

# THE TOWPATH <sup>1-11</sup>

Published quarterly  
(January - April - July - October)

**NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 73 - New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073  
MUSEUM located at 120 N. Main St. (founded in 1973)  
[Phone: 419-629-1014]

**VISITING HOURS: 2:00-4:00 p.m. Sundays - June, July, August**

**MEMBERSHIP: \$15.00 / Year - \$7.00 Spouse (Life: \$150.00 / \$70.00 Spouse) January – 2011**

## 2010 CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Tree Festival and Open House was held on two Sundays this year at the NBHA museum. Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus greeted visitors on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> and many children sat on Santa's lap and told him what they wanted for Christmas. Mrs. Claus gave each youngster a candy cane. Music was provided by Rita Heitkamp. On Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, the Museum was again open for visitors to see the trees and Christmas displays. Many persons strolled through the Museum rooms and viewed the decorations.



Christmas tree decorations were provided by Elmwood Assisted Living, Greg Paul, Minster Bank, New Bremen Friends of the Library, New Bremen Kindergarten, St. Peter's Church, Red Hats-Cherry Belles, and Southwest Auglaize County Chamber of Commerce. Other decorations included Diane Paul's teddy bear collection, a feather tree in memory of Dorothy Hertenstein displayed by her family, several pyramid Christmas trees from the Marge & Paul Lietz collection and "Serendipity Singers" that were hand made by the Serendipity Nursery School. Cookies and punch were served both days.  
*[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 (unless otherwise noted), 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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**WEBSITE - [www.newbremenhistory.org](http://www.newbremenhistory.org)**  
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- Genevieve Conradi, Historian's Scrapbook -----419-629-2764  
*Gen Conradi (e-mail: [gen@nktelco.net](mailto:gen@nktelco.net))*

◆ **WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE** ◆

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

**ASSOC. MEETINGS ARE HELD FIRST TUESDAYS  
 at the Lockkeeper's House**

**MEMBERSHIP DUES**

**\$15.00 per year (\$7.00 extra for spouse)**  
**Lifetime Membership - \$150.00 (\$70.00/spouse)**  
**Payment is required by March 15<sup>th</sup> of each year  
 to assure uninterrupted delivery of "The Towpath".**

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

★★★**MEMBERSHIP STATUS CODE**★★★

- ★**PD 10** – Means you are Paid through Dec. 2010.
- ★**LM P-10** – Means you Paid for a Lifetime Membership in 2010.
- ★**LM D-10** – Means you are a Lifetime Member and made a Donation in 2010.
- ★**CM P-76** – Means you are a Charter Member and Paid \$75 for such by July 4, 1976.
- ★**CM D-10** – Means you are a Charter Member and made a Donation in 2010.

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

**New Bremen Historic Association**

**Annual Financial Report for 2010**  
*Thomas Braun, Treasurer*

**ASSETS AS OF JANUARY 1, 2010**

PETTY CASH	25.00
CHECKING ACCOUNT	24,228.00
NEW BREMEN FOUNDATION INVESTMENT	8,959.00

**TOTAL ASSETS \$33,212.00**

**INCOME**

MEMBERSHIP: ANNUAL DUES	4,955.00
LIFE MEMBERSHIPS	1,340.00
DONATIONS (Includes \$772 membership donations)	880.39
MEMORIAL DONATIONS	580.00
AUGLAIZE COUNTY GRANT	594.00
ANNUAL DINNER (Ticket sales)	1,400.00
COMMUNITY PICNIC (Food sales & pie auction)	1,026.50
MERCHANDISE SALES	1,744.77
SHIPPING & HANDLING RECEIPTS	17.00

**OTHER INCOME**

LOCK TENDER'S HOUSE KEY SALES	13,860.00
NEW BREMEN FOUNDATION (Increase in value)	794.87

**TOTAL YEARLY INCOME \$27,192.53**

**EXPENSES**

ELECTRIC & WATER (N.B. Utilities)	485.95
NATURAL GAS (Vectren)	1,207.13
TELEPHONE (Frontier)	363.33
INSURANCE : Property & Treasurer's bond	740.00
FIRE EXTINGUISHER SERVICE	214.25
OUTDOOR MAINTENANCE	674.36
CURATORS' EXPENSES	529.90
LAPTOP COMPUTER / SOFTWARE FOR DENNIS DICKE	913.97
OFFICE SUPPLIES	99.80
POSTAGE	358.27
TOWPATH PRINTING	3,011.39
TOWPATH BULK MAILING (\$185 permit not included)	826.60
ANNUAL DINNER	1,128.24
COMMUNITY PICNIC	859.50
CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE	83.27
PURCHASES OF MDSE. FOR RESALE	621.00
SALES TAX ON SALES (+\$100 FILING FEE)	203.64
RENTAL OF GOLF CARTS - AUGLAIZE COUNTY FAIR	400.00
MEMBERSHIPS: Chamber of Commerce & Mecca	130.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	151.46
LOCKKEEPER'S HOUSE FURNISHINGS/DECORATIONS	13,526.78
BRONZE MULE STATUE	3,500.00

**TOTAL YEARLY EXPENSES \$30,028.84**

**ASSETS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2010**

PETTY CASH	25.00
CHECKING ACCOUNT	20,596.57
NEW BREMEN FOUNDATION INVESTMENT	9,753.62

**TOTAL ASSETS \$30,375.19**

## ◀◀◀ N.B.H.A. BOARD CHANGES ▶▶▶

Tom Braun recently requested that a new Treasurer be named to take his place on the Board. Tom and his wife, Ginnie, have purchased a home near their son in Reno, Nevada and will be living part time there and part time in New Bremen. Tom will continue to be a Trustee on the Board and will continue his role as Genealogist. He will also continue to place obituaries in the card file at the Library.

Dennis Dicke has accepted the position as Treasurer for the Board effective January 1, 2011. In October, Dennis also took over the job of Membership for the Association which has been handled by Lucille Francis since 1996. Dennis will give up his position on the Ways & Means Committee. Delores Stienecker will chair the Ways & Means Committee until a replacement is named.

The Curators, Delores Stienecker and Joyce Holdren, have completed 11 years of service to the Museum and are requesting that a replacement be found for their position by June. They will gladly help a new curator get started and explain what needs to be done. Beginning in January they will be at the Museum only one day a month rather than each Tuesday. Delores will continue to encapsulate and frame items for the Museum at reduced rates as long as she is working for the Artist's Touch store.

Susie Hirschfeld was an appointed member of the Board and has maintained the Membership Archives for the Association. She has experienced serious health problems this year and has resigned from her position.

Mary Moeller, Trustee, has accepted the position of Corresponding Secretary as well as Trustee.

### REQUESTS FROM THE BOARD

The Museum is in need of a Curator. If you are interested in the Museum and its history, please consider this important job and call Larry Dicke at 419-629-1903.

The Ways & Means Committee is in need of a chairperson. Please call Larry Dicke at 419-629-1903 if you are interested.

We are accepting donations of artificial Christmas trees. Some of our trees are worn and need to be replaced. We are in need of smaller trees – 3-4 feet as well as larger ones. Please call Larry Dicke at 419-629-1903 if you have a tree to donate.  
[Gen Conradi]

## THE TOWPATH Editor's Report

With this issue, I have completed 15 years of serving as Editor of "The Towpath", starting with my first issue in April 1996, when I was asked by former Editor, Marge Lietz, to substitute for her due to she and her husband, Paul, both being ill. Since that time, both have passed away and I have been "editing and composing" ever since.

In the past year or so, Marge's daughter, Gen Conradi, and Joyce Ruedebusch have been contributing various articles which has given me a break from the constant researching and composing I had been doing in the past. I am also always glad to receive input from you, the readers, several of which appear in this issue.

When I published my first issue in April 1996, the New Bremen Historic Association had approximately 475 members. The membership / subscription list has increased considerably since then. As of 10/7/2010, when I turned over the membership records to Dennis Dicke, we had a total of 854 members – 54 Charter Members, 16 Charter+Life Members, 424 Life Members, and 360 Regular Yearly Members.

The preparation and mailing of *The Towpath* has advanced considerably from what it was when I took over the job. It has gone from composing (including manually cutting and pasting) on paper to be photographed and printed, to emailing the finished product electronically to the printer, Messenger Press in Carthage since October 2005. The mailing process has evolved from our having to fold *The Towpath*, print labels, address and stuff envelopes, sort them by zip code, and mail 800+ copies, to having the mailing done by Messenger Press.  
Lucille Francis, Editor

### MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

On October 7, 2010, I resigned from the Membership position which I had taken care of since Marge Lietz resigned in March 1996. Dennis Dicke agreed to take over this position which involves picking up the mail at the post office, receiving and recording dues payments and keeping membership and mailing records. I feel Dennis is well qualified to keep up the records which I have been doing for the past 15 years. If anyone has any questions about their membership status in the future, please contact Dennis at 419-629-2764 or [dengen@nktelco.net](mailto:dengen@nktelco.net).

Lucille Francis, Editor/Membership

## CHRISTMAS TREES

Christmas memories have been made with many types of Christmas trees. The first Christmas trees were wooden structures called "pyramid Christmas trees" or *Lichtergestelle*. *Lichtergestelle* translated means "a framework on which lights are placed". These structures originated in the Ore Mountain range in Germany and date back to the Middle Ages.



The wooden pyramid tree structures represent a blending of early traditions. Before Christian times, Romans brought branches of evergreens into the house. The Christians in Germany continued this custom and added candles. They designed the wooden structures to hold the evergreen branches and candles. It was thought that the evergreen boughs and candlelight helped ward off moroseness during

the long cold, dark winters.

The pyramid Christmas trees remained very popular in Germany until the 1800s when use of the whole evergreen tree as the Christmas tree became more popular.

## EVERGREEN TREES

In early tradition the evergreen trees were decorated on Christmas Eve and removed the day after Twelfth Night. Some traditions suggest that to have a tree up before or after these dates was bad luck while others suggested all Christmas greenery should be removed by Candlemas.



German immigrants brought the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the United States in the mid 1800s. In Wooster, Ohio, a German immigrant decorated a tree with candy canes in 1847. The general population of the U.S. adopted the custom of decorating Christmas trees during the mid 1850s. The first Christmas tree in the White House was

reported in 1856 during the term of the 14<sup>th</sup> president of the U.S., Franklin Pierce.

## THE FEATHER TREE

In 1845 Germany banned cutting live evergreen trees for Christmas. In response, the feather tree made of dyed green goose feathers originated in Germany and became one of the first artificial trees. The feather trees were fashioned after the white pines in the forests of Germany and had wide spaces between the branches.



Feather trees were brought to the United States by the German immigrants and probably gained popularity when President Theodore Roosevelt (26<sup>th</sup> president, 1902-1909) ordered that no live trees be cut in the United States for the White House decorations. He went on to set aside 125 million acres of land as National Forests in the United States.

The feather trees were sold by Sears and Roebuck in 1920 and were easy to ship and assemble. They ranged in height from 2 inches to 30

inches. In later years the trees were as tall as eight feet. In 1930 gold and lavender feather trees came on the market but green remained the most popular color. The feather trees remained on the market until 1940. Later they were replaced in popularity by artificial trees made of aluminum and newer synthetic materials.

No matter the type of Christmas tree, family and friends gathered around it make wonderful Christmas memories!

The feather tree above belonged to Dorothy Hertenstein and was displayed in the NBHA 2010 Christmas Tree Festival in her memory. *[by Gen Conradi]*

Robert Herrick (1591–1674) in his poem "Ceremony upon Candlemas Eve" wrote:

"Down with the rosemary, and so  
Down with the bays and mistletoe;  
Down with the holly, ivy, all,  
Wherewith ye dress'd the Christmas Hall."

As Herrick's poem records, the eve of Candlemas (the day before February 2) was the day on which Christmas decorations of greenery were removed from people's homes, for any traces of berries, holly and so forth will bring death among the congregation before another year is out.



Joan Walsh Fick

**KOOP FAMILY – October 17, 2010**

The Koop family visited New Bremen on Sunday, October 17, 2010. They were given a tour of the NBHA's museum by Genevieve Conradi. Joan Walsh Fick, in front, is the granddaughter of Cornelius and Emma (Huenke) Koop. Her two daughters are Victoria Fick (behind Joan) and Alison Hoglan (2<sup>nd</sup> from right, in back).

Fredrich and Metta Adelheid (Wuellenbruck) Koop, parents of Cornelius Koop, came to New Bremen in the 1830s.

Bernice Koop, Gladys (Koop) Walsh and Marguerite (Koop) Kunning were sisters – daughters of Cornelius & Emma. Joan (Walsh) Fick is the daughter of Gladys. [Gen]

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**JOHN FREDRICH KOOP**

*by Marguerite (Koop) Kunning - 1983*

John Fredrich Koop was born in 1801. He came from the small town of Dreeke, near Barnsdorf, where his father had owned a farm. He left Germany for America in 1835 at the age of thirty-four, along with a company of friends and relatives from the same town. The company emigrating to America were on the storm-tossed Atlantic Ocean for fourteen weeks before landing safely in the United States. Some of them, including John Fredrich Koop, went to Cincinnati, where acquaintances from Germany had previously settled. All his worldly goods which he brought from Germany were in a walnut trunk, which is still in the family.

In Cincinnati, John Fredrich Koop married Metta Adelheid Wuellenbruck, a young seamstress thirteen years younger than he. They had known each other in Germany. Two years later, in 1837, the young couple left Cincinnati for a spot one hundred miles north - New Bremen, in Auglaize County, where they received a government land grant of at least eighty acres. On this land they lived, worked, and raised their family, and here they died more than fifty years later. They are buried in the Lock Three (Willow Grove) Cemetery.

John Fredrich Koop's farm was two miles north of the town of New Bremen, along the "Mad Anthony Wayne" Trail. This trail had been cut through the virgin forests by General Wayne and his men, as they were opening up the surrounding territory for the early settlers, heading on to what is now Ft. Wayne, Indiana. The trail was marked merely by trees which had been felled, and until the tree stumps had been cleared away much later, the trip into New Bremen could only be made on horseback.

A two-room log cabin was built on the farm near the trail. This was "home" until the year 1841, when carpenters were hired for twelve months to build all the permanent buildings needed for a farm. They were built of black walnut from the trees that had

been cut down to clear land for raising crops. The house was a plain two-story eight room building with many windows and two front doors. This house stood along the Wayne Trail, which later grew into a fine country road, and still later became Highway 66. From 1841 until 1899 it housed the Koop family. For awhile, in the early days, there was a wrought-iron sign which said "Koop Inn" that hung beside one of the front doors. Here travelers from Piqua on the south, to perhaps Ft. Wayne would stop for overnight shelter while their teams of horses found food and shelter in the large walnut barn.

The barn was huge and had hand-hewn cross-beams fourteen inches square made of solid black walnut, all put together with hand-made walnut pegs. It still stands, with a new outer "shell", but inside the same structure remains.

John Fredrich and his wife were the parents of eight children: Henry, Fredrick, Edward, Margaret, William, August, Theo and Cornelius. Five of the eight Koop children - Fredrick, Margaret, William, August and Theo, traveled to and settled in the western United States. Their father had encouraged them to see the world as he had done if they so desired. None of them left any male descendants.

Henry Koop married Caroline Markus, the daughter of Christopher Markus, a farmer in St. Marys Township. They lived in the large Victorian house on old Route 66, near St. Marys. This home is now owned by The Minster Machine Company.

Henry and Caroline Koop had five children: Wilson, Fredonia, Lula, Minnie and Allen. Wilson and Minnie also left the area to travel to and settle in the western part of the country. Lula died at the age of sixteen. Allen and Fredonia continued to maintain the family farm. Allen Koop had one son, Howard, who now lives in Florida, and a daughter, Jean, who presently lives in California. Howard has a son, Roger Allen, also of Florida, who is the only remaining person of his generation to carry the Koop name.

Cornelius and Edward Koop remained at home, running the family farm and taking care of the aging parents. Their father, John Fredrich, died in 1892 at the age of ninety-one. Their mother, Metta (Wuellenbruck) Koop, died in 1907 at the age of ninety-three.

In 1888, Cornelius married Emma Charlotte Huenke, daughter of Henry Huenke, a longtime friend and next-door neighbor. After the wedding at the Huenke farm, Cornelius and Emma Koop walked across the fields to live at the old Koop home. In 1898, this house, which had served as an inn as well as a family home, was taken down and a new house built on the site where it had stood. In 1899, the family moved into this new house.

Cornelius and Emma Koop were the parents of three daughters - Bernice, Gladys, and Marguerite. Gladys married John J. Walsh of St. Louis, Missouri in 1927. Marguerite married Richard A. Kunning of New Bremen in 1928.

Emma Koop died in 1901 at the age of thirty-seven. In 1906, Cornelius married Estelle Homerick. They continued to live on the Koop farm until their deaths in 1929.

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The Koop 'girls' were historically minded. Gladys (Koop) Walsh wrote and donated a copy of a book to the NBHA museum called "Twice Told Tales" about the Koop family. Marguerite (Koop) Kunning wrote several articles for *The Towpath* in the 1980s. Marguerite was raised by Dr. Henry J. Schmidt and his wife, Alice, after her mother died when she was just six weeks old. Her daughter is Molly (Kunning) Brown. Molly's husband, George Chocoms, did some translating for New Bremen's 1983 sesquicentennial book. She was in, but did not graduate with, the NBHS class of 1949. Her father was Richard Kunning, who was responsible for the beginning of New Bremen boys' basketball in 1915 (where the 5 & 10¢ store was later). Cornelius Koop and his 2nd wife, Estelle Homerick, were killed in December 1929 when they were hit by the interurban as they were coming to town. They are buried in German Protestant Cemetery. [lmf]



**PAUL & RUTH (GILBERG) RITTER – 8/27/1936**

The New Bremen Historic Association was recently given the donation of a beautiful wedding dress worn 74 years ago by Ruth Ritter. When we went to interview Ruth about her dress we found she also has many interesting life memories to share. Ruth (Gilberg) Ritter is the daughter of Fred and Margaret (Ratler) Gilberg. Ruth had two brothers, Paul and Frederick, and two sisters, Lillie (Pete Stovlbeck) and Gertrude (Emil Thielker). Ruth's father was in business at the Kuenzel Woolen Mills. She remembers the fine blankets that were made there and the skill her father had in judging the wool quality.

Ruth's grandfather, Friedrich Gilberg, came to New Bremen from Germany. He was a tailor. In 1856 he married Sophia Schroeder in New Bremen. They lived in the house on Monroe Street that is today the Gilberg-Hartwig Funeral Home. Both her father and Ruth were born in this house. Ruth graduated from

New Bremen High School in 1930 and entered St. Rita's School of Nursing in Lima. She completed nursing school in 1933 but had to wait one year to take the State Boards for her nursing license because she was only 20 years old when she graduated. A requirement at that time was that all persons taking Boards had to be 21 years or older. After receiving her nursing license she worked Private Duty cases. Ruth shared her wonder at the strides that have been made in medical treatment and nursing duties.

Ruth married Paul Ritter at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 27, 1936 in St. Augustine Church in Minster, Ohio. Ruth remembers that she and her mother cleaned 12 chickens the day before to prepare the meal for the wedding guests. She recalls that they fed about 30-40 people. Paul and Ruth went to Detroit for their honeymoon that weekend.

Ruth and Paul lived in Minster for a few years following their marriage. Joe, Bill and Paul Jr. were born while they lived in Minster. Their daughter Margaret (Peggy) was born after they moved to New Bremen where they lived in the large brick house at 15 South Main Street. Paul worked at Minster Machine for a number of years before he opened his own electrical business in New Bremen with his sons.

Ruth misses her husband Paul. He suffered a stroke and died in May 2000. She remembers how he loved to dance and sing. One of his favorite songs to sing was "Cecelia". She also misses her two children, Joe and Peggy. Joe died 15 years ago (1995) and Peggy (Knost) 3 years ago (2007). Bill and Paul Jr. live nearby and she is blessed with grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. She is also blessed with a sharp mind and wit and it was our pleasure to visit with her at Heritage Manor in Minster where she is a resident.

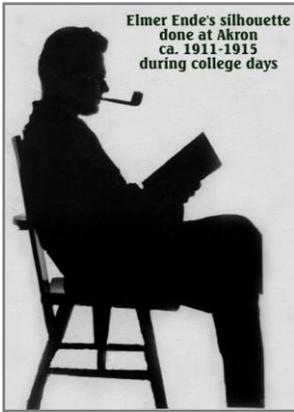
*-Gen Conradi & Joyce Ruedebusch*



**THE RITTER FAMILY IN 1986**

Paul Jr. & Bettye, Joe & Sue, Paul & Ruth, Peg & John Knost, Bill & Margaret

## PROFESSOR ELMER ENDE



Elmer Ende's silhouette  
done at Akron  
ca. 1911-1915  
during college days

Elmer Ende was born and raised in New Bremen, the son of Fred and Georgina (Laut) Ende. His father was a jeweler and optician. He graduated from New Bremen High School in 1910 and left to further his education and to serve in the Army in W.W.I. He received a degree from the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago. In 1930 he graduated with a Master of Arts degree from the Ohio State University. He was for many years a professor of music at the University of Akron and retired as professor emeritus in 1957.

During his distinguished musical career he never forgot his hometown and after retirement came back to live in the family home at 123 South Main Street. Although his degrees were in the musical arts, Prof. Ende had many and diverse interests including history and genealogy. He traveled extensively in Europe and conducted travel-study tours. During the 1950s he researched New Bremen and the Flemish Artists Connection. This research was cited in John Dickman's article in the April 1995 issue of *The Towpath* and is available on the Historic Association's website, [www.newbremenhistory.org](http://www.newbremenhistory.org).

It was through his efforts that relics of New Bremen's early history were found and preserved when the old town hall and fire station on North Main Street were demolished in July 1959. Professor Ende was quoted: *"My wife, Grace, reminded me that workmen were tearing down the old New Bremen Town Hall and suggested that I go down and see if I could find an old park bench. I arrived just in time to see a heap of papers swept together on the floor for discard. I walked over to them, picked out one, saw that it was many years old, and then I spotted the original land grant. What a find that was. I carried the papers home to inspect them more closely. Now I have them in a safety deposit box at the Bank, on the very spot of the former Town Hall, for safe keeping. They are invaluable to those who are interested in the history of our community."*

One of the papers was the original land grant, Actum Cincinnati, dated July 23, 1832 which led the way to the settling of New Bremen. This paper consists of a preamble and eight articles, signed by 33 immigrants, the heads of families who were in Cincinnati to clear the way for settlement in the new world. (This paper was translated and printed in the 1983 New Bremen Sesquicentennial book entitled *Reflections*.)

Another paper found was the Act of Legislature, dated March 23, 1837 that recognized Bremen (now New Bremen) as part of Mercer County. Auglaize County was not formed until 1848. These papers and other early papers have been preserved by the New Bremen Historic Association.

It was during 1959 that Mr. Ende was also credited with saving the antique fire bell that is now in front of the fire station on North Washington Street. This bell is from New Bremen's first fire company, the Northern Fire Company organized in 1857. Professor Ende reported this bell was cast in Europe and had been tolled upon the death of President Abraham Lincoln.

Prof. Ende was most willing to share his knowledge and skills with others. He was a well known lecturer and gave many recitals both here and abroad. He played the dedication recital of the new organ at St. Paul United Church of Christ in New Bremen in 1958 and also a recital on the historic organ given a century ago to a church in Lauterecken, Germany by Karl Boesel, his wife's great grandfather.

After Professor Ende's death in 1966, his wife, Grace (Boesel) Ende, donated his collection of books to the New Bremen Library. The Elmer Ende Collection is housed on special shelves and includes many classics, special reference books, art books, and books in foreign languages. This collection, which numbers over 1000 items, attests to the fact that he was a life-long learner who wished to share his love of learning with his hometown. We are truly honored to be able to count Professor Elmer Ende as a son of New Bremen. *-by Gen Conradi*



## ◀ BOX OF OLD PHOTOS ▶

-by Gen Conradi & Joyce Ruedebusch

Many people are lucky enough to have inherited old photos. I have a box of old photos that were handed down to me by my mother, Marge Lietz. Some of these photos are identified and dated but others are not. I only know that there is some connection to the surname on the outside of the box. I did some research and found there are clues in every photo to help with dating and perhaps identifying the people.

The first step is to check the type of photo. Some of my photos are tintypes. Tintypes were developed in the United States about 1856 and actually used the metal tin as the base of the picture. Many of the old tintypes have darkened but have held up surprisingly well. But because of the metal they were difficult to send in the mail and they depended on certain light and weather conditions to develop and so lost popularity in the 1860s when the Cartes-de-Visite photograph was developed.



**Tintype Picture**

The Cartes-de-Visite (CdV) photograph or visiting card became popular with the public. This photo was mounted on a heavy card stock that measured 2½ x 4 inches. It was developed by Andre Adolphe Disderi in Paris and the size and custom resembled the “calling cards” that people left near the front door of the home at that time. The CdV was made with a special camera that made eight images with one negative. The photos were then mounted on the heavy card stock to keep the thin photographic paper from curling. These cards were less delicate than the tintypes and could be mailed. Special albums were devised and manufactured to hold the cards. These cards were most popular between 1860 and 1866 but continued to be made until about 1900.



**CdV Cards - Unknowns**

The Cabinet Card also appeared in the 1860s but became more popular than the cartes-de-visite in 1870 and lasted in popularity until the early 1920s. The Cabinet Card measured 4¼ x 6½ inches and featured the photo mounted on a heavy card stock. The cabinet cards can often be dated by the color of the card stock, the decorations on the borders or the way the photographer imprinted his name on the card. The cards were very popular because they could be displayed in the home by placing them on a small stand. The Cabinet Cards have held up very well over the years especially if the cards were kept out of the sun and away from extreme temperatures or increased humidity.



**Cabinet Card – Unknown Couple – 1880s**



George Eastman developed the simple box camera in 1888 for home use. This camera was preloaded with film at the factory and had to be returned to the factory for the film to be developed and reloaded with new film. Ease of use was improved by Kodak in 1900 with the introduction of the Brownie camera. This camera would be loaded with film purchased by the user and sent to a developer for prints. The much shorter time exposure needed for this film also gave more natural smiling photos. The Brownie camera remained popular until about 1960 with the introduction of other formats.

In spite of the popularity of personal cameras, the professional photographer has remained an important person in recording life events and can provide a clue for dating the picture of an unknown person. One photo I have was taken by photographer S.D. Ike in 1869. The imprint on the CdV says his studio was south of the Woolen Mill in New Bremen.

F.W. Greber was one of the early photographers of New Bremen people. He began his business in St. Marys in 1883. In 1889 he moved the business to New Bremen. In 1905 Hoverman & Son took over the business. In 1910 the business was taken over by O.W. Taylor and his son, James. Jim Taylor remained in business from 1910 until his death in 1952.



In all of these types of early photos the people were never smiling. This is not because they were so serious but because the photo required a long exposure time and people could not hold a smile for the time needed. Since any movement would blur the image, photographers also often used clamps to hold their subjects' heads still.

The next clue can be found by checking the setting of the photo. Before the use of flash photography became the norm around 1885 most photos were taken outside to take advantage of natural light. Photos taken outside may include objects which could help date the photo such as a house, barn or car. The style of clothing worn is important to note. Each decade had its own fashion so noting if a man's suit coat was buttoned or open over a vest could give you the decade the photo was taken. Also the hair styles and especially where the hair was parted is important in children's photos. A girl's hair was parted in the middle while a boy would have a side part. Since all children up to the age of 2 or 3 were often pictured in long dresses, this clue may keep great-grandpa from being mistakenly identified as great-grandma.

I hope that our ancestors' photos will be dated and identified as much as possible and preserved for future generations. I feel sad when I see the old photos for sale in flea markets and antique shops. Being able to look at your ancestors' photos and find some family characteristics or heirlooms that have passed down through the generations is a powerful experience. In addition my photos show how people dressed, how many people were in the family, what town they lived in by the imprint of the photographer and some of the photos even include the family's livestock and horses. What a lot of history to be gleaned from a box of old photos.

[Gen & Joyce]

## The Family Album

-LaVerne P. Larson-

There's a treasured book in every home  
Where many memories dwell,  
And on its precious pages  
Are wondrous tales to tell.

It's the family picture album,  
Where recorded there to see  
Are events and folks and places  
Of the days that used to be.

What fun to turn the pages  
And go back in time once more  
It's like stepping into yesteryear  
Through a kind of magic door.

There is Mary with her pigtailed,  
And Johnnie with his pup;  
It brings back childhood days  
Now that they're grown up.

Behold Dad and Mother seated  
In their car of long ago,  
With running board, side curtains,  
And a shiny horn to blow.

See Grandpa with his wide moustache  
And Grandma smiling there,  
They looked so very happy  
And made a handsome pair.

Pictures of our relatives  
From places far and wide,  
And scenes of home and happiness  
With the family side by side.

This album is a treasure  
That the family holds quite dear;  
It's a special magic doorway  
To the days of yesteryear.



## NEW BREMEN'S PHOTOGRAPHERS

-by Lucille Francis

One of the most recognized early photographers of New Bremen people was Fred W. Greber. He began his photography career in conjunction with Theodore Nieberg, a Civil War Veteran.

The following are newspaper clippings and excerpts from the *New Bremen Sun* which follow the progression of photographers from F.W. Greber to Roy Hoverman, Jim Taylor and John Slonkosky. There is also a segment from the Internet about Theodore Nieberg and a brief mention of east side photographer, Robert Laut, in 1897.

### DO YOU REMEMBER?

By F.W. Bruns – *N.B. Sun*

**5/18/1933** –The late Theodore Nieberg conducted a photo gallery in a little frame building on the present site of Zion's Reformed Church. The late F.W. Greber was his understudy at that time and the business was later purchased by him.

**3/8/1945** – Theodore Nieberg, a Civil War veteran, was a tintype picture shooter here in a frame building upon the present site of Zion's Reformed Church when not engaged in warfare.

**2/3/1947** – On the present site of Zion Church, the late F.W. Greber held forth a tintype picture gallery acquired from Theodore Nieberg, who after the close of the Civil War, located in New Bremen for several years. Mr. Greber purchased the business from him and operated it for a number of years. Mr. Greber took enough negatives on Sundays (providing the weather was bright and clear) to keep him busy in finishing the prints until the following Sunday.

### NEW BREMEN SUN EXCERPTS

**6/18/1888** – Mrs. Edith Nieberg, wife of Theodore Nieberg, died at St. Marys on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Nieberg has been employed for some time at Greber's photograph gallery in New Bremen.

**7/12/1889** – F.W. Greber contemplates enlarging his photograph facilities. He will probably combine his St. Marys gallery with his gallery here and locate here permanently.

**7/19/1889** – F.W. Greber will abandon his St. Marys gallery and move his entire outfit to the second floor of Herman Laut's building adjoining the flour mill.

**8/13/1892** - F.W. Greber's shelving broke in his gallery, breaking many negatives, value being about \$500. Many negatives were of people who are already deceased.

**4/28/1894** - F.W. Greber is on tour through German Township assessing people's property.

**10/6/1894** – Last spring, Fred W. Greber purchased a building on N. Main Street, remodeled it and spared no expense in equipping it with all the latest appliances. He has a camera which will take a picture 24"x28". He is able to do any kind of photographic work, not even confining his field within the gallery. Not only that, but people from neighboring towns have heard of the gallery and come to have work done there. His start in the

photographic vocation was some 11 years ago (1883).

**2/23/1895** - F.W. Greber bought the Richard Fickel property on N. Main St. opposite the French House. He intends to move his photography shop there.

**5/18/1895** - F.W. Greber, German Twp. Assessor, is nearly finished.

**F. W. Greber's**  
**Art Studio**

— — —  
**LATEST APPLIANCES,  
BEST WORKMANSHIP,  
LONGEST EXPERIENCE.**

— — —  
**CRAYON, WATER COLOR OR PASTEL  
PICTURES.**

— — —  
**Pictures Framed. All Styles of  
Mouldings to Select from.**

— — —  
**Work will be satisfactory.  
Call and See the New Gallery.**

**F.W. GREBER**  
**Opp. Hotel French      New Bremen, O.**  
*[N.B. Sun – 2/5/1897]*

**2/26/1897** – Zion Reformed Church was dedicated last Sunday. F.W. Greber took a photograph of the new church just as the crowds were waiting on the outside to be let in.

Robert Laut, the east side photographer, is meeting his friends with an extra smile these days all because he has become the papa of a daughter, Dorothy.  
*(N.B. Sun - 2/27/1947 – "50 yrs. ago")*

**11/11/1898** – F.W. Greber, the photographer, will build a story on top of his gallery. He intends to then convert a portion of the building into a dwelling and live there. His property on the St. Marys Road is for sale.  
*(N.B. Sun - 11/11/1948 – "50 yrs. ago")*

**5/2/1902** - Wm. Uetrecht resigns as foreman of Klanke Furniture Co. - stock sold to F.W. Greber.

**7/11/1902** - Fred W. Greber is offering his photograph gallery for sale.

**8/14/1903** – F.W. Greber was one of a group of men who purchased the Wint & Link Handle Factory at Chickasaw to be moved to New Bremen and be known as the Buckeye Handle & Lumber Co.

**Photograph Gallery**  
**FOR SALE**

Because of other business connections I am obliged to dispose of my photograph gallery. This is an excellent opportunity for someone who desires to engage in a lucrative business, it being the only gallery in New Bremen, with a large and extended patronage. I will sell on very reasonable terms.

**F.W. GREBER**  
*(N.B. Sun – 12/30/1904)*

**3/31/1905** - F.W. Greber, photographer, sold his business & furnishings to John H. Hoverman of Spencerville. Mr. Hoverman has leased the second story of the former Jung building on the northeast corner of West Monroe & Water Streets from Boesel & Laut where he will move his gallery. Mr. Greber will give his full attention to his job at Buckeye Handle & Lumber Co.

**12/2/1910** - F.W. Greber, photographer, will move to Linton, Indiana first of the year.

**12/30/1910** - Court News: F.W. & Jessie K. Greber to Irwin H. Boesel, E½ inlot 36, New Bremen \$2250.

Name: **FRED W. GREBER**  
 Born: 5/9/1863 – New Bremen  
 Died: 12/8/1924 – Cincinnati, O.  
 Age: 61 years 8 months  
 Father: George C.F. Greber  
 Mother: Friederika D.W. Harms  
 Spouse: Jessie K. Fritz  
 Married: Oct. 1890  
 Children: Forest & Alton Greber  
 Occupation: Photographer  
 Cemetery: Laurel Cemetery  
 [FamilySearch.org]

**7/29/1893** – Boy born to F.W. Grebers (Forest)

**6/16/1905** - Boy born to Fred Grebers (Alton)



Theodore Nieberg (bottom left) is wearing 1st Lieutenant's straps and has a "US" staff wreath on his kepi (military cap). Nieberg enlisted in August 1861 as 1st Sergeant, was transferred to Co. E on Feb. 17, 1862, promoted to 1st Lieutenant in December 1862 and Regimental Adjutant in January 1863. He was wounded on November 25, 1863 in the battle of Mission Ridge. He resigned in September 1864 following the Atlanta campaign. The 37th Ohio was known as the 3rd German Regiment.

On March 21, 1877, in a court proceeding, Theodore Nieberg assigned in trust to A.M. Kuhn, all his property for the benefit of his creditors. The appraisers allowed him to keep the tools and implements necessary for carrying on his business as a photographer.

[The Ohio law journal, Vol. 5, #264]

Name: **THEODORE NIEBERG**  
 Residence: St. Marys, Ohio (1880)  
 Occupation: Artist (1880 U.S. Census)  
 Born: 1841-1842 – Germany  
 Died: Unknown  
 Buried: Unknown  
 Married: 12/27/1863 – Auglaize County  
 Spouse: Edith (Young) Nieberg  
 Spouse's Birthplace: Ohio  
 Sp: (1/1/1845- 6/13/1888) – Bu./Elm Grove  
 Children: Fannie, Willie, Charley, Addie  
 From: Civil War Pension Files of Veterans Who Served Between 1861-1900 (Infantry):  
 Ohio 37<sup>th</sup> Regiment: Adjt., Field & Staff  
 Ohio 37<sup>th</sup> Regiment: 1 Sgt., Co. C  
 Ohio 37<sup>th</sup> Regiment: Lt., Co. G  
 Ohio 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment: Pvt., Co. E  
 [FamilySearch.org]



Soldiers of the State of Ohio in the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1866 - Vol. IV - 37th-53rd Regiments Infantry



*Theodore Nieberg's Adjut. 37<sup>th</sup> Ohio.*



**Theodore Nieberg Photographer St. Marys, Ohio**  
 William & Catherine (Helwig) Schulenberg married 7/27/1865 just after Wm. returned from the Civil War

**CDV OF ADJUTANT THEODORE NIEBERG, 37TH OVI**  
<http://www.cowanauctions.com/auctions/catalog.aspx?page=60&SaleId=63>

**A Theodore Nieberg photo**

## ROY H. HOVERMAN

(8/19/1884-9/27/1926)

Roy H. Hoverman, son of John H. and Catherine (Fisher) Hoverman, was born and reared in Kossuth, OH. In 1904, he came to New Bremen where he engaged in photography work. His father bought the photography business of F.W. Greber in March 1905. In 1910 the Hoverman Studio was purchased by James D. Taylor and Mr. Hoverman then went to Delphos to become associated with his father in the management of two studios, one at Delphos and the other at Spencerville.

Mr. Hoverman married Linda Pape of New Bremen on November 3, 1915. They had 2 children: a son, John Roger, and a daughter, Gene Phyllis.

Roy Hoverman, 42, died 9/27/1926 at St. Rita's hospital, Lima, following a serious illness of four weeks.



**MERKLE'S BAKERY (3/31/1905-4/ /1907)**

Roy Hoverman (photographer), Harry Koeper (shoe store),  
Pete Merkle (baker), Ed Allen (handle factory),  
Joe Lanfersieck (barber)



## JAMES DELBERT TAYLOR

was born July 9, 1890 in New Bremen, the son of Ohio Waterman Taylor and Mary Caroline Hayes. He was the second youngest of seven children. They were one of the few non-German families living in New Bremen.

When he was in his teens, Jim worked for Roy Hoverman, then the photographer in New Bremen. When Jim was 17-18, Mr. Hoverman decided to sell his business, and Ohio Waterman Taylor bought it for his son.

In 1911, Jim married Rhea Riley, who had come to New Bremen with her mother and her brother, Clair, several years earlier. Grandmother Riley became the manager of the kitchen in the Hotel Hollingsworth and her daughter, Rhea, was a waitress in the dining room. Jim



and Rhea had two children, Paul and Mary Ellen.

The Taylor Studio was located on the second floor in the old Boesel building on the north side of West Monroe Street across from the Hotel Hollingsworth (formerly Hotel Laut). The first entrance was an enclosed staircase. Then in the 1930s, Jim added two rooms downstairs with display windows. In 1946 he moved from that location to the Grothaus (post office) block on the southeast corner of Monroe and Main Streets, where he was in business until his death in December 1952 at the age of 62.

Jim did all phases of photography. He photographed portraits, weddings, family groups, and for years did the graduating classes in and around New Bremen. He did commercial photography for the Streine Tool & Mfg. Co. and also the Minster Machine Co. He was always ready with his camera anytime, anyplace, or for anything, and was especially busy during the centennial parade in 1933 when he photographed the entire day's events.

Jim was an amateur magician and was active in presentations and plays given in New Bremen, serving as interlocutor in a minstrel given at the high school. He was also an active participant in the Knights of Pythias and other organizations.

Jim Taylor was one of the best known photographers in the area. Taylor photographs are found in many area towns other than New Bremen.



## JOHN SLONKOSKY

In February 1954, John Slonkosky and his father-in-law, Urban Wetzel, purchased the Grothaus block at Monroe & Main Sts. from the Grothaus heirs, Alvin Grothaus & Mrs. Walter (Katherine) Grothaus. The building was occupied by the U.S. Post Office, the New Bremen Telephone Co. and Slonkosky Photography Studio. City offices were located on the second floor. John Slonkosky operated his photography studio downstairs in the former Jim Taylor Studio and made a modern apartment for his family upstairs.

*(N.B. Sun - 2/18/1954)*

In April 1957, Mr. Slonkosky purchased the Endicott Photography Studio at St. Marys, where he moved all of his equipment. The Slonkosky family moved to Minster following the sale of the former Grothaus building to "the oil company".

About two weeks before Christmas 1997, George Nearing, then president of the Auglaize County Historical Society, delivered to me four large boxes of photographs and negatives which he had "inherited" when he purchased the former Slonkosky - Buschor Photography Studio in St. Marys. George had already spent a great deal of time himself going through many, many boxes of material and sorting it by communities - not only for St. Marys and New Bremen, but also Minster, Celina, Sidney, Wapakoneta, etc.

After George dropped off the pictures, I began sorting and assembling them by families - many had multiple envelopes. Approximately 150 families in New Bremen received an unexpected Christmas gift when Lowell Francis delivered these pictures to them. Most everyone expressed their appreciation.

*[lmf]*

# Grandma's House

By Joan (Franks) Brown

The outside of Grandma's house looked like thousands of small-town Ohio homes in the 1930s and '40s - two stories, a front porch and narrow, wavy-paned windows with heavy shutters bearing layers of flaking green paint.

The inside was ordinary too. The kitchen had no sink, built-in cupboards or refrigerator. There was no central heat or indoor plumbing.

But it wasn't the "have-nots" that made this plain house special to me as a little girl - it was the "haves".

There was the "Little Black King" - the kitchen stove that kept us warm when Grandma rocked me on her flannel-covered knees and filled me with my favorite treat - soda crackers spread with her homemade ketchup.

There was Grandma's "refrigerator" - the cool, damp cellar where bins were filled with red potatoes Grandma and I had rooted from the garden and where shelves held jars of home-canned beans, peas, tomatoes, pears and peaches.

In the center of the cellar was a table that held a wedge of Colby cheese and a chunk of sweet yellow butter, protected by green glass covers and fresh tea towels.

At times, there might even have been a chocolate cake or an egg-rich lemon pie. But always there was a crock of pickled eggs and beets flavored with onions, vinegar and spices.

The best place in the house was the second-story attic. How I loved that dusty, hot, poorly-lit space with its boxes of little-girl treasures.

Grandma saved everything. Cardboard boxes held layers of lace curtains that I pretended were bridal veils, making sure I took them off before Grandma came up to investigate.

Hanging on a long rod and covered by a sheet were the filmy, beaded chiffon dresses my mother (Evelyn Arkenberg Franks) wore as a young woman. The dresses would later transform me into Cornelia Otis Skinner in "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay", our senior class play.

As a young man, Grandpa played minor league baseball. He kept his bats, balls, catcher's mitt and chest pads in an orange and black wood box that gave off the heady scents of leather and the outdoors when opened.

Grandma had her memory box, too - a shiny black trunk. It held bundles of ribbon-tied letters, valentine boxes with red satin bows and paper Easter eggs made in Germany.

The bedroom where I slept in a white-colored iron bed had a floor of flowered linoleum. In summer, the floor was soft and sticky under my bare feet but in winter it dared me to test it from under my warm comforter.

The "bathroom" was 60 feet from the house, at the end of a concrete walk. Nothing could equal the adventure of a nighttime trip to the little outhouse, when

I shivered not from the cold but from the fear of ghosts. Once inside, I held the door open a few inches so Grandma could hear me cry if anything got me.

On warm summer days, I might suck on rhubarb stalks or carve figurines or boats from watermelon rinds. Sometimes Grandma would fill the dishpan with water from the black iron pump and add some chips of homemade lye soap. Then, using straws made of onion stalks from the garden, I'd blow mountains of rainbow bubbles.

If Grandma ever minded the inconvenience of no plumbing or stoking the stove first thing on a cold morning, she never said.

Years later, a bathroom was built in the pantry and a refrigerator replaced the damp cellar for cool storage. Finally and reluctantly, a telephone was ordered.

The house could have been remodeled at any time. There was not a shortage of money. It was just that Grandma never wanted the newfangled things the youngsters had to have.

"I'm content with what the good Lord gave me" she'd say.

Perhaps that was the secret of my attraction to Grandma's house. It was built of contentment.



Joan Franks with her grandmother, Verona (Jung) Arkenberg, in May 1938. Joan is sitting on the running board of her Grandpa Carl Arkenberg's 1928 Chevy, which she wrote about in the October 2007 issue of *The Towpath*.

Joan submitted the above story to *Reminisce* magazine & it was published in their October 2009 issue.

NOTE: The white frame Arkenberg house sat on the northeast corner of South Walnut & Vine Streets. It has since been replaced with a brick house by Crown Equipment Corp. and is used as a Crown guest house.

Joan (Franks) Brown (see "Grandma's House" on previous page) received this letter from her son, Johnny, on her 78<sup>th</sup> birthday (10/24/2010). She wanted to share it with our readers.

Dear Mom:

I remember when I was a small boy that you would periodically "enlighten" me with stories of when you were a little girl - and the wonderful things that occurred in your grandmother's (and great-grandmother's) kitchen during the holidays - the long preparations for holiday meals - fruits, jams, canning and other "magical" things that occurred in a space cramped by the hustle and bustle of lots of "womenfolk". I remember stories of how you warmed up your bed on winter nights as well as long cold walks in the snow to the outhouse.

I seem to also remember a story that involved an honor student, Limburger cheese, and radiators - followed by an embarrassing apology. You told me many many stories when I was a child. I still remember many of the stories you told - ones you'd long ago forgotten you'd ever told me. In essence, you transferred your memories - and now they have become my memories.

For me, I remember as a boy you pulling rhubarb from our garden and making rhubarb pie - a delight few of my younger friends today have ever even heard of. I remember how sweet it tasted; yet I was perplexed by how something that big and leafy could taste so sweet. I remember milk coming in bottles and freezing, having been left on the back porch. I remember being rushed to the doctor's office after I reached up and grabbed a razor blade on brother Jimmy's desk - and climbed up on the laundry shelf and poured bleach in my eyes - and got hit in the eye with a hose handle the very first time you ever left me alone. And I remember a black Volkswagen, but more importantly, I remember it had no heat. I remember you consoling me when other people were mean to me. You still do...

For your birthday this year, you get a 1965 reprint of an unusual 1879 publication. I thought maybe, just maybe, a recipe or some tid-bit would allow you to return to your childhood in that kitchen and make you feel young again - if only for a few minutes. It seems only fair for as a little boy, it was you who taught me how to make sugar cookies, to roll out the dough, grease the cookie sheet, sprinkle them with sugar - on my very own. I too have memories - but it is of my own mother's kitchen. And my own mother. Love you. Lots. Johnny



In the July 2010 issue of *The Towpath*, a letter was printed from Pauline/Polly (Haeseker) Livingood of Walla Walla, Washington asking for permission to use the "Covered Wagon" story I published in the July 2006 issue of *The Towpath*. She was planning to submit an article to the magazine "Good Old Days". She has since called to inform me that the article was accepted and will be published in the February 2011 issue. Be on the lookout for it!

## HEATING STOVES

The heating stove I remember best is the last one we had before getting a forced air furnace fueled by fuel oil. It was a "Duonubian" wood and coal-burning stove. Usually there was a clothesline strung from wall to wall above the stove to dry clothes. At Christmas time, we would hang our "long stockings" on the clothesline to see if Santa Claus would bring an orange, some nuts, or a few pieces of candy.

The stove also provided a place to heat water (before we got an electric water heater that only reheated once a day. If you used up the 20-30 gallons of hot water, you had to wait until the next day for it to be reheated!)

We used to put our cold feet or our hands up against the housing grill of the stove to warm them up, or we would lean up against the stove to warm other parts of our bodies.

Many a time, a new-born lamb or little pigs were brought in in a straw-filled box to keep them from freezing. There was always a dog whose "place" was the floor behind the stove. Thinking about the old stoves brings back a lot of memories. Now all we have to do if we are cold is turn up the thermostat!

Before the "Duonubian", we had a "Heatrola." That was moved into the "summer kitchen" to use when we butchered. I remember my grandparents had a stove with "isinglass" windows in the door. I would sit and watch the flames when I stayed with them - no television in those days!

[Lucille Topp Francis]



## BASIC RULES FOR CLOTHESLINES

(If you don't know what clotheslines are, better skip this.)

1. You had to wash the clothesline before hanging any clothes - walk the entire length of each line with a damp cloth around the lines.
2. You had to hang the clothes in a certain order, and always hang "whites" with "whites," and hang them first.
3. You never hung a shirt by the shoulders - always by the tail. What would the neighbors think?
4. Wash day on a Monday! Never hang clothes on the weekend or Sunday for Heaven's sake!
5. Hang the sheets and towels on the outside lines so you could hide your "unmentionables" in the middle (perverts & busybodies, y'know!)
6. It didn't matter if it was subzero weather - clothes would "freeze-dry".
7. Always gather the clothespins when taking down dry clothes. Pins left on the lines were "tacky".
8. If you were efficient, you would line the clothes up so that each item did not need two clothes pins, but shared one of the clothes pins with the next-washed item.
9. Clothes off of the line before dinnertime, neatly folded in the clothes basket, and ready to be ironed.
10. IRONED? Well, that's a whole other subject!

# From the Mailbox

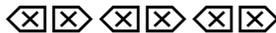


Dear Joyce (Ruedebusch): 10/5/2010

A great article in the October 2010 issue of *The Towpath*, written by a dedicated veteran and father. Orville described conditions very accurately, and exactly as they were. It was my special privilege to have him as a personal friend.

Thanks to you, Joyce, and to Gen for editing and transcribing and sharing it with the New Bremen Historic Association. It is a record that needs to be kept for future generations and reference. Thanks for the picture.

Sincerely, Dick Wiedeman – New Bremen



Dear Lucille: 11/11/2010

I know that you are the Editor of *The Towpath*, a publication that my mother, Leona Hansel, receives. Her brother, Harold Harjehausen, passed away on November 1, 2010 in Banning, California and I was hoping that you could put this information in the next issue of *The Towpath*. Thank you for your assistance with this request.

Harold graduated with the class of 1950 from New Bremen High School. He served in the Navy for 4 years during the Korean Conflict and was a machinist at Rohr Industries for 30 years.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Esta, along with 3 sons: Bruce, Craig, Scott and their wives; 2 sisters: Lucille Draving & Leona Hansel; 4 grandchildren.

Kay Hansel – Mendon, OH



Dear Lucille: 10/19/2010

Enclosed is the October 10, 2010 issue of a small local newspaper "Tidbits of Coachella Valley" published in the desert where we have a vacation home in Indian Wells, California. On page 14 in the "Antique or Junque" column is this letter. We thought your readers would enjoy reading it. Both Fred & I enjoy each issue of *The Towpath*.

JoAnn (Dietrich) Mackenbach - California

**Q:** I recently stopped in an antiques shop and saw a Mission Oak desk. When the one horizontal drawer was opened, it contained an ink bottle holder. When the panel was tipped open, it revealed pigeonholes for storage. There was storage on either side, and the pulls were square oak. In the drawer, there was a round paper label with the words: 'Auglaize - New Bremen, Ohio.'

The price was \$275, and I offered \$175 to the dealer. He wouldn't go any lower than \$200, so I didn't take it. Now I am wondering if I should have taken his offer. What do you think?

**A:** It all depends on how badly you wanted the desk. The dealer's counteroffer of \$200 was reasonable.

## NEW MEMBERS THIS PERIOD (THRU 12/16/10)

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

- 11/15/2010 Graf, Ann (Gossette) - New Almaden, CA
- 12/16/10 Heitkamp, Rita (Gehret) – New Bremen
- 10/29/2010 Herzberg, Jim - Waterville, Ohio
- 11/9/2010 Knost, John - New Bremen
- 11/18/2010 Rohrbach, Douglas - Brentwood, CA
- 10/7/2010 Topp, Everet - New Bremen

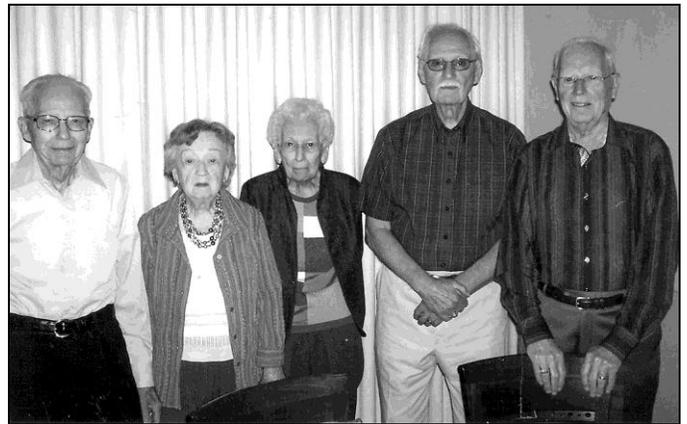
## MEMBER DEATHS THIS PERIOD

- 11/12/2010 Doenges, Helen (died 11/12/2010)
- 12/4/2010 Heinfeld, Robert (died 12/4/2010)
- 10/26/2010 Hirschfeld, Faye (Pfenning) (LM) (died 10/26/10)
- 11/2/2010 Metz, David (died 11/2/2010)
- 9/29/10 Shupp, Dennis (CM) (died 9/29/10)
- 11/17/2010 Sudmann, Willis (died 11/17/2010)

## MEMORIAL / HONORARY DONATIONS

The following memorial donations have been received this period:

**In memory of Leroy & Jessalyn (Vorhees) Heinfeldt**  
by David & Carol Heinfeldt



Once again, on September 17, 2010, the New Bremen High School Class of 1939 gathered for their 71 year reunion at the LaPiazza Restaurant in New Bremen.

Out of a class of 33 members, there are 9 survivors.

**PICTURED:** Wilbur Warner, Ruth (Burmeister) Luelleman, Dorothy (Mohrman) Otting, Roger Busse and Jim Moeller.

**MISSING:** John Dicke, Betty (Waterman) McGowan, Ruth Evelyn McKay and Mabel (Engle) Ruff.

The next reunion will be held at the LaPiazza on the 3rd Thursday of September in 2011 (September 15<sup>th</sup>).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The **ANNUAL DINNER** will be held on Monday, March 14, 2011, at St. Paul United Church of Christ in New Bremen. Rev. Jim Egbert will be the speaker and, along with the St. Paul Senior Dinner ladies, will be preparing a German meal for everyone to enjoy. Tickets will go on sale in January and will cost \$10.00.



The **ANNUAL PICNIC** and Open House at the Museum will be held on Sunday, June 5, 2011.



**WORLD'S LARGEST PUMPKIN PIE – 2010**

In 2005, the New Bremen Giant Pumpkin growers got together to start a new tradition. This new tradition brought the establishment of the Pumpkinfest to the New Bremen area. To celebrate that very first year of the festival they baked all kinds of pumpkin goodies. The biggest of these baked goods was one large pie - so big that it set a Guinness world record. That record setter was 12 feet in diameter and weighed in at a whopping 2,020 pounds.

On September 25, 2010, to commemorate that first huge pie five years ago, the New Bremen Giant Pumpkin Growers decided to once again break the record for the largest pumpkin pie.

This year the group decided to make the pie 20 feet in diameter. An undertaking this large takes quite a bit of effort. The group secured help from area businesses to make it all happen. Agrana Fruits in Botkins assisted in the mixing of the filling ingredients. A pie this size takes the following ingredients:

- 2,450 cups (187 #10 cans) pumpkin
- 233 dozen eggs
- 1,750 cups (109 gallons) evaporated milk
- 525 pounds sugar
- 7 pounds salt
- 14½ pounds cinnamon
- 3 pounds pumpkin pie spice

After Agrana mixed this up it was transported back to New Bremen in eleven 55-gallon drums.

The oven was constructed on the basketball court just north of the Crown Pavilion on West Plum Street. Wayne Building Supply in Greenville donated over 1,000 cement blocks to build it.

The roof was constructed of sheet metal, and the entire structure was insulated. Regal Plumbing & Heating of Sidney installed the heating elements and Moulton Gas supplied the propane tank to fuel the set-up.

The 20-foot pie pan was specially made for the occasion from three sections that got bolted together. It was then bolted on casters and the whole thing rolled in and out of the oven.

The crust was made by Susan Krieg who runs a bake-to-order business called "The Pie Shell" in New Bremen that specializes in pies, cookies, decorated cakes and wedding cakes. The task of mixing the crust took about 32½ man hours.

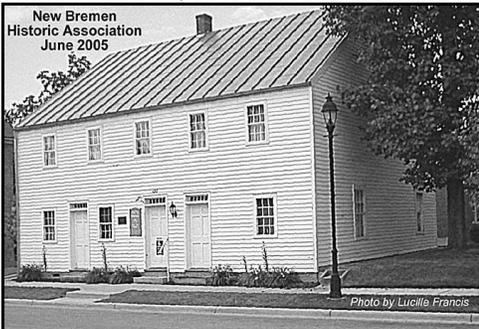
It was mixed in five pound batches, then rolled out in 15"x10¾" sheets ¼" thick. They were stored 17 sheets to a box – for a total of 440 sheets, which were stored in the walk-in freezer at Howell's IGA. The dough was transported to the park in a portable refrigerator and was thawed about two hours prior to being laid out in the pan.

A small group of volunteers, decked out in food-safe, hazmat-type suits, laid out the crust and sealed the seams. The massive pie took over thirteen hours to bake and weighed 3,699 pounds.

The Health Department cleared all stages of the undertaking so that the pie was assured to be safe for all to consume. Pieces of the "world's largest pumpkin pie" were sold for \$2 a slice.

Read about large pumpkin growing on [www.growgiants.com](http://www.growgiants.com).

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



**NBHA Museum – 120 N. Main St.**



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