

# THE TOWPATH

Published Quarterly  
January-April-July-October  
THE NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION  
July 2015

## Exciting News!

Our collection of furniture made in New Bremen will be featured in the Pape House. This collection contains pieces manufactured by the companies of Heinfeld, Klanke and Auglaize Furniture. It will fill the Pape House parlor, dining room, kitchen and bedroom. All pieces will be identified as "Made in New Bremen."

Following is a synopsis of our local furniture industry.

### Early New Bremen Settlers

A large number of German immigrants arrived in the United States in the early 1800s. They left Germany because they wanted a better life. They had spent their lives working as day laborers on estates in Germany with no hope of owning land in their native country. Many came to the rural areas because they were farmers and wanted to own land. Others brought skills and trades needed to establish businesses.

Within a generation the German immigrants who came to New Bremen would turn the wilderness into a successful farming community. By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a number of local businesses would grow and prosper. One of those businesses was the manufacture of furniture for the growing population.

Prior to 1850 most furniture in New Bremen was made by individuals to meet the needs of their families. There are few examples of the early furniture left for us to see because the pieces were discarded when they were no longer needed or people moved away. There was not a big market for furniture at that time. People wanted basic, but not fancy, furniture to fill their needs.

There were no cabinet makers listed in the 1850 census for New Bremen but by 1860 the population of New Bremen had increased and the census shows that at least six cabinet makers were in business at that time. Unfortunately we have no samples of furniture that can be attributed to these cabinet makers. This was the era of the canal and New Bremen was bustling with activity and trade. We do not know how much of the furniture was sold locally or how much was shipped on the canal.

It is reported that pieces made during this time period in New Bremen were often made of walnut or cherry woods. One characteristic of New Bremen furniture of this period was the chamfered or beveled corners.

In 1873, Herman Heinfeld built the first furniture factory in New Bremen and established **Heinfeld Manufacturing Company**. Herman gave up the furniture business in 1878 and devoted himself exclusively to being a general building contractor. He also established a lumber mill at that time.



The Heinfeld Manufacturing Company building on N. Franklin Street was destroyed by fire in 1894.



Our museum hosts a sample of Heinfeld Furniture.

The Klanke brothers began making and selling furniture in their Monroe Street store in 1880. The company grew and was incorporated in 1899. The turn of the century brought a change in the manufacture of furniture. Methods to mass-produce furniture were developed to fill the needs and wants of the consumer. New Bremen's **Klanke Furniture Company** was a leader in this industry. The factory was located in a 3-story building on the southeast corner of Vogelsang (Plum) and Herman Streets.



A circa 1910 catalogue shows that the company made kitchen cupboards, tables, wardrobes and chiffrones. The Klanke kitchen cupboard was very popular and useful.



The Klanke Furniture Company made sturdy and stylish furniture. Their marketing included making miniature copies of furniture items (salesmen's samples) that traveled with the salesman to demonstrate the product.



Lawrence Roettger, Herbert Klute, Ed Lanfersieck, Oscar Hirschfeld with a Salesman's Sample of a Kitchen Cupboard



Klanke Furniture Company Employees

The business ended when the building was destroyed by fire in 1913, putting 70 employees out of work.

A new furniture factory was organized and built at the same location shortly after the Klanke fire and was named the **Auglaize Furniture Company**.



The new building was a one story brick building with a "saw-tooth" roof and was state-of-the-art for that time period. One side of the saw tooth roof was all glass for daylight penetration with louvers for ventilation. The building was heated with steam heat by a low pressure steam boiler. The boiler also served as a "dry kiln" in which wood was cured.

Various types of furniture were built by the Auglaize Furniture Company, with the 3-in-1 Mission Style "Library Table" as a main item. This table was a combination desk and bookcase. It was well built and a beautiful piece of furniture which featured a pop-up drawer patented by Herman C. Lietz.

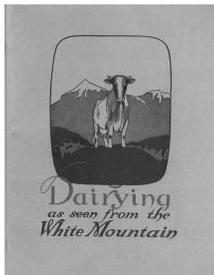


Auglaize Furniture Employees in 1930

The Auglaize Furniture Company operated successfully until the economy began to slow in the late 1920s. Attempts were made to cut costs and continue production by making novelty furniture, but the stock market crash of 1929 and the rise of the Great Depression caused the company to fail. The company went into receivership in 1931 and was idle by the summer of 1933.

The Great Depression ended New Bremen's furniture manufacturing. The pieces that remain are popular with antique collectors. It is a privilege to have samples of furniture made in New Bremen on display in the Pape House Museum. The NBHA is proud to share this history with our visitors.

For more information see the *New Bremen Sesquicentennial Book*. Monty McDermitt wrote an introductory overview about antique furniture of New Bremen. We also wish to acknowledge Anna Mae Hudson for her expertise in the identification and history of early New Bremen furniture.



## New Bremen Notable

### Louis Huenke

A pioneer in the dairy business, Louis Huenke established the White Mountain Creamery in New Bremen. It was the first creamery in northwestern Ohio and changed the care of dairy cattle in Ohio.

His business started when Louis and his wife purchased a farm just east of New Bremen in 1882. Together they started a dairy business and sold milk and butter to the few families in New Bremen who did not have cows. The milk and butter was delivered to customers in a wagon filled with crates that held tin buckets.

In 1884 they built a modern plant, a 24'x24' building, and were capable of producing 50 pounds of butter each day. The Huenkes developed a system to collect cream from nearby farmers to make butter. The Creamery sold butter locally and also shipped butter for sales in New York City.

Louis Huenke's creamery was according to statistics one of the largest establishments of its kind in the United States in 1890. His territory covered an area of nearly five hundred square miles, and was steadily increasing. The creamery churned from 1,500 to 2,000 pounds of butter every evening. (*New Bremen Sun, July 11, 1890*)

It was in those early days that Louis Huenke named his business the **White Mountain Creamery** to exemplify his ideals of purity and uprightness, fair dealing, ruggedness and a high quality product.

His son Clifford joined the business in 1902 and implemented modern methods of caring for dairy cattle that he had studied in college. With this knowledge, the Huenkes blazed the way for better herds through better housing, fencing, feeding and care of the cattle. The Huenkes were the first to encourage the growth of alfalfa for cattle feed in western Ohio. They also introduced the silo to Ohio for storage of the alfalfa.

By 1908, a new and larger plant was needed. It was built just west of New Bremen on the White Mountain Farm. The business grew and prospered and in 1929 merged with Beatrice Foods. The plant processed butter, milk, ice cream, condensed milk and other related products. The milk for local schools was all bottled at this location.

In addition to his dairy business, much of Louis Huenke's time and money was devoted to his home



LOUIS HUENKE

community. He was respected for his advice and counsel. Because of his business acumen he was also closely identified with other New Bremen industries and businesses. These included the New Bremen Broom Company, New Bremen Brick Company, Auglaize Motor Company, Auglaize Furniture Company, Wooden Shoe Oil Company, O. O. Poorman Company, Streine Tool & Manufacturing Company and the First National Bank.

Born in New Bremen in 1854, Louis was the son of German immigrant parents Henry and Louisa (Stroefer) Huenke. He was the 4<sup>th</sup> of nine children.

In 1881, Louis married Emma Wulfeck. They had three children - Clifford, Gertrude, and Howard.

Louis died in 1936. His obituary in the *New Bremen Sun* stated, "New Bremen mourns the loss of its leading industrial and civic leader for more than 50 years."

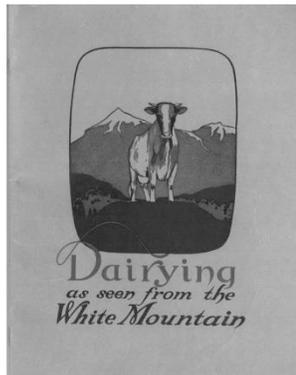
His accomplishments make Louis Huenke a New Bremen Notable.



White Mountain Creamery in 1938



A View of the White Mountain Farm  
(Photos courtesy of Stan Kuenning)



*Dairying as seen from the White Mountain, published in 1927, tells the story of the pioneers who settled Northwestern Ohio and the dawn of a new industry, The White Mountain Creamery and Dairy Companies. A copy of this booklet has been placed in our museum courtesy of James F. Dicke, Sr., Tim Eiting, Stan Kuenning and Frank Kuenning.*

*The first installment of this booklet follows.*

## **Dairying as seen from the White Mountain:**

**An historical account of the Development of Agriculture in Northwestern Ohio, Dairying in Particular, and the Importance of the "Link" between Farm and City.**

### **The Old Northwest and Early Auglaize**

As one rolls smoothly over the white ribbony highways of today which interlace the fruitful valleys of the Miami and the Maumee, it is hard to perceive that less than a hundred years ago virgin forests of oak ranged where now bountiful fields of grain, hay and corn nod their heads in the wind.

Here the Shawnee hunted his meat, tilled his corn, paddled his canoe up and down the streams which still bear the musical names by which he called them; loved and wooed; hopelessly fought the encroachment of the paleface.

Over the trails where now run our paved highways, traders passed, troops marched, and the Indians trailed their prey.

It is like another world, so remote does it seem to us who have come to regard the automobile, the telephone, the tractor, the thresher and milking machine, as necessary to our existence. Yet it is only yesterday, as time is reckoned, that the Shawnees held their parleys at their capitol in Wapakoneta; General Harrison encamped at St. Marys, and General Wayne wrote of the Indian settlements that "the margins of these beautiful rivers (Miami and AuGlaize) appear lie one continued village. Nor have I ever before beheld such immense fields of corn in any part of America from Canada to Florida."

Our streams were important highways upon which rode the "fast" freighter of the trader and the swift canoe of the explorer and the Shawnee. St. Marys, founded by the infamous James Girty, and once known as Girtystown, became the pivot of activity, the gateway between the Great Miami Valley and the Lake Erie section. The stock of the trader, the wares of the vender, the simple products of the farm, rumbled slowly behind oxen over the portage between Piqua, Loramie and St. Marys – the summit of the great divide which separates the waters leading both to the north and south. The trail

passed through New Bremen, then unfounded and unsettled.

Settlement was slow. There were no gold fields to call a flood of immigration, only unbroken forests, springing from a soil free from stone and rich in natural fertility. The land was held by a succession of claimants and finally included in the Northwest Territory, from which Ohio was formed into the 17<sup>th</sup> state in 1803. But the Shawnee remained in possession. A reservation of ten square miles in the very heart of what is now Auglaize County was granted. But these lands were too rich and fertile to remain in the possession of a race of nomads. At St. Marys, the purchase by the Federal Government of all Shawnee lands was completed. Their last race was run, their carnage ended, their final orgy and dance was held at Wapakoneta in 1832. The curtain dropped forever on Indian disturbance and interference in Northwestern Ohio. They passed to the Kansas reservation – remnants of a once proud race, which had failed to retain its right of possession because of its neglect to till the soil and domesticate animals, which has always marked man's advancement and prosperity, and is the yardstick by which civilization and progress are measured.

To the pioneers who blazed the trail; who fought their way through deep entanglements in marshy lands; who sacrificed home, that an empire and seat of commerce might rise, we owe much of our present state of prosperous farming. To the Indian, we owe more than can ever be repaid. We adopted his corn, took his lands, stocked them with domesticated animals. We originated and adopted labor saving machinery; the result is a rural civilization greater in its perfection and prosperity than any other on God's foot stool.

### **Farm Life in Early Pioneer Days**

Only those who have lived to see nearly a century of progress can recall the days when little bands of home seekers pioneered into the wilderness of Northwestern Ohio, founded the towns of New Bremen, Minster and Celina, or took up with the small rough cabins vacated by the Indians at Lima, Wapakoneta, St. Marys and surrounding territories.

To us familiar with the multiple small cities of Northwestern Ohio interlaced by broad highways which winter at its roughest cannot close against our enclosed, warmed automobiles, which upon occasion fly swiftly over hundreds of miles in one day, it's a call on the reserves of our imagination to picture this same territory as the early settlers found it, less than a hundred years ago.

The roads were nearly impassible, the farms mere clearings scattered here and there through the great virgin woodlands; oxen, boats, and saddle horses were the only means of transportation or communication. The trip from Cincinnati to New Bremen, which we make in a few

hours, took Schroeder and the Cincinnatians, who founded New Bremen, two weeks on horseback. They would have marveled greatly at our typical farm home with its broad acres, cultivated by motor driven machinery; crops harvested and threshed by gasoline power, instead of flailed by hand or trodden out by the farmer's horses and oxen.

Life in this section was to a large extent a repetition of the early farm life of colonial days. The pioneers were not thrown entirely upon their own resources. The Indians left their heritage of corn, pumpkins, squash and tobacco and a system of agriculture which, although crude and inefficient, formed a ground work, to which the early settlers added their knowledge acquired in the Old World, or in the cradle of American agriculture.

Content were the early settlers to live a simple and homespun life. Their implements, as well as their clothes, were mainly of rude homemade character. There were no gang plows, no disk harrows, no power stump pullers; only the crudest implements, and only by their laborious use, the farmers wrested their living from the soil, planting such crops as were particularly suitable to their farms, and raising and fattening cattle and hogs, which later contributed largely to the growth of a tremendous pork packing industry at New Bremen.

Clearing the forests was an Herculean task. Huge tracks of virgin oak, beech, walnut and maple were cleared away, rolled into heaps and burned. Thus, to a large extent, a tremendous natural resource was destroyed, although huge timbers were hewn for ship building, oar, stave and spoke making. The bark of the oak, used in tanneries, constituted one source of income and the sugar of the sugar maple, another.

Although crude were their methods and simple their lives, there is an appeal to their traditional town meetings, quilting, husking, spinning and paring bees, the house and barn raisings and similar rural festivities.

We better appreciate the perfection of the present planting, harvesting and marketing system when we recall that the farmers of the early days never saw or heard of a silo, a mowing machine or a wire fence, or a grain drill. They knew nothing of the philosophy of enriching the soil, the practice of tile draining, the principles of animal breeding, why milk sours or butter does not come. They never heard of balanced rations, carbohydrates, protein, commercial fertilizer, cover crops, leguminous plants or pasteurized milk. They could not have understood a present day agriculture book, but their work of clearing the land and establishing homesteads afforded their descendants an opportunity for further development.

### New Bremen Once Supreme Pork Packing Center

The building of the Miami and Erie Canal and the Grand Reservoir brought to the frontier people of New Bremen and vicinity, their first commercial work, and opened a market for the products of agriculture, which heretofore had had practically no cash value. Lack of markets, malaria fever, and the very great amount of sickness which accompanied the opening of the wilderness, had greatly retarded settlement. Subcontractors, who engaged to excavate from one to five miles of the canal bed, therefore found it difficult to secure workmen. As whiskey was believed to neutralize the effects of the fever, the subcontractors were compelled to supply it to their hands in "jiggers" (2 oz.). In these days of prohibition and alleged intemperance, it is interesting to know that the contractor who could offer the most jiggers – running as high as sixteen a day – secured the most workmen.

Because New Bremen and Minster occupy the very top of the divide, or water shed, locks were necessary to get the boats over the hill from Cincinnati to Toledo, requiring the construction of Lake St. Marys or Grand Reservoir, and Indian Lake or Lewistown and Ft. Loramie Reservoirs.



1843 Before canal days the cost of transportation was many times the market value of farm produce. The Miami and Erie Canal, although it was navigable only about eight months each year, afforded "cheap" transportation and farming took on new impetus.

The opening of the canal was a big day for New Bremen, a day of festivity and rejoicing. The Canal banks were lined with interested onlookers, who watched the old boat as she was slowly drawn up the canal, from the direction of Piqua, and pulled into the New Bremen locks. New Bremen became a busy, bustling town. Hundreds of sixty and eighty ton freight boats plied up and down the canal. Passenger packets carrying forty or fifty people made the trip to Cincinnati in a day and a night. They were the Pullman's of the 50s. Settlers came in from both directions, taking up the unclaimed Congress and canal lands. The whole country between Cincinnati and Toledo prospered.

Excerpt from: **Dairying as seen from the White Mountain: An historical account of the Development of Agriculture in Northwestern Ohio, Dairying in Particular, and the Importance of the "Link" between Farm and City.** Published by The White Mountain Creamery Co. and The White Mountain Dairy Co., 1927. **(To be continued)**

**THROUGH THE CAROLINAS TO  
WASHINGTON AND HOME**  
1865 Civil War History for New Bremen's Veteran  
Volunteers



From left: Fred Tellman, Herman Moeller, Unknown, Henry Schaefer, William Tschudin, John W. Waterman, Fred Roettger, Ben Schulenberg, Wm. Vornholt, Frederick Dickman, Fred Behm, William Schulenberg

The 37th Ohio Infantry Regiment and Company C, the unit in which the largest number of New Bremen men served, was in camp around Savannah, Georgia after Sherman's sweep across Georgia. On January 19, 1865 they were ordered to Fort Thunderbolt on the Savannah River. They were then transported by gunboats to Beauford, South Carolina to load a supply train from the ships in that port and guard the train as it supplied the Union troops on their march through the Carolinas.

The Union troops continued to fight their way north through March 19 when the 37<sup>th</sup> Ohio participated in the battle of Bentonville, North Carolina. This was to be their last battle before they received news of the end of the war.

They were in camp near Goldsboro, North Carolina when news arrived of Robert E. Lee's surrender in Virginia. Sherman's troops then marched over 200 miles to Washington to be part of the Grand Review of the Armies. This celebration involved a parade down Pennsylvania Avenue where the soldiers passed in review before the President and his Cabinet.

Following the Review they were sent by rail to Louisville, Kentucky where they expected to be mustered out. Instead the soldiers were ordered to board steamships for a trip down the Mississippi River to Arkansas. The 37<sup>th</sup> Ohio arrived in Little Rock, Arkansas on the 4th of July and were on duty there until orders to be mustered out came on August 7. The regiment was discharged four years after its organization. (Information for this history came from the e-book: *History of the 37<sup>th</sup> Regiment O.V.V.I. furnished by the Comrades at the Ninth Reunion-September, 1889.*)

**GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC**

New Bremen's veterans returned home in 1865 and resumed their civilian lives. Many of them joined their army comrades in an organization called the Grand Army of the Republic or GAR. The group was organized in

1866 and was based on three objectives: fraternity, charity and loyalty. Membership was limited to *veterans of the late unpleasantness*.

The veterans were organized into state departments and local posts. To organize a post, a group of at least ten veterans were needed to submit an application for charter. They were then assigned a post number and permitted to select a namesake. The local post was Lt. W.S. Kishler Post 83 in St. Marys. GAR members wore a bronze star insignia on their lapel.

After GAR meetings, a popular activity was the *Kommers* (the German word for festive evening). Here comrades would socialize as they had around their campfires, recounting their wartime experiences and perhaps singing these war songs *Tenting Tonight*, *Just Before the Battle*, *Mother* and *The Vacant Chair*. These times with their fellow veterans strengthened a bond that was never forgotten.

**The Grand Army of the Republic Proclaims  
Decoration Day**

Gen. John Logan the national commander of the GAR in 1868 issued General Order 11 which proclaimed: *The 30th of May is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion*. The May 30th date was chosen for peak flower bloom and also because it was not the date of any particular battle.

In early New Bremen the observance of Decoration Day included a parade and ceremonies.

**1889 Decoration Day**

All Late Soldiers will assemble at 2 o'clock sharp in front of the post office; form in line and march to the West Side Engine House, headed by the Little Six Band where they will be joined by The Northern Fire Company and Hook & Ladder Company; march back to Odd Fellow's Hall and add the members of the I.O.O.F. March to East Side Engine House and add the Cataract Fire Company followed by Speakers and Singers in Carriages and Citizens on Foot and in Carriages. March to Lock Two cemetery under command of Dr. M. Stone, Chief Marshal and F. G. Schulte, Henry Jaeger, H. Finke and Henry Grothaus, Sr., Assistants.

The exercises of the day consisted of the following: Decoration of the Soldiers' graves by ex-soldiers in the morning, Opening Chorus Song – "On the Red field of Blood" (Male Voices). Address in German by Rev. M. Buerkle, Song – "Call of the Roll on High" (Male Voices). Address in German by Rev. A. Merkle. Song "Redeemed" (Male Voices). Music by the Little Six Band. Address in English by Rev. M. Vitz. Song - "Star Spangled Banner" (Male Voices). Benediction by Rev. M. Vitz.

*The New Bremen Sun 5-31-1889*



**Decoration Day Parade 1911 in New Bremen**

After World War I, Decoration Day was amended to honor all Americans who died in service of the USA.

**1920 Decoration Day**

A street pageant the like of which has not been seen in New Bremen for many a day will be the preliminary act to the Decoration Day Observance, Monday afternoon, May 31. The various committees have performed their duties to perfection, and when the day dawns there will not be one thing left undone to make the observance of the day one long to be remembered. The old Civil War Veterans, the Ex-Service men of the World War, the Fire Department and the Public Schools will vie with each other in adding attractiveness and emphasis to the proposed street pageant, while the services scheduled at St. Paul's church for later in the afternoon, will be equal to if not better than any in previous years.

Under the leadership of Chief of Police Wm. Landwehr and Fire Chief George Gast a line of march has been mapped out to cover several of the principal streets in town. The call is given for promptly 1 o'clock, new time, when the marshals of the day will lead forth the Northern Fire Company and the Alert Hook & Ladder Company, at the city building on Main Street. From there the procession, under the leadership of a combined City Band and High School Band, will march up Main, to Monroe, to Franklin, and meet the pupils and teachers of the public schools, at the Central school building, when a return march will be made to Monroe street. Thence east on Monroe to the hall of New Bremen Post American Legion, in the Schulenberg & Laut block, where the old veterans and the Legion boys, all in uniform, will fall in. The line will continue to Washington, up to the city building where the Cataract Fire Company will join, when the line of march will continue south to Cherry, east to Walnut, north to Monroe, west to Main, north to First, west to Franklin, south to Vogelsang, east to Main, south to Second, west to St. Pauls church.

A well-arranged program will be rendered at the church, in which several pupils of the public schools will take part. The speaker of the day, as has been announced before, is Rev. Ernest Bourner Allen of Chicago, one of the best known and able public speakers of national reputation. It is expected that the exercises at the church will begin at 2 o'clock when all citizens intending to witness that part of the celebration are requested to be in their places. *The New Bremen Sun 6-28-1920*

**1931**

**Henry Schaefer, Sr.,**

South Walnut Street, New Bremen's only surviving veteran of the Civil War, plans to be in Columbus during the annual encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Ohio. The encampment will open Sunday June 14 and continue through Wednesday June 18. *New Bremen Sun, 6-11-1931*

While the May date stayed the same the name of the holiday gradually changed from Decoration Day to Memorial Day, especially after World War II. On right see New Bremen Sun article dated 5-26-1949. This article may bring back some memories of past Memorial Days.

The next change came in 1971 when the National Holiday Act moved the date of Memorial Day to the last Monday in May.

New Bremen has continued to observe Memorial Day since it was proclaimed by the GAR. Now the leadership has passed to the New Bremen American Legion Post 241. The American Legion was organized after WWI. A November 7, 1919 New Bremen Sun article noted the organization of the local post and stated it was encouraged by the GAR as it follows the GAR's aims and objectives for veterans.

The tradition continues in 2015 with services held at the German Protestant Cemetery on Memorial Day, on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Memorial Day Services At German Protestant Cemetery**

Memorial Day Services will be held Monday morning, May 30, in German Protestant cemetery, is the announcement from New Bremen Post 241, American Legion. A procession of Legionnaires, their firing squad and color guard, led by the New Bremen High School Band will form at the High School promptly at 9:15, parade through town to the corner of Main and Pearl streets where they will be transported by bus to the cemetery. Services at the cemetery are scheduled to begin at 10:00.

The program is announced as follows:

- "The Star-Spangled Banner"—
- New Bremen High School Band
- Prayer — Rev. Leo H. Boeke, Chaplain, New Bremen Post 241, American Legion
- Remarks—Wilbur Hegemier, Post Commander
- Accordion Solo — "America the Beautiful", Doris Thielker
- Introduction of Speaker—Wilbur Hegemier, Post Commander
- Address—Rev. E. E. Fahringer
- "America"—Audience with accordion accompaniment
- American Legion Ritual Memorial Service
- Harold Tangeman is chairman of the Program Committee and working with him are Roger L. Downing, Gene Engle, Walter Rosselit, Ivan Koeper, John Cindric and Les Howe.

This is one of the 34 Grave Markers & GAR star emblems for Civil War Veterans at the German Protestant Cemetery.



## Do You Remember Autograph Books?

Here are two samples from 1883, both in English.

Amongst the treasures at the museum are a few little books from yesteryear. The little books are now over 100 years old, the leather covers are worn from little hands, the pages are yellow with age, and the penmanship of years ago is somewhat lost due to fading ink, however, the sentiment remains the same and here are a few of the verses and signatures.

*Go little book, thy destined course pursue, collect memorials of the just and true, and beg of every friend so near some token of remembrance dear. (1883)*

*May flowerlets of love around thee be twined, and the sunshine of peace shed its joys o'er thy mind. Compliments of Charles W. Mesloh (1885)*

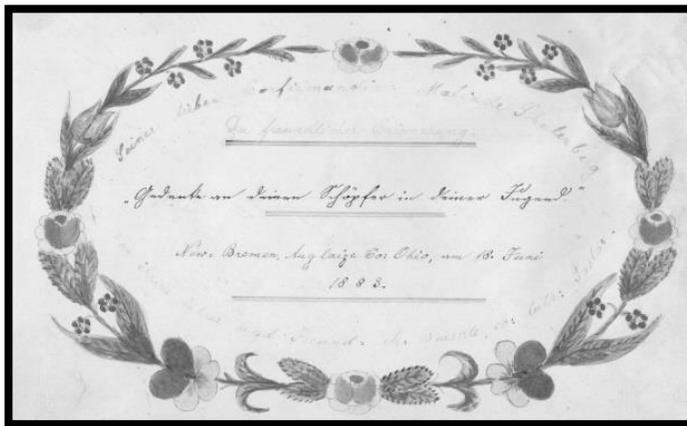
*Live long and be happy. As often as you read these words, think of your teacher and friend. Julius F. Zwez (1883)*

-Marjorie Lietz, *The Towpath*, January, 1992

Autograph Books first appeared in Germany in the mid-1500s. The early books were used by university students to record names of individuals who would later serve as references in professional life. They often included statements from faculty members meant to guide and encourage their students. The tradition of the books came to America with the German immigrants.

The books were most popular around the time of the Civil War. They became so popular that magazines such as *Godey's Ladies Book* published autograph book verses that their readers could use.

Here are a few samples from early New Bremen autograph books:



Many of the entries in the early books are written in German. This page was created by **Malinda Schulenberg in 1883**. Each flower and leaf is hand-colored and the script is lovely.

Dear friend,

Accept the tribute of respect, a friend to you doth give,  
And till I am called to death's cold sleep, this wish for you shall live,

That life may be a happy way and sorrow be unknown,

That friendship's warm and heavenly ray may ever be your own.

Remember me when you are happy,

Remember me when sad,

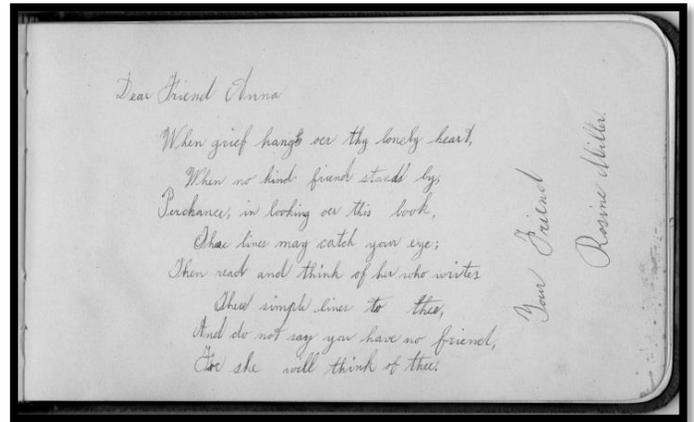
Remember me through all life's changes,

Remember me when glad.

Weeks may pass and years may end,

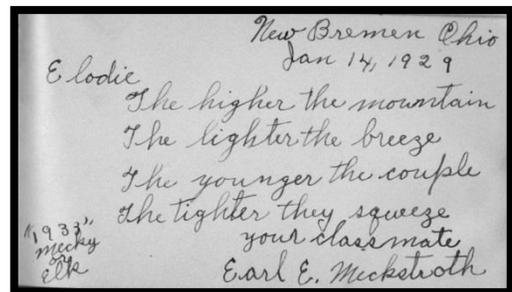
Yet you will find in me a friend.

Your loving friend, Gusta Gilberg.



Autograph books began to disappear with the advent of school yearbooks. The first yearbook in NBHS was published by the Class of 1909. The autograph book then became more of a sentimental memento of school life.

By the 1920s and 1930s most verses are written in English and often show a lighter, more humorous style. The next examples are from the autograph book that belonged to Elodie Lanfersieck Sollman, NBHS Class of 1933.



Nov. 7, 1927.  
New Bremen  
Ohio.

Dear Elodie:  
Round is the ring,  
Which has no end,  
So is the love,  
To you my friend.

Your Friend  
Dorothy Gieseke.

East Second St.  
New Bremen,  
Ohio.

"There is but one failure,  
and that is, not to be true"  
to the very best one knows.

Alvina Burk.

From the book that belonged to Marie Roettger Neuman, NBHS Class of 1936, we see:

Jan 9, 1930

Always remember that one of  
the keys to happiness is a  
"SMILE."

Miss Nettie Loy  
Second Grade

The handwriting is faint but says: *Always remember that one of the keys to happiness is a "SMILE."* Miss Nettie Loy, Second Grade

New Bremen, Ohio  
May 11, 1934

Dear Marie

When you are married and have  
one - two - three.  
Name the nearest one after  
me.

Your Classmate  
N. B. H. S. Richard Niedeman  
"1936" (Dick)

Next are pages from the autograph book of Esther Headapohl Dicke, NBHS Class of 1934.

N. B. H. S.  
Laboratory.

Remember  
volley ball in  
Physical Ed.

Dear Esther,  
When you perhaps are  
musing,  
O'er words that I have  
pinned,  
Remember you are  
reading  
a message from a  
friend.

Dorothy  
Sunderman

I've got the  
not.

I've got the  
powder puff.

I've got the  
not.

Into the 1950s, autograph books were provided as part of New Bremen's school picture packages. These later albums contain less verse and more simple signatures. Today, smart phones with the capability of storing messages and photos have made the autograph book a thing of the past.

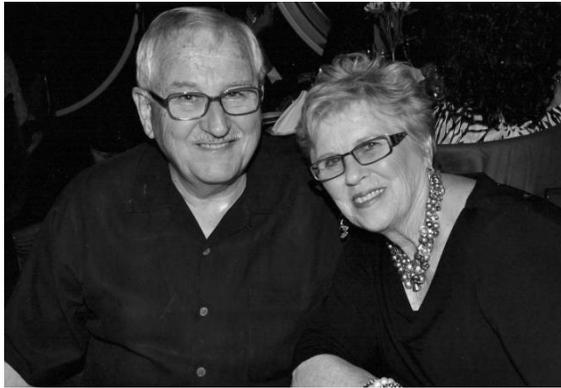


Autograph Book from School Year 1959-60

Noting that these samples include the location and date, our collection of autograph books at the museum provides a unique look into New Bremen's past.

## The Forbidden Class

By JoAnne Meckstroth



Ray & JoAnne (Berning) Meckstroth

Home Economics was a class only for girls in the 1950s. Canning peaches, sewing a dress, making perfect gravy and tips on being a good wife were familiar images. Society placed high importance on women's behavior, especially at home. In many ways, the roles that women were supposed to fill were relatively constrictive and repressive. They were expected to become good wives, which was defined by how well they attended to their spouse's needs and how obedient they were in following their spouse's every order. For the most part, home economics for women in the 1950s taught them how to be a diligent homemaker and caring spouse and mother; which is the way society expected them to be.

Tips such as how to make your husband happy were standard teachings: *Have a cool or warm drink ready for him when he comes home from work. Have him lean back in a comfortable chair or suggest that he lie down in the bedroom. Arrange his pillow and offer to take off his shoes. Speak in a low, soothing voice. Allow him to relax and un-wind.*<sup>1</sup> Hmmm ... I was in Home Economics class in the 1950s and I must have blocked this tip out of my mind!

In 1957, my husband, Ray Meckstroth, was entering his senior year in high school. With only two electives left to choose from, speech and home economics, he had to come up with a scheme that would keep him out of the dreaded speech class. Even though Home Economics was that forbidden class for boys, Ray hated talking in front

of a group and figured it would be the lesser of two evils. He thought speech class should also be outlawed.

How was he going to maneuver his way through this slippery slope? Since the school handbook did not specifically state that it was a girls-only class, Ray decided to do what had never been done before – sign up for Home Economics! Not willing to stand alone amongst the school giants (Principal Miss Burk and Superintendent Mr. Houshower), Ray convinced two of his buddies, Ron and Jerry, to sign up for the *girly* class with him. Not only would they have the added bonus of a classroom full of girls every day, they would also be starting a new tradition in New Bremen High. Plus, learning how to bake a cake would serve them much better than expanding their speaking skills. It seemed the most logical thing to do. Ray had no plans to become a public speaker, but he could eat cake every day of the week.

The old song, “If I Knew You Were Coming I’d Have Baked a Cake” seemed fitting as the three boys, feeling very cocky and influential, swaggered into the classroom on the first day of school. It was a “jaw dropping moment” for the girls, staring in wonder, as three cute boys found their way to three empty seats. They giggled with excitement, thinking about how this would surely liven up this class! Wasn’t the first semester supposed to be all about personal hygiene?

The astonished teacher stared long and hard at the three troublemakers. How could she teach the planned textbook curriculum with these three boys in the class? Finally, she asked what they were doing and didn’t they know it was a girls-only course? Ray was prepared. “The paperwork does not specify that this class is for girls only and the three of us decided we wanted to learn how to bake a cake. You just never know when we might need this.” Her face turned as crimson as the school colors, as she huffed, “It is just not going to work. This class does much more than bake a cake, young man.” If this doesn’t work, she thought, I have to re-write the whole curriculum. “We are going to the office right now!”

Betty Belton, the school secretary, was greatly admired by the high school students. Underneath her efficient, business-like manner, she was as soft and pliable as a bag of fluffy marshmallows. To some she was a good listener and counselor, for others she was a friendly face that cushioned them from the dreaded offices of the principal and superintendent. However, she

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://itthing.com/home-economics-for-women-in-1950s#sthash.IeZzv4N4.dpuf>



couldn't shield these three young boys from their pending exodus.

The atmosphere shifted from admirable giggles to the stern presence of Miss Burk. With pursed lips and a disapproving frown, the principal decided this was a bigger problem than she could deal with, and sent them immediately to Mr.

Houshower's office. Only the foolish defied this man; and no one challenged him and came away unscathed.

Ray, now feeling a little weak in the knees, stepped tentatively into his office with his two buddies. One of the boys crumbled at the sight of Mr. Houshower's piercing stare, and quickly changed his mind and left for speech class. However, the two left standing weren't that smart. With arms crossed and his chin up, Ray said, "Cooking will serve me much better in life than public speaking and I see no reason for this course exclusion."

Mr. Houshower, consuming the space with his powerful influence, said, "This is a forbidden class to boys and you will not be attending." At which time, the two standing were immediately escorted out of his office and



expelled. The only way they could enter back into the school was to be escorted to his office with a parent. It was not a good day for Ray and Ron.

With determination, Ruth Meckstroth walked with her son up the stairs to the front door of the high school. Ray's hand gripped the front door and motioned his mother to go in first. Gone was the arrogant swagger. Welcomed was the safety of his mother's shadow as they walked the dimly lit hallway to the most feared office in New Bremen. School had been dismissed two hours ago, leaving the halls lacking the vibrant energy of students talking and laughing. The only sound was a young man's rapid heartbeat echoing off the silent walls. It was one of those memorable moments that last a lifetime. Mrs. Belton greeted them soberly and waved her hand to the superintendent's closed door.

The office was orderly, with files neatly stacked on his desk and credenza. One file was in the middle of his desk, waiting to be opened. It had the name Ray Edward

Meckstroth written on it. A flashing thought went through Ray's mind. Had his grandfather, whom he was named after, ever experienced expulsion? Probably not, he thought, since his grandfather never went to high school. Ray knew what he had to do. The only way to wear the Crimson and Gold colors again ... the only way he would receive a diploma and toss his hat into the air with his classmates was to apologize. He still thought boys should be able to attend Home Economics, but he also knew this was not a battle he could win. Someone else was calling the shots in this episode of life.

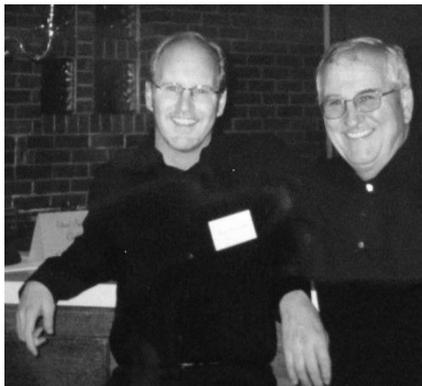
Mr. Houshower carefully and dramatically opened the file on his desk and presented again the situation to them. Without hesitation, Ray apologized and his mom assured him this would be the last visit this senior would have to his office. With great compassion, Mr. Houshower looked at Ray's mother and said, "Don't try to keep this boy in New Bremen after graduation. He needs to travel and see the world." And with a smile on his face he said, "Of course, not until he finishes speech class." He was right. Ray did travel the world during his flying career in the Air Force and United Parcel Service.

Ray never made a public speech, but he did learn to cook. Since retirement, cooking has become a passionate hobby. Smoking and canning fish, meats, fruits and vegetables, cookies and homemade breads are regular treats. He is continually searching for new recipes to try. He also volunteers annually as a cook on the Iditarod Trail – the Last Great Race in Alaska.



**Ray Cooking for the Iditarod Race Participants**

I wonder what he might have become if he had been able to take that Home Economics class and acquired a love for cooking earlier in his life. Maybe he would have



become a famous chef with his own TV show like Bobby Flay. One can dream big, right?

**Ray and his son David at Tuxedos & Tennis Shoes catering event.**

Instead, Ray's love for food is being fulfilled through his son, David, a businessman and co-owner of **Tuxedos and Tennis Shoes Catering** in Seattle, Washington. It is featured as one of the most established and successful catering businesses in the city. Stories have been published about the company's leadership and success.

Someone once said, "We may live without friends; we may live without books; but civilized man cannot live without a cook."

After you read the following basic steps taught to women in the 1950's textbook, you will understand why it was a forbidden class for boys:

*Step 1: HAVE DINNER READY. Plan ahead, even the night before, to have a delicious meal--on time. This is a way to let him know that you have been thinking about him and are concerned with his needs. Most men are hungry when they come home, and having a good meal ready is part of the warm welcome that is needed.*

*Step 2: PREPARE YOURSELF. Take fifteen minutes to rest so that you will be refreshed when he arrives. He has just been with a lot of work-weary people. Be a little gay and a little more interesting. His boring day may need a lift. Greet him with a smile.*

*Step 3: CLEAR AWAY THE CLUTTER. Make one last trip though the main part of the house just before your husband arrives, gathering up children's books and toys, papers, etc. Then run a dust cloth over the tables. Your husband will feel he has reached a haven of rest and order, and it will give you lift too.*

*Step 4: PREPARE THE CHILDREN. If they are small, wash their hands and faces and comb their hair. They are his little treasures and he would like to see them playing the part.*

*Step 5: MINIMIZE ALL NOISE. At the time of his arrival, eliminate all noise from the washer, dryer, or vacuum. Encourage the children to be quiet.*

*Step 6: SOME "DO NOT'S". Don't greet him with problems and complaints. Don't complain if he is late for dinner. Count this as a minor problem compared to what he might have gone through that day.*

*Step 7: MAKE HIM COMFORTABLE. Have a cool or warm drink ready for him. Have him lean back in a comfortable chair or suggest that he lie down in the bedroom. Arrange his pillow and offer to take off his shoes. Speak in a low, soothing voice. Allow him to relax and unwind.*

*Step 8: LISTEN TO HIM. You may have a dozen things to tell him, but the moment of his arrival is not the time. Let him talk first.*

*Step 9: MAKE THE EVENING HIS. Never complain if he doesn't take you to dinner or to other entertainment. Instead, try to understand his world of strain and pressure and his need to unwind and relax.*

Dramatic changes have taken place in our culture. A time when the mother tended to the home and the father went to work is almost gone. The Home Economics class is now called Family and Consumer Sciences, which addresses economics, nutrition and food preparation, early childhood development, interior design and management of home and community. Boys are welcomed and female equality replaces the woman servitude model of the 1950s.

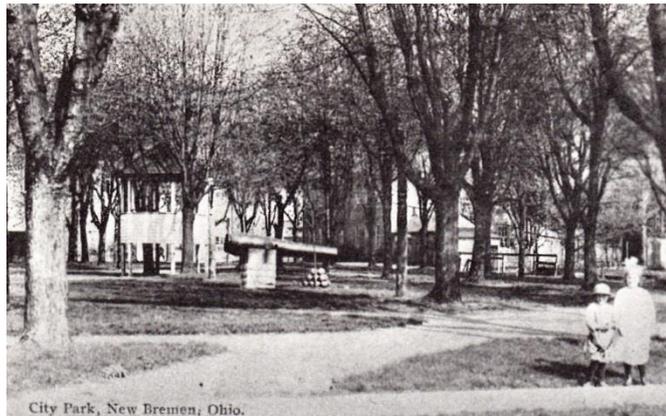
I can only say, "Ray Meckstroth, you were born 50 years too early. We have come a long way baby!"



**Ray Baking a Cake!**

## Summertime in Early New Bremen

The warm summer months were times for outdoor entertainment. One place people gathered was our first park- City Park on North Franklin Street. The original 1833 plat shows this area was divided into two lots that were designated as public land. The land was used as market space until 1866. That year the Town Hall and Northern Fire Department building used one lot and the remaining land became City Park.



City Park, New Bremen, Ohio.

The park was chosen as the site for the town's Civil War Cannon. A comment from the *New Bremen Sun* in 1902 was "the cannon was shipped under the title of scrap iron, yet who will have aught but reverence for the ancient war piece?" City Park also had a bandstand and the concerts provided much entertainment.

Although City Park provided music for entertainment it did not have the space for a large wooden dance floor. There was room for outdoor dancing at both **Kuenning's Grove** and **Hartwig's Grove**. North of town, **Kuenning's Grove** was located on the land that later became the New Bremen Speedway. In 1919 the *New Bremen Sun* reported the Kuenning's Grove dance floor got roof and side protection to keep the floor smooth and level.

**THE ONE GREAT DAY AT NEW BREMEN**

**American Legion Picnic—Monday, July Fifth**

Decorated Automobile Parade. Comprehensive Display of War Trophies. Artillery Guns, Swords, Helmets, Bayonets, Guns and Other Trophies from the Battlefields. Band Concerts All Day. Dancing Afternoon and Evening.

Kuenning's Grove 1 1/2 mile north, on New Bremen-St. Marys State Highway. Taxi Service all Day. Western Ohio Cars stop at Entrance of Grounds.

Lunch Refreshments One Whole Day of Patriotic Enjoyment Music Old Friends and New  
Come! Come! Come!

NEW BREMEN POST 241, AMERICAN LEGION

*(Ad from New Bremen Sun, July 2, 1920)*

**Hartwig's Grove** was the topic of a 1990 Towpath article. (**Hartwig's Grove** was located at the end of S. Franklin Street, now the location of NB Stor-N-Lock and the apartment units.)

### *Hartwig's Grove*

*It was the middle of summer and the sun came up each morning bright and hot! The wheat was all in shocks, waiting for the threshing to begin. The ladies were kept busy with their canning and preserving (putting up) and also helping out in the fields.*

*But today was different. Today was going to be a day of fun, a picnic in town at Hartwig's Grove. It was time out to rest and exchange news with friends and relatives.*

*Hartwig's Grove was an ideal place for picnics, lots of big shade trees and room for the children to run and play. A big dance floor made of wood, an envy of many dance floors today, sheltered by large towering trees and faced the road (east).*

*In the old section of town once known as Vogelsangtown, one left Plum Street where it crosses Franklin Street and headed south on Franklin towards the picnic grounds. There was a creek to cross so many folks left their horse and buggy at what is now the 200 block of S. Franklin, tied the horse securely to a shade tree and then gathering their baskets of food and walked the remaining distance to the picnic grounds.*

*I would think the picnic tables were smooth boards from the sawmill, laid across sawhorses and then covered with white tablecloths. Lemonade was a favorite drink. The lemons were sliced paper-thin, rind and all, covered with sugar and then mashed with a wooden potato masher. Cold well water and some ice were added to the mixture in the huge 10-gallon crocks. All one needed then was a big dipper and cups.*

*It was customary for families to spread their tablecloth on the ground, gather the family together and then sit in a big circle to eat, some kneeling the whole time. Ladies were dressed in long black calico or percale dresses with long sleeves. Most of them wore a sunbonnet, too. The men wore dark trousers, light colored shirts, black hats, suspenders and a watch in their watch pocket with a fancy fob. The children were perhaps more comfortable - little girls in long dresses, boys in stovepipe pants and best of all – barefoot.*

*There was music during the day and many kinds of games for young and old. When the sun started to sink in the west, the farmers knew it was time to wend their way home and feed the livestock and milk the cows. It was the end of a perfect day.*

*-Marjorie Lietz, 1990*

Traveling shows were popular entertainment during the early 1900s and some made stops in New Bremen. The Redpath Circuit Chautauqua was a traveling tent show. For a week, from their tent on the Central School ground, they provided programs and lectures on many topics.

In the early 1920s, Chief Long Wolf and Princess Red Feather, billed as Western Historical Musical Indians from Hillsdale, Michigan, would park their wagon across from the Drug Store. After some entertainment they would sell KA-NO-TAK, an Indian herb elixir, for one dollar a bottle.

These were some of the events that provided summertime entertainment in early New Bremen.



### What's New in New Bremen!



The groundbreaking ceremony for the Komminsk Legacy Park was held on June 7, 2015. From left: Mayor Jeff Pape, Christy Shell, Linda Tinsley, Michelle Bambauer, Dianne Komminsk, Monica Shell, Cathi Hall and Representative Jim Buchy.

The **Komminsk Legacy Park** will soon be our new art park. The name was chosen to honor the Komminsk family and Dianne Komminsk its advocate and benefactor. The former Lion's Club Park area is being repurposed for this interactive art park for children and the young at heart. It will feature a splash pad, sun-shade structure, an embankment slide, a lion sculpture and hillside seating. Additional artwork and amenities will be added during the second phase of development. We commend Dianne for her vision and assistance in bringing the **Komminsk Legacy Park** to New Bremen.

Dianne's love for New Bremen and philanthropic efforts mirror those of her family. Dianne is the daughter of Lewis & Betty (Green) Komminsk, granddaughter of Harry & Gertrude (Huenke) Komminsk and the great-granddaughter of Louis & Emma (Wulfleck) Huenke. (See **Huenke story on page 3**.)



The Dedication for the shared-use path between New Bremen Lock One and Lock Two was held on June 6, 2015.

The paved pathway, a joint effort of the Village of New Bremen, the New Bremen Foundation, Poggemeyer Design Group and ODOT, will be shared by walkers, runners, bikers and handicapped outdoor enthusiasts. It was also announced that a paved trail is planned within the Kuenning-Dicke Natural Area.

## LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

*Hi from New York! What a wonderful surprise to open The Towpath and see the very nice article featuring my father, "Garmy" Garmhausen! Interestingly, I never knew he had offered ideas about suitable plantings for the Museum house. That would be very much like him.*

*I know from Letters to the Editors that many readers have written to express how much they enjoy receiving this nifty publication. Me too! It is always such a pleasurable read. Even though I did not grow up in New Bremen (I was a Chillicothe, Ohio gal) the town is such a familiar place having heard much talk about it. Plus we made trips there to trim the plantings at his parents' grave and then tootle around town afterwards. So, I too feel a familiar connection to New Bremen and Lock Two...*

*With much appreciation and thanks,*

**Betsy Garmhausen Hunter (New York)**

*Dear New Bremen Historic Association, I am enclosing a donation in memory of my cousin, Dorothy Koenig Dunlap, who died at age 90 years in Columbus Grove on September 30, 2014. Her parents were Fred & Frieda (Dickman) Koenig.*

*Her grandparents (and mine) were Christian & Louise (Harjehausen) Dickman. Fred & Frieda and Louise & Christian and Dorothy all lived together in a duplex at 10 S. Main Street across the street from Dr. Fledderjohann's office.*

*I have many fond memories of summer visits to New Bremen as a child and staying in that home. My father was Hilmer Dickman.*

**Mary Dickman Lirones (Michigan)**



### NBHA RAFFLE WINNERS

**APRIL** - \$100.00 to **George Heitkamp (NB)**, \$75.00 to **John T. Brown (Mansfield, OH)**, \$50.00 to **Frank Borchers (NB)**.

**MAY** - \$100.00 to **Phil Friemering (NB)**, \$75.00 to **Pam Elking (St. Marys)**, \$50.00 to **Tom Wentz (Minster)**.

**JUNE** - \$100.00 to **John Turner (NB)**, \$75.00 to **Bill Wentz (NB)**, \$50.00 to **Lilyann Schweissguth (Marthasville, MO)**.

Board members have been very happy with the participation in the raffle. Profits from the raffle are used to cover insurance and utility bills at both museums. They especially thank those winners who have chosen to increase the profits by returning their winnings.

If you would like to lend your support in this project, you may enter the raffle by sending 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, OH 45869-0073**

“*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](mailto:gen@nktelco.net) & [jdr@nktelco.net](mailto:jdr@nktelco.net)

419-629-2764---419-629-2946

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

**WEBSITE** – [www.newbremenhistory.org](http://www.newbremenhistory.org)

**Johanna Schroer...419-753-2612**

**NBHA BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

(2017) **David Maurer...President...419-629-0164**

[dcmaurer6@gmail.com](mailto:dcmaurer6@gmail.com)

(2018) **Larry Dicke...V.President...419-629-1903**

[dldicke@nktelco.net](mailto:dldicke@nktelco.net)

(2016) **Dennis Dicke...Sec/Treas...419-629-2764**

[dengen@nktelco.net](mailto:dengen@nktelco.net)

(2016) **Max Fledderjohann...419-629-3368**

[maxandbev@nktelco.net](mailto:maxandbev@nktelco.net)

(2016) **Judy Meckstroth...419-629-2017**

[jmeck@nktelco.net](mailto:jmeck@nktelco.net)

2017) **Mary Moeller...419-629-3635**

[mem@nktelco.net](mailto:mem@nktelco.net)

(2017) **Bryan Trego...419-629-3883**

[thetregos@hotmail.com](mailto:thetregos@hotmail.com)

(2018) **Diane Paul...419-629-2856**

[rdpaul@nktelco.net](mailto:rdpaul@nktelco.net)

(2018) **Carl Roediger...419-629-2549**

[cerloediger@nktelco.net](mailto:cerloediger@nktelco.net)

**APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS**

**Mike Staton, Curator...419-629-2693**

[mstaton@nktelco.net](mailto:mstaton@nktelco.net)

**Rob Ziegenbusch, Curator...419-629-0727**

[rmz74@nktelco.net](mailto:rmz74@nktelco.net)

**Sue Schmackers, Member-at-large..419-629-2149**

[lsschmackers@nktelco.net](mailto:lsschmackers@nktelco.net)

**Amy Stephens, Member-at-large..419-629-3760**

[ahouseworth@gmail.com](mailto:ahouseworth@gmail.com)

**Rodney Suchland, Member-at-large...419-953-4451**

[rj\\_suchland@yahoo.com](mailto:rj_suchland@yahoo.com)

**Thomas Braun, Genealogy...567-279-4921**

[tomandginnybraun@gmail.com](mailto: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 THIS QUARTER**

(Dennis Dicke, Recorder)

**NEW MEMBERS**

**Larry & Sandra Hirschfeld**

**DONATIONS**

**Stephen & Betsy Hunter**

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

**In Memory of Dorothy Koenig Dunlap**

**by Mary Dickman Lirones**

**Items Donated to Museum**

Scenes of New Bremen, Crown Christmas Cards, Crown Cleaners Sponge & Brush, 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank Deposit Book, Arcade Broom Holder by **Mack Wellman**; Foam Hand of 2015 to celebrate 100 years of Basketball at NBHS by **Jared Weigandt**; German Books (5), German Bible (1900) that belonged to Amanda Quellhorst Fark by **Tom & Joyce Wentz**; 1931 NBHS Yearbook by **Dick Howell**; Items (22) including WWI Portrait of Carl Pape, 1930 Doll, Cradle, Desk from Central School, and other items by **Cheryl Pape Barlage**; Photos (8) NBHS basketball players, 1958 by **Tom Fledderjohann**; Klanke Kitchen Cupboard, Auglaize Furniture Library Table, John Halsema Mantel Clock, and many New Bremen business items such as thermometers, yardsticks, Hotel Hollingsworth room key, photos, plates, etc. by **Stan Kuening**; Newspaper clippings about Woodmen of the World (1983) by **Alice Hegemeier**; Photo of Jefferson St. Children (1933), Photo Sunday School Class (1922) by **Ted Wagner**; Christmas card to Catherine Grilliot (1929) by **Sandy Bergman**.

**REPORTS HAVE FLYING SAUCER SEEN  
HERE LAST NIGHT**

*The New Bremen Sun, July 17, 1952*

Several reports were in circulation early this morning about a flying saucer believed to have been seen here yesterday evening.

A fast- moving light is said to have been observed in the southeast shortly after 9:00 o'clock. It disappeared abruptly after sweeping over New Bremen.

There also have been reports of flying saucers over Dayton this week. Col. Richard B. Magee, civilian defense director, gave credence to the reports when he stated, “There’s something strange flying around our skies, and we wish we knew what it is.”

**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 15 – Means you are Paid through Dec. 2015.  
LM P-11 - Means you Paid for a Lifetime Membership in 2011.  
LM D-15 - Means you are a Lifetime Member and made a Donation in 2015.  
CM P-76 - Means you are a Charter Member and Paid in 1976.  
CM D-15 - Means you are a Charter Member and made a Donation in 2015.

***HISTORY MYSTERY***



**VETERANS AT BREMENFEST 1995**

**What are their names?**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Raffle Drawing at each NBHA Board Meeting  
(March, 2015 through February, 2016)**

**The Luelleman House & the Pape House will be open  
Sunday June 28, July 26, August 16 & 30  
2:00 to 4:00 PM**

**The Luelleman House Museum and Pape House  
Museum are always open to the public by  
appointment. Call 419-629-2764.**

**Bremenfest- August 14, 15 & 16, 2015**

**Pumpkinfest- September 25 & 26, 2015**

**December, 2015.....Christmas Tree Festival and  
Open House at the Lockkeeper’s House**