



THE TOWPATH

Published Quarterly

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THE NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

October 2012

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The New Bremen Historic Association began its **Summer Celebration** on June 3, 2012. During this celebration we asked individuals and families to come to the Museum and share stories about important events in their lives or memories of earlier times in the New Bremen area. We have had a good response and the stories are so interesting. We have stories and memories from Roger & Leota Busse, Larry Dicke, Dennis Dicke, Robert & Mary Finke, Wallace Hirschfeld, Carolyn Pape, Ed Rump & Bev (Rump) Plattner, Delores Stienecker, Helen Tangeman, Annabelle Wenning, Leonard & Carmel Williams and Melba Bender (Fort Loramie). We are extending this program to accommodate everyone who is interested in sharing their stories. Please contact Diane Paul to schedule a time. She can be reached by email at rdpaul@nktelco.net or call her at 419-629-2856.

In the late 1970s and 1980s, the NBHA interviewed some of its members. The persons interviewed were Walter Behm (1985), Naomi Sunderman Grothaus (1979), Clarence Laut (1975), Alvina Quellhorst (1975), Beata Isern (1976), Frederick Kuenning, M. Koop Kuenning, and Hilda Huefe. These interviews are available, some in written form on the website, some on audio tapes. The older interviews on audio tape are deteriorating but we have rerecorded them onto CDs.

The 2012 interviews and older interview CDs are available at the Museum.

Other News:

- Military room is now complete.
- The security, fire detection and AC systems have been serviced.

- One of the sweet gum trees planted by Dr. Ed Conradi on the north side of the Museum had to be removed.
- The roster of NBHA Life Members through 2011 has been tabulated in a binder so that individuals can easily retrieve the information. Names are listed alphabetically and by the year the individual joined.
- The NBHA Trustees & appointed Board members are concerned about the unsightly peeling paint and the deteriorating doors and storm windows on the exterior of the Museum.
- The Board has decided to proceed with residing the Museum and to repair the doors and windows. They have selected siding similar to what is on the Lockkeeper's House. The Board has \$25,000 available for this project but will need an additional \$35,000. Please consider making a donation to the NBHA for this worthy project.



Peeling Paint on Museum

“THE TOWPATH” is a historical reflection of New Bremen and the surrounding area published quarterly by the New Bremen Historic Association. Any stories and/or pictures that our readers are willing to share are welcomed.

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Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at the Lockkeeper’s House at 7PM.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

\$25.00 per year (includes spouse/S.O.)

Lifetime Membership - \$250.00 (includes spouse/S.O.)

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

All levels of membership receive “The Towpath”

A MESSAGE FROM THE NBHA

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Your membership and continued support of the New Bremen Historic Association allows us to preserve, interpret and share the history of New Bremen through exhibits, events and publications.

The museum on North Main Street with its many exhibits is open to the public throughout the summer on Sunday afternoons or at other times by appointment. It is believed to be the oldest building in New Bremen and is listed on the Register of Historic Places. Our quarterly historic magazine, *The Towpath*, contains articles about the history of New Bremen, Lock Two and German Township. It also keeps you informed of NBHA activities. The NBHA has been instrumental in establishing the Lockkeeper’s House Visitor Center which serves as gateway to the Miami & Erie Canal and showcases an important part of New Bremen history.

If you are a Life Member, we thank you for your commitment to the New Bremen Historic Association. Please consider a monetary donation to the NBHA. The NBHA is a 501(c) (3) organization and all donations are tax deductible.

If you pay your dues each year, it is now time to pay your 2013 membership dues. Payment is required by January of each year to assure uninterrupted delivery of *The Towpath*. The annual membership is \$25.00 and includes your spouse /significant other. Please renew your membership and consider a donation to the NBHA.

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

Check the line above your name on your address label for your Membership Status Code

Membership Status Code

- PD 12 - Means you are Paid through Dec. 2012
- LM P-11 - Means you Paid for a Lifetime Membership in 2011
- LM D-11 - Means you are a Lifetime Member and made a Donation in 2011
- CM P-76 - Means you are a Charter Member and Paid in 1976
- CM D-11 - Means you are a Charter Member and made a Donation in 2011

From the MAILBOX



Dear Readers: Thank you for your calls and letters. We love hearing from you. Gen & Joyce, Editors

Enclosed is a check for the cost of printing and postage for *The Towpath*, “The best four days of getting the mail a year.”...Thanks for a great job. **Dona Mae and Stan Kuenning** (June 18, 2012)

...I always enjoy reading “The Towpath” and I especially enjoyed the story by Robert Gilberg, a classmate of mine. I was born in one of the houses near the Lone Pine gas station and lived on Lock Two Road where his race car was heading. It was a fun story to read.

Thanks for taking one of the co-editor positions. I would really miss “The Towpath” if it did not arrive periodically in my mailbox. **Barb Luedeke Fogel** (June 28, 2012)

The July 2012 *Towpath* arrived today and, as is my custom, I quickly scanned the issue to confirm that here was another great issue. My quick overview was halted briefly on page 3 by the clip titled “Tom Boesel’s Funeral” from the August 7th, 1914 issue of the *New Bremen Sun*. I made a mental note to return to that article, when I had time to read it leisurely. This was of great interest to me who has a genealogical interest in the Boesel family because I am a part of it and have never heard of a Thomas Boesel or Tom Boesel. My wife, Sue, read the article before I did and insisted that I HAVE to read it! So I did, searching for some genealogical connection between Tom Boesel and me.

The somber opening sentences were funereally appropriate. I was a bit curious, however, about a burial behind the opera house, but who knows what they did in those days. After all, there may have been a relationship with the Charles Boesel, who built the opera house some years earlier. As I read on, I thought that perhaps Tom

might have been a quirky cousin who had escaped my genealogical recordings. The article became more and more interesting and intriguing as I read. But it wasn’t until the very last sentence that I realized that here was masterpiece of ironic writing. Tom Boesel, the cat! Who would have thought? Could this have been the work of my great uncle E. G. Conradi, who was the editor of the *Sun* for many years? I chuckled as I deleted the new record card I had prepared for my Family Tree Maker, in case I had made a significant familial discovery! Thanks for putting a little levity into history.

John T. Dickman, Delaware, Ohio (June 29, 2012)

Going back to the April 2012 issue and the articles about the New Bremen Speedway, I, too, have great memories of the track. At that time the track was owned by Frank Dicke. I would ride my bike out to the track. Mom said I had to go early because of the traffic. I would leave home right after church and I would have to wait until all the traffic cleared before I could ride home. I can remember rubbing elbows with guys like A.J. Foyt, Al and Bobby Unser, Johnny Rutherford, Gordie Johncock and all the other regular drivers in the USAC series. They all drove all kinds of cars from Sprints to Late Model Stocks. I remember A.J. making the comment that if it had wheels he could drive it.

In later years at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, I would have a chance to chat with most of those guys and they all considered New Bremen one of their favorite tracks.

In the article by Carl Wuebbenhorst, he refers to a driver named “Audie something or other.” I believe he is referring to Audie Schwartz, a driver from around Muncie, Indiana. He was a regular and one of the fastest drivers there. As for the Hewitt family, I remember their antics and all the entertainment they gave the crowd. I was there when, I believe it was “Dad” Hewitt drove into the pond to put out the fire. On Sundays when I didn’t go to the track, I would sit in front of the house and watch all the cars go by, using Herman Street as a shortcut through town.

I thoroughly enjoy the entire *Towpath* and all the fond memories it brings from New Bremen. Keep up the good work.

Tom Fricke, NB Class of ’59 (July 4, 2012)

Jim Moeller called (July 23, 2012) with the identity of the fellows in the **New Bremen Poker Club**.



Standing: Lee Harmony, Grover Wissman, Dave Schwieterman, Jim Moeller. Seated: Earl Kuenning, Lloyd Laut, Ken Chapman.

More about the "Little Race Car" from Wendy Wellemeyer Braddock...

I was so pleased to see the article by Robert Gilberg in July's "Towpath" and read about his career at my father's (Fred Wellemeyer) Sohio Station. While I never heard my parents tell the story of how the "Little Race Car" disappeared, I do have a photo that shows I fit into that car a little bit better than Bob did. The enclosed photo was taken of me when the car sat on a work bench in my Grandfather Oscar Dammeyer's barn on Main Street. Of course, I don't remember the time of the photo and the car was long gone by the time I could have had any memories of it, but my folks also kept a 5x7 photo of it around.



Wendy Wellemeyer circa 1955

I called my cousin, John Hoffman, and he remembers going with Dad to pick up the car from Mrs. Wehrman when Dad bought it. John also seems to think it was sold later to someone east of town

Now I have a theory about why the car disappeared after that accident. Dad loved to buy up old cars, mostly Hudsons because of his father-in-law's former dealership in New Bremen. On an occasion that I do remember, Dad had purchased an old Oldsmobile and was taking me for a little spin behind Grandma's house. I fell out the passenger door (no seatbelts then for kids) and while I was not hurt I did cry about my Tootsie Roll getting all dirty. Dad got rid of the car the next day because he was so frightened about what could have happened. I believe the close call that Bob Gilberg suffered in that race car shook my Dad a great deal and he didn't want a reminder around of what could have been.



The Lone Pine Station in 1958

In any case, I have such fond memories of the years my Dad ran the Lone Pine. We lived across the street, upstairs in the apartment building on the corner and sometimes Dad would walk across the street and holler up to say goodnight to me since he worked long, long hours. I remember loving to watch the "gum" balls in the top of the gas pump spin as Dad pumped gas. I loved the big, wooden candy case inside with the jar of pretzel rods on top. And as a treat I would get to go outside to the pop machine and slide a Grape Nehi out of the tracks.



Fred Wellemeyer at the Lone Pine Station in 1961

I can see that station like it was yesterday and boy, do I miss Mom and Dad.

Thanks, **Wendy Wellemeyer Braddock** (July 16, 2012)

Can You Hear Me Now?

The New Bremen Sun, January 22, 1904

The New Bremen Telephone Company has this week revised its directory and handed the copy of the book to the printer. Within a few days the new list will be ready for distribution and none of the patrons should fail to procure a copy as there have been a number of new names added within the last couple weeks, a fact which really necessitated this early revision of the directory. At the present rate it will be but a very short time until the number of subscribers will have reached the 150 mark. The telephone is gradually becoming an instrument of general use that will soon occupy a place in every dwelling house in town and country. It is a convenience without which a person who values his time cannot get along anymore to say nothing of the comfort it affords.

The New Bremen Sun, June 30, 1949

New telephone directories for the New Bremen and Maria Stein exchanges are ready for distribution. The new directories, with light blue covers, show an increase in the number of subscribers in this area. 694 names are listed under New Bremen and 167 under Maria Stein as compared to 644 under New Bremen in the 1948 directory and 156 for Maria Stein for the same year.

Largest representation in directory again is the Dicke family of whom 21 are listed. Next in line are Dammeyers, Moellers and Topps with 11 each. The Hirschfeld and Scheer families follow with 10 listings each. First name in the New Bremen set-up is Carl Abbott and the last name listed is August Ziegenbusch.

This year's directory contains 16 pages, including an extra page for write-in names and numbers frequently called.

2012

After reading the articles from 1904 and 1949, I took a look at the 2012 *Official Directory of Auglaize County* which arrived on my doorstep a few days ago. I counted about 1200 landline subscribers in New Bremen which doubled the 1949 listings. We have no count of how many individuals now use cell phones to talk and text in addition to or in place of their landlines. It seems that today the cell phone is "becoming the instrument of general use" that the telephone was in 1904.

I then looked at the names of the subscribers and found that the top representation in the New Bremen directory is still the Dicke family with 21 listings. They are now followed by the Homan family with 19, Topp with 18 and Heitkamp with 15. The Niekamp, Bertke and Kuck families followed with 10 listings each.

The first name in the 2012 directory is Ron Adams and the last name is David Zwiép.

Items Recently Donated to the Museum

Stone to sharpen Scythe labeled White Mountain Creamery (**Karen Gardner** 8/2/12)

Emil Topp thermometer, framed needlepoint, newspapers, programs, posters, old eyeglasses, straight razor, 1942 Ohio Farm Bureau letter opener, St. Peters 1945 book & 1972 directory, 1920's props & makeup for stage play, old iron, 1923-4 Ohio fish & game laws, war work receipt, shoes from 1800s, 1856 & 1923 catechism, 1890 German book (**Wayne Ziegenbusch** 8/2/12)

Miller's playing cards, Kuenzel Mill sales slip, New Bremen business pens & pencils (**Jim Rempe** 8/2/12)

1883 Autograph Book, Wedding Booklet of John Muller & Sophia Kettler (**Kay Shapiro** 8/2/12)

Klanke & Speckman bed springs (**Ivo Knapke** 9/6/12)

Chair circa 1880 (**Max Fledderjohann** 9/6/12)

ABCO coffee maker, cooking pot, tablecloth (**Clarence Leshner** 9/6/12)

Glassware/china items (39) (**Sherry Biederman** 9/6/12)

Photos of Paul Heitkamp in Navy (2) (**Rosemary Heitkamp** 9/6/12)

Balance, hats(9), collars, pen set, chalkboard, eyeglasses (17), razors(3) (**Mary Ellen Kurtzman** 9/6/12)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT THIS QUARTER

(Dennis Dicke, Recorder)

NEW MEMBERS

Thomas Rempe

Bill & Chris Poepelman

Martha (Liesner) Steinbrugge

ADDITIONS TO LIFE MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Martha (Liesner) Steinbrugge

MEMBER DEATHS

Mervin Quellhorst (6/23/2012)

Phyllis (McCaughey) Cox (8/4/2012)

Calvin Slattery (9/13/2012)

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In Memory of Mervin Quellhorst

By Stan & Dona Mae Kuenning, The Mervin Quellhorst Family, Kitty Hunt Ziegenbusch, American Legion Post 241

In Memory of Robert Nagel

By Kitty Hunt Ziegenbusch

In Memory of Harry & Minnie Rempe

By James & Mary Rempe

In Memory of Earl & Alfrieda Wessel

By James & Mary Rempe

Personal Interview



Roger and Leota (Fark) Busse

Roger Busse was born in New Bremen on November 19, 1921 the only son of Raymond and Lola Busse. He graduated from NBHS in 1939. Leota was born January 10, 1923 in New Bremen, the youngest of five children of George and Fredonia Hirschfeld Fark. She graduated in 1940 from NBHS.



Leota and Her Siblings

Louis Fark (1920-1994), Robert (1919-2009), Lucile Fark Moeller (1915-2001) and Leota Fark Busse
(Another son, Richard, died in infancy.)

Roger participated in both baseball and basketball in high school. In 1939 the basketball team won the league tournament. After high school Roger worked for a short time at the New Bremen Rubber Plant and then began his career at the Streine Manufacturing Company. In May of 1942, he was drafted and sent for training as a radio technician in the Army Air Force. He spent time in Missouri, Utah, South Dakota and Hawaii before being sent to the Asiatic Pacific Theater. In the last months of the war he was on the island of Iwo Jima.



Roger's name is on the side of the plane.

After the war he returned to Streine's and continued working there for 35 years. Later he took a job with the New Bremen Schools as custodian.

Soon after graduation from high school, Leota took a job at Schulenberg's Store on Monroe Street. She remembers working with Erna Schrage and Cade Schulenberg. During the war years she accepted a position at a defense plant to assist in making Norton Bomb Sights. She recalls that Adrian Hittepole was the driver and picked her up with the other workers from New Bremen each day for the trip to Piqua.

She and Roger were engaged when he entered the service.



Leota visited Roger in South Dakota

After the war was over Roger and Leota “Oatie” Fark were married on March 5, 1946. Roger & Oatie are the parents of one son, Larry, two grandchildren and six great grandchildren.



**Leota and Roger on their
Wedding Day March 5, 1946**

Roger and Oatie have lived in New Bremen all their lives. After their marriage they lived with Roger’s parents before moving into in an apartment over the American Budget owned by Mrs. Wint. In 1950 they bought the house they live in today at 20 S. Herman Street. It was built in 1903 by Roger’s great aunt and uncle, Katie and Henry Althoff. Oatie was born in and grew up in the house across the street at 23 S. Herman that was built by her father in 1910. She remembers neighbors Betty Horn, Wallace and Bob Schmidt and Ned England. She also had several Hirschfeld relatives living close by on South Herman Street.

Leota began bowling at St. Marys Lanes then located above the theater. The NBWBA (New Bremen Women’s Bowling Association) was formed in the 1950s when the Ray Ann Lanes opened in New Bremen. Daisy Bruns was the first president and Oatie was the first secretary. She enjoyed the sport very much for many years. Today she enjoys cards and needlework.



**Daisy Bruns, Betty Marshall, Verneda Moeller,
Leota Busse, and Laverne Fark**



Louis Fark & Roger Busse in South Dakota



**Roger played baseball with the Western Ohio
team. Roger is in the middle of the second row.**

Roger played baseball for the New Bremen team in the Western Ohio League. He also has enjoyed hunting and fishing with his brothers-in-law. They made several trips to South Dakota for pheasant hunting.

Thank you, Roger and Oatie, for sharing your stories and photo albums. We enjoyed our visit with you.

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE

To mark the **150th anniversary of the Civil War** the following is a brief timeline of events for the **37th Ohio Volunteer Infantry (OVI)** during the years 1861 and 1862:

- **April, 1861** - First shots fired at Ft. Sumter South Carolina and President Lincoln called for volunteers to serve for 3 months.
- **July, 1861** - After the first Battle of Bull Run in Virginia the President saw the need for many more volunteers to serve for 3 years.
- **August, 1861** - Recruitment began in New Bremen and other northwest Ohio towns. Most of those recruits would form the companies of the 37th OVI.
- **September, 1861** - **Company C** left New Bremen for Camp Brown near Cleveland. They were presented with their unit flag which became an emblem of their hometown.
- **October, 1861** - The **37th OVI** moved by train to Camp Dennison near Cincinnati and then by steamboat on the Ohio River to Charleston West Virginia.
- **January, 1862** - New Bremen lost its first soldier when Charles Behm age 22 was killed in action.
- **May, 1862** - During the Battle of Princeton West Virginia several New Bremen men were killed, wounded or captured. Those killed were John Behm age 24 (the brother of Charles Behm), Henry Siedenberg age 28 and Henry May age 19.
- **September, 1862** - The **37th OVI** saw action again at the Battle of Fayetteville West Virginia. Frederick Roettger was wounded and Christian Aue was captured.
- **October, 1862** - Ten New Bremen men joined the **37th OVI** to replace those killed or discharged.
- **December, 1862** - The **37th OVI** left West Virginia and moved by steamboat down the Ohio River to Louisville, Kentucky on their way to Vicksburg.

The majority of New Bremen's volunteers joined for three years of service in 1861. In December, 1862 they were joined by six New Bremen members of the Ohio Militia. These men were drafted into ten months of active service in December, 1862. They joined the 37th OVI but not Company C. William Vick, William Waterman, George Burmeister and Fred Hilgeman served in Company H while Henry John Rump and Ernst William Pape served in Company F. These men were discharged in August, 1863 after the Vicksburg campaign.

All six returned to New Bremen but William Vick died three months later of camp fever. Camp Fever was the name given to typhoid fever. Dysentery and camp fever caused the most disease deaths during the war. Mr. Vick age 36 left a wife Anna (Dickman) Vick and three sons. The other men were privileged to live longer lives but always supported their comrades. George Burmeister's obituary read "He was a veteran of the War of Rebellion and his old comrades will accompany his remains to their last resting place."

The Behm family suffered the greatest loss during 1862 when their sons Charles and John were killed. Another son Frederick Behm was too young to volunteer with his brothers. However even after their deaths he chose to join the First Ohio Cavalry and served until the end of the war.

The following New Bremen volunteers enlisted in New Bremen in 1861 and formed Company C 37th OVI.

Gerhard Christian Aue, Carl Bambauer, Charles Behm, John Behm, Frank Bergmeier, John Blasé, Charles Boesel, August Boetcher, John Bucholtz, Charles Cook, William Dicke, John Ehlen, Henry Finke, Jacob Frey, Phillip Goll, Phillip Gress, Henry Heheman, Christian, Henke, William Hoewisher, Charles Kuhle, Henry May, Johann Henry Meyer, Heinrich August Niebel, William Reiter, Friedrich C. Roettger, Fritz C. Roettger, Stephan Schindler, Dietrich Schroeder, Henry Schulenberg, John Schulte, William Schulte, Henry Sidenberg, Fred Siemer, Frederick Stork, Fritz Tellman, George Thieman, William Vornholt.

The following New Bremen volunteers enlisted in Columbus in 1862 and joined Company C 37th OVI.

Fredrich Buhr, Fred Dickman, George Knost, Heinrich Kohlhorst, William Luedeke, August Nieter, Henry Schaefer, Ben Schulenberg, William Schulenberg, Henry Staas, Henry Sundmacher, William Wiedeman.

La Societe des Quarente Hommes et Huit Chevaux

(Society of Forty Men and Eight Horses)

The Forty and Eight was formed in 1920 by American Legion members as an honor society with membership by invitation only. The name and symbols of the group reflect its WWI origins. During that war American Doughboys were transported to the battle fronts by French railroad boxcars (voitures). The French boxcars were about half the size of American boxcars and carried a cargo sign showing the capacity was either 40 men or 8 horses. This French railroad theme was applied to the honor society to signify the hardships that the men endured riding in the boxcars. Members were called voyageurs militaire (military travelers.) An initiation ceremony or wreck was developed based on their common WW1 experiences. Members were organized into groups known as voitures.

By 1923 the growing 40/8 was partnered with the American Legion in its Child Welfare project. The Auglaize County Voiture of the 40 and 8 held an initiation to accept 21 members into the organization in 1923. Four of those individuals were from New Bremen.

Forty and Eight

Twenty-one candidates were initiated by the Auglaize Voiture of the 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux, the auxiliary organization of the American Legion, at Wapakoneta, Wednesday evening. Local candidates among the 21 were William Huenke, Raymond Tomhafe, Leander Heitkamp and Harry Kammen. The work was put on by the Wrecking Crew of the Lima Voiture which came down in a special car. A parade through the main streets of Wapakoneta preceded the initiation and attracted the attention of passing pedestrians. It was headed by the Lima drum corps of twenty pieces and the "P.G.'s" or candidates garbed in white gowns. But the real fun and mirth-provoking stunts started when the initiation service held the center of the stage at the Legion Hall. After the initiation the members were treated to professional entertainers from Lima and Cleveland. A big feed was the crowning climax of an hilarious evening.

Membership in the Auglaize County Voiture was practically doubled by the initiation and the Legionnaires are now figuring on starting another drive for recruits during the early summer. Present members of the organization will undoubtedly find their buddies ready and anxious to fill out their application now.

...The New Bremen Sun, March 2, 1923

For the next 40 years the 40/8 continued its growth and partnership with the American Legion. They established a war on childhood diphtheria in the 1930s by ensuring that vaccination was available to all children. In the 1940s they aided in support of servicemen, provided scholarships to nurse candidates, assisted in conveying information about Hanson's Disease to the public and continued child welfare programs. In 1960 the 40/8 severed ties with the American Legion but continued to invite only Legion members into its ranks. Woman veterans became eligible to join in 2006. Membership was opened to all honorably discharged veterans in 2008.

From its beginning New Bremen Legionnaires have been involved in the Auglaize County Voiture of the 40/8. In later years declining membership made it necessary to combine Auglaize County's Voiture with other counties. In 2012 the only member from New Bremen is **Harold Krieg** who belongs to the Shelby County Voiture 984. Harold kindly supplied us with this picture and information on his involvement with this honor Society.



Harold Krieg pictured during his military service with the Marines in Vietnam in 1969 in front of his barracks. He is kneeling next to a pineapple they planted. The sandbags and the metal culvert in the background were used to protect them from shelling.

ANNA KUEST IN WASHINGTON D.C. IN 1918

Anna M. Kuest was the youngest of 6 children born to Henry G. & Wilhelmina (Nussmeyer) Kuest.



Anna M. Kuest (1886-1981)

After her father's death in 1902, Anna, her sister Ida and her mother left the family farm and moved to East Monroe Street. Anna worked at the Bakhaus and Kuenzel Woolen Mill in New Bremen. In the fall of 1918, during World War 1 and the Spanish Influenza epidemic, she had the opportunity to move to Washington D. C. Arrangements were made for her to stay with friends from New Bremen. Flora and Oscar Dicke and their sons Robert and Howard were living in Washington where Oscar worked at the Patent Office.

Following are excerpts from letters Anna wrote to her mother and sister Ida in the fall of 1918.

...The train left Lima at 10:30. My baggage didn't get into Lima as fast as I did. When I told the ticket agent at the depot that I had some baggage at the W.O. (Western Ohio Interurban) which I wanted transferred to the depot, he called up and said it hadn't arrived yet and the next car would come in at 9:55. So it came on that. Then I paid the man only 50 cents for delivering it. But my railroad ticket was a little cheaper than I thought. If I didn't want to change coaches I'd have to take a Pullman Sleeper clear through and that was about \$2.00 more than the other way. So I preferred that and my ticket cost me \$22.00 and I had an upper berth because they are cheaper than the lower but not as nice either. It takes a step ladder to get into them. The lower ones are just made out of two seats which face each other. They pull the seat cushions forward until the two meet and then push the back cushions down and in that way forming a nice bed. Then they put a mattress or blanket on I think and bed sheets and pillows.

The upper berths are just folded and unfolded something like a bed lounge. When not in use they are slammed up on the wall. They fix a partition between each bed which is also removed when the night is over and then they have heavy curtains all along the isle so no one can see you. I took everything with me to bed and made myself real comfortable. I thought I was about the only lady in that car because everywhere I looked there seemed to be men's hats hanging around and I also saw men's shoes on the floor sticking out from under the curtain but in the morning there were at least half a dozen ladies in there anyway. These trains certainly are nice. There is no overcrowding. The place that was yours for the bed at night is also yours for a seat during the day. I guess I was about the only one that took a lunch. The others all bought their meals on the train. One old lady told me she just bought a cup of coffee and they charged her 50 cents.



Ida and Anna Kuest

After Anna's return to New Bremen, the sisters had a home baking business for over 20 years. On Friday, dozens of coffee cakes, wrapped in wax paper and tied with a string, would be waiting for pick-up at their home on Monroe Street.

...They are treating me very nicely (here at Oscar and Flora's) and I can get along with the children real well. They are getting pretty big. Tomorrow morning I want to do Flora's ironing and press my clothes...Oscar only brought my baggage home last night.

(Anna planned to get a government job at \$75.00 per month. When she inquired about the job she learned they were not taking any more persons who had not taken the examination in advance. After finding she could not get the government job she looked for other work)...I read ads in the paper and saw that they wanted help at stores

everywhere. I applied for work at one store, they asked me what I had been doing and when I told them he said perhaps I would be all right in the blanket department. So I accepted that. I'm not starting on very much, only \$10.00 a week, but they pay a bonus Of 3% after you have sold (\$200.00 worth) of goods...

...I go to work at 9:15, have 45 minutes for lunch and work till 6 o'clock. I don't like that long afternoon very well. It's only eight hours a day, though...

...I sure was tickled to hear that you don't have to buy so many war substitutes anymore. I hope you are eating more white bread now. We get dandy bread here. I like it as well as white home-made bread. But we don't get any eggs. They are 48 cents a dozen now, used to be 58 cents I think, and then they are storage eggs...

...I intended to write German again but it is so late I thought this would not take me quite so long. I sure was delighted to get such a nice German letter from mother. Of course I liked the English one too just as well but I know what a job it is for mother to write and was glad that she went to the trouble anyway. Keep it up Mother and don't be afraid of making mistakes. I can read the *haben un stahen* real well.

... I have 45 minutes for lunch at the store and I always take two sandwiches along from home and today also had a pear. Sometimes I buy a piece of pie for 5 cents there too and then I have a glass of water with it and it always tastes good to me. The people I'm working for is Lansburgh & Co. and Mr. Kahn is our floor superintendent. He told me they used to get blankets from Bakhaus & Kuenzel Co. and they were good blankets too.

...Oscar started to law school last night and will be gone every night now during the week. He gets home at about 9 o'clock. School lasts two hours, I think. After work he stays at the Patent Office and studies and eats a few sandwiches. Eats his dinner when he gets home.

...Howard (13 months old)...walks several steps but he doesn't make it a practice yet to walk alone. He had a pretty high fever yesterday. I think his teeth are the cause of it. This morning I had my lunch packed and put it way back on the kitchen table. Flora and I were in the basement a little while so Robert (2 ½ yrs. old) got at it and ate about half of it before we knew it. He's always into something. It almost keeps one person busy watching the two of them.

...Well I guess you're hearing about the influenza there too. I read something about it in the Leader that Dr. Stappe was notified on account of it. There are quite a few cases here too, also pneumonia. Most of the people have colds the way it seems. I go to work at 10 A.M. instead of 9:15. They want to arrange it so the cars won't be so crowded. Some government workers start at 7:30, some at 8:00, some at 8:30 and some at 9:00 and the store

workers at 10:00. It is better that way. They want to prevent the spreading of the diseases as much as possible and (being in) crowded cars is not very good. This morning when I went to work there were only about a dozen people in the car and this evening it was not as crowded either as it is sometimes. The way it used to be it was just a fright when the war workers would go to work.

...thank God I'm still well and hearty, although many, many a home here is suffering with sickness and death. I didn't intend to write much to you about the epidemic here but since you know anyway that it is all over the country, it's no use trying to keep it from you. It's as bad here as anywhere (and they) have reported 87 deaths today again. It's the highest number so far and it's not under control yet but they tell us the disease is not so dangerous at all if one only takes good care of himself and as soon as you notice a cold go to bed and treat it well. There's many a war worker here that dies and the people where they are staying don't know where to send them to and their folks at home maybe won't find out for a long time. I always have a piece of camphor with me which was given to all the girls at the store also have some other stuff to gargle which was given to me by one of the girls here. There is a great shortage of coffins and grave diggers. The lady working at the store on the same floor with me told me that a father had dug the grave for his own child.

... (After hearing about Armistice Day) I actually believe now that it is true. It was the first thing I heard at the store Monday morning. The stores all closed at 3:00 P.M. They had quite a parade here but I didn't get to see it at all, but I sure saw plenty of people out on the streets. Well isn't it a relief to think that the war is over and we always said and believed that the right would win. Well thank God that it finally has come to a close.

WWI began in 1914 and lasted until November 11, 1918. The U.S. entered the war on April 6, 1917.

The 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic lasted from January 1918 to December 1920. One half of the U.S. soldiers who died in Europe were victims of the influenza epidemic. In 1918 the disease was most deadly to the 20 to 40 year olds. People became ill and often died within hours of the first symptoms. They had difficulty breathing and coughed up a bloody discharge, developed pneumonia and were unable to breathe. It is believed that between 50 and 100 million people died. More people died of the influenza than were killed in battle during WWI. Local Drs. Stappe, Ekermeier and Fledderjohann convened in December 1918 to devise ways to combat the epidemic. They encouraged people to use good health practices and to not congregate.

Class of 1962

The NBHS Class of 1962 held their 50 year reunion during Bremenfest and had a weekend of fun. On Friday they toured the middle school and high school buildings and spent a casual evening at the home of Wayne and Margery Ziegenbusch. On Saturday they toured the Bicycle Museum of America, the Crown historical buildings and enjoyed a catered meal in the Kuest Barn. On Sunday the classmates gathered to ride together in the Bremenfest parade. A total of 31 classmates took part in the activities.



At the Bicycle Museum of America

From the left: Dan Nedderman, Kathy (Schmieder) Nedderman, Gary Sollman, John Valentine, Carol (Hittepole) Wilson, Steven Froning, Martha (Liesner) Steinbrugge, Steve Froning, Don Kettler, Marlene (Knost) Lammers, Amy Scheer, Roger Koenig, Shirley (Hirschfeld) Eyster, Jim Eyster, John Mohrman, Wayne Ziegenbusch. (Photo provided by Kathy Nedderman.)

1961 Festival

The 1961 Festival and Homecoming at New Bremen featured classmates from the Class of '62. The crowning of the Festival Queen Dianne Komminsk opened the festival.



Karen Moyer, Kathy Schmieder, Carol Hittepole, Lois Dicke (1960 Queen), Dianne Komminsk, Kate Wahoff, Sharon Widau and Barbara Cashdollar at the Coronation. (Photo provided by Carol Wilson.)



Seniors to Present Play

The senior class of New Bremen High School will present their class play "A Date with a Dream" Friday evening at 8 P.M. in the high school auditorium. Mrs. Alice Cumming is director of the play. Student director is Martha Liesner and assistant director is Judy Newkirk. Shown are seated, left to right, Carol Hittepole and Kathy Schmieder and standing, left to right, Dick Schroer, Don Kettler, Lanny Hirschfeld and Allen Bushman. (From the Wapakoneta Daily News October 18, 1961)

*Has your NBHS class had a reunion?
We would like to include a picture of
you and your classmates in The
Towpath.*

*Please call Gen (629-2764) or Joyce
(629-2946) about your reunion.*



The NBHS Class of 1962 Celebrated Their 50th Anniversary

Front Row: Martha (Liesner) Steinbrugge, Jill (Coble) May, Shirley (Hirschfeld) Eyster, Amy Scheer, Pat (Meckstroth) Snyder, Rosie (Dicke) Timon, Sharon (Widau) Dietz, Marlene (Knost) Lammers, Carol (Hittepole) Wilson, Karen (Moyer) Tostrick **Back Row:** Kathy (Schmieder) Nedderman, Dan Nedderman, John Mohrman, Lynn Hirschfeld, Marvin Moeller, John Valentine, Richard Schroer, Allen Bushman, Wayne Ziegenbusch, Bob Valentine, Gary Sollman, Vernon Paul, Jan Fark, Rick Tangeman, Roger Koenig, Steve Froning, Don Kettler, Ned Conradi, Greg Gast, Dianne Komminsk. (Also present but not pictured was Barbara (Cashdollar) Ziegenbusch. (Photo provided by Jim Eyster.)



The 1st Grade Class in 1950 (Class of 1962)

Row 1. Billy Daniels, Lanny Hirschfeld, Ned Conradi, Mike Ahlers, Greg Gast, Sharon Melter, Steven Froning, Sharon Brotherwood, Ann Young, Marlene Knost, Richard Schroer, Lillian Beinker, Ann Bernhold, Dianne Komminsk, Wayne Ziegenbusch, John Mohrman, Carol Hittepole, **Row 2.** Susan Cindrich, Shirley Kyburz, John Valentine, Richard Tangeman, Lynn Hirschfeld. Amy Scheer, Don Kettler, Roger Koenig, Tom Lawyer, John Warner, Rosie Dicke, Larry Newman, Gary Sollman, David Topp. **Row 3.** Mrs. Harlamert, Beverly Lampert, Martha Liesner, Tom Steinbrugge, Vernon Paul, Karen Moyer, Dinah Topp, Jan Fark **Row 4.** Jim Howard, Jim Schroer, Kate Wahoff, Sandra Roettger, Judy Newkirk. (Photo provided by Carol (Hittepole) Wilson.)

History Mystery Page

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



A scene from the New Bremen Post Office in the 1950s. Who are they?



Who are these bowlers in 1959?



Can you name the members of this card club?

(Hint: This photo was taken in the home of Lloyd (Pete) & Irene Blanke.)



What is it?

History Mystery Page Answers for the July Issue

Jim Rempe, Judy Meckstroth, Beverly Applegate, Dru Meyer, Evelyn Bassler Baur and Tom Fricke identified the “What is it?” items.



The early washing machine was made by the Boss Washing Machine Company, Norwood, Ohio. This model is the Boss Perfection No. 4 made of cypress wood and dates back to 1910-1920.



Evelyn Baur wrote that her mother-in-law, Dorothy Baur had a stereoscope and shared it with her grandchildren. The stereoscope (stereograph, stereogram, stereopticon, stereo viewer) was patented in 1838 by Sir Charles Wheatstone in England. Queen Victoria took a fancy to it in 1851. It came to the United States in 1862 when Oliver Wendell Holmes and Joseph Bates came out with the Holmes Stereopticon. The Viewmaster, popular with children in the 1950s, was introduced at the 1939 New York World's Fair and used the same double pictures to produce the 3-D effect.

**Please send your answers for the History Mystery Page
to**

NBHA, P.O.Box 73, New Bremen, Ohio 45869

Or call or e-mail your answer to

Gen at gen@nktelco.net

Joyce at jdr@nktelco.net

Your answers will appear in the next issue of

The Towpath.



This picture was taken in 1942 at the old swimming pool on Plum Street. From the left: Marian Frey, Fred Schroer, Jr., Myrl Smith, Bernadine Luedeke, and John Melchert, Jr.

Lisa Weigandt recognized the location of the old swimming pool in the 1942 picture. Don Luedeke and Dru Meyer identified two of the people in the 1942 picture at the old swimming pool. Barb Luedeke Fogel recognized her Aunt Bernadine at the swimming pool.



The 1959 Elves are Shirley Hirschfeld, Sharon Melter, Amy Scheer, Dan Nedderman, Vernon Paul, Steve Froning, Lanny Hirschfeld. Kneeling: Marlene Knost, Don Kettler, Ned Conradi. The Elves were freshmen who assisted their siblings of the Junior Class who presented the theme of “Fantasy Forest” for the Senior Prom in 1959. (Photo was supplied by Amy Scheer.)

Kathy Nedderman named the “elves” in the 1959 picture and Judy Meckstroth identified most of the elves. Don Kettler was able to identify for wife Sue all his elf classmates.

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

New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073



NBHA Museum – 120 N. Main St.



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New Bremen Historic Association Events

The NBHA participated in the 2012 Pumpkinfest held September 28, 29 and served Pumpkin Waffles –On-A-Stick as a fundraiser.

Plan to decorate a Christmas tree for the Christmas Tree Festival held again this year at the Lockkeeper’s House during the month of December. This festival is a great time to tour the Lockkeeper’s House while viewing the many creatively decorated trees. Watch the newspaper for more information about this event.

March 18, 2013, is the date of our Annual Dinner Meeting. Details of this event will be in the next issue of *The Towpath*.

Plan a visit to the Luelleman House Museum on North Main Street. Call Mike Staton or Rob Ziegenbusch to schedule a visit.

We will continue to collect family stories through this year. Please call Diane Paul to arrange a time.

Thank you for your interest in the NBHA. Don’t forget to renew your membership.