

THE TOWPATH

Published Quarterly

January – April – July – October

THE NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2014

THE HISTORIC ASSOCIATION WILL PRESERVE A PIECE OF NEW BREMEN HISTORY

Almost 150 years ago a house was built at 236 N. Main Street. Today it remains an excellent example of the German-style architecture of that era.

We believe this house is important to preserve because it gives us a picture of Main Street New Bremen just after the Civil War. Records show the house was built in 1865 by Ernst Wilhelm Pape to be his residence and tailor shop. At that time in our history merchants often operated their shop from their residence.

The building originally had two doorways with one for the shop and one for the residence. One of the doorways has been made into a window. There is a three-paned transom above the front door and jack or flat arches over the windows. Half- moon windows are found in each gable. All these features are typical of construction in that era.

The structure that was the summer kitchen has been attached and gives the house an L-shape. A pump is close to the porch. There is a frame barn at the end of the lot that dates back to 1870. It is believed be one of the oldest barns in New Bremen.

The Board of Trustees toured and were interested in the opportunity to purchase this property. Next a home inspection was done and an estimate of repair costs received. Based on this information, all board members were in favor of making an offer of \$60,000. This offer was accepted and a contract signed.

Now we are eager to move forward with the preservation of this historic house and to help us with this effort, the Merlin & Susie Hirschfeld family has issued a “challenge grant.” They have challenged the NBHA to raise \$20,000 of the purchase price. They in turn will match the amount as an incentive for others to give generously. We are impressed with the family’s desire to help and have included this excerpt from their letter:

...Towns like New Bremen and its citizens are the true heart of our country. ...there was no better place to grow up. Acknowledging the blessings of such a community is important. We know that the unique history of New Bremen, and the impact of the Miami-Erie Canal on it, lives on through the work of the NBHA, including its museum and historic buildings like 236 N. Main Street. We hope that the preservation of that residence allows it to serve as a continuing example for future generations of what it meant to live in that period of history in west central Ohio.

You are invited to participate in this challenge. Please send your donation to The New Bremen Historic Association, P. O .Box 73, New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073. Your participation will be acknowledged in the next Towpath unless you request to be an anonymous donor.



The House and Barn at 236 N. Main Street



"THE TOWPATH" is a historical reflection of New Bremen and the surrounding area published quarterly by the New Bremen Historic Association. We welcome stories, pictures and suggestions of topics from our readers.

Editors

Genevieve Conradi and Joyce Ruedebusch
gen@nktelco.net & jdr@nktelco.net
419-629-2764---419-629-2946

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

WEBSITE – www.newbremenhistory.org
Johanna Schroer...419-753-2612

NBHA Board of Trustees

(2015) **Larry Dicke**, President...419-629-1903
lldicke@nktelco.net

(2015) **Carl Roediger**, V. Pres....419-629-2549
ceroediger@nktelco.net

(2016) **Dennis Dicke**, Sec/Treas...419-629-2764
dengen@nktelco.net

(2016) **Max Fledderjohann**...419-629-3368
maxandbev@nktelco.net

(2016) **Judy Meckstroth**...419-629-2017
jmeck@nktelco.net

(2015) **Diane Paul**...419-629-2856
rdpaul@nktelco.net

(2014) **David Maurer**...419-629-0164
dcmaurer6@gmail.com

(2014) **Mary Moeller**...419-629-3635
mem@nktelco.net

(2014) **Bryan Trego**
thetregos@hotmail.com

APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS

Mike Staton Curator...419-629-2693
mstaton@nktelco.net

Rob Ziegenbusch Curator...419-629-0727
rmz74@nktelco.net

Rodney Suchland Member-at-large...419-953-4451
rj_suchland@yahoo.com

Connie Wills Member-at-large...419-629-2175
conniewills1@gmail.com

Barb Ziegenbusch Member-at-large...419-629-2623
bz222@nktelco.net

Thomas Braun Genealogy...567-279-4921
tomandginnybraun@gmail.com

Genevieve Conradi Historian's Scrapbook...419-629-2764

Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month

Membership Dues

\$25.00 per year (includes spouse/S.O. at same address)
Lifetime membership - \$250.00 (includes spouse/S.O. at same address)

Payment is required by January of each year to assure uninterrupted delivery of *The Towpath*.

All levels of membership receive *"The Towpath."*

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

(Dennis Dicke, Recorder)

NEW MEMBERS

Mark & Patty Cisco

Roland Luedeke

James & Madonna Pape

John & Janel Schwartz

Steven & Jessica Tostrick

Bob & Joyce Vargo

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Roger & Cheryl Barlage

Larry & Diane Dicke

Keith & Martha Drake

Dennis & Jane Gruebmeier

Wayne & Kathy Gruebmeier

David & Debra Hirschfeld

Dean & Katherine Hirschfeld

Chris & Teresa Kuck

Joe & Caryn Niekamp

Kenneth & Sharon Rindler

Judith Voress

MEMBER DEATHS

Lois (Gilbert)Brucken 3/8/2012

E. Douglas Mesloh (LM) 1/16/2013

Beverly (Gast) Roberts 7/7/2013

Stan Topp (LM) 9/14/2013

Delores (Mohrman) Fledderjohn (LM) 9/22/2013

Dorothy (Block) Dammeyer (LM) 9/24/2013

Enola (Luedeke) Hirschfeld (CM) 10/15/2013

Dale Fledderjohn 10/15/2013

Aloys "Junior" Sommer (LM) 10/21/2013

June (Scheer) Slade (LM) 10/31/2013

Rosann (Stueve) Quellhorst (LM) 11/12/13

Keith Drake (LM) 11/13/13

Robert Shaw 11/17/2013

Barbara (Meyer) Nedderman 11/18/13

NBHA membership news continued on page 15..



**NBHA
39th ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS TREE
FESTIVAL
AT THE
LOCKKEEPER'S
HOUSE**

December 2013

The trees and displays were provided by the following persons or groups:

- A'Bloom
- ALCO
- Amy Scheer
- Betty Plattner
- Bev & Ralph Plattner
- Bolly's Restaurant
- Boyd School of Dance
- Capabilities Country Club
- Cherry Belles-Red Hat Society
- Colten, Rogan & MariAna Muether, Taylor & Rianna Paul
- Diane Paul
- Dina Tenkman & Mari Thiemann
- Gilberg Furniture
- Gilberg-Hartwig Funeral Home
- Greg Paul
- Jackie Love
- Jane & Adrian Grillo
- Karen Blumhorst
- Karen Voress
- Linda Lochtefeld
- Lois Moeller
- Maria Stein Animal Clinic
- MECCA
- Minster State Bank
- New Bremen O.C.C.L.
- New Bremen Girl Scouts
- New Bremen Historic Association
- New Bremen Kindergarten Classes
- New Bremen Library
- Ruth Brookhart
- S.W.A.C. Chamber of Commerce
- Serendipity Preschool
- St. Peter's Church
- The Cornerstone Shop
- The Hair Loft
- The Hair Performers
- True Value Hardware
- Voress Families
in Memory of Freda Voress
- YMCA



Display by Jane & Adrian Grillo



Sophia Tangeman



Hayden Zeller, Adam Fledderjohann, Ben Ransbottom &

Dominic Shroyer



Tree by Dina Tenkman & Mari Thiemann

From the Mailbox



We have returned to Tucson and reality! Thank you for coordinating tours of the New Bremen Historic Museum. The folks who went on the NBHS 50th Class Reunion tours were happy to share memories with one another.

Many years ago, we had visited the New Bremen Historic Museum and learned about the very early settlement on the canal. The New Bremen of today is vastly different from the New Bremen Larry took me to visit in 1964.

It is wonderful to have folks interested in history and then to preserve so much for the enrichment of everyone in the community. We wish you all the best.

- Larry and Ruth Heil (Tucson, AZ)

Mr. Westerheide's Amazing Horse

The photographs of the milk delivery vehicles in the Memory Corner of the July 2013 issue of *The Towpath* brought memories of Henry Westerheide bringing milk to our house in Lock Two. I can't tell if that is actually Mr. Westerheide with his vehicles in these photographs but they appear to be similar to what I recall including the color of the horse.

After World War II my parents, Roger "Bud" and Vernita Scheer moved into the small white frame house on the North side of Lock Two Road. The Ferd Roettger family was our neighbor to the west, Ed Poppe and his family lived in the house to the east while our neighbors across the street were Cliff and Grace Scheer. For many years, before acquiring a truck to deliver dairy products to our homes, Mr. Westerheide came with his horse-drawn vehicle. Normally this would be of only minor historical significance except for his amazing horse.

If I knew the horse's name, sadly I have long since forgotten it, but I shall always remember the fact that the horse knew the route so well that Mr. Westerheide never gave any obvious signal for the animal to go or stop. He would hop off the moving wagon with his bottles rattling in the metal rack that he used to carry the milk from house to house and go to several customers on both sides of the road while the horse would continue to move the wagon forward some distance where it would stop and wait for Mr. Westerheide to get back on the wagon to return the empty bottles and replenish his supply.

Since we lived at the eastern end of the village we were amongst the last customers on the Lock Two route, which necessitated a reversal in the direction of the wagon before returning to New Bremen. As the wagon approached our house, Mr. Westerheide hopped off the

running board while the horse continued east to Poppe's driveway that separated our properties. The horse turned left into the driveway pulling the wagon in until it was parallel and then proceeded to back the wagon onto the Lock Two Road while turning it to the left so that it faced west. The horse came to a halt just after getting the wagon in its forward position and waited for his boss to finish with the delivery to our three houses. Once back on the wagon the horse and driver were on their way.

It still amazes me to recall this regular routine that I still see vividly in my mind's eye. It also speaks of a quieter, gentler time when there was so little traffic on that road that there was no danger of oncoming vehicles, especially during the tricky backup maneuver. I wonder how long Mr. Westerheide had the horse before it learned the route or what training he may have provided. Perhaps he just realized one day that the horse needed no further direction.

Later, when the horse and wagon was replaced with a truck, I cannot help but think that Mr. Westerheide certainly must have missed his horse because his modern truck could never begin to do what his amazing horse was able to do.

- Stan Scheer (Richfield, NC)

Stan Scheer also wrote that he enjoyed the article about Arnold Luedeke in the October, 2013 issue of *The Towpath*.

Judy Meckstroth (New Bremen) corrected our spelling. Fred Mesenbrink appeared on Page 7 of the October, 2013 issue.

I greatly enjoyed the article about Arnold Luedeke in the October, 2013 issue of *The Towpath*. As a young boy of 5 or 6 in the late 1940s, I remember "helping" my dad Merlin Roettger and Arnold Luedeke build a house for my grandparents, Charles and Bertha Roettger, in New Bremen. I was fascinated by the entire building process and remember Arnold was always willing to answer my many questions. Some of the wood used in this house was actually cut from trees logged on our farm. The house is still there, on the south side of Vine Street, second from the east end.

I also recall with great fondness, the first day of hunting season. When, for many years in the late 1940s and 1950s, Arnold, Tafe Mueller and Bill Dickman would come to our farm on Botkins Road and spend the day, along with my dad, in pursuit of wild game. Rabbit and pheasant only, as there were no deer in this area back then.

I, of course, was not allowed to participate in the early years, but could only longingly watch as the mighty hunters fanned out into the wilds and then listen carefully

for the sound of gunshots. Later Arnold's son Don also joined the group and mightily impressed me with his 16 gauge. Finally, came the time when I was permitted to accompany the group, first with my trusty Daisy BB gun and later with a .410 shotgun.

The group would trudge around the farm all morning and then at noon gorge themselves on a delicious hot meal of mashed potatoes, vegetables and usually roast beef along with a fruit pie for dessert. It is a wonder anyone could move in the afternoon but there was always one more sweep of a field, followed by cleaning the game.

I'm not sure how many rabbits were actually harvested through the years in these forays, but there were certainly plenty of good stories, some undoubtedly truer than others, plus enough laughter to make up for any paucity of game. And memories to last a lifetime. Keep up the good work.

- **Larry Y. Roettger (Sidney, OH)**

Seeing your "poetry" issue inspired me to send you two things. The first is a note that Herb Richey recited that poem at an earlier reunion when Mrs. Cumming was still in New Bremen. I happened to visit her the next day and she responded with "glad he remembers something that I taught." Sounds like her doesn't it?

Second is that I've spent years trying to find a book I read in the third grade about dolls that come alive. Major image I remembered was doll clothes growing on trees and bushes. Thanks to the magic of the internet I now have a copy of "The Story of Live Dolls" by a Josephine Scribner Gates from Toledo. Copyright 1901, 1920. My copy is a facsimile. Let it not be said that the school library doesn't have a historical collection! Did you ever read it?

- **Emily Reisner, (Durham, NC)**

I enjoy reading *The Towpath* and I read it as soon as I receive it. You all are doing a wonderful job, I like history. I've enjoyed visiting the museum in the 37 years I lived there. Keep up your good work.

- **Florene B. Bushman (Louisville, KY)**

Here's my check for annual membership plus a contribution. *The Towpath* is great- I really enjoy reading it. My grandparents grew up in New Bremen and I visited there many times. This gives me a view of what their world must have been like. Thank You! **Nancy Brucken (Ann Arbor,MI)**

Keep up the good work. I enjoy all the articles.

- **Roseanne Meyer (Celina, OH)**

After reading the interview about Cletus and Hilda Niekamp it brought back some good thoughts. In July of 1977 my wife Alice and I moved to New Bremen and our neighbors were Jim and Donna Pape. It wasn't long until we met Donna's parents, Cletus and Hilda Niekamp.

They made us feel at home in our new town and from that time on we have had many fun visits with Cletus and Hilda. Cletus always has some great stories about New Bremen and Hilda likes to share stories about her family. Alice commented many times about how she enjoyed visiting with Cletus and Hilda.

I also enjoyed the story by Pat and JoAnne and how they were busted when they tried to skip school. It brought back memories of my high school days and when I was busted trying to pull one over on my parents and/or my teachers. My friends and I never did anything bad but we did like to have a good time and when parents and teachers worked together, it was almost impossible to get away with anything. Our pranks always seemed like a good idea but usually turned out not so good.

- **Denny Burnell (New Bremen)**

Our family, relatives and friends enjoyed the interview story with my parents (Hilda & Clete Niekamp) and the articles that were in *The Towpath*. The extra copies we received are now spread throughout Mercer County and the feedback has been great on the quality of your work. Sorry to say that Mom tripped on one of her quilting projects and broke her left arm on 11/4/13. She had a plate put in between the elbow and the shoulder. Good thing she is right handed. She is currently doing therapy and has a great attitude. She will be OK. Keep up the good work.

- **Joe Niekamp (New Bremen)**

The **NBHS Class of 1939** held their annual class reunion at the New Bremen Coffee Shop on September 19, 2013.



**Standing: Roger Busse, John Dicke, Jim Moeller
Seated: Ruth Luelleman, Betty Waterman. (Ruth Evelyn McKay was unable to attend.)** Photo provided by Jim Moeller.

A House Full of Memories

By Julie Grothaus Zerbe

As soon as I was handed the keys to my Aunt Marie and Uncle Alfred Rabe’s house by the pleasant Crown security lady, I knew I was in for a surreal experience. My sister Emily and I grew up in New Bremen in the late 1940s and ’50s. We lived at 28 S. Franklin Street. My aunt and uncle lived just down the street, at 110 S. Franklin. It was a big old Victorian house, and Emily and I spent a lot of time there. Virtually every corner of that house holds memories for me.



Photo of Rabe House at 110 S. Franklin Street taken in 1937 from Herman Street. The Lietz house is on the right, the Barth house is on the left. Photo by Paul Lietz

A little background: As many New Bremen people know, after my Aunt Marie died in 1984, her house was purchased by the Dicke family, moved across town to the Crown Farm complex, beautifully restored as a Crown guest facility and renamed the Queen Anne house. Jim Dicke II was my classmate, and knowing my family’s history with the house, he offered accommodations there to my husband Gary and me for our high school 50th reunion. I gratefully accepted.



Ready to Move – Photo by Jim Moeller



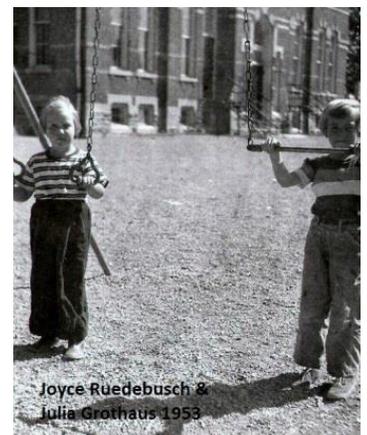
The Rabe House on the Move- Photo by Jim Moeller

My best childhood friend, Joyce Ruedebusch, and Emily’s best friend, Genevieve Conradi, are now the esteemed co-editors of the New Bremen Towpath. When talking with them this past summer about staying in the Queen Anne house, they asked me to write an article for the Towpath about the experience. So, as I said, every corner of that house holds memories for me. Here are a few:

Front door: Standing on the porch and opening the front door reminded me of the time Joyce and I, playing sheriff’s posse and outlaws, rang Aunt Marie’s doorbell and asked if she had seen the bad guys we were chasing. Always a good sport, with a twinkle in her eye, she pointed with her thumb in typical Western movie style and said, “They went that-away,” and off we went. I think we lost interest before we caught up with them!

Just inside the door: As teenagers, Emily and I would be visiting and could never open the front door when we were ready to go home. It always stuck. Uncle Alfred would then go through his spiel about the nature of old houses and the tricks required to make things. You know, you had to turn the key a certain way, push in (or was it pull out?), say abracadabra, and voila, it opened

First living room (yes, there are two): Aunt Marie was babysitting me. I was probably 3. I got upset about something only 3-year-olds would get upset about. In the aftermath of the temper tantrum, I remember sitting on her lap in that room, being comforted with the Katzenjammer Kids from the Sunday funny papers.



Joyce Ruedebusch & Julia Grothaus 1953

Joyce Ruedebusch and Julie Grothaus at Central (Union) School Playground, 1953



July 25, 1948 - My Aunt Marie & Uncle Alfred's 30th Wedding Anniversary. This photo was taken in their living room. From Left: Emily (age 5), my father Walter, Julie (age 3), my mother Katherine, Aunt Marie, Uncle Alfred, Minnie Schowe (Aunt Marie's mother)

Second living room: One day, probably about the same time, Uncle Alfred was babysitting me while listening to a Cincinnati Reds baseball game. Always curious, with lots of questions, I started asking away. "What's a home run?" He explained that. To this day I find baseball a little boring. So, wanting more action I asked, "When are they going to hit another home run?" Just then, with a crack, the Reds batter hit another home run. That was always one of his favorite stories. My Uncle Alfred loved stories.

Dining room: The dining room in the Queen Anne looks much like I remember. The furniture is similar and similarly placed. On the south wall, there is a large antique sideboard. At Christmastime, Aunt Marie would have large bowls set out there — filled with nuts, candy, and dried fruit. Super cool in my opinion as a 10-year-old. I could just help myself. I especially loved the Brazil nuts.

Front stairway: Probably one of my earliest memories is being a flower girl in cousin Ruth Rabe's wedding to Milton Schwartz, the summer of 1947. Emily and I wore matching flower girl dresses. We got ready upstairs, and then joined the procession down the front stairway, out the front door, around the north side of the house, to the back where the ceremony took place. I loved the first part, but got really bored when the minister started to talk. I think I remained good. Nobody has told me to the contrary — and in my family, believe me, if I had acted up I would never have heard the end of it.

Main upstairs bedroom: A very pretty room. Emily and I loved playing with all the atomizer perfume bottles on my Aunt Marie's big blond Hollywood-style dresser. I have a feeling the finish on the dresser may have suffered some damage.

Smaller north bedroom: Cousin Esther Rabe lived in Columbus. She was young, pretty, and fun, but did like to sleep in when she came to visit New Bremen. I can remember Emily and me standing by her bed, begging her to get up and play with us. I think we were pesky enough that we always eventually succeeded.

Thank you to Jim II for the stay in the Queen Anne, to all my 1963 NBHS classmates for making me feel so welcome at the reunion and to Joyce and Gen for giving me an opportunity to share my memories.



50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, CLASS OF '63, NEW BREMEN HIGH SCHOOL, AUGUST 10, 2013
 Top Row: Nancy Brockman Conradi; Barbara Wehmeyer Moeller; Linda Rempe McDermitt; Suzanne Luedeke Broyles; Diann Heitkamp Bomhorst; Niles Harris; Harold Suchland; Lavem Wente
 Middle Row: Carole Warner Eversman Laveen; Barbara Berning Freewalt; Sarah Shaffer Belton; Julia Grothaus Zerbe; Kathy Topp; Barbara Mousa Gebert; Danny Shroyer; Larry Heil
 Front Row: Max Fledderjohann; Frank Richey; Jim Dicke II; Nick Grillot; Roger Bomhorst; Bill Dicke

Julie and Gary were married in 1966 and moved to Denver, Colorado. Julie received a Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Denver in 1979, and after teaching there for a year, joined the engineering and technical staff of Hughes Aircraft (later Raytheon). She retired in 2001. They have two daughters, Laura & Jennifer, and four grandchildren, all in the Denver area. They enjoy traveling, camping, skiing and spending time with their grandchildren.



Gary & Julie (Grothaus) Zerbe and Family

The Crown Queen Anne house was built by Adolph & Ida (Haveman) Boesel at 110 South Franklin Street. The family moved into the new house in November 1898. The Boesel's had 5 children: Grace (Ende), Rueben, Elsa (Bunten), Mildred (Greenberg/Wolfe) and Eunice (Brucken).

BEST EVER

WILL BE MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA TO BE PRESENTED BY THE SENIORS

CAST OF CHARACTERS CHOSEN AND THE DRILLING IS NOW A DAILY EVENT

"Fi-Fi of the Toy Shop" has just about become the principal subject of conversation on the street and in the mart, not only in New Bremen, but in numerous other towns and cities...

The New Bremen Sun, May 6, 1921



Standing: Lula (Bessel) LaPook/Baumgarten (sister of Jean Bessel Harris), Orrin Blanke, Harold Schaefer, Madella (Utrecht) Tomhafe, Myrtle (Houtz) Kiley, Almond Shafer, Ezra Hoffman, Brunhilda (Henninger) Koester, Adiel Mueller, Ida (Wiehe) Moots, Paul Gilberg, Pauline (Vornholt) Gilberg. **Seated:** Doris Buchanan, Leverta (Kettler) Hittepole, Erline (Bruns) England, Frances (Solms) Keating, Roma Speckman

This picture was shared by John Gilberg. He knew that his parents were in the picture but was not sure of the occasion. We found an article in the *New Bremen Sun* (May 13, 1921) that solved the mystery.

This is a picture of the cast of the Senior Class Play entitled "Fi Fi" about a beautiful French doll among a large group of dolls in the toy shop of Tack Hammer. Bonnie, the daughter of Tack Hammer, falls asleep and dreams about the dolls coming to life and the strange and weird happenings that occur. The principal characters were portrayed by members of the senior class but also by students from other classes for the choruses.

The students spent two weeks of intensive practice under the direction of D'Maurice Lockhart, a representative of the Rogers Producing Company. The Company had charge of the local presentation and furnished all the scenery and costumes. The play was very successful and packed the Opera House on May 12, 1921. The demand for tickets was so great that the play was repeated the next day.

The **Senior Cast** included:

- Bonnie, the Toymaker's Daughter...Erline Bruns
- Fi Fi, Parisian Doll.....Brunhilde Henninger
- Loosey, Pretty Rag Doll.....Doris Buchanan
- Ink Spot..... Ida Wiehe
- Aurelia, Fairy Queen.....Myrtle Houtz

- Aurelia, The Witch.....Lulu Bessel
- The Man-in-the-Moon.....Almond Shafer
- Lieutenant Tin Heart.....Ezra Hoffman
- Prince Lolly-Pop.....Adiel Mueller
- Captain Barnacle.....Harold Schaefer
- The Sandman.....Clifford Wierth
- Dolls Head.....Frances Solms
- Bo-Peep, A Singing Doll.....Pauline Vornholt
- Jap Doll.....Madella Utrecht
- Talking Doll.....Leverta Kettler
- Tack Hammer, Toy Maker.....Orrin Blanke
- Clown.....Paul Gilberg
- Solo Dancer with Bridesmaids.....Roma Speckman

Choruses:

Fairies: Lily Gilberg, Helen Cast, Helen Vogelsang, Lorna Brockman, Leota Nieter, Yvan Scheer, Isolda Ellerman, Grace Kettler, Helen Vornholt, Enola Huenke, Jeanette Laut, Clara Pauline Nieter, Brunhilde Wissman, Louise Rabe, Roma Schowe, Pearl Moeller, Annabel Scheer, Clara Stegeman, Ruth Schneider

Live Letter Blocks: Eunice Boesel, Grace Jordan, Helen Dicke, Hedwig Wissman, Erna Schaefer, Kathryn Langhorst, Dean Settlege, Evelyn Brinkmeier

Paper Dolls: Wilhelmine Grothaus, Frances Kettler, Lillian Heil, Alvera Stroefel, Lorna Bertke, Helen Brandt, Pearl Garmhausen, Mildred Vornholt

Bridesmaids: Hulda Dietze, Goldie Brockman, Edna Kammen, Avis Kuenzel, Dorothy Streine, Gertrude Gilberg, Stella Neumann, Nettie Loy, Leola Speckman, Esther Hamilton

Jumping Jacks: John Brockie, Rodney Settlege, Forest Combs, Irwin Wissman, Orville Dammeyer, Williard Gobrecht

Noah's Ark Animals: Carl Roettger, Ernest Ekermeier, Barthold Rawers, Norman Behm, Donald Houtz, David Kuenzel

CLASS PLAY

ABLY PRESENTED LAST EVENING AND AGAIN STAGED FOR TONIGHT

Fi-Fi Of The Toy Shop Is Well Received By A Large Audience

The seniors of the New Bremen High School last night presented their class play before a packed house at the Opera House. The play chosen for this year's production differed from those of past years in that a large number of pupils from the lower classes and grades were required for a successful presentation...The New Bremen Sun, May 13, 1921

3,000 SAFETY PATROL MEMBERS AT OSU GAME

New Bremen Sun, September 29, 1955

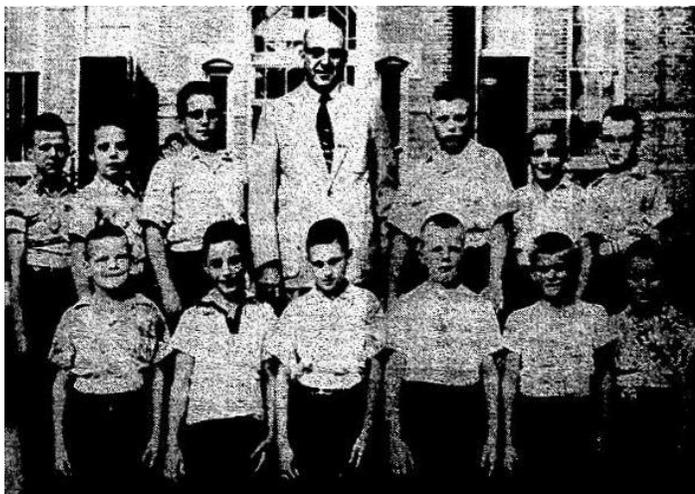
A veritable army of School Safety Patrol members attended the Ohio State University-Nebraska football Game at Columbus last Saturday, among them New Bremen's guardians of school boy and girl safety. The entire 3000 were the guests of the AAA in general and the Auglaize County AAA in particular.

Highway department officials and several sheriffs' departments co-operated to make the trip between New Bremen and Columbus a memorable one for the New Bremenites. Starting at Minster, the local lads were whisked along the roads preceded by a Sheriff's car which automatically gave the patrol the green light between Minster and St. Marys.

At Marysville the growing cavalcade was met by another sheriff's official car and taken to the Franklin County line, here to be met by another official escort and taken to Columbus where a "motor cop" of that city took the group directly to the university stadium.

The entire body of 3000 School Safety Patrol members was given an official recognition when cheer leaders of Ohio State crossed the field to stand before the section of seats occupied by the patrol group. The OSU cheer leaders led the patrol in Ohio cheers and the huge throng of 80,171 football fans gave the youngsters a round of hearty applause.

Members of the local safety patrol wish to extend their sincere thanks to Knight Wallace, Auglaize County AAA head, and to the Ohio AAA for a day which promises to remain warm and bright in memory for years to come.



Members of the New Bremen Safety Patrol who made this trip were Larry Neuman, Greg Gast, Ned Conradi, Steve Froning, John Warner, Lanny Hirschfeld, James Howard, James Schroer, Jan Fark and Gary Sollman.

Accompanying the New Bremen boys and serving as drivers of the cars in which the trip was made were Superintendent of Schools, Mark Houshower, Myrl Smith, principal of the elementary schools and Alton Harlamert.

In 1920 with the rising use of automobiles and concerns of safety for children as they walked to school, AAA formed the Junior Safety Patrol. They began with the goals to teach and role model safety and to direct children, not traffic. The Safety Patrol allowed only males and the members were called "patrol boys." They were identified by a badge or a white Sam Browne belt. The Sam Browne belt, named for a British army officer, is a symbol of civilian authority and consists of a wide military-type belt about the waist supported by a strap going diagonally over the right shoulder.



Safety Patrol 1949-1950

Back: Ferd Wint, Marshal Clarence "Molly" Wehrman, Elden Smith

Front: 1. County Superintendent Schumacher 2. Jim Kiefer 3. (Unknown) 4. Ed Conradi 5. Jack Dicke 6. Bill Ritter 7. Tom Dicke 8. Joe Ritter 9. Robert Rump 10. John Poppe 11. Gary Schroer 12. Myrl Smith, Principal

A New Bremen School Menu in January 1955

Monday – Spanish Rice, Green Beans, Strawberry Jello, Cookies

Tuesday – Sauer Kraut-Pork, Mashed Potatoes, Apple Crisp

Wednesday – Beef-Vegetable Pie-Biscuit Crust, Waldorf Salad, Chocolate Pudding

Thursday – Beef Sandwiches, Green Salad, Tapioca

Friday – Macaroni and Cheese, Buttered Carrots and Peas, Apricots, Cookies

New Bremen School Enrollment in 1955

Grades 1-5	258
Grades 6-8	119
Grades 9-12	135

Total Enrollment 512

*We are always happy to get an article idea from our readers. A call from **Jean Blank Warner** gave us interesting information about her Great Grandfather. Just days later, we received a message from **Stan Scheer** about his Great-Great Grandfather. Both Jean and Stan are descendants of New Bremen resident Julius Zwez. They are privileged to have his autobiography and wish to share his life story. But first, let us see how Jean and Stan are related to Julius Zwez.*

On April 8, 1869, Reverend Wm. Ekermeier performed the ceremony uniting two New Bremen residents, Magdalena Heil and Julius Zwez. They had five children but only three reached adulthood. The oldest was Elizabeth Zwez Neuman (1871-1946), next Caroline Zwez Brueggeman (1872-1895) and the youngest Arthur Zwez (1876-1948). Stanley Scheer is related to Elizabeth, the oldest daughter. Jean is related to the youngest child Arthur.

Stanley Scheer

Elizabeth married Walter Neuman and had a daughter named Celia who married Cornelius Heinfeld. Celia and Cornelius had two children - Vernita and Warren. Vernita married Roger "Bud" Scheer and are the parents of Stanley Scheer.

Stanley grew up in Lock Two. He graduated from New Bremen High School in 1958 and began pursuing a music career at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey where he studied with several well-known concert organists. He sang and toured with the Westminster Choir throughout North America and performed concerts at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. Regular concerts with the New York Philharmonic included singing major choral works with Leonard Bernstein and other leading conductors, which were recorded on the Columbia label. Stan graduated with a master's degree in organ performance in 1963. That summer he married classmate, Jane Herwig and they moved to North Carolina to begin work at Pfeiffer College (now University). Stan was the second full-time music faculty to be brought in to establish a new music department. Originally hired as Head of the Organ Department, Stan



became head of the Departments of Music and Fine Arts in the 1970's. During his twenty-one year tenure at Pfeiffer, the department grew to some fifty majors annually and achieved full accreditation by The National Association of Schools of Music.

In 1983, Stan was approached by one of the world's largest and most highly recognized pipe organ builders, Casavant Freres, to join the firm. From age eleven, when he began organ studies with Dorothy Bauer at St. Peter's Church, Stan pursued a life-long interest not only in playing the instrument, but also its history and design. This led in 1984 to a position with the Canadian firm that, two years later, resulted in relocating to Quebec to become Vice President of the company. During his twenty two year career in organ building, Stan worked on the design of numerous instruments for churches, cathedrals and concert halls throughout North America. Some major projects included the five manual organ with over ten thousand pipes dedicated in memory of Van Cliburn's mother—the largest instrument ever built by the company in its 134 year history—and the organ for Orchestra Hall, home of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. While working at Casavant, Stan began to organize and catalogue the company's vast archive of historical materials that date to the mid-nineteenth century. The fruits of this labor recently have been acknowledged as a "national treasure" by an agency of the Canadian government that is working to establish a museum dedicated to pipe organ building in Quebec.

Following retirement from Casavant in the fall of 2006, Stan returned to North Carolina where he has done consulting work, played concerts and recitals. In 2007 Stan became interim organist of First Presbyterian Church in Albemarle, a position that has since become permanent and involves working with the clergy in planning all the music for worship, and arranging and composing music for the fine adult choir. Interestingly, this was the focus of his college training so life has come full circle.

The Scheers live in Richfield, North Carolina. Jane has been organist-choirmaster for over forty years at Christ Episcopal Church in Albemarle where they are long-time members. In 2009 Stan directed a major renovation project on the church educational building followed by a restoration of the church in 2011. Having designed the first website for Casavant led to the design of a site for Christ Church. Stan and Jane are parents of two children, Pieter and Kristen and grandparents to Pieter's two children.



Jean Blank Warner

Arthur Zwez, the son of Julius and Magdalena (Heil) Zwez married Augusta Miller. Arthur and Augusta had two children, Everett and Pauline.

Elizabeth (Zwez) Neuman, Aunt Lena Zwez and Arthur Zwez.



On left: Pauline Zwez with her Grandmother Magdalena (Heil) Zwez On right: with her Grandmother Sophia (Lietz) Miller

Pauline Zwez, a graduate of Bowling Green State University, made her home in Wapakoneta and was a teacher. Pauline married Carl Blank and had a daughter, Jean.



Jean (Blank) and Wilbur Warner with their daughter, Mary (Warner) Bell

Jean Blank grew up in Wapakoneta and married Wilbur Warner. She was the first secretary hired when McBroom Junior High opened in St. Marys and remained in that position for 26 years. Wilbur was a 1939 graduate of New Bremen High School, the son of Raleigh and Flora (Lutterbein) Warner. He was manager of the

Auglaize Landmark grain elevator in New Bremen, New Knoxville and St. Marys. Wilbur died in 2012 at the age of 90 years. Their daughter Mary and husband James Bell have two children, Elizabeth and Jonathan. They live in the Chicago area. Both Mary and Elizabeth are teachers and excel in musical talent. Perhaps these abilities have been inherited from their ancestor Julius Zwez.

BIOGRAPHY OF JOHANN FREDERICK JULIUS ZWEZ

(1837-1901)

Written by Mr. Zwez (circa 1900) and translated by Mrs. Elizabeth Zwez Neuman, Mrs. Carolyn Neuman Sunderman and Dr. Ernst Rose

For the benefit of and the deep Christian devotion toward my descendants in later years, I herewith write the truth of the course of my life.

On January 12, 1837, I was born, the second son and fourth child of the Reverend Carl Zwez and his wife, Cornelia Philipine Augusta (nee Schwickardt) from Goslar in the Harz Mountains in Madelungen by Eisenach in Groshersog Thume (Grand Duchy) Saxe-Weimar, Eisenach.¹ About fourteen days after my birth, I was baptized in the faith of the Lutheran Church. My sponsors were:

1. Frederick Seseman, head of the Book Printing Company in Eisenach
2. David Detzel, landlord in Madelungen
3. Ernst Kuhn, Chancellor in Kreuzburg
4. Ernestine Schwickardt, sister of my mother from Goslar on Harz
5. Julchen Wiskemann in Lengroeden
6. Johanna Saal from Eisenach.



From the time of my birth until the age of five, I had the so-called *rachitis* (rickets) and only learned to walk at the age of five. After that I became strong and healthy. In 1841 I moved with my parents two hours distance to Bischofferode where my father was offered a better pastorate.



Carl & Cornelia (Schwickardt) Zwez

Two years later I suffered the great misfortune of losing my

¹ Translator's note: In the words of the above — "My cradle stood at the foot of the Wartburg"

mother. Since my beloved mother left me and six sisters and brothers, my father found it necessary to marry again. Miss Amelia Bush of Clausthal in the Harz Mountains became my stepmother. I had many unpleasant experiences in my early life and really experienced what it meant to have a stepmother.

From my sixth to my fourteenth year, I attended school and learned with God's help and a competent instructor receiving the necessary education and training for a wholesome normal life, physically and spiritually. In addition, at age 12-14, I attended confirmation instruction administered by my dear father in preparation for confirmation and confession of faith, and confirmed on Easter, April 20, 1851.

Since I could not decide what profession to enter into, I spent the years 1851-54 in the home of my parents. This time being spent not only in garden and field, but also in private instructions from my parents in scientific things.

In May 1854, I decided to take up landscape gardening for which my parents agreed I was best fitted. So my parents sent me to the two-hour distant place of Eisenach to receive instruction from the court gardener, Herman Jager, who was in charge of the garden of the Grand Duke. Here I studied for three years 1854-1857. This profession I loved very dearly. After passing the required examination, then in order to learn more along this line, I obtained a position with the commercial gardener, Schwaebe, in Eisenach, where I worked as an apprentice without remuneration. Because of a nervous ailment, chills and fever, I was not able to serve the full year but had to return to the home of my parents.

After my recovery, because of the approaching military training, I remained in my parental home and assisted in every way possible.

On October 16, 1857, I went to the two-hour distant city of Kreuzburg to register for the military service. After due examination, I was rejected. This being my father's birthday, he was overjoyed that I was not to enter military service and decided it was "the best gift he could have had."

In spring of 1858, I decided to seek my fortune and, being twenty-one years of age, to see more of the world. So I set out from Eisenach to Gotha and Erfurt and Weimar, on an excursion to the university town of Jena. Not being able to secure employment here I returned to Weimar. Then proceeded to Weissenfels, Naumburg and Leipsig, but finding no employment, I returned to Eisenach. Then went to Meiningen, Hildburghausen, Marburg, Giessen, Lichtenberg, and Bamberg. Being unsuccessful I proceeded to Bruckemman and Kissingen and Schweinfurt. Here I was fortunate to find employment for a short time.

Here, a railroad was built between Schweinfurt and Main. Between these stations small parks were being laid out. Because of the good recommendations I was able to furnish, I was employed by the commercial gardener and supervisor, Selpam, for a period of six months to design and supervise them until the parks were completed.

From here I went to Hanau, to Frankfurt on the Main. Crossing the Main, I came to Sachsenhausen and with the help of the commercial gardener, Buck, in the month of September, 1858, I received a letter of appointment from Garden Inspector Giese to a position in the botanical garden of the university

town of Goettingen to accept the above position.

Here I worked from 1858-1860 and while working at this position took further study in botany and plant culture and this I enjoyed very much and acquired additional knowledge of soils. Nothing pleased me more than to go on botanical trips and bring home rare specimens to study and examine with the fine instruments we owned and then write up our findings.

Near the end of September 1860, I got the idea to travel to America. I wrote to my parents about my intentions and while they were not wholeheartedly in favor of my decision, after much perseverance, they finally gave their consent. So I took leave of Goettingen, went to Muehlhausen and Nazza and then to my home to make preparations for my trip. From September 1860 to February 1861, I remained at home to make preparations for my journey. At the end of February 1861, I took my final leave of my loved ones. In spite of my joy over my approaching trip, the parting was extremely difficult for me because of my great love for my father and his love for me. My dear father still tried to persuade me not to go and still tried to prevent it but the money for the trip had already been sent across the ocean and it was a large sum and so I could not persuade myself to remain.

On March 1, 1861, I sailed on the ship, *Laura*, from Bremerhaven. The whole trip was pleasant and uneventful and I arrived on April 1, 1861, at New York Harbor.

At my departure from my home I received a letter of friendship and introduction from Mr. Reis, who lived an hour's distance from my parents in the city of Mihla to his brother in New York² asking him to do all within his power to make my life in America pleasant for me. With this letter, I, upon arrival in New York, was directed to 497 Greenwich Street to deliver the letter. Here at the home of J. M. Reis, I was greeted and welcomed most heartily and he did all he could for me and without asking any money for anything, even though I was with them four weeks before I obtained a position. It was through his kindness and influence that I became established so well so soon, after my arrival. He helped me secure a position in the vicinity of New York across the Hudson River in Union Hill³ with the landscape gardener, Mr. Thomas. As I had to deliver flowers and plants to New York to be sold at the market, I often saw soldiers in uniform marching and people waving white cloths as they passed. This interested me immensely and my curiosity reached its height and when I inquired as to the significance of this, I was told that war had been declared and when I asked the reason for this, I was told that the South had seceded from the North, and that the Northern states wished to abolish slavery in the South. The spirit of patriotism was so high in New York at this time that many volunteered their services for the army of the United States.

...*To be continued...*

(The next installment in the April 2014 issue of *The Towpath* will cover his Civil War service.)

² translator's note—he was of the Jewish faith

³ Union Hill was a town in Hudson County, New Jersey that existed from 1864 to 1925 when it merged with West Hoboken to form Union City

History Mystery Page

Thank you, everyone, for your phone calls, e-mails and letters! Are you ready for the new challenge? Remember to write, call or e-mail your answers...



Can you name the members of this New Bremen family that included two generations of veterinarians? (Photo taken about 1910.)



Someone is having fun in the mid-1940s on S. Herman Street. Who are they?



Who are these men? (Photo taken in the 1970s)



Who is shopping in downtown New Bremen in the 1940s? What is the location of this store? (Hint: before it moved across the street. Photo submitted by Stan & Dona Mae Kuenning)



This New Bremen couple in the early 1950s may be traveling to a Federal Land Bank convention. Who are they?



The NBHS library in 1953 serves as the background. Who are these people?

History Mystery Answers For the October 2013 Issue



1947 Dave Schwieterman



1950 John Dickman



1948 Dennis Dicke



A truck crashed into the home of Elton & Daisy Bruns and son Bill in July 1948. (See *The Towpath*, July 2007 for the full story.)



November 1947 Broom Factory fire on S. Herman Street.

Donna Conradi called 3 PM on the day of delivery of the October Towpath. She had just finished reading it cover to cover and thought each story was very interesting. She identified each of the pictures on the History Mystery page. She remembers the members of the STAMCO girls' softball team but said that she never played softball. She said that looking at the pictures and reading the stories brought back lots of memories. "You girls are doing a great job." **Karen Dicke Voress** recognized her brother Dennis Dicke with the train. **Johanna Schroer, Jane Moore and Edward Conradi Ekermeier** recognized Dennis Dicke. **Jim Moeller** remembered the event at the corner of Herman & Pearl. The house belonged to Pit & Daisy Bruns. And he remembers that their son Bill was asleep in his room but was unhurt. **Jim Rempe** remembered the Broom Factory fire. **Duane & Alice Hegemier** recognized Dave Schwieterman and said that next to David is Duane's dog named Skippy. Duane lived near the drugstore as a child. They also recognized Dennis Dicke, the home of Bill Bruns and the Broom Factory fire. "We love *The Towpath*. Thank you for all the work you do." **Dru Meyer** identified Dennis Dicke and the Broom Shop fire. **Oatie and Roger Busse** identified the Bruns house and the Broom Shop fire. **John Dickman** identified himself and the Bruns residence and Broom factory fire. "Great Towpath as usual. You are doing a great job with *The Towpath*!" **Stan Scheer** recognized the broom factory fire in 1947 and said it brought back memories of looking at the smoldering ruins across the street from the elementary school yard during recess. **Tom Fricke** said the truck was "parked" in Bill Bruns bedroom where Bill was sleeping when it arrived. He identified Bill's parents and said that the fire was at the broom factory on South Herman Street. **Pat Gels D'Alessio** said, "The truck went through the bedroom of Bill Bruns- home of Elton, Daisy and Bill Bruns. Our families were very close and when this happened we lived just down the street in the Gilberg apartment building across from the Lone Pine-so we were at the accident almost immediately." **Don Luedeke** recognized Dennis Dicke and the Bruns house/truck accident.

125 YEARS AGO

For the information of strangers or those not well acquainted with the affairs of our town, the following is respectfully submitted: One tap of the town bell signifies a meeting of citizens either of the town or township; two taps signify the meeting of our city council; three, the meeting of fire company; four, meeting of hook & Ladder company; five, meeting of natural gas stockholders; six, meeting of Fair stockholders; seven or more signify a fire alarm, and everybody can go.

...*New Bremen Sun*, July 12, 1889

MEMORY CORNER

Please share your snowy day memories with us!



Who is this?



Do you remember skating on the canal?



The snowstorm of 1950 slowed traffic.

Did you throw snowballs?



Call, write or e-mail and tell us what you remember when you look at these pictures.

NBHA membership news continued from page 2...

ITEMS RECENTLY DONATED TO MUSEUM

Autograph books, newspaper clippings, photos, text books of Esther (Headapohl) Dicke **by Karen (Dicke) Voress & Dennis Dicke**; Oh Baloney! Matches, Ohio Tax receipt **by Don & Bev Applegate**; Binders, St. Paul Informant **by Lucille Francis**; 1943 Prayer Book presented by Zion's Church to members in military service, Apollo print **by James Moeller**; A 1913 Commencement program from Liberty School **by Fred Hirschfeld**; First principles of Agriculture(1904),History of the World War (1919),Outlines of European History, Part I & II (1914)An American History (1917),Young People's History of the World for Past 100 Years (1902), Essentials of Geography (1916), New Bremen Union School certificate 5/23/1887 for Willie Tostrick, Newspaper clipping Memorial Day Program 1924 **by Richard Schroer**; Numerous historical items including husking pegs, early photos and programs, yardsticks, booklets, 1920 NBHS yearbook, New Bremen Speedway photo & postcard **by Wayne Ziegenbusch**.

Memorial Donations for

Aurelia "Susie Hirschfeld

were given by: Naomi Rison, Ned & Sue Moeller, Debora & Douglas Mooney, James & Susan Stump, Crown District Managers, Mary Ahlers, Marie Elsass, Bill & Bonnie Elsass, Dorothy Fogt, Cindy & Jerry Newman, Jim & Pat Dietz Family, Karl & Ethel Mesloh, Rob & Diane Paul, Larry & Sandra Hirschfeld, Donna Conradi, Stan & Dona Mae Kuenning, Mary Moeller, Marty Borchers, Dave & Tina Maurer Family, Mike & Janet Suchland Family, Jane Elliot, Jon & Marilyn Schmalenberger, Casey & Todd Dietz Family, Harold & Doris Krieg, Ben Krieg, Matt Krieg, Dorothy & Ken Barhorst, Joan Holdheide, Maxine & Jerry Bechtol, Mary Schmiesing, Agnes Winner, Crown Engineering Family, Neal Hittepole, Frank Susnik, Al Loiselle, Mark Heitkamp, Charles & Harris & Scott & Marjorie Barnheiser, Denise Hoffman.

DONATIONS

Doris Blanke, Mark & Patty Cisco, John & Nancy Knost, Rosanne Meyer, Bill & Jane Moore, Scott & Sharon Mueller, Joe & Caryn Niekamp, Vera & Guy Schmidt, Jean Schroer, Judy & Wayne Wiehe, Michele Broussard, Robert & Brenda Klein, Franz & Elizabeth Sauerland, Dorothy Johnson, Merlin & Susie Hirschfeld Family, Lee & Rita Wissman, Niles Harris, Thomas J. Emery Memorial, Judy Meckstroth, Jack & Becky Dicke, Rodney & Abigail Suchland, Dave & Deb Hirschfeld, Dean & Katherine Hirschfeld, Nancy Brucken, Gen Conradi & Dennis Dicke, Barb Ziegenbusch

**New Bremen Historic Association
P.O. Box 73**

New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073



NBHA Museum – 120 N. Main St.



**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
New Bremen, OH 45869**

Address Service Requested

PLEASE KEEP US ADVISED OF ANY ADDRESS CHANGES.

If your newsletter is “undeliverable”, it will be returned to us, costing us from **\$2.50-\$3.00** per copy postage!

Membership Status Code - Check your address label

- PD 13 - Means you are Paid through Dec. 2013.
- PD 14 – Means you are Paid through Dec. 2014.
- LM P-11 - Means you Paid for a Lifetime Membership in 2011.
- LM D-11 - Means you are a Lifetime Member and made a Donation in 2011.
- CM P-76 - Means you are a Charter Member and Paid in 1976.
- CM D-11 - Means you are a Charter Member and made a Donation in 2011.

It is now time to pay your 2014 membership dues. Payment is required by January of each year to assure uninterrupted delivery of *The Towpath*. The annual membership is \$25.00 and includes your spouse/significant other. Please renew your membership and consider a donation to the NBHA.

Send your dues and donations to The New Bremen Historic Association, P.O. Box 73, New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073.

MUSEUM VISITS

If you wish to visit the Museum this winter, call any Board member for an appointment. We always have lots of interesting things for you to see, so please plan a visit.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2014

ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner Meeting of the NBHA will be held March 17, 2014 at the Holy Redeemer Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be served at 6:30 P.M. followed by a short business meeting. Our featured speaker is Jerry Maxson. Tickets go on sale February 1, 2014 and may be purchased from any Board member. Please plan to attend.

RAFFLE FUND-RAISER

Watch your mail for a special invitation to participate in a new and exciting fund-raiser for the NBHA. We will be conducting a raffle with cash prizes each month for a year. A one-time donation will put you in the drawing each month. Our first drawing will be held at the Annual Dinner Meeting on March 17, 2014.