

THE TOWPATH

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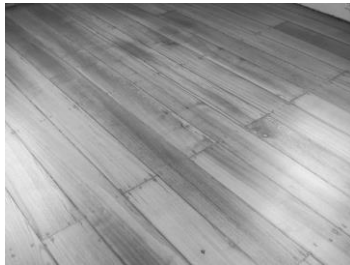
THE NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

JULY 2014

It's Official --- Our New Museum Has A Name!

At the May board meeting, the name “The Pape House Museum” was chosen in honor of the first owner, Ernst Wilhelm Pape. An official name is just part of the events that are making this old house into another treasure of our preserved history. Board members met with consultants and formed a list of needed repairs. Progress on getting them completed can be seen both inside and outside the house.

All the original ash floors have been sanded and refinished by Jason Now of the Majestic Flooring Systems Company. A thorough cleaning after the sanding was carried out by John Meyer of Steammaster. The bathroom is shaping up thanks to Carl Roediger. The overgrown shrubs in the front of the house have been removed. The soffit, eaves and porch will be the next areas to be repaired.



Mary Moeller is tending the flowerbeds. The large maple tree in the backyard will also need a trim this summer.



The Pape House
236 N. Main Street

HISTORY OF THE PAPE HOUSE

In 1865 after returning from his Civil War service, Ernst Pape built the house at 236 N. Main Street. It was one of the first structures built after the war and the lot was in the "new" section of town called North Addition. Typical of this time period, the house was built with two doors to be used as both a tailor shop for Mr. Pape and a home for his family. In 1865 Ernst and his wife Sophie had 6 of their 10 children living. It was their family home for 35 years.

The house is an excellent example of the German-style brick architecture of the canal era. A summer kitchen, originally built as a separate structure to keep the heat of the kitchen out of the house during the summer, was later attached to the house for added space. At the back of the lot is another historic structure that will be preserved. Built in 1870 the barn is believed to be the oldest remaining barn in New Bremen.

We know that in its long history many people have called this place home. After the death of Ernst & Sophie Pape in 1900, the house was purchased by Christian Klostermann followed by John Herman Neuman, Henry May, Amanda Mueller Tangeman and Edith Fark McMillin. Edith purchased the home in 1967 for her mother Amanda Quellhorst Fark. Mrs. Fark, the mother of Susie (Fark) Hirschfield, lived in this home from 1967 until her death in 1988. The house then changed hands several times until the New Bremen Historic Association purchased it in 2013.

Our goal is to preserve this almost 150 year old property while remodeling it to be our second museum of New Bremen's history.

Do you know more of the history of this house or its residents? If so please let us hear from you.



"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.

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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

Cynthia Eversman

Bob Philipot

Nancy & Joe Ritter

Jane Schnelle

MEMBER DEATHS

11/18/12 **Joan (Franks) Brown** (LM)

1/2014 **William Mesloh**

1/21/14 **Frances (Anderson) Hoffner**

3/25/14 **Barbara (Pape) Schmidt** (LM)

3/28/14 **Jerry Carr**

5/8/14 **Wilbert Gruebmeier**

5/10/14 **Julia (Dammeyer) Fark**

6/8/14 **Verona (Sudman) Reineke**

DONATIONS – New Bremen Foundation, Bob & Betty Dietrich, American Legion Post 241, Karl & Delores Kittel (Class of '64), Ed & Rosalind Ekermeier.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS– Given in memory of **Julia Fark** by **Julitta Heinfeld** and the **Clark, Schaefer & Hackett Company**.

ITEMS RECENTLY DONATED TO MUSEUM

Broad ax, wooden mallet, planes (3), meat cleaver. These tools belonged to Herman Heinrich Schroer (grandfather of Lloyd Schroer). Cheerleading outfit of Janice Topp Schroer. Donated by **Lloyd Schroer**. Oral history record of Lillian Sunderman Dickman on DVD with printed transcript. Donated by **Daryl Koenig**. Plaque from Conradi Building at Florida State University commemorating Dr. Edward Conradi, college president from 1909-1941, donated by **Martha Ekermeier Drake**, granddaughter of Dr. Conradi. Arcade yardstick & broom holder, Cobbler's Bench shoehorn donated by **Jim & Janice Wilson**. Auglaize County Atlas 1880, 1898, Auglaize History Vol. I donated by **Lois Moeller**.

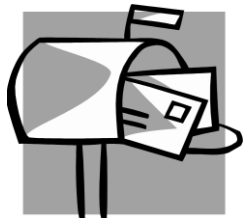
NBHA RAFFLE WINNERS

APRIL- \$100 to **Bill Bruns** (Muncie, IN), \$75 to **Mary Ann Voisard** (Port Clinton, OH), \$50 to **Stan Kuenning** (N.B.).

MAY - \$100 to **Jack Thobe** (N.B.), \$75 to **Dona Mae Kuenning** (N.B.), \$50 to **Tom Philipot** (N.B.).

JUNE - \$100 to **Lee Dabbelt** (N.B.), \$75 to **Harold Fischer** (Waunakee, WI), \$50 to **Judy (Scheer) Wiehe** (Celina, OH).

A special THANK YOU to all the winners who returned their winnings to the NBHA!



LETTERS

My wife Joan H. (Franks) Brown and I became lifetime members some years ago. Joan passed away in November of 2012, so you may amend your records accordingly. She and her grandmother, Verona Arkenberg, were the subjects of an article (“Grandma’s House”) in the January 2011 issue of *The Towpath*.

The reason I’m writing is because an article in the *Columbus Dispatch* shows an 1840’s home being purchased by Grove City – the same as New Bremen is doing with 236 N. Main Street. Let me know how your campaign to raise money is going. Maybe I could help a bit. - John T. Brown, Mansfield, OH (born in Christiansburg and raised in Piqua.)

(Note: The article “Grandma’s House” was published in Reminiscence magazine in October 2009 and described her grandmother’s white frame house that was on the NE corner of South Walnut & Vine. It has been replaced with a brick house by Crown Equipment Corp.)

Joan H. (Franks) Brown was born to John & Evelyn Franks in New Bremen in 1932. She grew up in Piqua, Ohio where she graduated from high school in 1950. She was a graduate of Ashland University and Ohio State University. She was active in many organizations and excelled in all her endeavors. She is survived by her husband John T. Brown, two sons, John M. & Jeffrey Brown, a brother and a sister. She was preceded in death by her parents and her oldest son James R. Brown. *(Her complete obituary was printed in the Mansfield News Journal on 11/21/2012.)*

VISITORS TO MUSEUM

The New Bremen third graders visited the Museum on May 20th. They had many questions and comments and were quite knowledgeable about summer kitchens and ice harvesting. We are glad you visited!



Third Graders Visit Museum

Margaret & Brad Wennen from Madison, Wisconsin came to New Bremen for a visit and were welcomed by Ted Wagner. Ted gave them a tour of New Bremen and the former Zion Church buildings.



Why were the Wennens interested in Zion Church? Margaret is the great-granddaughter of Rev. Martin Vitz (1857-1934) who served as pastor of Zion’s Reformed Church from 1888 to 1895. It was during his pastorate that the parsonage was built and a building fund for a larger church building was formed. That building still stands at the corner of N. Main & 1st Streets but no longer houses a congregation.

From 1922 to 1944, Rev. Martin Vitz’s brother, Rev. Nathaniel Vitz (1878-1951) also served at Zion’s Reformed Church.



Darryl & Louise Koenig brought their cousins to the Museum. From left: Daryl & Louise Koenig, Christine Dougal & Dave Sunderman (Columbus, Ohio), Jeff & Christy (Sunderman) Boruvka (McCordsville, Indiana)

(Note: See page 6 for more of the Sunderman Family history.)

Dear Readers: Thank you for your calls and letters. We love hearing from you.

Gen & Joyce, Editors



A TRUE (MOSTLY) STORY

It was a long cold winter in New Bremen during the early months of 2014 and Mrs. Squirrel wondered when warmer days would arrive. Finally in April, she knew it was time to look for a suitable and proper home for her little ones who would soon be born. She searched and searched all over New Bremen and finally chose the chimney of the Luelleman House Museum. She considered this location ideal because it protected her family from the cold wind and rains of April. Also there did not seem to be a great deal of noise, just occasional visitors who were not at all rowdy. So settle in she did and there her babies were born in a nest in the chimney of the New Bremen Historic Association Museum!



All went well until one day the rambunctious young squirrels learned that if they pushed on the stove pipe flue cover in the chimney, it would pop right off and expose them to a whole new world. They peered out of the chimney hole and marveled at the variety of items to explore. So they scrambled down the

wall and tumbled into a child's bed occupied by a tall doll who said very little. They tested the blanket and pillow and one young squirrel decided that it was time to take a nap. And so he did, curled up next to the tall doll who said very little.

His sisters had other ideas and a great deal more energy. One sister scurried over the dresser and dislodged the items displayed there. Then she leaped into the clothing room, and entertained herself by knocking hats off their perches and imagining how she might look bedecked in such finery. The other sister was fascinated



with the number of boots and shoes that sat about the floor. She marveled at the variety of styles.

Their adventure and glee was short-lived. Tom Braun arrived at the Museum with visitors and saw the remnants of their play. He also found the young fellow in the bed still sleeping. Tom called the New Bremen Police Department and reported the intruders. Live traps were set and the Squirrel family was soon relocated to a woodland setting.

The New Bremen Historic Association Board of Trustees wishes to thank Tom Braun for his quick action, the New Bremen Police Department for their assistance, Tim Maurer for his expertise with the trapping and the Cotterman Roofing Company for capping the chimneys.

Please plan to visit the Museum this summer and see the displays that fascinated the family of squirrels. We will be open to the public each Sunday from 2 to 4 PM during June, July and August. The Museum is also open by appointment.



The squirrels' point of entry was marked by tiny footprints on the wall below the stove pipe flue cover.

THE MIRAGE

The annual yearbook of the New Bremen High School is named *The Mirage*. It is published by a staff of high school students with help from their advisors. Staff members assist the advisors with the selection of pictures and content. They are also responsible for obtaining financial support for the publication. *The Mirage* is now printed in all color.

We find the class of 1909 left a legacy. They named and published the first *Mirage* and thereby started the tradition of the yearbook in our high school.

EDITORIALS

We are told that for several years each succeeding graduating class of the New Bremen High School has considered the question of publishing an annual, but in each case, for some reason or other, the matter has gone no farther than mere discussion. Early in the present school year the question was placed before the Class of 1909 by Superintendent Limbach, was deliberated upon and discussed from time to time, and it was finally decided to make an attempt at the work. THE MIRAGE is the result.

Our object in undertaking this work is not to swell our treasury; on the contrary we shall be fully satisfied, as well as greatly surprised, if, in the end we can make both ends meet without going down into our own pockets. Our object is to gain for ourselves a souvenir of our high school life, and to furnish to Alumni and other friends of our high school, and to the public in general something that will be of interest to them, and will give them an idea of the work and value of our High School.

We wish to extend our thanks to Superintendent Limbach especially, and to the High School teachers in general for the valuable assistance and advice they have given us, likewise to Mr. Elmer Ende, of the Junior class, for his aid by way of drawing, also to the three lower classes for the help they have rendered, as well as to all others who have assisted us in carrying out this undertaking. Finally we wish to thank all patrons of THE MIRAGE in advance, and we sincerely hope that in it they may find something of interest, and that to them it will be worth the pittance for which we are disposing of it. With best wishes for the future of New Bremen, the surrounding community and of every reader of THE MIRAGE, we remain,

Truly yours, CLASS OF 1909, NBHS, May, 1909

We are proud to have a copy of this first book in the museum. (The following NBHS yearbooks, *The Mirage*, can be found in our museum: 1909,1913,1920,1927,1930,1933,1937,1940,1946,1978& 1979,1981,1982,1985,1986,1987,1990,1992.)

With 25 graduates, the class of 1909 was then the largest graduating class in the history of the school system. Beginning in 1882 with just one graduate, by 1909 the New Bremen high school alumni numbered 142. Now in 2014 we have close to 5000 alumni.

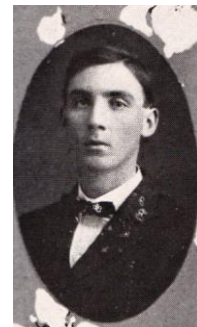
Tonight we launch---Where shall we anchor?

This was the motto of the NBHS Class of 1909. The theme was taken from a graduation poem quoted in the *Mirage*. "...In the harbor graduation, Our ship is moored at last, And to us a sight of beauty, Is waving from her mast..." The motto and poem are attributed to a class member Ernest M. Botkin.

Another quote from the 1909 *Mirage* says "Mr. Botkin has always been a leading factor in the class with his cheerful ways, his striking ingenuity and peerless originality." Because of these qualities he was elected senior class president. But he was also well known as the class poet. During his junior year he wrote the words to the NBHS school song. Yes, the same words we still sing over 100 years later!

Ernest Marcellus Botkin was born in 1888 the youngest of four children of George and Mary (Lutterbein) Botkin. The family lived in St. Marys Township near Lock Six. When Ernest was 5 years old his mother died of typhoid fever.

After his launch from the New Bremen High School where did this alumnus anchor? Ernest Botkin went on to the University of Michigan. In 1913 he graduated from their Law School and became an attorney. His law practice took him to Lima, Ohio where in 1934 he was the prosecuting attorney in the trial of three Dillinger gang members.



In 1944 Mr. Botkin moved to Toledo, Ohio and for 22 years was associated with the Port Lawrence Title Company. He died in Toledo in 1974.

The 1909 graduates are:

Bienz,Helen	Boesel,Allan
Botkin,Ernest	Dicke,Allen
Eckermeyer,Esther	Flack,Gertrude
Fledderjohann,Clara	
Garmhausen,Herbert	Gieseke,Edward
Grothaus,Alvin	Grothaus,Walter
Hengen,Fredric	Huenke,Howard
Kettler,Herbert	Koop,Bernice
Laufersweiler,Olive	Laut,Esther
Limbach,Bernice	Neuman,Viola
Oberwitte,Grover	Pohlman,Alma
Rabe,William	Shearer,Ray
Stone,Margaret	Stork,Harry



Lillian Sunderman Dickman Shares Memories

We are so pleased that others share our goal of saving and sharing our history. Thanks to Daryl Koenig, the son of Emil and Bertha Sunderman Koenig, the memories of his aunt Mrs. Herbert (Lillian Sunderman) Dickman (1881-1981)

have been preserved. Lillian was in her early 90s when these memories were recorded.

We thought it important to begin with Lillian's family history. Lillian's paternal grandparents are Heinrich Sunderman (1808-1888) and Marie Sophie (Meckstroth) Sunderman (1816-1912). They were married in 1836 and traveled to America shortly after their marriage. Lillian's father is their son Henry Sunderman (1851-1940). And her mother is Louise (Keuthan) Sunderman (1862-1956).

An Excerpt From The Sunderman Family Record

This is to anyone who might be interested about olden times. I've been asked to talk about olden times and tell all that I know. My first information that I had was from my grandmother, Grandmother Sunderman, she used to talk about when they came from Germany, which interested me very much. She said that she had three brothers that went to America. Then they wrote back how wonderful it was and told them they should just sell out there in Germany and pack up and come to America. So my grandmother and grandfather were engaged and so then they made their arrangements and got married. And grandmother's sister was married and so then that whole family decided to go with their two children, one was two years old and one about four or five, I believe. So they went and then their parents went to America, also. They thought they might as well go if all their children went. The boys had all gone and so they all came, got ready and came to America.

They all gathered at Bremen harbor where they got on the ship and then went over to Baltimore. Now I forget whether she said five weeks or seven weeks, they landed in Baltimore. It was that long on the waters. At Baltimore they were loaded onto three covered wagons. Each family had their wagon and then they went on through Pennsylvania over towards Ohio. Each wagon had their

driver and I guess they must have stopped at times before they got all the way through Pennsylvania. The roads were not too good at that time, I imagine, and the horses had to rest and eat. And, I don't know, it seems like they slept right in their covered wagons.

So, well, on their way through Pennsylvania, they came to some farms where there were already apple trees big enough to bear apples. And then they could buy apples. And oh they were so good and so they would eat the apples but they saved the seeds. Then later on when they came to their place of abode, they planted those apple seeds.

And then one time while they were driving through Pennsylvania, the smaller one of her sister's two children took sick. And course along the way there was not much to be done, it took sick and it died on the way. So they just stopped and they helped and they dug a little grave alongside the road and buried that little two year old baby. And then they went on again. Grandma often said that was the hardest thing her sister went through. She said she felt for her sister, who had just to bury that little one there alongside the road and go on. Well, I guess that was all they could do. There were no funeral establishments or anything right along the way. So they did the best they could and knew how.

They went through Pennsylvania on to Wheeling, West Virginia where they met with the Ohio River. So there the covered wagons stopped and they went by river to Cincinnati. And there were some covered wagons again that took them to New Knoxville, Ohio. There at New Knoxville the brothers of my grandmother had built homes for themselves and they had a place to put them up. I guess they didn't need much space because they lived all in one room later on.

The government had been selling land all around there at a dollar an acre and it was picked up pretty quick by a lot of folks that came over there. So they couldn't buy any land anymore at New Knoxville for my grandparents. So they bought a little farther south near New Bremen. And that's where they lived then. The brothers had acquired two places, 80 acres each, for the two sisters that were coming. And they lived side by side there. Each had 80 acres, 80 acres of woods, was no clearing there but just all woods. And there they started to cut down trees to build a log cabin, a one room log cabin first so they had something to stay in. And then they cut down trees all around and made some clearings so they could plant a few things.

Well they planted their apple seeds, too. And later on when I was a young girl, they still had three trees that they raised from apples that they had gotten along the way. Two of the trees were real good cooking apples. They made such good pies and applesauce; they cooked done so very quickly. And the other tree was sweet apples. We children liked those best because they were sweet. Well, so much for the apple trees.

They hadn't been there but a short time then the canal was just being built. The canal went right through New Bremen. New Knoxville is still a small place but New Bremen is several times bigger because it had the advantage of having the canal boat come through where they could sell their wares, whatever they had, and could get things. That canal boat was quite interesting. We used to watch it. We had to cross the canal every time we went to school and it was quite interesting to watch those boats come down the way, pulled by usually four mules and sometimes six. It depended upon how heavy the boat was loaded, I guess. Sometimes in summertime the people around there they'd take a boat ride. They'd get a crowd together and go to some neighboring town on a boat and then have a picnic there and wait until some boat would come the other way. Then they would get back home that way.

Well now, I don't know, here I've been talking on and did I get off track? I don't remember hardly just where I started. Oh yes, about when they were digging the canal; that was quite an undertaking. My grandfather didn't have much land cleared then. They couldn't raise crops or anything and they had to have money somehow and so he used to have a job digging on the canal. And at that time the place where they were digging, they used to say, was about two or three miles from where they had that little log house where they were living. It was all forest so he made himself sort of a path to get over there and he marked the trees along the way by chipping out a little piece of bark off the tree, so he could tell just which way to go to get from the canal to the log cabin and vice versa. Well, he had to work ten hours a day for a dollar. Then he had to walk those miles in the morning and that much again back at night to get home. The days were kind of short later on in the fall so he had to leave in the dark and come back in the dark. Sometimes at night it was just so dark that he wouldn't be able to see his tree marks. And so in order not to get lost altogether, my grandmother said she used to always blow a horn so that he could hear the horn and would follow the sound. That way he would be sure to get home to the right place.

My Sunderman grandparents raised quite a family. They first had a girl and then two boys and then some more girls but when the boys were six and eight years old they both took sick with scarlet fever. The older sister had had it and was getting better when the boys got it and then they were real sick. Grandfather just went to New Bremen; there was a doctor there by that time. Grandpa went to get some medicine for the boys because they had a very high fever and he sure wanted those boys to get better. But they both died in the same day. Grandma said that just was so hard for them, to think how much hope they had put in those boys, that they would be soon be having some help now to get things done. And here both of them died even in one day. Later on they had another boy and he also died.

Finally then Dad came along and then he had one sister yet younger than he was.

When my mother was a young girl, about twelve years old, her parents died in a typhoid epidemic. Both her parents and her older sister died, all within a few weeks. Well so then after a while, my mother was taken into her grandparents in New Bremen. Well, then after Mother was at her grandparents for less than a year, then her Grandfather died. And she lived with her Grandmother for two years and then her Grandmother died. And so then my mother was left all to herself again. She had an uncle and aunt, Uncle Fred Keuthan that is. He lived in St. Marys and he had a hotel in St. Marys. And so through him she got a job in St. Marys working for a doctor. And then somehow Dad knew her and they got together and got married. My mother wasn't quite 18 years.

Well, then after Mother was about 19 years, I came along and then Grandma Sunderman was there and she took good care of me.

Mother always liked to work outside and do things around the house. Well anyways she was young and she liked to work and Grandma took care of me. And then after a while my brother Frank came along and so then Grandma had two to take care of. We called our grandmother Omom.



Marie Sophie (Meckstroth) Sunderman (1816-1912)
Grandmother of Lillian Sunderman Dickman

Later on Walter came along, then Edwin, Ferd, Bertha and Richard. So our Omom, she just kept busy taking care of babies and everything went just fine. So we got along. My mother always said she was so young when she married but she never regretted that she married young because she felt she was quite grown up and she said she was so happy she had a home.

Oral histories are a special treasure that gives us a glimpse into the world of our ancestors. We encourage other families to record their family memories and share these treasures.

1846 CANAL INCIDENT IN NEW BREMEN

Kathy and Wayne Maurer found a 2014 newspaper article describing an interesting piece of New Bremen area history. They wondered if we had more information about Carthage, the Randolph slaves and the New Bremen canal connection. This is what we found in our research.

In 1846 a large group of former slaves came to New Bremen on canal boats. The group was traveling to land purchased for them in Mercer County close to the town of Carthage. New Bremen was the closest canal port to Carthage and a boarding school named the Emlen Institute.

The history of the Carthage area began in 1835 when Augustus Wattles purchased the land. Wattles had attended the Lane Seminary in Cincinnati headed by Dr. Lyman Beecher, father of Harriet Beecher Stowe. While there he had become part of the abolitionist movement. As an agent for the American Anti-slavery Society, Wattles traveled the state giving lectures and raising money for this cause. He bought land in Mercer County that was to be given to former slaves. The land was divided into small farms with a site set aside for a trade school so the free men could become self-supporting.

Near the school the town of Carthage was laid out by Charles Moore, an emancipated slave. Wattles was the superintendent of the school and ran it with the funds he raised until 1842. That year it was funded by a bequest from Samuel Emlen, an abolitionist who used his fortune to work for racial advancement through the implementation of vocational education programs. The school at Carthage was then named the Emlen Institute for the Benefit of Children of African and Indian Descent. Wattles remained the superintendent and by 1846 it was a well-known institution and the town of Carthage was thriving.

So it was no surprise that much land in the Carthage area and north toward Celina was purchased for the former Randolph slaves so they could attend the Emlen Institute. The group of almost 400 had been freed by John Randolph from his Virginia plantation. In his will Mr. Randolph gave them freedom and also set aside funds for the purchase of land for them in the free state of Ohio. Traveling from Virginia they arrived in Cincinnati on July 1, 1846. The large group walked down Main Street to board four canal boats. The Cincinnati newspaper and papers in towns on the route north covered the event. Those papers and the German language newspaper published in Dayton would have given New Bremen residents ample notice of their arrival. The papers also reported on troubles that they encountered along the route north. The group was not welcomed to disembark at several of the towns and one town Marshal refused to

allow them to get water and insisted they move on.

When the boats reached New Bremen they were again met by citizens who prevented them from traveling through town to Carthage. On page 808 of *The History of Western Ohio and Auglaize County*, C. W. Williamson writes that "every male citizen in the village served on the picket line for two days, at the end of which time the boats returned to Cincinnati with their 400 passengers."

The incident is also covered in this account by packet boat Captain Saville reported in the July 10, 1846 Toledo Blade. "They allowed them to land but called a meeting whereupon resolutions were passed giving notice to the agents that they would be given two days to depart. They succeeded in getting them aboard the boats and sent them back. No violence was used, all appeared to be done in a peaceful manner, yet the citizens of Mercer County are determined not to let them stay. A guard was placed around them till their departure." (*At that time New Bremen was part of Mercer County.*)

What happened after the incident in New Bremen? Canal boats took the group south and most settled in Shelby and Miami Counties. By December of 1846 the land that had been purchased for them was being sold without their knowledge. A court case filed to recoup the land or money was denied in 1907. Augustus Wattles left the Emlen Institute to move to the Kansas territory in 1855. Without his leadership the school closed in 1857.

The school was purchased by missionaries of the Precious Blood and became St. Charles Seminary. Until 1969 it was a training center for priests and brothers. Today it is operated as a senior living center. A History of Mercer County published in 1907 states that in that year "Carthage is a town of about 100 people but few of the colored residents remain in the township."

After much of the land was sold to German Catholic settlers, St. Aloysius church was built at the junction of Ohio routes 127 and 274 near Carthage. Now the people of that parish care for an old cemetery which is all that remains of the town's early history.



St. Charles Seminary

It is always pleasant to have someone share their tie to New Bremen. Janice Overton has a tie that goes back to her great-grandfather William Schulenberg. William's son Herbert & Lula (Taylor) Schulenberg are Janice's grandparents. Their daughter Ione (Schulenberg) and Roy Schaefer are the parents of Janice. Thank you, Janice, for sharing your connection and happy memories of New Bremen.

My Connection to New Bremen

By Janice Overton (Norton, Massachusetts)



Janice & Terry Overton with children Michael, Kathryn, Bruce.

I have so many happy memories of time in Uncle Cade's store when we visited my Grandmother each summer. I was privileged to take any sheet music upstairs to play on the piano as well as read any comic books free! And after a movie we could whip up our own sundaes at the ice cream counter and sit on the high stools while we visited. My Uncle Cade is held dear in my heart. And you will note that one grandchild bears his name. His parents were looking for a different name when I suggested it and they were delighted. He was a delightful child and is a wonderful young man working for the American Antiquities Society in Worcester, MA.

My husband and I visited New Bremen early in April of 2003. We met with Tom Braun and Lucille Francis and had a happy visit. We did go into the Bicycle Museum where the woman on duty allowed me to go upstairs to see what was left of my Grandmother's home. Of course, the bathroom fixtures were still in place and I remember them in my mind's eye perfectly. They have no doubt been removed by now. I walked to the front where the large bay window was a wonderful place to watch the world go by when I was young. We also walked the towpath to where the swimming pool used to be. I remember walking there to swim when Sue Schulenberg, my cousin, was a life guard. She was always so kind and fun. And still is.



Janice & Susan (Schulenberg) Rabe

I have photos of William Schulenberg and have learned a lot more about him via the articles in The Towpath. I have kept them all and have written SAVE across the top so our children can appreciate their heritage one day. I also have photos of my grandmother and her sisters and of Cade, Ione and Elton. One of Elton's sons, Ted, and his wife visited us here in Massachusetts several years ago. It is the first time I ever remember seeing him. We had a great visit and have stayed in touch ever since. He came back once after his wife Janet died. It has been good to be connected to my mother's family.

That same visit, we stayed with Mary Ellen (Taylor) Patton and her husband, Pat, in Tennessee. That was a joy as well. I remember her being friendly and kind to me as a child when my mother visited Aunt Rhea Taylor. And I will always remember Uncle Jimmy (James D. Taylor) taking pictures of us which I still have in my albums and pulling quarters out of our ears to make us laugh!

And you may not know this, but I borrowed Susan Schulenberg's wedding gown for my own wedding in 1957 (my mother shortened it a bit), and in 1989 our daughter Kathy wore it again at her wedding. It is now back with Susan in upstate New York as her daughters were finally interested in having it available.

My mother loved her home town and talked about it and her growing up there a lot during my lifetime. My husband grew up in a small town on the eastern end of Long Island in New York. Once he had seen New Bremen and how neat and tidy and beautiful it is downtown with all the newer brick buildings, he has often expressed a wish to go back and live there. It appears that Crown Equipment is a bit of a benevolent benefactor!

I always feel connected to New Bremen and have many good memories of times there as well as all my mother's photo albums that include pics from some of those visits. I make a regular visit through those albums every other year or so in January and February when things are a bit slower. I smile all the way through them.



Ione Schulenberg on right in the early 1900s

I am sending my Mother's high school senior year scrapbook for New Bremen's museum. My Mother was a beautiful young woman. She was beautiful inside as well, and I am grateful every day for her in my life. My Dad, too, of course, but my Mom was something special. I learned so much from her that continues to enrich my life.



**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

3rd & Final Installment –IN NEW BREMEN

(Please note: This installment of the biography has been carefully shortened so that it could be concluded in this publication. We believe that that all important content and facts have been retained.)

When I had been dismissed, together with my regiment, we traveled by steamer from Fort Pulaski to New York, where we now changed back to civilian life. I continued my journey to the state of Ohio. I first went to Greenville, where I visited a dear, amiable friend, Gottlieb Deubner by name, who was a native of my hometown. There I recovered from the many strains I had undergone during the war.

Since in the small village of Willow Dell, Ohio, still more neighbors from my former hometown were living, I also paid them a visit for several weeks. Most of the time I stayed with Lorenz Simon who had been my closest hometown neighbor. With all of these friends I found the most heartfelt and welcome reception. I became strong and cheerful again, and I thought now was the time to look for another job.

In the beginning of February 1866, I traveled from Willow Dell to Richmond, Indiana. There I found employment as a gardener with the commercial nurseryman, Mr. Thies, where I stayed until September 1867. Afterwards I again went to Willow Dell and once more visited my friend, Lorenz Simon. A few weeks later my friend called my attention to the fact that in the town of New Bremen at a distance of twelve miles in Auglaize County, they were looking for teachers. I was advised to go there and to apply, in case the position was not yet filled.

In Germany, I had received a rather excellent education, and here in America I had private instruction in English. I therefore believed that I would be able to fill such a position. Then I decided right away to wander to New Bremen in order to try my luck. I called on their Board of Education. But I was informed that the position had already been taken, but one of the teachers had not yet accepted, and the time for the beginning of school was already far advanced--it was already the middle of October. They therefore proposed that I should stay with them as a teacher for one month. But the missing teacher did not arrive, and therefore the Board of Education hired me as a teacher for the entire year. The date of my beginning as a teacher was October 21, 1867. From this time on I decided to enter the teaching profession and to stay with this vocation as long as I could.

For more than a year I wandered from one boarding house to another, which in the end became too bothersome and disagreeable to me. In order to change this and with the assumption that I had discovered a permanent vocation, I decided to found my own family. I needed a virtuous and capable housewife. I had the great fortune to find what I was looking for. My future wife was Miss Magdalene Heil, the daughter of Carl Heil and his wife, Elizabeth (nee Zahn). The

Heils had emigrated in 1852 from Lauterecken in the Renish Palatinate, which belonged to the German State of Bavaria. In order to make Magdalene Heil my legitimate spouse, we were married¹ on April 7, 1869, by Pastor Eckermeier. So we entered happily and cheerfully in the state of marriage in which we were not disturbed by any way.

On April 9, 1871, we were made happy by the arrival of a baby daughter. A fortnight later we had our daughter baptized under the name of Elizabeth Caroline Emilie. On November 26, 1872, we again were made happy by the birth of another daughter. We had her likewise baptized. She received the name Caroline Wilhelmina Augusta on January 12, 1873, my thirty-sixth birthday.

We now considered our main duty to educate these girls to be good human beings, so we could enjoy their growing up.

April 1, 1875, was meant to become another day of joy for us through the birth of a baby son who was baptized to the name of Carl Friedrich Wilhelm. Unfortunately our joy over the birth of this little son and heir of my name was not supposed to last long, as it was God's decision to take him back into his realm again on June 11, 1875².

He, indeed, gave us a substitute in the birth of a second baby son on November 16, 1876. He was baptized as Arthur Karl Gottlieb Zwez.

**Arthur & Augusta
(Miller) Zwez with
children Everett
and Pauline**



We felt much joy over his birth but unfortunately his birth threw my dear wife on a sick bed. Our little Arthur grew

up in good health. But my dear little wife could not recuperate so easily and, in spite of all of our devoted nursing and all possible medications, she continued to suffer in bed for seven years. To be sure she never again became completely her own self, but she became sufficiently healthy to tolerate her condition and to be able to do her housework in some fashion. During her sickness, she again gave birth to a daughter on June 18, 1879, whom we baptized Pauline Wilhelmina Magdalene. But this little girl we were not destined to keep alive, like our little son. For it pleased God to take this little angel into His heaven on April 30, 1880³.

My dear little wife was recovering slowly when in the end of June, the great heart-rendering news reached me that my dear father, whom I venerated and loved so much, had succumbed to death on the twenty-third (1883) and had left our midst.

Thus we made our life's pilgrimage forward into the future through suffering as well as joys. I filled my office as a teacher and my dear little wife kept house as well as she could, with loving devotion.

¹ literally: we were united by the chains of marriage by him

² translator: he became but nine or ten weeks old

³ translator: died when she was but ten months old

On June 5, 1882, I was happy to receive retroactively, a United States veteran's pension of \$396.20 and a future monthly pension of two dollars (\$2.00) for the wound in my right knee which I had received in the Battle of Cross Key, Virginia, and for which I had applied. This was not only a great joy, but also a great help, inasmuch as I was in dire financial straits on account of the long years of my dear little wife's sickness and now could recover part of my expenses.

As I mentioned already, my right eardrum was ruptured in the Battle of Bull Run, Virginia, and my hearing through this circumstance became worse. I applied for an increase in my pension in 1886. Fortunately on August 12, 1889, my pension was increased to \$20 per month, and I received in addition the retroactive sum of \$916.94. At the same time I inherited from my deceased parents the sum of \$156. After obtaining all this money I wondered in which ways I could invest all the sums.



106 S. Franklin Street in 1958

After mature consideration, I thought it best to use them for the procurement of a home of my own. This seemed to be the safest and most advisable investment. Therefore I bought first a building lot (106 S. Franklin Street) and then made a contract with Mr. Wilhelm Rabe for building a house. Mr. Rabe promptly set to work and finished the house on November 27, 1889, to such an extent that I would move in. Who was happier than our dear family that we now could call ourselves homeowners! Although we now have to pay real estate taxes, they can hardly be compared to the high rent we had to pay in the twenty years of our previous married life.

God's kindness and mercy blessed me with the possibility of celebrating my twenty-fifth anniversary as a teacher on October 21, 1892. My worthy school colleagues would not forego the pleasure of providing a joyful surprise for me. They paid me a welcome visit and presented me with a great gift in the form of a magnificent cane with a gold handle, which pleased me very much. This very valuable present was handed to me by Mr. Ward, the superintendent of that time, in the name of my fellow teachers. This was a great token of honor by my worthy colleagues, which touched me very deeply, and I never will forget the wonderful hours I had to spend in the company of these gentlemen.



Mr. Zvez with his class at Central (Union) School

April 11, 1893, was a very joyful date for us. For on this day our oldest daughter, Elizabeth, married the saddle maker, Walter Frederick Neuman. We now had to provide for one child less, but we wished them the greatest happiness and gave them our blessings in their future married state.



Elizabeth & Walter Neuman. Walter built the fireplace in the photo. It was made of all wood and the "bricks" were painted red.

In the early part of 1893 when the school was ending, I applied again, as was customary, for a teaching position, in fact for the same position I had enjoyed for more than twenty-five years without interruption. I expected the board to retain me as a teacher for another year. But this time my fervent hope was thwarted to my great disappointment. I had made teaching my lifelong profession. As a great friend of children, I avoided no honest ways for educating the children entrusted to me into wholesome, virtuous and informed citizens of our country. Thereby I gave them a good and firm basis of knowledge for their later progress in life. But why? Because a few members of the Board of Education shared the idea to try out lady teachers for a change. But happy is the man who forgets what cannot be changed, and thus somehow had to resign to my fate.

Yet, as it often happens in human life, joy arrives soon after suffering. We experienced a new happiness by the birth of our first grandchild, a dear little girl, on February 3, 1894. This addition to the family of my dear daughter, Lizzie (Elizabeth), was baptized upon the beautiful name of Celia Magdalene Adelheid⁴.

⁴ Celia Neuman married Cornelius Heinfeld 29 Nov. 1917.

Before the year 1894 neared its end, God's mercy and kindness permitted us to celebrate our golden wedding anniversary. We had intended to celebrate it quietly in the intimate circle of our family. But as often happens some people cannot refrain from talking and this also occurred here. The consequence was that the veterans and their families surprised us, not only with very delicious food, but also with nice bookshelves and two wonderful vases. In addition our dear children gave us five knives and other presents of silver, and our dear mother Heil also surprised us with a pleasing present. We will never forget all these beautiful and nice tokens of honor rendered to us on this memorable day.

Another beautiful family festival we were allowed to celebrate on March 5, 1895, for which our hearts gave thanks to the Ruler of the Universe. On this day our dear daughter, Caroline, became the wife of John (Johann) H. Brueggemann. Then on August 2 another joy reached us in the birth of a second daughter, to our dear "Lizzie", who was baptized Gladys Elizabeth Julianna⁵.

Shortly after our dear daughter Caroline's wedding to Mr. Johann H. Brueggemann, she became sick with the grippe [influenza]. On November 23, 1895, at nine o'clock in the evening, our dear daughter gently passed into the Kingdom of the Lord. The dear God now has gained a dear pious soul and we had lost such a dear daughter close to our heart, who was always a joy to us.

The following wonderful quotation was given to me by my dear, blessed and unforgettable father and minister on the day of my confirmation in the year 1851 for my way through life:

*"Be Thou faithful unto death and
Thou shalt inherit eternal life."*

John Frederick Julius Zwez, a well-known citizen of New Bremen departed from this life on Thursday morning, Feb. 21, (1901), 2:30 o'clock, having attained the age of 64 years, 1 month and 9 days. It wasn't generally known that he had been sick and the news of his death came therefore in the nature of a surprise. He was taken to his bed with la-grippe.

The deceased is one of the pioneer school teachers of this town, and many and many are the people now grown to manhood who owe their start in business life to this aged pedagogue. He held the chair in the preparatory schools of New Bremen for a period of twenty-five years, and finally on account of the infirmities of old age, was obliged to quit the school room to give way to the modern teacher. Many pleasant recollections linger around the life of almost the entire present generation of this faithful teacher and friend.

The deceased was born in Madelungen, near Eissenbach, Germany, Jan. 12, 1837, as the son of Rev. Carl Zwez and wife nee Schwickhart. He was confirmed by this father on Easter Sunday, 1851, and then apprenticed to landscape gardening. On the first of March, '61 he immigrated to America, and on the 10th of August following enlisted in the 68th New York Volunteer regiment. He served in the war until Dec. 23, 1865. In the middle of October, 1867, he was appointed a teacher in the public schools of this place, and was married to Magdalena Heil, April 8, 1869. Five children were born to them, of whom two died at a

tender age, and one – daughter Caroline, the wife of John Brueggeman- died in Nov. 1895.

The immediate relatives are: the widow, son, daughter, 2 sons-in-law, a daughter-in-law, 5 grandchildren, 3 sisters, 3 brothers-in-law.

During the last two years, the deceased was the elder of the Saint Peters Church, from which place he will be buried at 2 o'clock, Sunday afternoon. Rev. Fisher will conduct the services. The local survivors of the Civil War will accompany the remains to their last resting place. Peace to his ashes. (*New Bremen Sun* – 2/22/1901)



**Extended Family of
Walter & Elizabeth (Zwez) Neuman**



Standing: Cornelius & Celia (Neuman Heinfeld, Hilmer E. J. & Marie (Seybold) Neuman, Elizabeth (Zwez) & Walter Neuman, Delbert Schwierking, Richard Sunderman, Stella Neuman (married Orville Gruebmeier)

Seated: Hilmer Walter Neuman, Vernita Heinfeld (married Roger Scheer), Duane Sunderman, Gladys (Neuman) Schwierking, Carolyn (Neuman) Sunderman

Looking at the large extended family photo brings back many memories of the times that the family gathered together in various homes. It is sad that we all have gotten so scattered that those annual reunions are even more difficult than they were when we were young. A real trek at that time was visiting Carolyn and Richard Sunderman in Fort Wayne.

I was fortunate to know and visit with Walter Neuman on a weekly basis until his death in 1957. He lived with Gladys and Del Schwierking and that is where Loretta Herkenhoff taught piano lessons in New Bremen. I would walk there after school and visit with him in the dining room while I waited for my lesson. I just wish I would have thought of all the things I now would like to know so I could have asked him.
-Stan Scheer, (N. Carolina)

⁵ Gladys Neuman married Delbert Schwierking 9 Feb. 1926



Janet Dicke painted the cupola in the park.

History Mystery Page Answers For April 2014 Issue

In 1960 the CCL Groups donated money for the school playground. Seated: Mrs. Orville Lampert, Superintendent Robert Strahm



Standing: Mrs. Robert Cashdollar, Mrs. Lyle Dammeyer, Mrs. Richard Graham, Mrs. Richard Young, Mrs. Lowell Quellhorst.



1982 Bremenfest Bed Races-Tim Niekamp, Steve Hartwig, Greg McCollum, Gary Stueve, (Unknown person in the bed)



Teachers honored for service in 1961. Alvina Burk, Clifford Bay, Helen Smith, Myrl Smith, Dorothy Harlamert, Lloyd Blanke, Mabelle Nicely



1980 Bremenfest Bed Races. John Gilberg, Denny Wente, Don Kuck, Bob Weinberg, Karl Hagerstrand (in bed)



Ralph Quellhorst says that he remembers the day this picture was taken. He is in the right corner of the doorway. Pat (Gels)D'Allessio says she can name many of the students in the 1954-5 school year.



Edith & John Wissman with daughter Cindy



Gen Conradi remembers this Arbor Day program and the tree being planted as if it were yesterday.

Thank you, readers, for your calls and e-mails about these pictures!

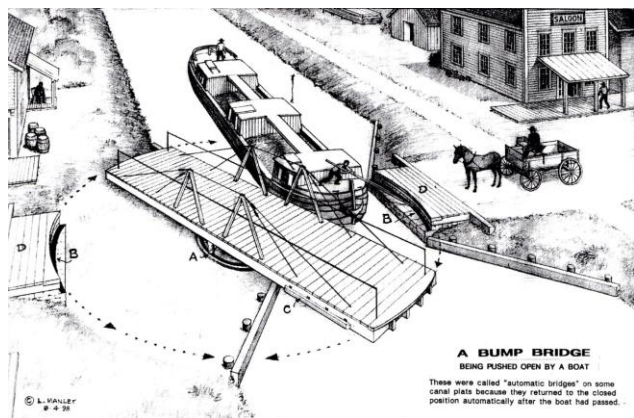
THEN & NOW

FEATURING THE MONROE STREET BRIDGE

Do you remember when there was a bridge on Monroe Street?

The site for the town of New Bremen was selected because it met many of the needs of the Bremen Society members. An important consideration was the extension of the canal that was being built to pass through this area.

By 1837 many of the early settlers were employed to help build the Miami & Erie Canal. It was completed in 1845 and the Canal Era began.

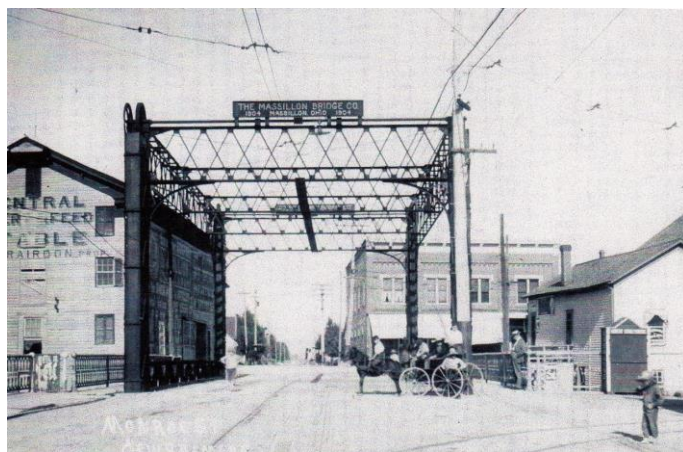


At that time the usual bridge across the canal was called a swing bridge or bump bridge. The canal boat would approach the bridge and “bump” it to cause the bridge to swing away and allow the boat to pass. This type of bridge only had a width of 12 to 16 feet which presented a problem when there were many travelers and merchants using the bridge.

Two towns formed along the canal. Ober Bremen was on the east side and New Bremen on the west. Each town had its own mayor, school and fire department. Town officials realized the need for the small towns to join and work together. Ober Bremen was annexed by New Bremen in 1876 and the town grew and prospered.

In 1900 business was booming and it became clear that the traffic was too great for the small bridge on Monroe Street. In 1902 the Western Ohio Railway or Interurban reached New Bremen and also increased travel.

The problem was solved by the installation of a Lift Bridge in 1904. Designed by Henry Grattan Tyrrell, it demonstrated an economical way to cross the canal in a high traffic area. The width of the roadway on this bridge was 28 feet with a walkway of 6 feet on each side. The bridge deck was sturdy and covered the canal and towpath area when in the down position. The deck, attached to wires and counterweights and powered by a 10 HP electric motor, was raised to allow the canal boats to pass underneath.



This lift bridge served New Bremen faithfully until 1921 when the canal traffic ceased and the automobile and truck traffic increased at this busy intersection.

It was then decided that a stationary bridge would be best to span the canal. A new concrete bridge and sidewalks were completed by the end of 1921. For many years there were flower boxes on the bridge banisters furnished and cared for by the Women's Club. This bridge also became unnecessary and was removed when the canal was flumed.



James Ashbaugh on the Monroe Street Bridge.

FLUMING THE CANAL

1968



Rev. L. G. Fritz looking at the culverts that will be used to flume the canal.



Looking north towards Monroe Street Bridge

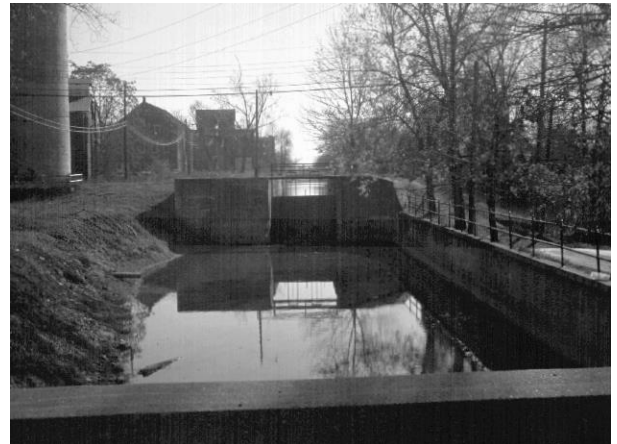


Now we have no bridge on Monroe Street. What are your memories of this site?

THE CANAL & LOCK ONE BEFORE FLUMING



Looking north from the Lock



Looking south from Monroe Street Bridge



Looking north from the Lock in 2014

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

New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073



NBHA Museum – 120 N. Main St.



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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.

You can still participate in the 2014 Raffle Drawings. Send your name & address and a \$20.00 donation (or 3 names for \$50.00) to:

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

New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073

**NBHA
UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Raffle Drawing at each NBHA Board Meeting
(April, 2014 through February, 2015)**

**June, July, August.....Luelleman House
Museum will be open to the public
on Sundays 2-4 P.M.**

August 15, 16, 17...BREMENFEST

September 26&27PUMPKINFEST

**December, 2014.....Christmas Tree Festival
and Open House at the Lockkeeper’s House**