors of the patients' rooms so they could all hear better, but very soon one patient hollowed out, "Nurse, will you shut my door?" So not everybody enjoys music, and that's OK. I just wave goodbye and wish them well and move on.

One of the nicest experiences happened during the Christmas season when I was playing in the lobby and some children came over and sat on the floor in front of the harp. Then a young woman walked by, stopped, and sat down. When I started to play "Away in the Manger" she began to sing in a lovely voice that carried softly through the lobby. After the song ended, I told her it was so pretty, hoping she might sing along some more with the harp. But a beeper went off, and she quickly stood up and said she had to go.

I asked if she was on the staff there. She didn't wear a white coat, but I did see a stethoscope hanging out of her pocket. She said, "Yes, I'm a pediatrician." With that, she said goodbye and was gone.

To end this story of the harp in the hospital, I'll mention the man who got off the elevator on the top floor and came around the corner where I was playing. He was smiling and said, "I thought we'd gone all the way up to Heaven when I heard harp music!"

With so many wonderful experiences, you can see why it is such a pleasure to play the harp in a hospital!

[Carol Cook is a Houston-area harpist and a valued volunteer at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital in Houston, Texas. She is the daughter of Wilbert & Marie (Roodiger) Dammeyer and a 1951 N.B.H.S. graduate.]
1920 TORNADO

This picture of my grandmother has always been one of my favorites. Perhaps it is the way she is dressed, or the Model T near her, or the interesting story about this particular day. The picture was taken on Palm Sunday, March 28, 1920 at the Ed Niekamp farm in Chickasaw. High winds had been blowing all day, and that evening after 7:00 p.m. a tornado came in a northeasterly direction and sped over the southeast corner of Mercer County through Auglaize County, slamming into Moulton where it practically wiped the town off the map. In its path it tore down barns, houses, and stately stands of trees, causing a great deal of destruction.

The New Bremen Sun reported that the Palm Sunday tornado visited Darke, Mercer, and Auglaize counties that Sunday evening and caused a lot of damage. For the next three days, hundreds of people passed through New Bremen to look at the destruction that the storm had caused. The New Bremen telephone company lost all lines on the roads heading west - Chickasaw, Barth, Clover Four, Kuenning, and Middle Pike. The toll lines were down to St. Marys. New Bremen was without electricity, thus no water could be pumped. The interurban and mail service were down also.

Please went out for help during the first week in April. The farm fields were in terrible condition because of the wreckage strewn about from the storm and could not be planted. The farmers were overwhelmed. The Red Cross offered financial assistance but the help most needed was manpower to clean up the fields for planting. Mayor C.V. Huenke and the Auglaize County Farm Bureau urged everyone to cooperate after this disaster. They asked every farmer not affected by the storm and whose property had been spared to join forces and spend a day in assisting those neighbors in need. Mayor Huenke appointed 10 foremen to plan, coordinate and supervise work on the farms. Telephone lines were re-established to aid communication. High School and eighth grade boys were asked to volunteer, and 60 young men came forward to help.

The New Bremen district contained 13 farms in the destructive path of the tornado. Squads were formed and assigned to the farms of Gust Wittenbrink, Herb Staas, Christ Sollman, Henry L. Schroeder, Gust Bertke, Mrs. Lizzie Kuenning, Louis Schierholz, John Schierholz, Louis Kettler, Arley Schwepe, Joseph Lochtefeld, Frank Desch, and Frank Kremer. Everyone carried his own dinner and tools which consisted mainly of chisels and hammers. Several trucks were made available for the squads and many horses were employed to haul debris. Employees of industrial plants were also asked to volunteer with the cleanup and were given full pay if they helped. It required more than a day to repair all the damage caused by this major storm but the volunteers accomplished a great deal in that short time and made quite a difference to the stricken farmers.

My grandmother was 28 years old when this picture was taken. She had two daughters, Dorothy, 4, and Marjorie, 2 - my mother. Evelyn had not been born yet. My Grandma had been in Ohio just four years. She met my grandfather, Arnold Gieseke, in Arizona and they were married in Phoenix in 1913. When Grandpa got homesick for his family they decided to rear their family in New Bremen. It must have been a long uncertain train ride for her, but she made the best of moving to the little canal town of New Bremen from the big city of Phoenix.

In the picture, Grandma looks calm and competent, unafraid of the threatening weather. If she was aware of the possible disaster looming on the horizon, she wouldn’t have been afraid, just practical. Grandma knew that hard work and being kind to others would solve most problems. She wasn’t afraid of the future because it was full of opportunities for people who were willing to accept a little adventure. Like the pioneer women before her, she saw unfamiliar situations as opportunities and met them all with the same rugged determination.

...by Genevieve Conradi

NOTE: A book called “Joyous Echoes” was recently compiled by Genevieve and others of her mother, Marje Lietz’s columns written for her church’s newsletter, “The Beacon”, over a period of 15 years in which she talks about the weather, nature’s creatures and church history. Copies of this book are available for purchase (see page 10).
REACHING THE NORTH POLE

The quest to reach the North Pole grew out of the goal of finding a sea route from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean by way of the Arctic Ocean—a route known as the Northwest Passage.

The search for the Northwest Passage began when the English explorer Sir Martin Frobisher reached the Canadian Arctic in 1576. In 1587 John Davis sailed through part of what became known as Davis Strait, between Greenland and Baffin Island. In 1610 Henry Hudson sighted the bay that was later named for him. English navigator William Baffin explored what came to be called Baffin Bay in 1616, reaching latitude 77°45' north. In 1773, British sailor Constantine Phipps reached 80°48' north before severe weather turned his expedition back. The British Arctic Expedition (1875-1876), led by Sir George Nares, sailed up the strait between Ellesmere Island and Greenland (later called Nares Strait) and pledged to within 6° north of the Pole before scurvy forced the team to retreat.

The first official Arctic expedition from the United States in June 1881 was part of the first International Polar Year. Under the command of Lieutenant Adolphus W. Greely, it was based at Lady Franklin Bay on Ellesmere Island and made observations on magnetic and meteorological phenomena. In 1884, when relief vessels finally arrived, 16 members of the expedition had perished from cold and starvation.

*[see story about Julius R. Frederick and the Greely Expedition.]

Between 1886 and 1909 the American explorer Robert Edwin Peary headed several expeditions to the Arctic by way of Baffin Bay. In 1906, he reached Cape Morris Jesup on Greenland, the northernmost land point in the Arctic. On April 21, 1906, during an attempt to reach the North Pole, he attained latitude 87°6' north. On April 8, 1909, Peary and Matthew Henson finally reached the North Pole by dog sled over pack ice from Grant Land in northern Ellesmere Island. Some controversy continues to surround Peary’s claim to have reached the Pole, but subsequent research has led most scholars to believe him.

The first voyage by ship through the Northwest Passage was accomplished from 1903 to 1906 by the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen. In 1928 explorers Amundsen, Lincoln Ellsworth, and Umberto Nobile crossed the entire Arctic Ocean from Svalbard to Alaska in a dirigible (airship).

On May 9, 1928, American explorer Richard E. Byrd, along with the aviator Floyd Bennett, may have reached the North Pole by airplane, although this fact has also been disputed.

During World War II (1939-1945), several air bases and meteorological stations were established in Alaska, the Canadian Arctic, and Greenland, and in 1947 a scientific station was founded at Point Barrow, Alaska. In 1951 the U.S. Navy undertook Project Ski Jump in the Beaufort Sea, making many sea-ice landings. The first U.S. station on drifting ice was established early in 1952 by Joseph O. Fletcher.

By the late 1970s, traditional exploration had been largely replaced by systematic data gathering and scientific research. Access had been greatly improved by airplane, submarine, icebreaker, and new overland transportation methods, and earth satellites and automatic instruments had taken over much of the task of routine information collecting.

Magnetic Poles

Magnetic poles are either of two locations on the surface of the earth where the direction of the earth's magnetic field is vertical. The earth's magnetic field is an area surrounding the earth in which objects experience an electro-magnetic force. At the north magnetic pole, the magnetic force of the earth's magnetic field is downward into the ground, and at the south magnetic pole, the magnetic force is upward out of the ground. The magnetic poles are located at considerable distance from the geographic poles, which are the ends of the axis that the earth revolves around.

Sir James Clark Ross (1800-1862) was a British explorer who discovered the position of the magnetic North Pole. Born in London, Ross entered the British navy at the age of 12. In 1816 he took part in an Arctic voyage led by his uncle, Captain John Ross, in search of the Northwest Passage between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Ross was second in command on his uncle's second Arctic voyage, which lasted from 1829 to 1833. When their ship became icebound, the younger Ross led a series of overland expeditions. In 1831, on one such expedition, he discovered the position of the magnetic North Pole, then in Boothia Peninsula.

The magnetic north pole has shifted location over time and is now in the vicinity of Ellesf Ringnes Island in the Queen Elizabeth Islands of the Northwest Territories, Canada, about 800 miles from the North Pole (circled on map). The south magnetic pole is located just off of the coast of Wilkes Land, Antarctica. It is 1600 miles from the geographic South Pole.

In 1948 Canadian scientists Paul Serson and Jack Clark quite unexpectedly discovered that the magnetic poles wander. They had gone to the remote Canadian arctic to study the north magnetic pole. Much to their surprise, they found that it had moved about 160 miles from where it had been when British explorer James Clark Ross located it in 1831.

Ellesmere Island

Ellesmere Island is the largest island of the Queen Elizabeth Islands in the Baffin region of the Nunavut Territory, Canada, in the Arctic Ocean located off the northwestern coast of Greenland. Its northern tip, Cape Columbia, is the most northerly point of the North American continent. The island, about 460 miles long, 300 miles wide and 75,767 square miles in area, is mountainous, with some peaks in the United States range reaching more than 9000 feet.

Some regions of Ellesmere Island receive only about 1 inch of precipitation each year. As a result the island has little vegetation. Much of its surface lies under glacial ice cap. Herds of caribou and musk-ox roam some of the ice-free regions of the island. Human habitation is very sparse, with only a few scattered communities. One of these communities, Alert, a radio and weather station maintained by the United States and Canada, is the northernmost settlement in the world. Ellesmere Island and the Queen Elizabeth Islands were sighted by the English navigator William Baffin in 1616. The Queen Elizabeth Islands altogether 164,000 square miles in area, were named in 1953 for Elizabeth II of England.
JULIUS R. FREDERICK
and the Greely Expedition to the Arctic
6/14/1881-6/22/1884

[The Indianapolis Star Magazine – 11/16/1958]
[The Evening Leader “Tel-Scopes” - St. Marys, Ohio – 2/16/1959]
[Sunday Times – Democrat (Davenport-Bettendorf, Iowa) – 2/26/1961]
[“Abandoned” by A.L. Todd, published in True Magazine March 1961]

The first official Arctic expedition from the United States in June 1881 was part of the first International Polar Year. Under the command of Lieutenant Adolphus W. Greely, it was based at Lady Franklin Bay on Ellesmere Island, Canada, and made observations on magnetic and meteorological phenomena. In June 1884, when relief vessels finally arrived, 18 members of the 25-man expedition had perished from cold and starvation. Another died after being rescued. [see “Reaching the North Pole” – pp. 4]

Most people from the New Bremen area are probably unaware that a local man was among the 25 members of the famed “Adolphus W. Greely Expedition” which spent three years above the Arctic Circle, farther north than any white man had ever lived that long before.

In 1879, the International Meteorological Congress in Hamburg, Germany, set up an International Polar Congress. Eleven nations were to establish 34 circumpolar weather observation stations as far to the north as they could get and report two years of observations. The expedition set out from Washington on the sealing steamship Proteus on June 14, 1881 and reached within 350 miles of the North Pole.

Julius R. Frederick was 29 years old and a veteran of the Indian wars with the Sioux and Nez Perce tribes when he responded as a private to the Army’s call for volunteers for a mission, not knowing and not caring what the mission was. He was a 5’2” hard-riding, barrel-chested, big-muscled man (called “Shorty”), with a strong sense of responsibility and the ability to get along with others. These qualities put him among the 23 men selected from all the armed forces for a “geophysical” 2 years service with the Greely Expedition.

Greely’s men had enough supplies for an extended stay, however if no relief had appeared by September 1, 1883, the party was to start southward and pick up supplies at pre-arranged points.

Because the first supply ship (Neptune) was unable to get through the ice in August 1882, the sealing ship Proteus was dispatched with fresh supplies and an Army party under the command of Lt. Ernest A. Garlington. Garlington had been instructed that if ice should halt the Proteus, he was to cache a winter’s supply of stores at designated points on Smith Sound and then sledge northward to find the Greely party stationed at Fort Conger, Lady Franklin Bay, Grinnell Land, the most northerly of a ring of observation stations maintained by 11 governments. However, the Proteus suffered the tragedy of being crushed in the pack ice of the far north and sank. When the Proteus went down, Lt. Garlington and his men fled to their escort vessel and left the Arctic, leaving a note for Greely in a cairn on Ellesmere Island.

Greely, of course, knew nothing about all this, so early on August 9, 1883, with food running low and no ship in sight, he set off for a desperately needed cache of stores that wasn’t there.

When Secretary of War Robert Todd Lincoln announced that there would be no further attempt to reach the Greely party that year, Greely’s wife, Henrietta, launched a determined campaign to prod the U.S. government.

In the meantime, Greely and his men clung to an ice floe in the Kane Sea for 34 days. When a wind drove it close to shore in Smith Sound where the supplies were to have been, they managed to reach land and found the disheartening message from Garlington. Greely decided to set up a permanent camp at Cape Sabine, where a small supply of rations had been left by the English a few years before (1875-1876).
THE LADY FRANKLIN BAY ARCTIC EXPEDITION - 6/14/1881


MISSING FROM PICTURE: Pvt. Roderic R. Schneider, who arrived in Washington too late to be included in the picture; Army Surgeon Dr. Octave Pavy, who joined the expedition at Disco, Greenland; and two Eskimo sledge drivers, Jens Edward and Frederik Thorley Christiansen, who came aboard at Upernavik.

Those who came back 6/22/1884.

The men's mission changed from scientific inquiry to mere survival. They attempted to bring in any kind of edible matter – tiny shrimp netted at the freezing shore, an Arctic fox, sealskin out from their sleeping bags and boiled, greasy candle stubs. Their clothing became encrusted with grease and dirt, their hair grew matted and their faces became hollow. Despite their misery, their morale was extraordinary.

At last, on December 17, 1883, President Chester Arthur appointed a joint Army-Navy board to consider a relief expedition. It was decided to ask Congress for authority to dispatch an all-Navy expedition. The rescue bill was brought to the floor of the House on January 22, 1884 and passed without dissent, but was again delayed in the Senate. From the time President Arthur had called for the authority to act, Congress had taken 25 days to grant it.

Secretary of the Navy William E. Chandler bought one of the best whaling boats afloat, the Bear. Her companions were the Thetis and the Alert. By the time the Bear sailed, 6 of the men had already died. In a tiny hut on Cape Sabine, Pim Island, Ellesmere Land, on Smith Sound, above 78º north latitude, Sgt. Frederick (he had been promoted to sergeant by his commanding officer during the expedition) and six companions watched 18 comrades die one-by-one, most of them of slow starvation. Dr. Octave Pavy was one of the earlier ones to succumb. Another (Pvt. Henry) had been ordered executed because he had been flagrantly stealing from the other men and menacing their safety. Cemetery Hill, which arose just behind the blown-down tent on Cape Sabine, was carefully laid out in graves. A few hands and feet protruded from the 3º of gravel which failing muscles had been unable to heap higher.

On the evening of June 22, 1884, the crew of a Navy steam cutter off the Bear rounded a small point near Cape Sabine and came face to face with Sgt. Francis Long, the most physically fit of Greely's men. He was wild-eyed, gaunt, filthy – but alive. He pointed to their snow-covered shelter and croaked "Seven left – Greely's alive – down there." Weakened fingers could no longer hold pencils to write in their precious diaries when the distant whistle of the rescue ship USS Thetis was heard near midnight. The rescue came the next morning. The survivors resembled breathing skeletons. Among them lay one corpse, dead for 4 days, which they had been too weak to drag away.

They had to be chopped from their frozen sleeping bags, but beside each helpless man was a little bag containing his last will and testament, a sentimental message, and mementos of the North to the one he loved best. Carefully stacked in the middle under a heavy stone were all the maps, geographical data, photographs, notes on fauna and flora, weather statistics, charts of more than 1400 miles of the coastline of northern Greenland, first maps of Ellesmere Island, accounts of the first view of the "Western Ocean" (now the Arctic Ocean), proof that there was no "Northwest Passage" by sea from Atlantic to Pacific, discovery of a mountain range, discovery of a vein of coal, fossils of one-time tropic vegetation within 10º latitude of the North Pole, artifacts of early man, and statistics of certainty – that the white man cannot survive in the Arctic without supplies from "down under" and surety of relief by specific date.
Those records were as precious as life to the valiant men who dragged them and many additional pounds of rock specimens, samples of arctic coal and pieces of petrified wood from Lady Franklin Bay to Cape Sabine (more than 300 miles) by sheer strength down one of the world’s most rugged coastlines and kept and protected them while they drifted helpless for 34 days on an ice floe in the Kane Sea. With approaching death howling in the wind, they built a caim (heap of stones) over those records before they crawled into the sleeping bags where they lay to die when the Thetis found them.

Sgt. Frederick was the only one who could stand. He tried a staggering salute and insisted upon “walking” aboard the Thetis. He did – between two stalwart seamen. The 7 survivors were given tender care aboard ship, but one whose hands and feet had been frozen off died following an operation on the homeward voyage. Of the original 25 men, only 6 came home.

Fifteen days later (July 7, 1887), as the 3 ships steamed into the harbor of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, the entire North Atlantic naval squadron was in line with flags fluttering and whistles tooting. Henrietta Greely was there to board the Thetis to greet her husband and his surviving men.

It took years and a special Act of Congress to begin to repay those many months of mental torture and excruciating physical agony. On December 24, 1895, Sgt. Frederick retired on disability as a 2nd Lieutenant, with half-pay pension to him and his widow. He was the first Army officer to be so commissioned from the ranks and retired because of heroic service.

He was given a government job as a “weather observer” in the Indianapolis Weather Bureau, a position he held for 17 years until his death in 1904. He had learned weather observation under extreme stress: to read and estimate temperatures when mercury was frozen solid, when spirit thermometers were sluggish and inaccurate; to take astronomical observations while the midnight sun was still 10° below the horizon, correcting for refraction against cloud banks at various temperatures; to compute humidity at -60° when a man’s beard was stiff as a statue. He had had to compute wind velocity when all the air cones had been blown from the anemometer (velocities of 85 mph were registered at -48°.)

In 1882, he had measured the greatest compass deviation then known (20° 28.2’ westward) during magnetic observations of that year’s great 3-day aurora borealis. He had witnessed and recorded the fall of a great 90-ton meteor in 1883. He charted day-to-day weather data until the day before rescue. He had taken soundings of ocean depth at what was then “farthest north” and had compiled volumes of statistics on wind direction and storm formation. In 1958, when the nuclear-powered USS Nautilus became the first submarine to cross the Arctic Ocean from the Bering Strait to Iceland via the North Pole in 4 days far below the ice, navigation was perhaps partially based upon tidal and ocean-current information from the Greely Expedition records.

The Frederick Family History
Julius R. Friedrich (name later changed to Frederick) was born in Germany 7/21/1852, the son of Johann WILHELM & Henriette (Sengespeit) Friedrich. He had a brother, Johann Wilhem who lived in Indianapolis, a sister, Cora (who married Johann Doenges in 1876) a brother Johann HEINRICH (who married Catharine M. Wiegars in 1885) and a brother Gustav. Their mother died 8/28/1868. Seven months later, William Friedrich remarried, to Anna Margarete (Dickman) Vick, widow of William Vick, who had died of “camp fever” in 1863 after serving in the Civil War.

William & Margarete (Dickman/Vick) Friedrich had 3 children: 2 daughters – Clara (Mrs. William F. Koehler, b./1871), Flora (b./1873) and a son, Carl/Charles Heinrich Friedrich (born 8/11/1877). Margarete also died, on 11/26/1878. Four months later, William married for a third time, to Anna Marie Charlotte (Fuelling) Wiegars, widow of Heinrich Gerhard Wiegars, who had died in 1875. She died 6/25/1903.

In 1880, William J. Frederick owned 120 acres of land in Section 30 of St. Marys Twp. (southwest corner of St. Rt. 219 & St. Rt. 364). This farm is currently owned by Harold & Martha Dammeyer (uncle of Tom Braun). William Frederick died 5/18/1984, just a month before his son was rescued from the Arctic Expedition.

Julius R. Frederick (7/21/1852-1/8/1904)
In 1885, still gaunt and emaciated after being rescued as one of the survivors of the Greely Expedition to the Arctic, 32-year old Julius was married in St. Marys to 18-year old Laura Kettler, daughter of August F.W. Kettler and Natalie Orphal. When their first daughter was born on the second anniversary of his rescue, they named her Thelis, after the rescue ship. Two years later, they had another daughter whom they named Sabine, after the cape from which the men were rescued. In November 1958, when Laura celebrated her 92nd birthday, she and her married daughters all lived in the Woodruff Place area in Indianapolis. Julius
had died in 1904 at the age of 51 from cancer, which was believed to be a result of the change in the cellular structure of his vital organs that were literally "wrung out" during his extended and acute starvation.

His insides had been tied into knots by the diet of raw seal blubber, sea fleas (infinitesimal crustaceans they called "shrimp") hardly as big as house flies (they had the time to figure out that it took 700 to weigh one ounce), boiled shoe leather, sealskin sleigh lacing, scrapings of black rock lichen which they called "lettuce", bird droppings, arctic caterpillars, sour and moldy dog biscuits (the dogs had long since departed), blossoms of saxifrage (sassafras), and samples of earth which Dr. Pavy thought might contain nutrition.

Julius Frederick didn't like to talk about his experience. When asked if he had kept a diary, he got the bulky mass of papers, sat in front of the fireplace for a long time staring into the flames, and then deliberately laid the bundle on the coals, saying "Let it burn — it's stupid, crude and illiterate." He cut his old seal-skin shirt that he had been rescued in into strips to tie up the grape vines on the arbor.

Julius Frederick was NOT stupid, crude or illiterate. His official reports were lucid, intelligent and bore a literary quality of humor when there was nothing to laugh at, such as a verse from an old cavalry song — "Rough and tough and full of fleas; I've never been curried below my knees."

Laura (Kettler) Frederick died sometime between 1960-1964 (her obituary was not dated). Besides her husband, she was also preceded in death by her brother, Edwin C. Kettler, of St. Marys (1964-1937). She often recalled how she and Edwin walked from St. Marys to New Bremen and Minster for dances, then would walk back home. The brother and sister were known as being beautiful waiters. She was survived by her two daughters, Mrs. John (Thetis) Dills and Mrs. Harry (Sabine) Epply, 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren, along with nieces and nephews (children of her husband's sister, Cora Doenges, and their brother, Henry Frederick) whom she had visited frequently at New Bremen and St. Marys until her age made travel difficult.

Cora (Frederick) Doenges (1856-1933)

Henry Friedrich/Frederick (1864-1941)
Henry Friedrich married Catharine M. Wiegens. They had 4 children, 3 of which grew to adulthood: 1) Johann Gustav Wilhelm Frederick (1888-1964), who lived in Sidney; 2) Mrs. Clement (Mary Henriette) Nuse, St. Marys (1900-1994) who had 2 Marriages: Mrs. John (Marjorie) Steva (born 1926) and Mrs. Melvin (Dorothy) Neidt (1932-2007); and 3) Leonard Frederick (1891-1964), who lived in St. Marys. Leonard had a son, Jack (1918-2005), who lived in Celina and played with several different bands — Dale & Jo Stevely, Tommy Howard, Walkie Davis, and his own band — the Jackie Frederick Orchestra.

Adolphus Washington Greely (3/27/1844-10/20/1935)
[Army officer & American explorer of the Arctic]
Adolphus Washington Greely was born in Newburyport, Massachusetts. After participating as a volunteer with the Union forces during the American Civil War, entering the army in 1861, he joined the regular army in 1867. He was subsequently appointed to the signal service and from 1876 until 1879 supervised the erection of more than 2000 miles of telegraph line in Texas, the Dakotas, and Montana. In 1881 he became commander of an American expedition to establish one of a chain of 13 circumpolar meteorological stations recommended by the International Geographical Congress in 1879, and established Fort Conger on Ellesmere Island, Canada. His expedition discovered new territories north of Greenland, and several members of the group reached 83°24' north latitude, the northernmost point attained to that date. For his service in the Arctic, Greely was awarded the Founder's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society. In 1887 he was made chief signal officer and Brigadier General, becoming the first volunteer and enlisted man in the U.S. Army to attain that rank. In 1888, he helped found the National Geographic Society.

During the Spanish-American War, Greely was in charge of constructing telegraph lines and establishing communications in Puerto Rico, China, Cuba, and the Philippines. He was later given a similar commission in Alaska, establishing the first wireless stations in the territory. Greely supervised relief operations in San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake and fire. In that year he was promoted to Major General, and two years later (1908) he retired from the Army. Among the books he wrote were Three Years of Arctic Service (2 volumes, 1885-1886), Handbook of Polar Discoveries (1909), True Tales of Arctic Heroism (1912), and The Polar Regions in the Twentieth Century (1928).

Sgt. David L. Brainard, Last Survivor (died 3/2/1946)
Sgt. David L. Brainard became a Brigadier General. He was the last survivor of the Expedition, and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. His diary about the Greely Expedition was published in 2 books. The first of his books, published in 1929, was titled The Outpost of the Lost and starts with 8/9/1883 of his diary. The second book, published in 1940 by the Bobbs-Merrill Co. and edited by Bessie Rowland James, was called Six Came Back: the Arctic Adventure of David L. Brainard and starts with 7/7/1881, the day their steamship Proteus left St. Johns, Newfoundland and ends with 6/21/1884. (A copy of this book, autographed by Brig. Gen. Brainard on 10/10/1940, is in the possession of Julie (Dammeyer) Fark, great-niece of Julius Frederick.)

Winfield Scott Schley (10/9/1839-10/21911)
(Commander of the rescue ship, "Thetis")
Commander Winfield Scott Schley was born in Frederick County, Maryland. He was the U.S. Naval officer who first won fame in 1894 as the rescuer of the lost Arctic Expedition under Adolphus W. Greely.

During the Spanish-American War, on July 3, 1898, Commodore Schley directed the brief battle that destroyed the Spanish fleet attempting to escape the American blockade of Santiago de Cuba. While the American commander, William Sampson, was in charge several miles away Schley directed the battle, but the standing orders determining tactics were Sampson's work. A dispute arose over who had been in command during the battle, and in 1901 a court of inquiry credited Sampson with the victory.

SIX CAME BACK
From the Diary of David L. Brainard
[Some lighter moments of the first year]

7/7/1881, 12:10 p.m.: Left St. Johns, Newfoundland on sealing
steamer ship Proteus – Captain: Richard Pike.
7/15/1881, 10:30 a.m.: Crossed Arctic Circle.
7/20/1881: Bought 12 sledge dogs @ $5.00 each. Dr. Octave
Pavy, Army surgeon, joined trip at Disco, Greenland.
7/23/1881: Into Baffin Bay.
7/29/1881: Picked up 2 Eskimo dog drivers at Upernivik.
8/2/1881: Littleton Island – Discovered previous expedition papers
and relics of 1871 & 1876.
8/11/1881, 1:00 p.m.: Entered Lady Franklin Bay (named after wife
of 1848 English explorer, Sir John Franklin) in Ginnell Land.
8/12/1881: Dropped anchor 1100 miles north of Arctic Circle,
float light lumber raft ashore.
8/14/1881: Started framing building – named Fort Conger after
Michigan Senator who put through bill authorizing expedition.
8/18/1881: Transferred to shore into temporary tents.
8/19/1881, 5:00 a.m.: The Proteus leaves.
8/27/1881: Moved into house – 21’x65’x14’ high – 3 rooms (for
officers, men, kitchen).
9/29/1881: Brought out all musical instruments and vocalists.
Tuned up – more noise than harmony.
10/4/1881: Shelves put in rooms for books and magazines
contributed by interested persons in civilized world.
10/8/1881: Anti-swearing society started – fine of $5 for each oath.
10/9/1881: Sun gone for the next 5 months.
10/17/1881: Started constructing house of ice blocks ("ice palace"),
providing occupation and exercise – also built skating rink.
10/18/1881: Brought in 3 tons of coal from coal mine at
Watercourse Bay.
10/22/1881: Built 2nd snow house at Cape Beechey. Used whale
boat sail for roof.
10/27/1881: Built wall of snow blocks around station.
10/30/1881: Made a pair of trousers from a government blanket.
11/8/1881: One of the dogs had 3 puppies.
11/14/1881: Two auroras observed.
11/24/1881, Thanksgiving: Participated in outdoor sports –
snowshoe race, dog race, foot race, shooting match. Music & singing
in the evening.
12/9/1881: Continued darkness causing depression.
12/18/1881: Temp. originally given as -50°, corrected to -46°.7°.
Correction almost makes us perspire. Long evening made tolerable by
ample allowance of rum.
12/24/1881: Snowfall, then stars came out. Christmas gifts, eggs,
nog and singing far into morning.
12/25/1881, Christmas: Plum puddin' & confections for Christmas.
12/20/1881: Continuing 3-day Christmas festivities terminated
happily with liberal allowance of Yankee dew.
11/1/1882, New Year's: Stayed up till 3:00 a.m. last night singing &
dancing, music from a tin-pan orchestra, cigars.
1/21/1882: Auroral display – played checkers for pastime.
2/17/1882: Return of the sun – could read by turning page to the
south. Intensely cold – hospital whiskey froze, several bottles broke.
2/3/1882: Temperature is -66°. Coal oil is thick as lard.
2/9/1882: Returning of light makes more contented minds.
2/25/1882: Room of 19'x35' houses carpenter shop, tinker's shop,
tinsmith, shoe & saddler shops, meteorological observatory & office,
magnetic & astronomical study, dining room, sleeping apartment,
photograph gallery and sitting room. Also, bathroom takes 4'x7'.

3/22/1882: Now have continuous daylight.
4/7/1882: Two team dogs entered tent & made off with our rations
of meat – we go without meat until the next meal.
4/8/1882: Spent 2 days in sleeping bags due to raging storm –
more wind troubles next day.
4/13/1882: Found a 1858 American penny near camp.
4/22/1882: "Shorty" (Julius Frederick) had trouble preparing meal.
Had to tunnel through 4 foot drift with hands. After warming himself
over the lamp, he forgot all about his troubles.
4/23/1882 (Sunday): Dogs ate all the bacon & 10# of English beef.
4/24/1882: Small pieces of ice, partly concealed by snow, upset
sledges. Anti-swearing Society rolled up large total of fines.
4/26/1882: Found 40 rations & a can of rum left from spring of 1878
in cache.
5/3/1882: Discovered large tidal crack. Dropped all available
measuring devices (code line, sealakin lashings, rope, etc.) down to 820',
but did not touch bottom. Lost code line & lashings – no more deep sea
soundings!
5/11-12/1882: Storm thriving – no travel today. Killing time
repairing clothing, reading, sleeping and knocking our feet together to
keep up circulation.
5/15/1882: Our dogs are preparing for war! They tore open the
ammunition bag & attacked our shotgun shells, biting completely
through several.

[Most of the talk centered on the expected arrival of the relief ship
that was to bring additional supplies and mail with news of the outside
world. Lots of time was spent writing letters to send back home. With
Lt. Greely's recreational program and the well-planned diet, the camp
had come through the Arctic winter without the mental & physical
disintegration which other explorers had suffered. All that was needed
to infuse new life into Fort Conger for the coming year was the arrival of
the ship bearing messages from loved ones.]

6/3-10/1882: Balmy days, snow vanishing, green vegetation.
Temperature above 32° - planted garden.
6/24/1882: Ellson thought plants growing in a cold climate should
have encourage – he poured boiling water over the vegetable
patch.
6/27/1882: 53° this afternoon.
7/4/1882: Celebrated Independence Day with shooting match, foot
race, wheelbarrow race & baseball game.
7/8/1882: Lt. Lockwood & I went to check on open water situation &
speculate on arrival of relief ship due next month.
7/16/1882 (Sunday): We did almost nothing now but think & talk
about the relief ship & its chances with the ice in the channel.
7/21/1882: Celebrated (Julius) Frederick's 30th birthday today.
7/21-8/2/1882: False sightings & hearings of ships & their steam
whistles.
8/7/1882: Perplexity about no sight of relief vessel, even though
conditions seem favorable.
8/11/1882: Lt. Greely about given up hope of relief reaching us this
year. All field work has been held up pending arrival of a vessel.

[At this point, the "Neptune" was trying to get through the ice, but on
9/5/1882, it was forced to face south & steam toward home.]
9/14/1882: Plugs removed from barrels containing liquids. Lime
juice kegs placed in lilo to prevent freezing. Coal bins being filled to
capacity. Everything is going ahead for the winter & spring same as last
year, only not quite the same enthusiasm. Darkness becoming
noticeable – lamps lit every evening at 8:00. Very soon they will be
going all day. Our joy now is the skating.
9/20/1882: Temperature down to 45°. Celebrated Eskimo Fred's
32nd birthday. Schneider played "Over the Garden Wall" on his violin.
10/17/1882: 1 pound soap issued for each man for rest of our stay.
12/25/1882, 12/31/1882: Enthusiasm for celebrating Christmas
diminished considerably. Tried to get up a dance on New Year's Eve.
And thus began the 2nd & 3rd years
of the Greely expedition to the Arctic...
Dear Staff:

2/4/2008

I am enclosing a check to cover dues to your great organization—that is, if you allow non-German background Cincinnati in your elite outfit.

Dr. Joan L. Howison

[Editor’s note: This is one of Tom Braun’s “fans” who was a part of the group from the Ohio Historical Decorative Arts Association of Cincinnati that toured the New Bremen area in October 2007. See the January 2008 “Towpath.”]

Dear Lucille:

2/1/2008

Congratulations! What a great job you and the staff have done with The Towpath and the museum. I was in shock reading about all the Wissman families - and the pictures are priceless.

Hope your Annual Dinner meeting is a big success.

I passed the 85 year mark – going on 86 now, but I don’t think I’ll make 100. Ha Ha.

So happy that you are in a position to restore things in the museum and around. Give Joyce and De my regards. I have been told New Bremen is getting a new look. I’m waiting for the next issue – maybe you can manage it? Jim (classmate) and Pat Moeller keep me up-to-date with New Bremen.

Fondly,
Ruth Evelyn McKay – West River, Maryland

1/29/2008

I am already a Lifetime Member, so I would like to make a contribution in memory of my father, Hilmer Dickman. I am enclosing copies of his obituary.

I was pleased to see a picture of my cousin, Dorothy (Koenig) Dunlap (N.B.H.S. Class of ’42 in your January 2008 Towpath.

Mary (Dickman) Lirones – Saline, Michigan

Hilmer C. Dickman (1894-12/30/1987) was born & raised in New Bremen, the son of Christian John Dickman & Louise D. Harjehausen. He graduated from N.B.H.S. in 1912, from Ohio Wesleyan College, and then earned a master's degree from Ohio State University. He was a Navy veteran of W.W.I. Hilmer & his wife, Florence, were married in June 1929, after which they moved to Zeeland, Michigan, where he spent 26 years in the public school system, first as a teacher and later as the high school principal. Upon retirement in 1954, he served 12 years as Justice of the Peace. Survivors included his wife, a son Lawrence, and a daughter, Mary Louise Lirones.

Good morning:

2/29/2008

I am enclosing a check for memberships and for extra copies of the October 2007 Towpath about the Schlesseiman saw mill and the January 2008 issue about the Schelpner butcher shop.

My mother, Gabriel (Schaefer) Herring, grew up in New Bremen (in the neighborhood of both these businesses). I enjoy The Towpath for its occasional article that includes a reference to her and to my cousins.

Yours truly,
Margaret Herring – Chicago, Illinois

Dear Joyce, Genevieve, and Delores:

3/4/2008

I am enjoying your little book about New Bremen food, “Preserving the Abundance: New Bremen’s Food Legacy”.

Joyce: I love the picture of your grandmother Lietz on page 4. She looks exactly as I remember her. She was such a sweet lady. She did love you - spoiled you (and me too) a little, right? I just bought some rhubarb and plan to use her recipe this afternoon for rhubarb sauce. I love rhubarb - it really reminds me of New Bremen.

I am old enough to remember Knipple’s bakery and their very simple, but delicious, coffee cake.

With regard to World War II recipes, I still use my mother’s recipe for pumpkin pie filling. I remember her saying that it dates from that era - something she cut out of a magazine, no doubt. I think it really only differs from traditional recipes in that it calls for less sugar, which is then augmented with corn syrup. The syrup must have been more readily available at that time.

The New Bremen school recipes are fun - on the same page (35) with my sister Emily and Genevieve’s picture!

My husband Gary (he comes from Ohio also) and I often talk about the good sandwiches served at the Ohio fairs and festivals, like the Woodmen barbeque recipe on page 36. I remember having beef barbeque with cut up cooked carrots. I've tried to duplicate it, but it never tasted as in my memory. Now I know how simple - just canned carrots.

I do make hot German potato salad. I've never had a recipe - just kind of wing it. The recipe on page 36, along with Delores’s picture, will help get the proportions right.

Thanks for your work on the book.

Julie (Grotthaus) Zerbe – Denver, Colorado (NBHS class of 63)

Joyous Echoes is a compilation of Marjorie (Conradi) Lietz's columns that appeared in St. Paul Church's monthly newsletter, The Beacon. Before Marge became the Editor of The Towpath in 1987, she already had experience in writing her Joyous Echoes column which she started in April 1984 and continued for 15 years, until one month before her death in November 1999.

Marge began writing the column to record happy events within the church community. She reported births, anniversaries and programs and gave her own slant on the weather, nature's creatures and church history.

Recently, Marge's collection of her columns were compiled into a book by Genevieve Conradi, Lucille Francis and Joyce Ruedebusch. Copies of this book are now available for purchase. All proceeds from the sale of these books will be deposited in The Beacon fund to help cover the costs of printing and mailing the monthly church newsletter.

To order your copy, send $15.00 (+$2.50 S/H) to:
St. Paul Church – P.O. Box 6 – New Bremen, OH 45669.
Mark it “For Beacon Fund”
NEW MEMBERS THIS PERIOD (THRU 3/31/08)
[*Spousal Memberships @ $6.00 or $60.00/LM]
2/20/2008 Aufferhaar, *Eugene – Bowling Green, Ohio
2/20/2008 Aufferhaar, Kathleen (Schroer) (rejoined-Bowling Green
3/26/2008 Beo, Michael Boesel – Arnold, Maryland
2/29/2008 Bigelow, Kate – DeSoto, Missouri
2/28/2008 Brown, Clara E. (Koenig) - Roebling, New Jersey
3/7/2008 Findlay, Charlotte (Frey) – Anna, Ohio
3/5/2008 Heckman, *Anne – Minster, Ohio
3/5/2008 Heckman, Jeff – Minster, Ohio
3/13/2008 Howell, David Lee (LM) – San Diego, California
2/4/2008 Howison, Dr. Joan L. – Cincinnati, Ohio
2/4/2008 Koenig, John R. – Birmingham, Alabama
2/7/2008 Komminsk, Dianne (LM) - New Bremen
2/9/2008 Mascaro, Augustine - Nycack, New York (TR)
2/22/2008 Mesloh, *Mrs. William (JoAnn) - Bakersfield, California
2/5/2008 Roettger, *Nancy (LM) - Sidney, Ohio
2/11/2008 Schroer, Steven - New Bremen
1/4/2008 Shroyer, Danny - New Bremen
2/19/2008 Topp, Mark – New Bremen
2/5/2008 Wierwille, Mike (LM) - Encino, California
2/14/2008 Wiseman, Mrs. Carl (Janet) – St. Marys (TR)
1/29/2008 Wiseman, Thomas - Sterling Heights, Michigan
3/12/2008 Zarley, Dorothy (Wallace) – Eaton, Ohio

ADDITIONS TO LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ROSTER
2/15/2008 Dill, Barbara (Kuck)
2/8/2008 Fritz, Janet (Niemeyer)
3/13/2008 Howell, David Lee (new)
2/7/2008 Komminsk, Dianne (new)
2/8/2008 Pullins, Louise (Loyer)
2/5/2008 Roettger, *Nancy (new)
2/5/2008 Roettger, Larry
3/18/2008 Smith, Stephen
3/18/2008 Smith, *Terese (Kemper)
1/26/2008 Topp, Doug
1/9/2008 Watts, David
2/5/2008 Wierwille, Mike (new)
2/7/2008 Williams, Joann (Neuman)

MEMBER DEATHS THIS PERIOD
2/9/2008 Mascaro, Kathleen (Luedake) (d. 2/4/08)
3/28/2008 Meyer, James (CM) (d. 3/27/08)
3/29/2008 Neddorman, Leota (Queithorst) (d. 3/29/08)
2/20/2008 Schneider, Katherine (Bambauer) (d. 2/20/08)
2/1/2008 Vonderhuevoel, Walter (LM) (d. 2/1/08)
2/14/2008 Wiseman, Carl (d. 2/14/08)

MEMORIAL / HONORARY DONATIONS
The following donations have been received this period:
In memory of Hilmer Dickman
By his daughter, Mary (Dickman) Lirones
In memory of Ted Purpus
Mrs. Norma Purpus

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.
UPCOMING EVENT

ANNUAL COMMUNITY PICNIC

Sunday, June 1, 2008
11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

MUSIC: Drum Corps from Dayton

CHICKEN DINNERS: BY ADVANCE TICKET SALE ONLY
[3 pieces chicken, apple sauce, potato chips, roll & butter, coffee or punch, homemade Apple Dumplings made by Larry Dicke & Jim Bruns]

175th Anniversary coin to be available at picnic
[Shows seal of N.B. & 175 years 1833-2008]

“Lock One” shirts may also be available.

For more information, Call 419-629-2685.

COMPLIMENTARY COPIES

With each quarterly mailing of “The Towpath”, a number of Complimentary Copies are sent to folks who might be interested in reading one or more of the articles in that issue. If you are one of these people and would like to continue receiving future issues, please send the appropriate amount of dues (subscription) to the address below. (Membership Dues information on pages 1 & 2.)

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

NBHA Museum – 120 N. Main St.

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OTHER BOOKS & RELATED ITEMS:
Company C – New Bremen and the Civil War Preserving/Abundance-New Bremen’s Food Legacy
The History of Fire Fighting in New Bremen Then and Now (Village Pictures)
A Journey Through Time (Miami-Erie Canal)
CANAL Board Game (related to book)
Recipes and Reminiscence (by John Dickman)
A Military Memoir of W.W.II (by Katy Gilbert)
Ralph May Remembers New Bremen
New Bremen Marriages (genealogy information)

SCHOOL COMMEMORATIVES:
Central School: Paperweights, Pencil Caddies
1929 High School: Trinket Boxes
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