

THE TOWPATH

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THE NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

October 2018

NEW BREMEN UNITES TO CELEBRATE OUR “#commUNITY”

The 44th Annual Bremenfest opened with Family Movie Night on August 16th. Festival activities began on Friday at 3 P.M. and continued through Sunday. There were many new events this year and interesting competitions. A variety of food options were also offered.

The Bremenfest weekend is also a time when many high school reunions are held. We invite you to send us a picture of your reunion for publication in the next Towpath.

The parade was held on Sunday at 1:00 P.M. and we have included a few pictures from the well-attended event. The Grand Marshal for this year’s parade was **Diana Kramer**, who is recognized for uniting our community by leading the New Bremen Cardinal Volley ball team to the state championship.

The New Bremen High School Band and other bands from nearby school districts provided fine performances.



Lilly Wilker, Animal Impressionist, rode her horse in the parade.



Mayor Jeff Pape and Village Council Members joined in the festivities.



The 2018 Bremenfest Queen is Madeline Burch.



Military Veterans were honored for their service.



Everyone enjoyed seeing bicycles from the Bicycle Museum of America.

"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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NEW MEMBERS

Susan Kettler

Jerry & Doris Tangeman

John & Barb Renner

NEW LIFE MEMBER

Susan Kettler

MEMBER DEATHS

(CM=Charter Member LM=Life Member)

6/12/2018 **William J. Koenig**

7/16/2018 **Duane Hartwig (LM)**

8/17/2018 **Sally (Kohler) Meckstroth**

8/26/2018 **Louise (Huenke) Dicke (LM)**

8/26/2018 **Sandra (Dicke) Thieman (LM)**

DONATIONS

Rodrick & Cinda Chima

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In Memory of Wayne Maurer by Larry & Nancy Busse, John & Margaret Bartley, Devra McCabe & Jack Hickman, Duane Dammeyer & Marian Bonvechio, Robert & Diane Paul, Rich & Bev Gilberg.

In Memory of Jerry Scheer by James & Karen Scheer, Robert & Cheryl Kuck, Ben & Barb Rhinehart, Mary Philipot.

In Memory of Sally Meckstroth by Norman & Donna Jacoby, Gerald & Carole Ferguson.

2018 Monthly Raffle Winners

July- \$100-Richard Falkner (NB), \$75-Della Conradi (NB), \$50-Amy Jo Jessen(NB)

August - \$100-Teresa Gushing-Heitkamp(NB), \$75-Diane Paul(NB), \$50-Ed Doenges(NB)

September - \$100-Jerry Bambauer (NB), \$75-Marlene Ahlers (NB), \$50-Brian Moeller (NB)

NBHA Board Members especially thank those winners who have chosen to increase the profits

by returning their winnings.

ITEMS RECENTLY DONATED TO MUSEUM

White Mountain Creamery employees 1923 postcard by **Judith Grieshop**, First National Bank employees photo 1968 by **Merrily Hoffman**, Two Auglaize County Atlases, World Atlas 1890 by **Lynn Thompson**, Ladies Pocket Watch circa 1900 by **Sherry Biederman**, Chandelier for Pape House by **Darlene Neuman & Brian James**, First National Bank thermometer by **Darlene Neuman**, Varsity Jackets 1979 & 2010 by **Amy Webster**, Book about Beatrice Foods by **Evelyn Rupert**, Photo of Cardinal grandsons in football uniforms by **Allan Webster**, Creamery photo by **Barb Koepfer**.

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)

Letters



We always look forward to receiving the Towpath and enjoy it very much. We appreciate your hard work and all that goes into producing it. The History Mystery Photo in the last issue was especially interesting. I can't identify many in the photo, but I believe the fourth girl in the front row is Doris Thielker. Doris married Jerry Tangeman and they live in Sidney. She must have been...older than me...not sure exactly. Will be interesting to see if anyone else identifies this class. Keep up the good work!

On a personal note, I realize how old I really am when I can identify someone in these old photos that no one else knows! **Bev & Don Applegate**



White Mountain Employee Picnic 1923

I have been cleaning the house and came upon pictures that were my Mom's. I found this one -The White Mountain Creamery Company- an employee Summer Picnic. Enjoyed going through your Facebook page, seeing all those old pictures was a treat for me.

Here is a little history about my Mom's family. My grandfather Henry Luebke came from Germany when he was five years old. He was born January 23, 1891 in Dama, Germany. He became a U.S. citizen on May 27, 1895 at Mercer County Courts.

He found his love for life, Clara Overman, in the Maria Stein area. I am not sure when they were married but they had six children. Joseph died as an infant. Eleanor was born in 1912, Mary, my mother, was born in 1913 and then there was Edward, Hubert and Robert. The family had their first home in Celina, then moved to North Star, then to Osgood. Clara died in 1940. Henry remained in Osgood. My Mom took care of him and her young brother Robert.

I believe my Grandpa lived in Osgood when he worked at the Creamery in New Bremen. I am glad you could use the picture and hope to someday visit your

place. I am finding I am beginning to love history of the area.

Peace, **Judith Grieshop**

Very cool for you to carry my little letter to my old classmates; thank you very much! It is quite a change in genre for the Towpath and I hope I didn't offend any of your subscribers. But I had a lot of fun writing it and I'm hoping your subscribers and my old classmates enjoy it...assuming they remember me. I haven't been there since a couple of trips in 1960. Maybe the same for me and New Bremen?

Thanks again, **Bob Gilberg**

Thank you for writing my Grandpa Otte's story in the July 2018 Towpath. It never dawned on me that he was born only five years after the Civil War ended. Unfortunately, I didn't get to know him very well as he lived in the county home the last 12 years of his life and I didn't have much contact with him. He died when I was 14 years old. I think I must have inherited some of his record-keeping, handyman/fix-it skills, love of working with wood, and curiosity as to how things work. I only wish I could have spent time with him as I grew up. Who knows - I may have become a carpenter! **Kathy Topp**

FACT OR FICTION? Found in the NBHA Museum paper files but we were not able to validate the accuracy of the report.

*From The Commercial Appeal Files 75 years ago
Nov. 24, 1891, New Bremen, Ohio*
There is great excitement here over a raid made Sunday night by masked women on a disreputable house at this place. The four erring sisters living there were whipped with switches on their bare backs and the frame building was demolished. The mob of 40 or 50 was composed of the best ladies of the town. Seven men in the place made a dash and escaped.

These bicycles show that **school is back in session**. And it is great to know that our children can ride their bikes safely to school and do not need bike locks to protect from theft.





Katy Berning Gilbert (1938-2006), daughter of Richard and Madella Egbert Berning wrote many interesting articles about her memories that appeared in area newspapers. In this article she describes the fun activities she and her family enjoyed when she was growing up.

What did you do for fun?

(The Evening Leader, 11/10/1999)

Television was not an option when I was growing up. We didn't have a TV until 1955. The first time I saw a TV was at my uncle's house in Sidney. It was about 1950. My grandparents bought a set a couple of years later.

The radio was taking a back seat all over the country. It was the time when we stopped listening and began to watch. When I was very young I remember trying to look into the back of the radio to see who was doing the talking.

Mom would listen to the radio while she did the laundry or was ironing. She would listen to the "soaps," Helen Trent, Lorenzo Jones, Portia Faces Life, Stella Dallas and Guiding Light. Each program lasted 15 minutes and were brought to the housewives of the time by soap companies singing their little ditties. "Rinso White, Rinso White, happy little washday song," and "Duz, does everything."

In the evening, we waited for Fibber McGee to open the closet door in "Fibber McGee and Molly," and listen to the laughter of the Great Gildersleeve, the comedy of the Jack Benny show and George Burns and Gracie Allen and of course the news given by Lowell Thomas or H. V. Kaltenborn.

We had "Your Hit Parade" singing the top 10 songs. This show later switched over to TV. The radio also had special events such as "The Fireside Chats" Franklin Delano Roosevelt had with the country and a Joe Louis boxing match.

The radio also brought you the cowboys Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Tom Mix and the rancher with an airplane, Sky King.

We had our mystery shows too – the squeaking door of "The Inner Sanctum," the adventures of Boston Blackie, and the Green Hornet.

We listened to the radio but were doing other things at the time. There was sewing to do, darning socks, and embroidering pillowcases or table scarves. The

newspaper was read and a book you started the other day. In between, you needed to put more wood in the stove to keep the house warm. We played cards – Rummy, Muggins and Euchre.

I remember many evenings were spent picking hickory nuts and walnuts out of the shell. I can still picture my dad sitting beside the kitchen table, taking a nut, holding it on an old sad iron he had placed upside down on his lap, hitting it with a hammer and placing it in a chipped orange enamel pan. My mother, sister and I would then take nut picks and pick out the meat of the nuts to use later in cakes and cookies.

Things to do also involved family and friends visiting you and vice versa. The popcorn that had been grown in the garden and shelled, was now popped and shared with the visitors. Glasses of beer were poured for the adults from the gallon jug bought at the local tavern. They played Pinochle, Sheephead and Euchre. As years went on they also played Canasta and 31.

As young children, we "played house," which was standard for little girls of the time, looked at comic books, talked, and when we were older we looked at movie magazines like "Photoplay," "Movie Screen," etc. We played games such as Chinese Checkers, Parcheesi and Monopoly.

We were also encouraged to "play outside."

We had visitors or visited frequently. It wasn't unusual for relatives, neighbors or friends to "just stop by." Family units were strong. Our immediate family was small, dad, mom, my sister and I. But dad came from a large family. My mother's family was large when it came to the extended family. Any excuse to get together was used especially birthdays.

My uncles had a band. They played for weddings and also played at Kempers Grove, a hall south of Minster. There were many small bands at that time and places to go to dance. We went to these places as a family. We can't do that now.

Does this article trigger your memories of fun activities that you had as a child? We would like to hear from you. Please call, write or e-mail Gen or Joyce and tell us about your memories.

THE NEW BREMEN TRI-COUNTY FAIR

(Auglaize, Mercer & Shelby Counties)

Oscar O. Raberding - 1964 (excerpted)

The New Bremen Tri-County Fair existed for twenty years, from 1888 through 1907, on forty acres in the northeast quarter of Section 14 of German Township, one mile east of New Bremen on what came to be called The Fairground Farm. The last owners of this farm were Mr. & Mrs. Emil Schroer, and subsequently their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. & Mrs. James Schroer, who sold the farm in December 1992 to Crown Equipment Corp. and Crown is the owner today.

The stately monuments of native stone at the former main entrance to the grounds, and the present entrance to the farm were built by Christian H. Grothaus. He and his first wife, Alice (Schoettley) Grothaus, were the former owners. (Mr. Grothaus suffered an untimely death in February of 1934 after being attacked by a bull.)

Included on the fairgrounds was a race-track, a ball park, and also a band-stand in the barnyard. In 1891, the fair had a local 25-musician Tri-County Fair Band. There were also fortune wheels where many coins were dropped on the ground, to be found years later by the Schroers and others.

The fair in 1891 was held from Tuesday, September 1st through Friday, September 4th, this being the week before Labor Day. The Auglaize County Fair that year was held later, on Tuesday, September 29th thru Friday, October 2nd.

There were four dug wells, each 75 feet deep, which were dug by a contractor from Indiana for a total cost of \$300.00. They were dug by old-fashioned rotary horse-power and were masterpieces of engineering for that day.

A story that was told was that a cask of wine being used by the threshers accidentally slipped into the water and sank to the bottom of one of the wells. Many people would drink from the well and on one occasion during prohibition, one of the groups, upon learning about the lost cask, broke out singing, "How dry I am - How dry I am - Nobody knows how dry I am."

The Directors of the fair were: Henry Hellbusch, president; Louis Huenke, vice-president; Fred Wiemeyer (and later, Clifford Huenke), secretary; and William Nieter, Sr., treasurer. Members of the Executive Committee were: H.F. Kuenning, Herman Brune, and Joseph Woehrmeyer. In charge of Finance were: Louis Huenke, Fred Vogelsang, and M.S. Eker Meyer. On the Board of Directors were: Henry Hellbusch, Conrad Doenges, E.M. Eker Meyer, Henry Koop, E.H. Meckstroth, Herman Brune, Peter Braun, Louis Huenke, Henry Roettger, Ben Grieshop, Henry Lochtefeld, Henry Schaefer, H.F. Kuenning, F. Vogelsang, and Joseph A. Woehrmeyer. The Marshall was Louis Ley. Superintendent of feed and forage was William Conradi.

At the last fair in 1907 (August 13-16), two of the advertised events were diving horses and a sliding pony. The Humane Society, however, put a stop to the sliding pony attraction.

Officials for the final fair in 1907 were: Frank Kuenning, president; August Huenke, vice-president; and Theodore H. Tangeman, secretary. The Directors were Frank Kuenning,

Henry Brockmann, August Huenke, August Schnelle, Julius Wuebbenhorst, Fridolin T. Purpus, Joseph Kolpin, and Henry Wiedeman. Harry Kahn, who was associated with the Auglaize County Fair for many years later on, played in the band in 1907.

On the east side of the fairgrounds was a shady grove of trees in which the horses were hitched to keep cool. The race-horse barns were also there. The horses and other animals would be shipped in on the L.E. & W. Railroad as much as a week before the fair.

Many people would come to the fair in a hack, one of which was driven by Morris Bessel, who had a team of mules. This ride would cost 5¢ or 10¢.

Some of the neighbors thought the fair was an abomination, since they would always find chickens and eggs missing.

After it became certain that there would be no more fairs at this location, the remnants were auctioned off. The grandstand, with the lunch stand and beer stand underneath, was sold to the Auglaize County Fair Board for \$400. It was dismantled piece by piece and hauled to Wapakoneta and was re-assembled there as the south grandstand, where it stood until 1976-77, when it was torn down and replaced with a smaller concrete grandstand.



AT THE TRI-COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

(I.D. s by Ralph May & Charlie Weinberg)

FRONT (sitting):

1. Frank Huenke (vest)
2. H(erman) Lietz (between)
3. _____ Thompson (vest)
4. _____? (bowler hat)
5. Grover Wissman (drinking)
6. _____? (mouth under tap)
7. Adolph Pape
8. _____ Ziegler (boy)
9. _____ Weseli

BACK (standing):

1. Ed Deitemeyer (boy)
2. _____? (boy left of pole)
3. _____? (boy in front of pole)
4. Lawrence Hoffman (holding keg)
5. Fred Schroeder (holding keg)
6. _____? (hand on spigot)
7. _____? (mug to mouth)
8. Irvin Wissman

For more about the Tri-County Fair, see the July, 1989 "Towpath"

www.newbremenhistory.org

FROM SIDNEY TO SYDNEY!

“I get a good feeling when I am in New Bremen,” says Dr. Darlene Neuman with a smile. Darlene has spent most of her adult life far from Ohio but now retired she has settled near relatives and her roots.



Wilbert, Darlene & Marie Neuman

Darlene’s parents, Wilbert and Marie Roettger Neuman were both graduates of New Bremen High School. Darlene’s father, Wilbert, son of Levi Henry (Lafe) and Mary Meckstroth Neuman, was born in the house that is now the NBHA’s Pape House. The Neumann family owned this house from 1906-1930. John Herman Neumann had purchased the property to be his retirement home when he stopped farming.

In 1906, his son, Levi Henry (Lafe), and his family moved into this house and both Wilbert and his sister Irene were born there. Levi was the meat cutter at Schelper’s and also drove the meat wagon each morning. At a later time, Levi and his family moved into a new house on Water Street, next door to the Schelper family.



Wilbert & Irene Neuman standing next to house at 236 N. Main St. circa 1914. This house is now owned by the NBHA and is known as the Pape House.

Darlene’s mother Marie, daughter of Clarence and Luetta Dammeyer Roettger, was the oldest of six children. Her siblings were Norbert, Lucille, Orin,

Catherine and Laverta. Marie’s father worked at the creamery and also operated the Equity for a number of years. Marie began waiting on customers at the Equity when she was in the third grade.

Following high school, Darlene’s father Wilbert, attended Bliss Business College in Columbus. After graduation he worked at Central Auto which was next door to the Equity in New Bremen and this is where he met Marie. Their romance developed and they were soon married. Their daughter Darlene was born in New Bremen in their home on S. Washington Street but when Darlene was 6 months of age the family moved to Sidney, Ohio. Her father felt fortunate that he was able to qualify for a position during that bleak period of the Great Depression but probably ambivalent with the move from New Bremen. Darlene remembers frequent weekend visits to New Bremen to visit relatives.

After high school Darlene completed studies at Bowling Green State University and Ball State University and obtained her BA, MA and PhD in Business and Educational Administration. She selected a Fresno, California college to be a Professor. During this time her colleagues recognized her growing interest in music and opera and asked her to develop a business course for the Performing Arts. To gain credibility she planned a sabbatical during which time she would work in the field of business in the Performing Arts.



Sydney Opera House

She was then offered such an experience in Australia at the Australian Opera in the famous Sydney Opera House. Darlene expressed her satisfaction and pleasure with the experience and by the time she returned to California, had received an invitation to work with the Australian Opera each year during her summer break.

During summers in Sydney, her relationship with Dame Joan Sutherland and Joan’s husband Richard Bonyng grew and she was asked to be their personal secretary. This position meant frequent world-wide travels with a home base in Switzerland. When Joan began planning her retirement, Darlene returned to academia in California. In 2002 it was time for Darlene to plan her own retirement. She returned to Sidney and was then able to provide her mother with required assistance.

Dame Joan Sutherland (photo by A. Warren)

Darlene kindly granted us an interview and shared her wonderful memories of working with Dame Joan Sutherland. She also shared memories



of her childhood visiting New Bremen. She remembers visiting with her grandparents Clarence and Luetta (Dammeyer) Roettger in the farm house just west of St. Paul Church listening to the Dinkey blowing its whistle going through town. She watched it pass the churchyard cemetery not too far from her grandparents' house.

During summers in the 1940s and 1950s Darlene and other cousins near her age would stay with her grandparents for a week. If the cousins became too rowdy, Grandma Roettger would threaten to "Call Molly" (Molly Wehrman, town marshal) if they did not behave. She remembers drinking lime phosphates at Schwieterman's Drug Store and spending time at the swimming pool.

Walks with her Dad along the canal towpath and near the locks are also memorable for her. The wagon pictured below is the one that her father had as a child. She recalls how he wanted to take his sister Irene for a ride in it just as soon as she was born, but his mother told him he would have to wait to do that. With each visit to New Bremen, her Dad would drive by the house where he was born. On one such afternoon, Mrs. Amanda Fark was seated on the porch and her Dad stopped the car to say hello to her. She invited the family in for a tour which he enjoyed so much and brought back many memories for him.



We thank Darlene for sharing her work story that took her from Sidney to Sydney and her memories about New Bremen. Being interested in New Bremen history and progress,

she is a member of the NBHA and has shared family artifacts that enhance the collections in our museums. Darlene, we appreciate all you have shared!



Darlene's Great-Grandparents John Herman & Mary Wellman Neumann & family.

Standing: Levi (Darlene's grandfather), Hannah, Ben, Emma (Ben's wife) **Seated:** Ervin, Mary Wellman Neumann, Amanda, John Herman Neumann, Lillie.

Family Tree of Darlene Neuman

Parents

Wilbert & Marie Roettger Neuman

(1906-1989) (1918-2009)

Grandparents

Levi Henry (Lafe) & Mary Meckstroth Neumann

(1880-1962) (1893-1958)

Clarence & Luetta Dammeyer Roettger

(1892-1959) (1897-1975)

Great-Grandparents

John Herman & Mary Wellman Neumann

(1845-1919) (1854-1930)

Wm. George & Elisabeth Fledderjohann Meckstroth

(1842-1924) (1846-1921)

Wm. Louis & Elizabeth Markus Roettger

(1862-1944) (1873-1943)

Julius & Rosina Tontrup Dammeyer

(1867-1952) (1846-1921)



Marie Roettger Neuman played the trombone in the New Bremen High School band. Marie graduated in 1936.



The Great War Comes to a Close

The *New Bremen Sun* reported that at 6 o'clock, Washington time, Monday morning, November 11, 1918, the great world war came to an end; that the Armistice had been signed by responsible German representative at midnight. In New Bremen church bells rang at 7:30 in the morning with steam whistle blasts. Six members of the City Band marched on Washington and Monroe Streets to prepare residents for the evening peace program. All saloons were ordered closed at 4:30 in the afternoon.

As citizens gathered that evening, they brought horns, bells and other noise makers to use for the celebration. The City Band led the procession as the citizens marched in the streets. The procession stopped at the corner of Main and Monroe Streets and Mayor Huenke introduced Attorney Otto Boesel as speaker for the evening. Mr. Boesel delivered a patriotic message that was well received. One of his remarks that received special comment was his statement that if there were still some pro-Germans lurking about with their sympathies for the German government and its erstwhile ruler, he was pleased to inform them that the gates of Ellis Island swing outward. At the close of his address he was greeted with boundless applause.

Soon after the War ended the veterans began to return home. The *SUN* reported *New Bremen is alive these days with young men in military uniforms. The majority are here to stay having received their discharges.* The New Bremen men still *over there* continued to write letters which were printed in the *SUN*. These excerpts show the changes that occurred after the Armistice when relaxed censorship rules allowed them to write more freely about their experiences.

Soldier Boys

The following excerpts from a letter written by **Lieut. W. H. Rabe** appeared in the *New Bremen Sun* during the first week of December 1918.

A little over four months ago I came across. We were fortunate in getting a good liner, and we officers lived like Vanderbilts. We spent about a week in England.

In France I have spent a month at a machine gun school, a month roaming and moving, a month at the front, and a month in Base Hospital No. 82, where I am now a patient recovering from Spanish influenza.

I led a Company in a big drive and got along very well. We were in a big battle, but I escaped without a wound although I had several very close calls. Once for instance, a German high explosive shell fell within six feet of me, but did not explode. Also the whistle of the machine gun bullets past one's ears is very annoying. And noise! At times the noise is sickening.

It was a very unique experience to lead a Company 'over the top'. It was really not so difficult a task as I had expected. I had rather thought I would be nervous. On the contrary my brain was never clearer or cooler. The possibility of defeat or failure never occurred to me.

The spirit of the American enlisted man is wonderful. Whether he be a draftee, a National Guardsman, a Marine or a Regular, whether he be a man of 45, an almost beardless youth, or just the usual fellow, he fights like a devil, dies like a game sport, and suffers under wounds like a Spartan. An officer has really a rather easy time of it, as he has his myriad duties and responsibilities to keep his mind from reflecting on the dangers and horrors of the battlefields and the discomforts of mud, rain, fatigue and cold. But the man in the ranks must set his teeth together and hold himself to his task. To have lived, fought and suffered with these American lads is enough to make one's heart go out to them. They are wonderful lot of fellows, always cheerful and often ridiculously optimistic. It is no wonder we have large cities, great western farms, big railroads and all that the heart of man could wish. Ours is certainly a land of milk and honey.

The American girl too, represented by the American nurse, is in a class by herself. She also is decidedly cheerful and courageous. It is very obvious also that our American women are the best treated and the most worshipped women of the world; and how glad we are of that.

This experience in Europe has made us all more intensely American. We believe now, not just patriotically but sensibly, that ours is the greatest nation of the earth. But peace, it seems, is not far off and before so very long we will come home.

The following excerpts are from letters published in the *New Bremen Sun* on December 13, 1918.

Ralph May's letter:

U.S. Naval Forces, Europe
Somewhere in Ireland

My dear friends: It is good to know that the war is over, and that hostilities have ceased on all fronts. The armistice which was signed Monday marks the end of the war and the complete and overwhelming triumph of the cause of right, which is the cause of the Allies. It is very evident from the speech by Prince Max Von Baden that Germany has learned the lesson, that Might is not Right. If this be true we can be assured that the war has been of much benefit to the German nation, and the saying of Wilson that "we were fighting for the German people as well as for ourselves," now rings true. What a blessed thing; it is to know that the slaughter and suffering has now ceased, and that the time of reconstruction is now at hand.

I can imagine the rejoicing going on in New Bremen at this moment, and I suppose our people have never before experienced such a period of happiness as at the present time.

I must not forget to tell you that Monday, November 11th, was one of the happiest days in my life not only because I had the good pleasure of meeting my friend, Bud Laut of New Bremen. I had heard thru the columns of your paper that Bud was on the U.S.S. Canton, and ever since then I have kept a sharp lookout for the above ship, and on Monday afternoon I heard that the ship in question was in Port. I immediately set out for the quay and within a few minutes was shaking the hand of Bud Laut. We were both very happy to meet, especially so under such strange circumstances in a foreign land, on board a ship, and on the very day that the war had come to an end. Strange, wasn't it?

Please advise Bud's parents that he is well and happy, and that they can now be assured of his safe home coming for the submarines are no more. We expect to be together for a few weeks, and in the meantime, are taking in the sights of this quaint old town in Ireland. Bud was the first New Bremen boy I have met since being in service overseas; so you can imagine what a happy meeting it was. We just hugged each other for happiness.

With kindest regards, I remain, your friend,

Ralph C. R. May

Jake Maurer writes from Belgium:

Dear Wife,

This is certainly a beautiful moonlight night. I was just outside and made my round and it is about the most beautiful evening we have had.

I am on guard duty until 12 o'clock or I would be snoring, just like the rest of these fellows in here. Up until the war was ended, 7:30 was a late bedtime but, since the war is over fellows have been staying up a little later, for they've been out taking walks or talking about "What we'll do when we get back to the states." That seems to be on everyone's mind now. It formerly was, "wonder when the war will end" now it is, wonder how soon they'll take us back. It certainly seems funny that at night no Boche planes come over to drop a few shells and that someone doesn't holler "Lights out" as soon as one lights a match – and to see autos and trucks go with headlights – and to hear no more shells whistle and burst. For some reason or other one feels so different and thinks so different too. Everyone says the same. I guess it is because one does not expect a shell every or any moment and that he does not need to wonder whether "Jerry's coming," when he lays down to sleep, and knowing that our boys are in perfect safety.

My trick of guard is less than one hour from its end so I will make another good investigation to see that all is well, then call my relief and retire. My guard comes once every six nights. Well, this may be the last letter for a couple of weeks, we may be here tomorrow yet, but no longer. I am still well as can be, so don't worry, even if letters are far apart. If the time were mine, I'd write every day.

So good nite, and give my regards to all. I am your husband

Wgr. J. H. Maurer

Leo Sunderman visits Washington D.C. and sees President Wilson.

...Since leaving Camp Vail, New Jersey, November 1st for what we thought would be an overseas trip, I have been in Camp Mills, Long Island, New York, on the transport Adriatic on November 11th and 12th, and then to Camp Merritt, New Jersey. We have been near Camp Meade, since November 24th. In that space of time the world's events have been such as to change many things and cause many to tell of things they can hardly explain or realize. I have nothing to show up as have many of the Yanks who were in the fight, where the sterner stuff was displayed. Now that it is over, we are glad to get back to normal life again and hear the things the returning boys have to say. We may get our discharges in two weeks.

Last Saturday while on pass to Washington, D.C., I visited the capitol building and met the Sergeant-at-arms, Mr. Gordon. While gazing about at the inside exhibitions of art and history, I had a few words with him. I had not expected to meet anyone so well known in Auglaize County. At Keith's theater in the evening, we got to see, at close range, our President Wilson and his wife, an unexpected treat indeed. I had always wished to see our President, and that chance came quite unexpectedly. Now that he is on a big mission we can only say, 'Thou, too, sail on, o Ship of State' and give him our best wishes...

Excerpts of **Oscar Harjehausen's** letter to his parents from Nevers, France: (*New Bremen Sun* December 27, 1918)

...Yes, I've got a good dry place to sleep. The first month and a half we had our ticks filled with bad hay, right on the ground in the barracks. There were no floors, nor any heat. It rained nearly every day and at times our beds would be all wet and would get real hard. After a while, towards summer, we got wooden beds upon which we would lay our ticks. For pillows we used to put our shoes under the tick at the head and fold our coats, upon which we would lay our head. We had three army blankets and I usually piled all the rest of my clothes right in between the blankets to keep warm.

No, Mother, I do not do my own washing. I did it for about two months and decided that it was easier to pay for having it done than spending my own time on it and not having it real clean. You know how I love to wash, don't you? These Frenchwomen do a good job at washing and it doesn't cost so much either. I guess about 75 percent of the soldiers in town here have their washing done by women.

Yes, I've got woolen socks and am wearing them. We have good all wool underwear but it does not itch as the usual woolen underwear does. The uniforms are all wool and are pretty warm. We wore these all thru the summer. I have a big heavy overcoat too. In the army an overcoat is usually always used as a blanket at night. No, I don't think I'll suffer any because of the cold. And besides, most of us are thinking seriously of spending the latter part of the winter at home. How near this will come true it is impossible to say just now...

So did you believe the war was over when you heard all those whistles and bells? Well, it wasn't over quite as soon as the people in the States celebrated but it was positive at that time anyway. Anyway, it's all over now except settling up and

we will come home soon, and I do not think that I would ever have felt satisfied if I had never come to this side of the Ocean. It sure is great to be in the Army of a Country as ours!

Dr. I.H. Boesel's letter to L.W. Kuenning, France
December 16, 1918 (*New Bremen Sun* 1/17/1919).

I have just returned from a visit to the Kaiser and he informed me that the main reason he lost this war was because there was a small town in Ohio, that had recently erected a flag pole, that he had counted on being loyal to him, but they had bitterly disappointed him in every Loan drive or benefit drive that was undertaken. I imagine he meant New Bremen, but as he didn't mention any names and seemed rather despondent, I didn't have the heart to question him further. So you see that it has had more effect than you might suppose. At any rate we are proud of the way the folks at home stood back of us in this conflict, although we never once doubted that they would do otherwise.

Well Lafe, I have had a wonderful experience here both professionally and otherwise. It has been a common thing during the advance to do surgery from 12 to 36 hours at a stretch and mighty glad we are to have been in a position to help out our doughboys, who certainly gave the Huns more than they bargained for. We have been in the advance zone in all three drives that our army has made and have had some exciting times. It has been a very common occurrence to have Jerry, as we call the Hun aviator, pay us a visit at night and drop bombs. You can always distinguish him by the sound of his plane and we always put lights out whenever he came over. Not satisfied with bombs he has even turned on us with his machine gun and surely made things hum. However he will not bother us any more in that respect.

We are at present located in what was German territory before the drive, near or almost in the famous Argonne forest. I tell you Lafe, I don't see how our boys ever drove them out of it. It is very dense, just a mass of barbed wire entanglements and all high hills and vales. Their fortifications are marvelous and the time they must have spent constructing them must have been very long. I have made quite a few tours into the Argonne forest and in one place came across a building that would do credit to any town. It was entirely constructed of concrete reinforced by iron and roof perhaps 5 feet thick. The outside had a stucco finish and even a pretty bay window and dome. The building had 4 or 5 rooms in it. The front room had a pressed brick fire place and a cozy corner. The bath room was composed of mosaic tiling sides and floor. For a bomb proof dugout there was a stairway going down into the solid rock for perhaps 30 to 40 feet and this had 3 other exits for emergency. This place was supposed to have been used by Prince Max, while at the front. (Note: Prince Maximilian of Baden was the Chancellor of German Empire in 1918.)

There were other habitations here but not as elaborate as this one. This place was built on the north side of the hill to afford the extra protection the hill offered. The fortifications on Dead Man's hill are simply marvelous. The entire hill, which is very large, is one mass of trenches, made of concrete and masonry and pill boxes for their machine guns. The entrance to these went straight down for 50 or 60 feet and communicated with their entrances. The whole hill was undermined with a

system of trenches and they also had their ammunition dumps down deep in these shafts. This hill had two engines and dynamos for lights. They certainly never expected to give up this place.

Give a bunch of doughboys such a defended country as this and all hell couldn't drive them out. One captured German officer wanted to know how many Indians we had. They never saw anybody jump from shell hole to shell hole like the doughboys did. Well, our "green" troops showed some of their crack divisions what fighting really was.

As ever yours, Irwin H. Boesel

The *SUN* reported on January 24th, "the first Overseas Man, Edgar Speckman, with the 114th Ammunition Train was the first of the doughboys to again set foot on New Bremen soil."

The Flu Situation

The First World War ended on November 11, 1918 but the influenza pandemic did not. In New Bremen there was a fresh outbreak of the flu reported in the *SUN* December 6th issue. Dr. Stappe, Health Officer, put restrictions to control the disease back in place. Schools and churches were ordered closed until further notice.

All businesses were closed at 6 o'clock each evening. Children also had a 6 o'clock curfew. New Bremen Village Council advised Dr. Stappe to meet with Dr. Ekermeier and Dr. Fledderjohann to devise ways and means to combat the epidemic.

Dr. Stappe furnished the *SUN* office with rules and regulations for dealing with flu. It was believed that the methods were effective, both as preventives and as germ destroyers. (*New Bremen Sun* 12-6-1918)

- It is very important that the very first case of influenza in a family should have immediate medical attention. In no instance is one exercising prudence in waiting until another member of the family is taken down. Physicians often notice that this is a mistake so many people make.
- To gargle the throat with salt water, by dissolving a teaspoonful of salt with a pint of water and using this three or four times a day, has been found as a very effective preventive. Snuffing the brine is also considered a good remedy.
- One should never enter the sick-room unless the attendance is absolutely necessary. Visitors should not be allowed, nor should members of a stricken family go visiting.
- The wearing of a gauze mask upon entering the sick-room is all important. It has been tested right here in New Bremen that attendants of influenza patients wearing a gauze mask remained immune from the disease. These masks have been furnished by the Red Cross and may be obtained from Dr. Stappe or from the local physicians and when

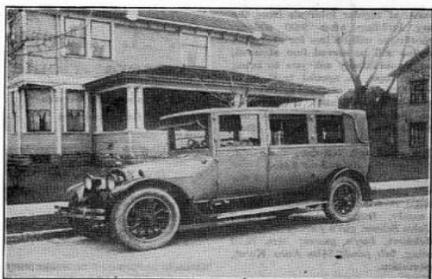
once brought into use, should be changed often with other masks that have been previously boiled.

- Influenza patients should not leave the sickbed unless the physician advises, as all too often do influenza patients contract the deadly pneumonia.
- Parents are warned to keep their children at home during the present quarantine.
- Congregating should be avoided by all means. Dr. Stappe wishes to specially emphasize that congregating in the post office lobby and at the Hollingsworth Hotel should be avoided.
- If the above regulations are strictly adhered to, there is every reason to believe that further spread of the disease will be effectively controlled.

Each week the *SUN* carried a report titled the Flu Situation. In the December 13th issue, Dr. Stappe reported 53 cases of flu in town and 10 cases in the township. The closing regulations remained in force. It was also reported that *Undertaker I. J. Speckman has been an exceedingly busy man for a couple of weeks his services being in demand in the surrounding sections where there are so many fatalities from the influenza.*

The next issue of the *SUN* expanded the report by saying *Undertaker I. J. Speckman is in possession of a brand new auto hearse since Wednesday this week. Mr. Speckman's business has assumed such proportions that he found it necessary to invest in a new hearse.*

I. J. SPECKMAN



Funeral Director and Ambulance Service
Cut Flower Orders Taken
New Bremen, Ohio.
Phone No. 200
Residential Funeral Home

The Flu Situation Report of December 20th stated that *due to the Christmas holiday, permission was granted to all New Bremen businessmen to open every evening until Christmas. Churches will hold service on Christmas morning. (St. Paul and St. Peter will have German services while Zion and Christ churches will have English services.) School will remain closed until January.*

On December 27th the Flu Situation was reported as greatly modified and most restrictions were lifted.

However, the public was admonished to *practice every precaution in order to avoid another outbreak of the scourge.*

By the first week of 1919 the Flu Situation reported *conditions have improved and authorities have seen fit to lift the ban completely.*

Real War Baby

A bouncing baby boy of 8 ½ pounds put in his appearance yesterday morning at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Dicke corner of Main and Pearl streets where their daughter, Mrs. Carl Pape, mother of the newborn, has made her home since her husband was called to the colors a year ago last October. A cablegram announcing the arrival was dispatched to the father, who is in his country's service, namely with the army of occupation at Koblenz, Germany. (*New Bremen Sun 2/28/1919*)



Hilda & Carl Pape, Sr. with Carl Pape, Jr.

Carl W. Pape Sr. was born in New Bremen on October 29, 1894 to Frederick August and Wilhelmina Heil Pape. He was employed with the Ohio Highway Department. He married Hilda Dicke and they had 4 sons, Carl Jr., Don, David and James. He served as a Private First Class/Wagoner in Battery B, 324th Field Artillery which took action with the 32nd Infantry Division in the Muese-Argonne Offensive during WWI. He was honorably discharged on June 4, 1919. He died on March 29, 1979.

Recent Donations

Two items were recently donated to the museum that came with a written description of their history. We are always happy to have as much history as possible on donated items.

Woman's Pocket Watch Donated

By Sherry Kuck Biederman

While going through some of my things, I came to this "railroad watch" which belonged to my Grandmother, Frances Schulenberg before she married my grandfather, Ernst Kuck. From what I remember, she and one of her friends took a train trip to the west coast in the early 20th century. For young women to travel alone during that time was very unusual. Their families made arrangements for them to stay with various people that the families knew along the way. I don't remember the purpose of their trip other than what must have been a vacation. I am guessing that this watch was either purchased or given as a gift to commemorate the trip. I believe that she wore it as necklace since I seem to remember her wearing it in some pictures.

I did check with a local jeweler here and though it has a specific serial number and certificate inside the watch which opens in the front and back, it is not gold.



I felt that the best home for this was the Historical Society. I am still looking for a packet of letters that

my grandmother wrote during the trip. I know that I sent some time ago to my brother to read and then asked him to send to my sister and back to myself. As of yet, we haven't located them, but I intend to send them to you when we do find them.

Thank you for all your continued work to preserve the history of New Bremen. It is very special to many of us.

Sherry (Kuck) Biederman

(Editor's Note: Frances Schulenberg (1881-1962) was the daughter of William and Catherine (Helwig) Schulenberg. William served in the Civil War and was also Mayor and Postmaster of New Bremen, and Auglaize County Sheriff during his career. Frances had a sister Anna and a brother Herbert.)



The watch has the initials of Frances Schulenberg on the outside and her full name is inscribed on the inside.



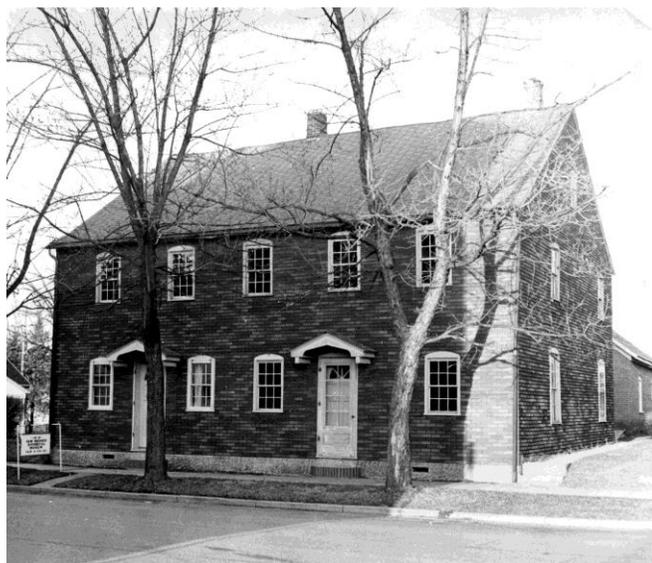
Chandelier Donated

By Darlene Neuman & Brian James

This was my great grandfather John Herman Neumann's chandelier. He owned the Pape House from 1906 to 1930 and now his chandelier is scheduled to be hung in the dining room there in the house where he lived and my father was born. I'm not sure the lid can be seen where the kerosene went in. There is also a weight they would use to bring the lamp down to fill it with kerosene, and then let it back up again. The weight is a lovely item about five inches in diameter. It looks like a small pineapple and weighs a ton – well, not quite, but a person wouldn't want to carry it around very long.

As far back as I know about the chandelier, it was in my great grandfather's attic on the Neumann farm. Then when my grandfather was building a new house in New Bremen, they hung it in that dining room. Sometime it got changed from kerosene to electric. Dad brought it to our house in Sidney from New Bremen when his parents died. It hung in our kitchen/dining area until I sold their house. I had it rewired, since when it was taken down, they said it was a wonder it hadn't caused a fire (my mother had always had a 200-watt bulb in it, oh dear), and it has since hung in my home.

I very much appreciate the NBHA Board's accepting it for the Pape House. **Darlene Neuman**



The Museum in 1973

In their own words---the beginning of the NBHA

Reading the minutes of meetings concerning the establishment of the New Bremen Historic Association (NBHA) 45 years ago reveals some interesting history. From notes dated September 27, 1973 we learn... *a group of people approached the owner of the Luelleman house on N. Main Street and said they would like to make an effort to buy the house for use as a landmark and museum. The owner Mr. Scheer agreed generously to give the group two weeks to see what could be done.*

There was much work to be done in those two weeks to make this project possible. The group had to document the age of the house as one of the earliest in New Bremen. This required a trip to the Courthouses in Auglaize County and Mercer County. Because it was such an old building, Reuben Thiesing and Paul Lietz were asked if the building was sound. Both men checked the house and found it sound. The newly formed group also had to procure financing to start the project. All of this hard work was recorded in typed minutes kept by the secretary Melba Roediger. She continued to record the minutes through 1975.

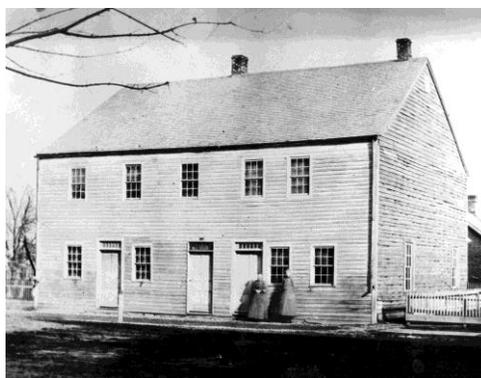
The minutes of the October 3, 1973 meeting show that a motion was made and passed by majority to form the NBHA. At that meeting a steering committee was set up to take care of finances and membership. The minutes of a meeting dated November 5 states... *a sheet of paper was passed among those present to sign up for membership. Eighteen signed on this evening. Those members were then eligible to vote for trustees. Nine trustees were elected. Results as follows - H. Riebel,, M. Roediger, S. Maxson., J. Hoffman, E. Fledderjohann, V. Mauer, M. Brown, J. Hellwarth, M. Wint. John Poppe will serve as legal advisor.*

At a later trustee meeting it was decided to stagger the terms of service into three year, two year or one year terms. To do this, slips of paper with numbers 3, 2, and 1 were drawn by the trustees to decide on the number of years they would serve.

By November, Greg Parrott had been appointed as museum curator. The minutes note that... *the trustees will check with Greg before accepting items for the museum if they happen to have items offered to them.*

The finance committee contacted local businesses for pledges in December of 1973. Minutes from that month's meeting state... *the finance committee thinks that if we don't come up with \$15000.00 in its entirety by January 15 that the pledges should be returned. They do not want to have to be continually asking for money from the community and if the goal is not reached in the outlined plan perhaps the community does not wish to support it. Individual soliciting will be done on a personal approach and a mailing campaign.*

It was a most successful drive with the January 1974 minutes showing... *\$17021.00 has come in as of today. This is from 40 businesses and 169 pledge cards. Pledge cards are still coming in yet. With this show of community support the trustees decided to conclude the house purchase and a motion was made... that we exercise our option to buy the Luelleman house. The motion was seconded and motion carried.*



Early photo of house with Anna and Alvina Luelleman.



The Luelleman House Museum today.

NBHA TRUSTEES AT WORK

On a warm sunny day in August 2018, NBHA trustees were found doing “bridge restoration work” at the Pape House Museum.

The bridge railings were manufactured by the New Bremen Bridge Company and used over the canal in Lock Two. They were removed by the Auglaize Engineering Department when culverts were placed to carry the water flow of the canal. Tom Fledderjohann had the foresight to request the railings and then donated them to the NBHA. The railings have been sandblasted and painted by the Whitney Sandblasting Company and will be placed by the Pape House parking area for everyone to see.



Larry Tangeman and John Turner carrying the railings.



John Turner, Dave Kuck, Don Gagel and Larry Tangeman discussing the placement of the railings.

Stop by to see the restored New Bremen bridge railings thanks to the efforts of the trustees and other volunteers.



Don Gagel, Mike Stucky, Larry Tangeman, Max Fledderjohann, Dennis Dicke and Dave Maurer

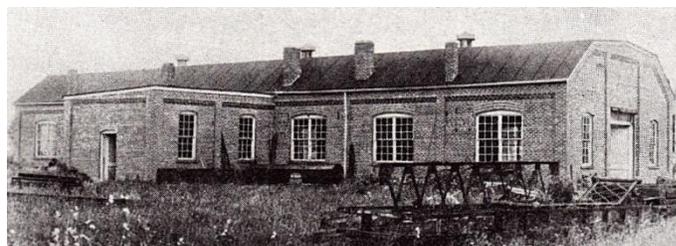
Another summer project was cleaning the attic in the Luelleman barn. After a day’s work this wagon was ready to go and much more space was available in the attic.

Thanks to our hard working NBHA trustees for a job well-done.

MORE ABOUT NEW BREMEN BRIDGES

The Lanfersieck & Grothaus Company was formed in 1895 and began building four types of bridges- steel lattice, trussed steel lattice, truss leg bedstead and pony truss. They were located between First and Walnut Streets along the canal and depended on the canal boats to bring in the steel. In 1910 this company went out of business and the building was sold to Case Motor Car Company and later to McKay Mills.

In 1911 some of the former owners of the Lanfersieck & Grothaus Company purchased land between the former Lake Erie & Western Railroad just south of Vogelsang (Plum) Street and started the New Bremen Bridge Company.



New Bremen Bridge Company's Plant

The flood of 1913 provided a great deal of work for the company because so many bridges were damaged or ruined. But soon concrete bridges replaced their product and the company went out of business. In 1929 the building was sold to Streine Tool and Manufacturing Company.

New Bremen 5th Graders School Year 1945-1946



Front Row: Virginia Warner Friemering, Janice Quellhorst Dorsten, Shirley Hittepole Kuck, Doris Thielker Tangeman, Vernon Luedeke, Helen Piehl Settlage, Jim Rosselit, Don Warner, Ruth Westerbeck Warner. **Back Row:** Dolores Mohrman Flederjohn, Mary Holdren Finke, Roger Dicke, John Jung, Molly Weinberg Nieter, Andrew Schwierking, Frances Kuck Reese, Louise Topp Barga, Barbara Harmony Moore, Jack Moyer.

The picture above was our *History Mystery* feature in the July 2018 issue and we asked our readers to help us identify the children. Doris Thielker Tangeman informed us that the students were from the NBHS Class of '53.

Several members of the NBHS Class of '53 met at the New Bremen Coffee Shop recently. The ladies were very helpful in dating the picture and identifying classmates.



Seated: Barbara Harmony Moore, Ginny Warner Friemering, Helen Piehl Settlage. **Standing:** Doris Thielker Tangeman, Mary Holdren Finke.

We also thank Alice Hartwig, Edythe Henschen and Debra Zlotkowski for help in naming the students.

HISTORY MYSTERY



(Picture provided by Merrily Hoffman.)

Who are the people in this picture and why are they wearing matching hats? Hint: The year is 1968 and the location is the First National Bank.

**To The Boys
Going Back To
Civilian Life**

You will need new clothes almost the first thing.

If you wore **Styleplus** before you entered the service—and thousands of boys did—we know it will not take you long to find our store. If you were not a **Styleplus** wearer perhaps these facts will convince you.

Styleplus Clothes have earned the reputation of always being exceptional in value and Style. Styleplus are for the men who want a reliable quality—and real style—in the medium price Range.

So when Uncle Sam gives you his Well Done! and Good Bye!

Visit our store and buy a Suit. Our suits this spring will surely appeal to all Civilians.

The Garmhausen Bros. Co.

This ad was in the *New Bremen Sun* in 1918. Where was this store? Did your family shop there?

(For more information about the end of WWI and return to civilian life, see page 8.)

New Bremen Historic Association

P.O. Box 73

New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073



NBHA Museum – 120 N. Main St.

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PLEASE KEEP US ADVISED OF ANY ADDRESS CHANGES.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Luelleman House & the Pape House will be open from 1-3 PM on the 4th Sunday of September & October.



If you wish to visit at other times, call any Board Member for an appointment. We always have lots of interesting things for you to see, so please plan to visit.

DO YOU HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL REUNION PLANNED THIS YEAR? IF SO, PLEASE SHARE A PICTURE WITH US FOR THE TOWPATH.

Send your photo by email to gen@nktelco.net or by mail to NBHA, P. O. Box 73, New Bremen, OH 45869-0073

Available for \$10.00! A flash memory drive that contains over 1600 pictures and slides taken in and around New Bremen since the 1880s. Many of the pictures are of excellent quality. Contains an index that lists names and location if known. Contact **Don Gagel 419-629-3325** or e-mail dongagel1@gmail.com for your flash memory drive. (If you can add to the missing names and information for any of the photos, contact Don Gagel so that he can add the proper information to our records.)

**New Bremen PUMPKINFEST
September 28 & 29, 2018**