



THE TOWPATH

Published Quarterly

January-April-July-October

THE NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

July 2016

VISIT NBHA MUSEUMS

The New Bremen Historic Association Board members have been busy getting displays ready for visitors. A work day on April 2nd brought board members together to dust, polish and prepare rooms.

At the Luelleman House a schoolroom has been established on the second floor. Work continues on moving the military displays to the first floor. Several members have been sorting and organizing donated items. Gen Conradi and her granddaughter Elizabeth Jane Henry worked on updating the clothing room displays.

The Pape House features displays of furniture made in New Bremen and is ready for visitors. We have established a comfortable spot for you to look at photo albums and other printed materials about New Bremen.

There is much to see in both the Luelleman House and the Pape House. The houses are open by appointment with a call to any board member.



Logan O'Neill, Director of SWAC Chamber, brought the VALU Class to tour the NBHA museums.



Some of the New Bremen third graders visiting the NBHA Museums in May 2016.



John Kuenning (middle) visited our museums and is pictured here with NBHA Trustees Dennis Dicke & Tom Braun. John is the son of Thomas E. & Doris Kuenning, Sr.

Betty Holdren Quellhorst came to the Museum during the "Be A Tourist in Your Own Hometown" weekend in June. She is holding a picture taken in 1940 of her Girl Scout Troop.



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



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LETTERS

Regrettably, this is to let you know that Ruth (Block) Johns died March 15, 2016 in a nursing home. I'll still look forward to reading the many good stories in The Towpath. New Bremen is a town I wish I could have grown up in. Tom Block is the last family member of nine brothers & sisters. Please accept the donation in Ruth's memory. Thanks! **Daniel Johns**- Oklahoma City, OK

I received the April issue you sent yesterday. Thanks so much! I enjoyed the article on Niles Harris. Remember the path from behind the pool to his house?

Sometimes we think we have snail mail here as things seem to arrive later than expected. I am still working on my son-in-law to look through his dad's old things and find enough information on his days of racing at New Bremen Speedway to make a little article for you all. Thanks again. **Linda Jones**- Yorktown, IN

Hello! I have been a member for a few years now. I live in Georgia. I have been trying to obtain access to the *New Bremen Sun* without success...I think I read somewhere that you guys have copies. Have you considered selling discs of the *Sun* for revenue for your society? Just a thought. **Martha Speckman Shaffer** (great granddaughter of John H. Speckman)- Augusta, GA

The Luelleman House Museum and Pape House Museum are open to the public by appointment. Call any Board Member.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Auglaize County Fair

The NBHA will participate in the county-wide displays in the Gary Log House. The theme this year is "Boys & Girls of Auglaize County through the Ages."

July 31-August 6

Bremenfest

August 19, 20, 21

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)

NEW MEMBERS

Marta Hoelscher

Robin & Rodney Brandt

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Robin & Rodney Brandt

MEMBER DEATHS

3/15/2016 **Ruth (Block) Johns** (LM)

4/18/2016 **Kathleen (Kuck) Noble** (LM)

5/9/2016 **R. Jay Stauffer** (LM)

5/18/2016 **Charles Swartz**

5/23/2016 **Leota (Fark) Busse**

(CM=Charter Member LM=Life Member)

DONATIONS

Tom & Diane Fledderjohann

MEMORIAL DONATION

IN MEMORY OF **Ruth Johns** by **Daniel Johns**

NBHA RAFFLE WINNERS 2016

April- \$100.00 to **Dave Albers** (NB), \$75.00 to **Dave Waterman** (NB), \$50.00 to **Gary Hirschfeld** (Findlay).

May- \$100.00 to **Guenter Huhlhaupt** (Germany), \$75.00 to **Howard Fark** (NB), \$50.00 to **ReMax Select** (NB).

June- \$100.00 to **Joyce Ruedebusch** (NB), \$75.00 to **Nancy Heitkamp** (NB), \$50.00 to **Jim Kettler** (Flint, MI)

Board Members especially thank those winners who have chosen to increase the profits by returning their winnings.

ITEMS DONATED TO THE MUSEUM

White Mountain calendar (1914) by **Karl Ehemann**; 1880 Auglaize County Atlas by **John Herring**; Lock II booklet by **Duane Hegemier**; Wint's stickers & 1923 postcard by **Walt Schmitmeyer**; Thermometer (2) by **JoAnne Boyer**; Funeral cards, Stamco booklet by **Randy Elshoff**; WWII Army Dogtags by **P. James Moeller**; J. L. Hoffmann token by **Mike Mueller**; Auglaize Furniture table, Streine's photo, 1924 Confirmation Class photo, silverware by **James Walsmith**.

**NBHA ACQUIRES THE RABE LUMBER
COMPANY SIGN**



This large old sign was recently acquired by the NBHA. John Hoffman brought it back to life with his painting skill and it is now proudly displayed on the barn at the Luelleman House Museum.

The acquisition of The Rabe Lumber Company sign by the NBHA meant learning some interesting facts about this business and the Rabe family.

NEW BREMEN NOTABLE-RABE FAMILY

The Lumber Company was part of the Rabe Manufacturing Company, a corporation that was an important part of New Bremen's history for over 80 years. The founder was William Rabe. This article about him was published in *The New Bremen Sun* newspaper in 1903 on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

...Mr. Rabe since coming from the old country in 1848, has continually resided here, and has for over 47 years been one of the leading business men of the town. He started into business in 1856 with hardly any means at all, but through shrewd business sagacity and indefatigable energy he made success come his way, and in the almost half century of his business career he has become well-to-do, so that as the years progressed his cares for the morrow "have folded their tents like the Arabs, and as silently stolen away,"

His large hardware and grocery business, his planing mill and his lumber yard, he on the 8th of January, 1901, turned over to The Rabe Manufacturing Co., a stock company composed mainly of his sons and sons-in-law, and to them he then transferred the active management of his large interests.

During his time Mr. Rabe contributed largely to the success and growth of his home town. Not only was he connected directly with many business ventures, he also at various times served his community in public office. During the days when this town was composed of Ober-Bremen and New Bremen, he served the former as village treasurer; later for several years he served his township as treasurer and for some time he was a member of the village council. The SUN wishes that Mr. Rabe may live to pass many more happy anniversaries of his birthday.

(New Bremen Sun 12-11-1903)

New Bremen Notable- Rabe Family-continued:

More about the life of this notable man is found in his obituary from the *SUN* in 1915.

William Rabe, Sr. Obituary

At an advanced age, seldom attained by humankind, Wm. Rabe at an early hour this morning went to his reward. The final hour came quietly and peacefully and was witnessed by only his immediate family circle. The passing away of Mr. Rabe marks the closing of a brilliant career, one in which perseverance, industry and good judgment were leading factors toward promoting the subject of these lines to a prominent place in the business sphere of New Bremen. Mr. Rabe started in life with practically nothing, but with a determined effort to make good he succeeded and he was regarded as one of New Bremen's most influential and well-to-do business men...

...Mr. Rabe was twice married; his marriage with Miss Louise Greiwe resulted in the issue of three children, Mrs. Fred Speckman and August Rabe of here, while Mrs. Henry Nieter is deceased. His second marriage to Miss Mary Schowe gave issue to four children, Mrs. G. A. Kunning, Mrs. L. W. Kunning, Ferd Rabe and Mrs. Oscar Roettger... (New Bremen Sun 12-10-1915)

The Rabe Manufacturing Company began along the 100 block of South Washington Street in 1856 with a hardware and grocery business. In 1880 William Rabe expanded his business with a planing mill and lumber yard in the 200 block. This area also included undeveloped areas such as Rabe's Pond and Rabe's Grove.

The hardware store was managed by Joseph Klanke, the adopted son of William Rabe.

Ralph May, noted New Bremen Historian, and nephew of August Schroeder (engineer for the Rabe Manufacturing Company) offered this description of the store:

...Rabe's Store had a particular attraction for me: a hardware and grocery store where you could purchase almost anything that you needed at home. From lamp chimneys to coal oil; glass in any size that you might need; Sweet Wheat chewing gum, red hots, stick candy and candy kisses with little verses inside the wrapper; plug tobacco and ABC smoking mixture; anything in the way of hardware, paint, rope and even gun powder and dynamite, the latter used by the farmers in blowing up stumps.

One of the most unusual things about the store was a little bar at the rear where customers, making a good sized purchase, were treated with a portion of beer. You could also get schnapps at the counter, with a glass of beer to wash down the strong drink. For the boys, there were star crackers in a well-filled bowl, cheese and herring in a dish, intended for customers, but well taken by neighborhood boys making any kind of small purchase.

A large heating stove in the central part of the store had an iron railing around it with comfortable chairs on two sides where you could lean against the counter. Then there was a card table where the older neighborhood men played sheephead and another game which I believe, was called "66." There were little compartments at each end of the table to hold a glass of beer with no fear of knocking it off the table... (from the book-Ralph May Remembers)



August Schroeder & Arthur Finke outside Rabe's Hardware & Grocery Store. (Photo by Ferd Rabe)



Inside Rabe's Store. Joe Klanke & Wm. Rabe behind counter. In front, an unknown man, Frank Speckman & August Schroeder. (Photo by Ferd Rabe)

Ralph May also had memories of the Rabe factory and wrote:

...I spent a great deal of my leisure moments at Rabe's Factory, where my uncle was the engineer, and in the factory office where I could look over the pages of "The American Lumberman," try my hand using the Smith Premier typewriter, pore over the bookkeeping of

Ferd Rabe and his handling of figures, and watch August Rabe at the drawing board in the architect's room. Those were the "days," and I shall never forget them... On cold winter mornings I would get up early and accompany my uncle to the factory to watch him fire up the boiler and then, after breakfast, watch the start of the steam engine for the daily operations. To see him pull the cord for the whistle, then gradually open the steam valve, all this had a fascination for a boy... (from the book-Ralph May Remembers)



Early photo of The Rabe Manufacturing Company.



The Rabe Manufacturing Company in 1910 with Wm. Knipple, August Rabe & Joe Klanke.



The Rabe Manufacturing Company in 1933.

Sons August and Ferd Rabe and sons-in-law G. A. Kunning and Lafe Kunning followed in the development and expansion of The Rabe Manufacturing Company.

August Rabe, as the General Manager of the company after his father retired in 1901, accomplished much in increasing the business even though he lived only until 1920.

From the August Rabe Obituary

...Mr. Rabe was one of New Bremen's best known and successful business men, having been actively engaged in the manufacturing, lumber and mercantile business for many years. In his early days he manifested interest in his father's planing mill and having taken a course in drafting he became one of the leading architects in this section having drafted the plans and made specifications for many private and public buildings in New Bremen and neighboring towns, much of his attention in late years having been required with large contracts in Lima, Wapakoneta, St. Marys and other places. For many years he was general manager of The Rabe Manufacturing Co., and since the death of his father, several years ago, he was made president of the company.

Besides the factory which is one of the best known finishing mills for woodwork in this part of the state, and the Rabe Hardware Store, Mr. Rabe was connected with the Auglaize Furniture Company where as a director he always took active part in the deliberations for the advancement of the business... Mr. Rabe was also a member of the Rabe Lumber Company of Minster and of the Yahlin-Rabe Lumber Co. of Broadhurst, Georgia...

(New Bremen Sun-1/16/1920)

G. A. Kunning took the lead after the death of August Rabe, but his tenure ended in 1928 with his own death.

In 1933, The Rabe Manufacturing Company had annual sales that approximated \$75,000 and officers of the company were L. W. Kunning, president; H.H. Nussmeyer, vice president and general manager; and Ferdinand W. Rabe (1875-1970), the youngest son of William Rabe, secretary and treasurer. The company was dissolved after this time. L. W. Kunning died in 1939 and Ferd Rabe took a position as teller at the First National Bank. The Hardware Store was closed in 1940.

How fortunate we are to have **The Rabe Lumber Company** sign as a reminder of these New Bremen Notables.

HERE COMES THE DINKEY!

This phrase has been heard in New Bremen since 1877. In that year the town council granted the right of way through town.

Resolution-In consideration of the benefits to be derived to the citizens of New Bremen by the building of the Lake Erie and Louisville Railroad through said town, we the council of said village at the regular session do hereby grant to the said Lake Erie and Louisville Railroad Company the right of way through the alley as laid out bordering the west line of the corporation, also the right of way across Second street sixty feet and across First street and Volper pike one hundred feet wide on each side from the center of the track of said railroad as the same may be located." (NB Village Council 9/5/1877)

More than half the cost of constructing the connecting branch from St. Marys through New Bremen to Minster was met by New Bremen business men. The fact that it was a short railroad line soon gave rise to the nickname *Dinkey*. A dinkey line is a short line usually operated with a small locomotive also known as a dinkey.

In 1877, a railroad connector was a much needed impetus to economic growth in our town. With the canal in decline, businesses needed a way to ship materials into and out of town.

In addition to use by established businesses, several new businesses were developed along the railroad route. An early example was the New Bremen Bridge Company which was established along Herman Street to receive steel brought in by the railroad. The New Bremen Brick Company also took advantage of being near the rail line and according to a Sun article located the brickyard on Louis Huenke's land on the west side of the railroad track because of the quality clay for bricks and ease of shipment of 10,000 to 12,000 bricks per day.



Ralph May climbed the water tower and took this picture of the Dinkey as it was passing the brickyard in New Bremen on its way to Minster. The black smoke from the coal-fired locomotive makes it difficult to see the train.

This 1894 schedule shows the railroad also offered passenger service in its early years. Later this service was discontinued.

New Bremen's depot was built along the tracks at West Monroe Street. The first railroad agent was John Barrington and the second was J.H. Mesloh. Then in 1881 the job was taken by C.P. Gress and he served as agent for 26 years. The first depot burned down in 1888.

FIRE

The railroad depot burned down. Losses aggregated at about \$2,000.00.

Early Tuesday morning the people of this town were rapidly brought to their feet by an alarm of fire. They saw a bright crimson red sky before them, and before they had gotten fairly out of bed were informed by passers-by that the depot was on fire. An immediate rush of people followed but before any help could be administered the building was enwrapped with the flames and it seemed as though the fiery Lord had full control and wanted to make a clean sweep out it. The fire companies were promptly at the scene but owing to the remoteness of fire cisterns could not render immediate help. Everything possible was done, and the best the firemen could do was to remove cars standing close, and guard the elevator.

The depot today, stands a fallen mass of burnt timbers supported by the pillars that formerly supported the depot. The loss of the building itself is slight, inasmuch as there was not much of it; but the damage hits our business men, who had freight deposited there for early shipment. The principal losers of these are Messrs. Bakhaus & Kuenzel, Adolph Steinberg, John Garmhausen and Adam Helwig.

The fire, it is thought, originated through burglars, and the evidences in the case are clear, for the reasons that the tool house of the section gang was broken into, and a pick axe stolen, and that the safe in the depot had several holes drilled into it. (NBSun 10/26/1888)

The newspaper also reported that the early train came into town just before daybreak and could see no depot, just a large group of people. The train stopped at the elevator and the crowd yelled that they had reached New

LAKE ERIE & WESTERN RAILROAD. NATURAL GAS ROUTE.

Solid trains between Sandusky and Peoria and Indianapolis and Michigan city. Direct connections to and from all points in the United States and Canada.

NORTH BOUND FROM NEW BREMEN.
Local Time Table. In effect May 28, 1888.

No. 10 Passenger leaves 7:25 a.m.
No. 125 Local leaves 12:00 p.m.
No. 9 Local leaves 11:00 a.m.
No. 129 Passenger leaves 7:05 p.m.
No. 1 arrives at Indianapolis at 9:25 p.m. Arriving at Kansas City 9:40 a.m. next morning.

No. 3 makes direct connection for all points west via C. B. & Q. R. R., only one daylight change to Kansas City, Omaha, Lincoln, Neb., or Denver.
No. 3 connects at Lima, Fostoria, Fremont and Sandusky, and No. 4 at Lima and Fostoria, with through trains to all east-bound points.

Free Reclining Chair Cars on Nos. 1 and 2 for all passengers.

Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 make connection at Tipton with the I. & M. C. Division for all points North and South.

For Tickets, Rates and General Information call on

CHAS. P. GRESS,

Ticket Agent L. E. & W. Railroad
Or address,

H. C. Parker, **Chas. F. Daly,**
Traffic Manager. Gen. P. Agt.
Indianapolis, Ind.

Bremen.

The L.E. & W. railroad company sent plans and specifications for building a new depot, to Wm. Brinkmeyer, the house-builder, last Monday. According to the plans the new depot will be enlarged and greatly improved-something similar to the depot at St. Marys, only smaller in size. Mr. Brinkmeyer put in his bid and the lowest bidder will get the job. (NBSun 11/2/1888)

WARNING

Notice is hereby given that no more gathering of boys will be allowed at the depot at the arrival of trains. Boys will stay away, and parents will please see that they do stay away, to avoid the trouble of having them taken in charge by proper authorities. Herman Pape, City Marshall (NBSun July 11,1890)



The New Bremen Depot in 1910.

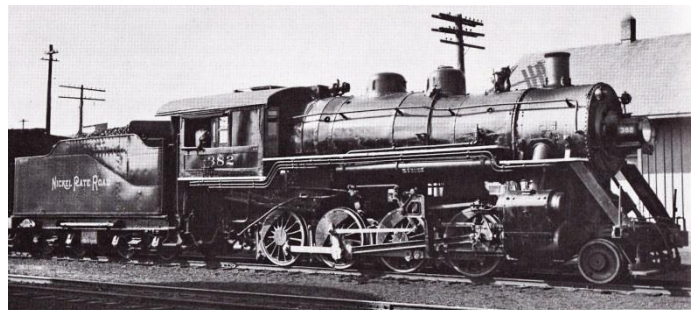
Ralph May in his writing remembered the Dinkey and its attraction to boys in New Bremen:

When I was a boy the Dinkey, as we called it, came into New Bremen shortly after the noon hour from St. Marys. It was always interesting to watch the progress of this train as it switched in the old home town and proceeded on its way to Minster, the end of the line... The depot was a great gathering place for the boys. The greatest attraction was when the race horses and the merry-go-round came in for the old Tri-County Fair. I am sure almost all the boys from the town were there several days before the Fair was to open...

And there were so many that the station agent (C. P. Gress) would sometimes have to scatter us with a black-snake that he kept on hand. Climbing up on the cars, working coupling handles and the air brake levers, we were no doubt much in the way and there was always the possibility of an accident...The boys found it quite interesting inside (the depot), with the posters on the wall, the pot-belly stove, the click-clack of the telegraph, and the hand-writing on the telegraph form-straight up and down with all the words connected together, as in most cases...

...One of the oldest cemeteries in New Bremen was

directly back of St. Paul's church. I think these graves were removed some years back. But in a dry summer, I remember there were many grass fires in this cemetery that were started from sparks from the old "Dinkey." The railroad passed directly to the west...



Rebuilt G-44 382 held down Minster Branch job on March 16, 1936. The chunky Consol was built by Brooks in 1904 as LE&W 408. — Clyde E. Helms.

The Dinkey became a well-known institution in town and occasionally even made the news. In 1890 this article was published in the Sun newspaper.

The dinkey, which runs its prescribed course north and south on the L.E. & W. railroad, has again received a stroke of paralysis while in active service at the St. Marys switch yards. Locomotive No. 21 is doing service for her, now. The old weather-worn and enfeebled dinkey ought to apply to Uncle Sam for a good pension. She is getting too old for work. (NBSun, 8/22/1890)

On July 7, 1894 this item appeared in the Sun:

The Dinkey running between St. Marys and Minster had her record beaten yesterday. Tony Herkenhoff made a bicycle run of the 6.5 miles in 21 minutes. The fastest time the Dinkey ever made it in was 30 minutes. Pull her down a notch, Billy!

In spite of the commentary and criticism regarding the Dinkey's speed, the train has continued to serve the community.

The Lake Erie & Louisville Railroad was formed in 1865 but went into receivership in the 1870s and then became the Lake Erie & Western (L.E. & W.) in 1879. In 1900 L.E. & W. came under control of New York Central Railroad and was sold to Nickel Plate Railroad in 1922. A Nickel Plate Railroad merger in 1964 brought the name Norfolk & Western Railway and renamed in 1990 as Norfolk Southern Railway. In 1993, the R. J. Corman Railroad took over short-line railroads in nine states which included the line which runs through New Bremen.

Now in 2016 although the depot has found a new home and the train no longer stops in New Bremen, the tracks are still in use. If you are on the west side of town as the engineer blows the locomotive whistle preparing to cross Monroe Street, you may still hear the phrase, "Here Comes the Dinkey!"

2016 MARKS THE 100th ANNIVERSARY FOR SCHWIETERMAN PHARMACIES

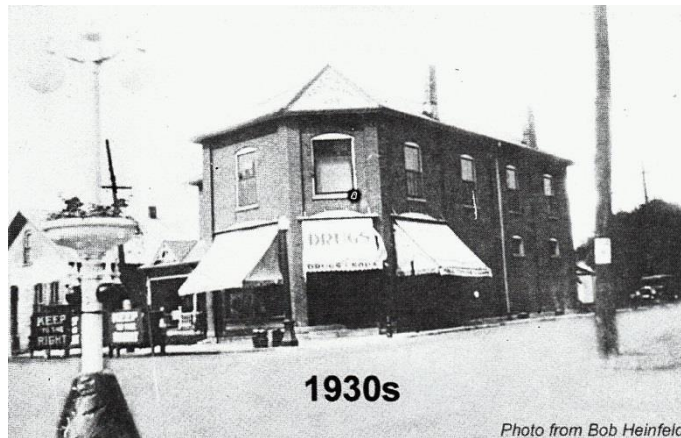


Schwieterman's Drug Store in New Bremen as it looks today. The added Penthouse makes it a tall building and a great place to look out over New Bremen.

The building in New Bremen that houses Schwieterman Pharmacy is known by residents as "The Drugstore." It is located in the heart of New Bremen. The Drugstore is one of the oldest businesses in town celebrating 100 years of healthcare service.

- Built by J. L. Hoffman in 1892 to be a drug store.
- Business purchased by Urban J. Schwieterman in 1916. He expanded the business focusing on responsive service to his customers.
- Urban J. Schwieterman died suddenly from a heart attack in 1945 at the young age of 48 years.
- Corrine Schwieterman, wife of Urban, hired a pharmacist and kept the business intact until their son David became a pharmacist. Dave came home in 1954 to run the business.
- David expanded and incorporated the business from one store to five with new stores in St. Marys, Wapakoneta, Coldwater and Minster.
- David Schwieterman retired and sold his interest to several individuals who are carrying on the 100 year traditions of service and customer care.

The mission statement of Schwieterman Pharmacies is to provide the ultimate healthcare service, one customer at a time. We think this statement is a fitting summary of their patient centered history as well as their plans for the future.



Schwieterman Drug Store in the 1930s.



Ruth Ann & David Schwieterman

David married Ruth Ann Kremer in 1964 and remodeled the area above the store as their home. David gave New Bremen many years of service as our pharmacist and healthcare counselor. He also served his hometown as a collector of local history and a storyteller who could make New Bremen history come alive.

Congratulations, Schwieterman Pharmacies!



2016 MARKS THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY FOR THE GILBERG FURNITURE STORE

Gilberg Furniture Store had its beginning on 1926 as “The People’s Radio and Gift Shop” and was founded by Paul Gilberg and Earl Hegemier. The store was originally housed in the former John Blasé building on South Washington Street which later became Ivan Koeper’s Shoe Store.

In 1929 the business moved into the north half of the building at 5 North Main Street and was renamed Gilberg & Hegemeier.



Gilberg & Hegemeier at 5 N. Main Street.

That same year Gilberg & Hegemier purchased the A. H. Albert funeral business and established the Gilberg and Hegemier Funeral Home. In 1937 the funeral home moved to its present location at 225 W. Monroe Street.

The furniture store was moved in 1959 to the former Schulenberg building on Monroe Street.



Gilberg Furniture on Monroe Street (1959-1996).



Gilberg Furniture in Downtown New Bremen 1985.

The building was renovated to provide for a larger display area with two floors. The 35 year partnership ended when Earl Hegemier retired. Paul Gilberg continued both Gilberg Funeral home and Gilberg Furniture with the help of his son John.

After Paul Gilberg retired, John operated both businesses with the help of his family. Now in 2016, John’s children own and operate the furniture store. The funeral business, now known as Gilberg-Hartwig Funeral Home, is owned by his nephew Stephen Hartwig.

In 1996, Gilberg Furniture constructed a new modern retail store on Schwieterman Street. In this store they will celebrate their 90th anniversary all year. A special event is planned for October with a big sale and lots of giveaways.



**Gilberg Furniture 104 Schwieterman Street
Congratulations, Gilberg Furniture!**



ICE CREAM IN NEW BREMEN

By Joyce & Gen

One day Joyce and Gen found that they were having a conversation that sounded very much like one that their parents might have had. They began sharing comments about growing up in New Bremen.

"I remember getting ice cream at the Equity store. My mother would order a quart of vanilla, hand-packed," said Gen.



Harold "Specky" Speckman at the Equity Ice-Cream Store.

"Yes, I remember the Equity store. There were tables and chairs and a ceiling fan! I would sit and watch the fan," remarked Joyce. "But we always got the fudge ripple ice cream."

"I also remember getting ice cream at Schwieterman's Drug Store and Schulenberg's store," said Gen.

"I wonder how many places offered ice cream in New Bremen?" mused Joyce. And that is how this article began...

The process of making ice cream has been around for quite some time. It is documented that the early U.S. Presidents enjoyed ice cream but it was considered a very special dessert in those early years because it required ice and ice was not always available. It became more commonplace with the advent of ice harvesting in the late 1800s.

The technology of preserving ice cream is fairly recent. Refrigerators were devised in the early 1900s but lacked a freezer compartment that would keep the ice cream at the proper temperature. Ice cream parlors and soda fountains were popular in those early years to enjoy an ice cream treat.

That is probably why Joyce and Gen remember going to the Equity to order a pint or quart of hand-packed ice cream to take home. It was a special treat for the family but had to be eaten quickly or it would melt and be wasted.

They also remember eating ice cream at the soda fountains in Schwieterman's Drug Store and Schulenberg's, which were historically the first businesses to serve ice cream in New Bremen. The Dairy Freeze on N. Herman Street built by Leonard Widau and purchased by Ray & Irene Sanders in 1954, was the first place in town to offer a type of ice cream called soft-serve. This ice cream is made by introducing air during the freezing process resulting in a softer dessert product.

The Dairy Freeze also offered sandwiches (*remember the Dutchman?*) and other snacks. The Dairy Freeze is now closed.

"SPECKY'S" EQUITY ICE-CREAM STORE

By Dona Mae (Speckman) Kuenning (1999)

In the late 1930s as the depression was drawing to a close, my parents, Harold (Specky) and Alfa (Coble) Speckman, purchased the businesses of the Equity Union Ice Cream Store at 22 North Main St. and a rural cream and egg route, both from Forrest Nedderman. Clarence Roettger of New Bremen had been the previous owner. The rural route consisted primarily of picking up cream and eggs from farmers and hauling them to the Fort Recovery branch of the Equity organization of Lima, Ohio. My father also at that time would carry cheese, butter and bread as a huckster to the farmers. This continued until the 1940s when the popular thing to do was to sell whole milk instead of just cream. Dad would then pick up milk in the large 10-gallon cans from the farmers and take it to Fort Recovery for processing.

The ice-cream store became a very popular place in New Bremen-selling cones, sundaes and hand-packed ice-cream. Of course, this was not a full time occupation as the store would be open for business in early spring and close in late September. My mother and I would operate the store while Dad would take care of the rural routes. Popular flavors were, of course, vanilla, chocolate and strawberry, but others of interest were maple-nut, white-house, orange-pineapple, butter-pecan and Lincoln logs. People came from miles around on a hot, sultry summer evening for one of Specky's "High-Peak" cones or a sundae with chocolate syrup and crushed nuts on top. High-Peak cones were 5 cents each, and Dad is remembered as giving free cones to kids who did not have the 5 cents available to them...



Table and chairs, sundae dishes and paper ice cream carton from the Equity Ice Cream Store on display at the Luelleman House Museum, courtesy of Tim Kuenning.

...Years passed and my mother and father were not able to take care of all the work. About 1948, Dad sold his rural routes to Martin Dabbelt and his brother Luke. Dad also sold the ice-cream store business and bottled milk route to Lester Howe, who later moved the business to the building next to the Klanke-Isern home at 9 North Main Street (the old stucco Fark Bakery building.) The original Equity store building at 22 N. Main was purchased by Crown Controls and was torn down in 1982. (Excerpts from *The Towpath*, July 1999)

THE TASTEE SCOOP

28. THE COMMUNITY POST, THURSDAY, JULY 31, 1986

"Tastee Scoop" Open In NB



The ice cream shop with picnic tables for outdoor seating and swingset for children to play on.

Be it chocolate, vanilla, or tin roof; there's nothing like ice cream to refresh oneself after a hot, sweaty day of work and play.

Knowing this, Bill and Julie Philipot decided to open their own ice cream shop, the Tastee Scoop. Located just north of New Bremen on St. Rt. 66, the new shop opened May 5, 1986 and offers over 23 flavors of ice cream and sherbets daily.

Ice cream lovers rejoice! The Tastee Scoop not only offers single, double and triple cones; they offer old-fashioned shakes, floats sodas, and sundaes. For the true ice cream fan they have banana splits with the customer's choice of toppings. Julie explained, "We make shakes out of any kind of ice cream. This lets us give a variety that customers can't find at the ice cream shops."

Tiny tots can enjoy the nutritious dairy product in the form of a "Scoopy," an ice cream clown with whipped cream ears and a sugar cone hat. "Scoopy" comes in a dish for easy handling.

For a quick lunch, the Tastee Scoop offers a variety of sandwiches and snacks. Sloppy Joes, chicken, smoked sausage, hot dogs, pretzels, nachos, potato chips and other snack items are on the menu.

Open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Monday through Saturday and noon to 10 p.m. on Sunday, the shop provides outdoor seating. Julie said, "In the future we hope to add indoor seating. Maybe even next year; we're not sure yet." A swing set is located in the yard of Tastee Scoop for children to play on when they finish their ice cream.

Julie said her husband had always wanted to own an ice cream business. She stated, "We've lived in New

Bremen for a long time. When this building came up for sale, we decided to buy it and start Tastee Scoop." The Philipots live in the upper portion of the building and run the store in the lower portion.



Tastee Scoop owners Bill and Julie Philipot (l) with employees Julie Schroer and Kris Kuck.

The seasonal shop will be open until the end of September. Julie explained, "Then we'll reopen in April, depending on the weather." (The Community Post, July 31, 1986)

The historic Tastee Scoop building had been a carryout – Barn 66 – before being sold to the Philipots. In 1995 they sold their business to Tom and Kathy Klosterman who operated it until it was destroyed by fire in 1998.

Century-Old Landmark Destroyed By Fire

On July 22, 1998, the cupola-topped 6-gabled building housing the home and business of Tom & Kathy Klosterman, The Tastee Scoop Ice Cream Shop and Balloon & Gift Shop, was destroyed by an early morning fire, thus removing a 100 year old historical landmark – the former Julius Boesel horse barn and carriage house – from New Bremen's landscape. (*The Towpath* Oct. 1998)

All of these seasonal ice cream places are gone. Now we enjoy ice cream treats year round at the Dairy Queen in the Amsterdam Plaza.

We began this article with our ice cream comments. When an item about the Tastee Scoop appeared on the New Bremen Historic Association Facebook page, many people shared their comments about this well remembered business: *I loved that place...playing putt putt golf and having ice cream...I miss the Tastee Scoop...Would love to enjoy it with my kids...So many great memories...My first job.*

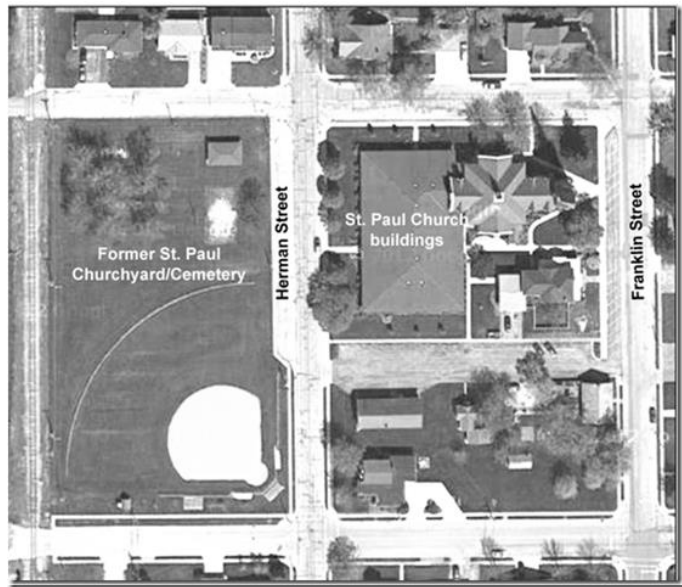
Due to this show of interest, the Tastee Scoop logo has been chosen to be on the next t-shirt offered by the NBHA. See page 16 for ordering information.

What can we learn from cemeteries?

- History of our local cemeteries
- Symbolism used on monuments in the 1800s
- Examples of older artwork and stonework

History

Prior to 1865, most burials in New Bremen were made in the Churchyard cemeteries located on Herman Street. One was across from St. Paul Church and one was across from St. Peter's Church. A third cemetery was the Plank Road cemetery on Route 274, just west of town.



This picture shows the location of the St. Paul Cemetery in relation to the church.

The cholera outbreak in 1849 brought many deaths and burials and concerns about spread of disease. To address this issue, the Village of New Bremen purchased 52 acres of land near Lock Two in early December of 1865 with the first burial on December 26, 1865. This cemetery was named the German Protestant Cemetery. Another cemetery named Willow Grove was formed on the New Bremen-New Knoxville Road near Lock Three in March of 1866.

The trend to establish landscaped burial grounds began in France in the early 1800s and spread across Europe. By the mid-1850s, garden cemeteries began to be developed in the United States as well. The Lock Two cemetery served this purpose for New Bremen. A concrete sidewalk was laid from Main Street to the entrance to the cemetery to facilitate the visitors.

The church cemeteries were then closed. Families were offered the option of relocating the graves and headstones from the churchyard cemeteries to the new cemeteries. A few chose to do this but the majority of graves remained and the headstones were laid down and covered over with ground. The last burial at Plank Road Cemetery was in 1938.

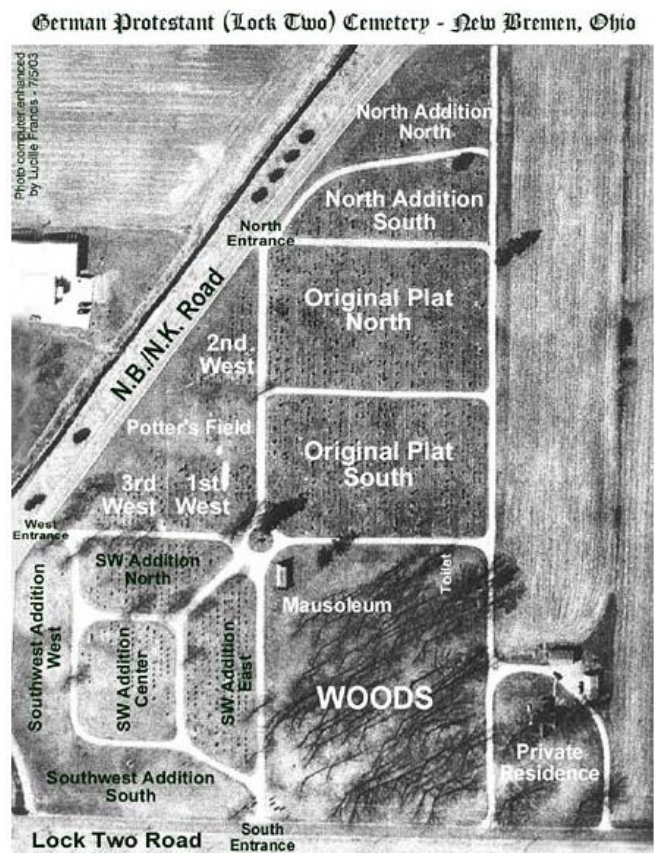
Symbolism

Between the civil war and the Great Depression, the stone-carving industry in the United States flourished. Much effort was put into the carving of tombstones and the landscaping of public cemeteries. The markers gave information about birth and death dates and epitaphs to memorialize persons buried there. The type of stone used had to be soft enough to carve but hard enough to withstand weathering. Popular stones used at that time were sandstone, flint, limestone and marble. Granite became most popular after 1860.

One stone carver in New Bremen in the 1870s and 1880s was William Bruns. He learned his trade in Cincinnati at a school of marble cutting. His shop was located on N. Main Street in the building that is now the German Township office. Fernando W. Bruns, son of William Bruns, wrote in 1947 that his father carved monuments or grave markers by hand with a stile chisel and wooden mallet in a perfect manner and proudly signed his initials W.B. on each piece.

In order to learn about the symbolism and artwork depicted in the monuments and markers, we will visit the older sections within German Protestant Cemetery.

Photo of [German Protestant Cemetery](#)



Aerial Photo of German Protestant Cemetery
[Shows names of various sections.]

As we look about it becomes quite evident that we are in the older section of the cemetery. There are a number of tall monuments with the family names engraved. Many

of the inscriptions on the monuments of tombstones are written in German. Some of the stones that are marble or limestone are eroding due to age, acid rain, lawnmowers and moss. But the artwork and evidence of symbolism is striking.

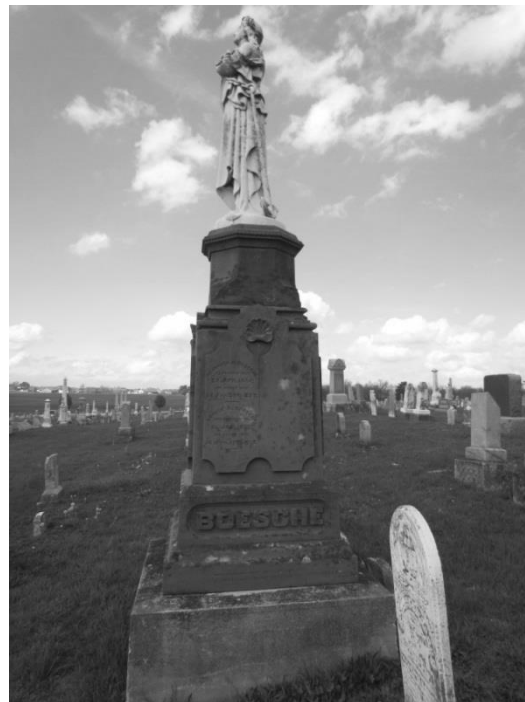
Pictured on this page and the next are examples of the symbolism and artwork in the tombstones in the older sections of the German Protestant Cemetery.



The angels depicting spirituality stand as guards over the graves or messengers between God and humankind. The angel is pointing to heaven, the path of the deceased person.



The angel is strewing flowers to depict the brevity of life and the sorrow when a loved one dies.



A chain and anchor encircles the woman. The anchor is a symbol of safety, hope and steadfastness.



The monument for John Henry Fullriede who died on February 10, 1894 at the age of 28 years is shown above. The tree stump depicts that this young man was “cut down” too soon. His obituary states that he had had an amputation of his left hand that failed to heal and that he was a “patient sufferer.”



A tiny lamb rests atop this tombstone for a six year old boy who is buried here. The lamb represents innocence and was often placed on the grave marker for a child.



Clasped hands mean farewell to Hermann Wilhelm Burmeister. He was born in 1856 and was just 27 years old when he died.



The sad angel points to heaven and watches over the graves of Herman & Dorothea (Meyer) Althoff.

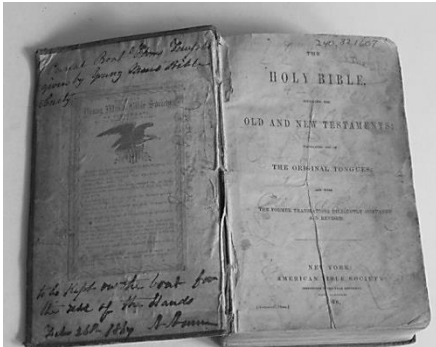


The marker for Sophia Wilhelmine Maurer Boesel has several symbols- a weeping willow tree to symbolize perpetual mourning and grief, an urn for immortality and a lamb for innocence. Sophia was born in 1843 and was just 21 years old when she died.

Take a walk to the German Protestant Cemetery this summer on the new towpath trail. Use the map in this article and locate a section of the cemetery you would like to visit. Look for graves of loved ones, artwork and symbolism and reflect on what you have learned from the cemetery.

We are fortunate to have so many interesting donated items in our museums. We have decided to highlight one or two in each issue of The Towpath.

MUSEUM HIGHLIGHT



This is the Bible that was given to the canal boat "The Towpath" by The Young Men's Bible Society of Cincinnati in 1866. The Bible was to be kept on the boat for the use of the workers.

The Bible belonged to Louetta Frey Millisor and was donated to our museum in 1982 by her daughter Anita Millisor Bensman, the great-great granddaughter of Anna & Friederich Frey, who emigrated from Germany in June 1834.

MUSEUM HIGHLIGHT



An Auglaize Furniture Table was recently donated to the NBHA by **James Walsmith** of Cordova, TN. This table was purchased in the 1930s in New Bremen by his grandparents Frank Daniel & Dorothy (Waterman) Walsmith. It is a "tilt table" and will be added to our collection of **Furniture Made in New Bremen** at the Pape House.

History Mystery Pictures

#1. Who are these young people? Hint: This picture was taken in 1958.



#2. Do you recognize the house in the background? Who is the young man?



Answers: #1. Herb Topp, Ron Gilberg and Bertha Judt on NBHS Class Trip. #2. 236 N. Main Street (now the NBHA Pape House) and Clarence Blasé about 1915.

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

New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073



NBHA Museum – 120 N. Main St.



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