

# THE TOWPATH

Published Quarterly  
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NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION  
July 2022

## Military History Displays in New Bremen

New Bremen area veterans have served in many conflicts to keep our freedoms. Several areas around New Bremen pay homage to our veterans.



- German Protestant Cemetery (For all Faiths)



- See the monument near the flagpole that honors our veterans.

- View the Hometown Heroes Banners that line Washington and Monroe Streets for Memorial Day and Veterans Day.
- Take a walk along the Canal to the Kuenning-Dicke Natural Area Park to see the Civil War and WWII monuments.



- Go to the Bicycle Museum to see the battle flag of Company C, 37<sup>th</sup> OVI Regiment, that was brought home to New Bremen by veteran William Schulenberg. (The flag has been restored by Crown Equipment Corporation of New Bremen.)
- Visit the Luelleman House Museum and see donated military items that span the years from the Civil War through Desert Storm.

- At the cemetery, military plaques or markers are placed on or near the tombstones.

“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.

Editors: Genevieve Conradi & Joyce Ruedebusch  
 gen@nktelco.net & jdr@nktelco.net  
 419-629-2764-----419-733-2426  
 WEBSITE – www.newbremenhistory.org  
 Jack Gilberg – Webmaster  
 jack@jgimarketing.com

**NBHA BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
 (2023) David Maurer...President...419-629-0164  
 dcmaurer6@gmail.com  
 (2025) Larry Tangeman... V. President...419-629-3314  
 lrtangeman@nktelco.net  
 (2025) Dennis Dicke...Sec/Treas...419-629-2764  
 dengen@nktelco.net  
 (2024) Karen Eckert...419-230-8938  
 kmeckert22@hotmail.com.  
 (2025) Max Fledderjohann...419-629-3368  
 maxandbev@nktelco.net  
 (2024) Don Gagel...419-629-3325  
 dongagel1@gmail.com  
 (2023) Mary Moeller...419-629-3635  
 mem@nktelco.net  
 (2024) Rodney Suchland...419-953-4451  
 rj\_suchland@yahoo.com  
 (2023) John Turner...419-629-2482  
 jatcat@nktelco.net

**APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS**  
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 oldmanstaton@gmail.com  
 Rob Ziegenbusch, Curator...419-305-2822  
 rmz74@nktelco.net  
 Thomas Braun, Genealogy...567-279-4921  
 tomandginnybraun@gmail.com  
 Genevieve Conradi, Historian’s Scrapbook...419-629-2764

Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month.

**NBHA Membership Dues**  
**\$25.00 per year (includes spouse/S.O. at same address)**  
**Lifetime membership - \$250.00**  
**NBHA, P.O. Box 73, New Bremen, OH 45869-0073**

It is now possible for you to access the most recent issues of *The Towpath* online. To do this we will need your email address to set up your account for online access. So, send an email to [info@newbremenhistory.org](mailto:info@newbremenhistory.org) and request online access. This email goes to Jack Gilberg, our webmaster, and he will set you up with a temporary password in a reply email giving you login information and instructions how to access the *Towpath*.

**NEW MEMBERS**  
 Martha Radar  
 Jared Weigandt  
 Jordan Weigandt  
 Barbara Collins  
 Jay Kettler

**NEW LIFE MEMBERS**  
 Jared Weigandt  
 Jordan Weigandt

**MEMBER DEATHS**  
 4/24/2022 James Moeller (LM)  
 6/3/2022 Lucille Scheer (CM)

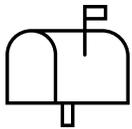
(CM=Charter Member LM=Life Member)

**DONATIONS**  
 Gilberg Furniture  
 Kaye Wint  
 Karen & Paul Moldenhauer  
 Barbara Collins  
 Carol & Bernhard Deeg  
 Monika Weiss

**Monthly Raffle Winners**  
**April-\$100.00-Dale Alig (NB), \$75.00-Mark Schmidt (Minster), \$50.00-Max Fledderjohann (NB).**  
**May-\$100.00-Rod Brandt (NB), \$75.00-Steve Pulskamp (NB), \$50.00-Joe Thieman (NB).**  
**June-\$100.00-Gary Fledderjohn (OH), \$75.00-Joe Carte (NB), \$50.00-David Watson (OH).**  
*Thank you to all for supporting the raffle and an extra thank you to those winners who have chosen to increase the profits by returning their winnings.*

**Items Recently Donated to NBHA**  
 Boy Scout items from 1940s (Bob Finke); Photo of Bernice & Harry Ludeka (Steve Hartwig); August Dierker matchholder (Larry Dicke); Photos (3) unknown (Michele Ziegenbusch); Brucken invoices (Mary Phlipot); medicine bottles from Dr. Fledderjohann & Dr. Bratten, boxes from Mel Laut & John Halsema, Schwieterman drugstore bag (Mary Klein).

## Comments & Letters



We always welcome comments and letters from our readers.

From **Gary Meyer (Maryland)** –  
When I received my copy of *The Towpath*, I was delighted to find an

article concerning the mills. My second great-grandfather, A. F. Wilhelm (William) Meyer was one of the men who formed a co-partnership agreement to build the woolen mill. The agreement was signed on July 17, 1866. I don't know how long he remained in the business. I do know he received the sum of \$2000.00 for the premises. He later owned a flouring mill in Spencerville, Ohio which was sold at public auction after his death in 1877. The name of the mill was The Globe Flouring Mill. I have no information concerning the flouring mill.

Thank you so much for the article concerning the woolen mill. I am always excited to learn about this part of the Meyer family.

From **Mark Polansky (Maryland)**- My mother, Ruth Evelyn McKay, died in April 2013 after a long bout with Alzheimer's. As per her wishes, she was cremated. Half of her ashes were spread over the Chesapeake Bay near Annapolis, MD. The other was spread over the graves of her parents, Howard and Ida Pearl McKay at the cemetery between New Bremen and New Knoxville.

From **Christina Schneider Howard (Florida)**- Thank you for all your hard work on this recent edition of *The Towpath*. There were so many interesting articles. I always look forward to receiving my copy.

I was excited to see the picture of the Heil & Schneider Tinware building, owned by my great uncle. William Frederick "August" Schneider, oldest son of August Schneider and Barbara Reinacher who settled and were married in New Bremen about 1859. The senior August Schneider was a cooper in New Bremen, making barrels to supply the local mills and shippers using canal boats to move their products.

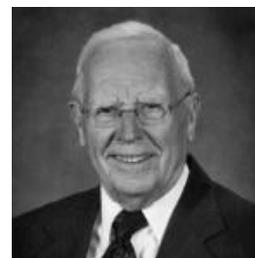
The younger August, born in 1861 in New Bremen, was a businessman like his father, and at the age of 21 established the Heil & Schneider Company, a stove and tinware business. Its advertising theme was "*Stove Your Dwellings, Rod Your Buildings, Pump Your Wells*"!

In 1889, August moved to Beebe, Arkansas to engage in the manufacture of staves, the slats on a barrel. He died there in 1899 at the age of 38 from tuberculosis. A newspaper article in the New Bremen paper indicated that his father, August, was on a ship back to Europe to visit

his family and upon arriving, received news that his eldest son had died.

W. F. "August" Schneider's brother was my grandfather, Charles Friedrich Schneider, who was the first superintendent of the New Bremen electrical department and oversaw the electrification of the town before moving to Springfield, Ohio and working as an electrical engineer and later superintendent of manufacturing at the Robbins and Myers Company.

I never knew my grandfather as he died many years before I was born. My father, William P. Schneider, also passed away at an early age, when I was just eight years old. The opportunity to understand my heritage and to learn the stories of my family are very important to me. Thank you for all your efforts to make New Bremen history survive.



### **We are sorry to report of the death of Jim Moeller.**

*P. James Moeller, age 100, died on April 24, 2022, in Lansing, Michigan.*

*He was born November 27, 1921, in New Bremen, Ohio, the son of Raymond and Alfreida (Vornholt) Moeller. Preceding him in death are wife Verneda (Dammeyer) Moeller; siblings Louise Hay of New Bremen, Ohio; Pauline Dunham of Lansing, Michigan; Thomas Moeller of New Bremen, Ohio, and Jack Moeller of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Jim is survived by his wife of 27 years Patricia (Cushman) Moeller of Lansing Michigan.*

*They spent their years together traveling the world and wintering in Orange Beach, Alabama where they helped start the Ohio Snowbird Club where he was elected the first president. Also surviving are his stepdaughter Camilla (Eric) Van Glider of Williamston, Michigan; step-grandson Jason (Sarah) McNamara and their children Jack and Henry of Ada, Michigan, and many nieces and nephews scattered around the country.*

*Jim graduated from New Bremen High School in 1939 and attended Ohio State University until he enlisted in the Air Force where he served in the Signal Corp during World War II from 1943 to 1945. He was employed at Stamco, a division of Monarch Machine and Tool Company as a Production Control Manager for 42 years. After retiring in 1983, he began to sell life insurance full time for Leugers Insurance Co., Maria Stein, Ohio. Jim sold his last policy at age 83 and was a member of the*

*Presidents Club. Jim also enjoyed fishing, hunting, golfing, dancing, and playing cards. Jim was a member of the OSU Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, the American Legion Post 241, and St. Paul United Church of Christ, both in New Bremen. He also served as a member of the New Bremen Village Council for 7 years and was a member of the Board of Directors of the First National Bank of New Bremen for 10 years.*

*Graveside interment services were held in the German Protestant Cemetery, New Bremen, Ohio. Reverend Becky Erb Strang officiating.*



**P. James Moeller in 1938**

(Photo by Paul Lietz)

We had the pleasure to interview Jim in 2012. The interview can be read in the **January 2012** issue of *The Towpath*. (This can be read online on our website. [www.newbremenhistory.org](http://www.newbremenhistory.org). Click on archives, then Towpath.)

## **70 YEAR CLASS REUNION WITH NBHS CLASS OF 1952**

The New Bremen Class of 1952 celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion on June 4 at Speedway Lanes. Lunch was served with cupcakes for dessert to seven class members and two spouses. It was great to get together and renew old friendships and memories of the past.



**Standing: Stanley Hirschfeld, Noblesville, Indiana; Beverly (Rump) (Miller) Plattner, New Bremen; Louise (Lamphar) Wieggers, New Bremen; David Friemering, New Bremen. Seated: Betty (Holdren) Quellhorst, New Bremen; Peggy (Speckman) Henschen, New Bremen; Mary (Brueggeman) Klein, New Bremen.**

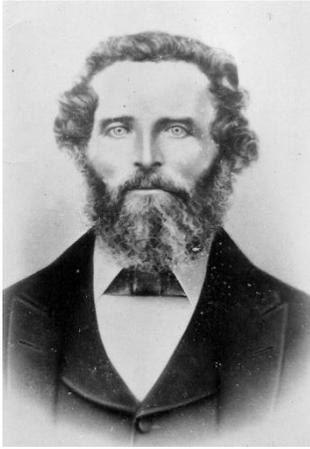
**Unable to attend: Howard Fark, New Bremen; June (Hirschfeld) Hegemier, Oak Harbor, Ohio; Gene Stebbins, Stow, Ohio; and Dorothy (Moeller) Sunderland, Rockford, Ohio.**

Deceased members are Sally (Abbott) Fark, Delores (Bertke) Frank, Wayne Brady, Robert Finke, Mary Ann (Fischbach) Egbert, Kenneth Greiwe, Carl Maurer, Jean (Moeller) Hildebrand, Mary Lou (Richey) Wuebbenhorst, Betty Jo (Schwieterman) Gormley, Carolyn (Wellman) Denniston, and Robert Westerheide.

Spouses attending were Dorothy Hirschfeld and Lowell Quellhorst. Spouses unable to attend were Virginia Friemering and Judy Stebbins.



**Mary Moeller, NBHA Board member on left, with museum visitors Maria & Frank Cooper from Florida. We enjoyed your visit!**



## “Sing Vogel” arrives in New Bremen

By Genevieve Conradi

My great grandfather, **Carl Friedrich Wilhelm Conradi**, emigrated from Germany in 1847. He came alone to New Bremen after the long ocean voyage. I knew that he was born on August 8, 1817, and that he

came from St. Andreasberg, Germany but I did not have any other information other than the family stories.

Some of the things I had heard were confirmed by sources outside of our family. For example, in 1923 William Schulenberg wrote in the *New Bremen Sun* newspaper...*And who can remember the arrival of the so-called “Sing Vogel” (songbird in German) who opened up a boot and shoe shop in the second story of the building on North Main Street, later known as the Wiemeyer building, now owned by Mrs. John Wolters, who answered to the name of Carl Conradi, the father of your editor, a great singer whose favorite song was “Australian is das Land wo die Citronen bluehen.”* This inspired me to keep searching for information.

My parents were born after his death in 1891, thus, I heard only anecdotal stories about him. They stated that he had served three years in the Prussian Army; that he was trained as a shoemaker; that he arrived in Baltimore, Maryland. Another family story said that he entertained the passengers on the long trip to America with his songs and that the ship’s captain had offered him a singing job on future trips.

According to one story passed down through the family, my great grandfather traveled on a canal boat to reach New Bremen. When the boat stopped on a rainy day, he asked how far they must go to reach New Bremen. He was told that he had arrived. He looked about and said that it looked like a mud hole to him.

I think that he liked the “mudhole” because he bought property there, converted the pages of his passport to his

own personal handwritten songbook, and became a naturalized citizen.

### Carl’s Passport



In 1853, he married Julia Dickman, a widow with a daughter named Elizabeth Marie. Julia and Carl then had three sons. It is interesting to note that he used the traditional German pattern to name them. All three boys had the same name as him- Carl Friedrich Wilhelm Conradi. The familiar name by which each was called and known was one of those names before the surname. The three boys were called Carl, Wilhelm, and Friedrich.

Tragedy struck when two of the children, Elizabeth and Friedrich, died in 1861 and then his wife Julia died in 1862. His two remaining boys, Carl and Wilhelm, were only 8 years and 4 years old. The next year he married Gertrude Bruetsch, a widow, who came to join her brother Ambrose Bruetsch, who had already settled in New Bremen. Gertrude and Ambrose were from a town in southern Germany near the border of Switzerland. At the time of their marriage, Carl was 46 years old, and Gertrude was 30 years and Gertrude became mother to the two small boys. In 1865, Carl sold the properties he had previously purchased and then bought a farm in German Township and he and Gertrude added to their family.



### My Great Grandparents Carl & Gertrude (Bruetsch) Conradi, 1863

Their seven children Wilhelmina Fredericka, Louis George, August Heinrich, Edward, Louisa Philippine, Emil Gustave, and Albert Frederick were born between the years 1863 and 1875. Carl continued his cobbler business while farming. He made shoes for many families in New Bremen and Gertrude would often deliver the shoes walking up to eight miles. The farm was ten acres in the beginning and had a house, a log barn, a dug well, and a small building for chickens. Gertrude would take the eggs to town walking on the dirt road with deep ruts. She rolled a towel in a circle and placed this on her head, set the basket of eggs in the towel and walked to town, sometimes knitting along the way. Carl and Gertrude spoke only High German. Carl was intelligent and extremely strict. So strict that some of his children were afraid of him.

There was also evidence of a softer side of the German Patriarch after he purchased the farm in German Township. A practice at that time was to fumigate the

house by burning “kamille bluen” or chamomile blossoms in a small pan in each room to purify the air. My great grandmother Gertrude was not able to complete this task because of the recent birth of my grandfather, Louis, so she asked her husband to do the job. On arriving home, Carl was questioned as to whether he had burned the flowers and his reply was, “No, I just threw a few flowers here and there.” (My mother claimed the story was more humorous when told in German.) Later when Gertrude arrived at the newly purchased house, she found a wilted bouquet of flowers in each of the rooms. This story suggests to me that my great grandfather had a sense of humor as well as a desire to please his family.



**Dr. Edward Conradi (1869-1944)**

There was also evidence that he encouraged his children to work hard and achieve successful ventures. His son Edward became the President of what is now Florida State University. Edward recalled

that as soon as he and his brothers and sisters were able to understand, his parents seasoned their farm work with words of wisdom. The first words that Edward Conradi remembers hearing his father say were, “Do right and fear no one.”

All the Conradi children went to school and learned to read and write. Charles, his first-born son, left home at a young age and joined the U. S. Cavalry to serve in the Indian Wars in the West. After his military service he remained in the Washington Territory and became one of the leading heavy metal mine owners in Stevens County, Washington. Wilhelm, Louis, and August became successful farmers. Wilhelmina and Louisa married farmers. Edward, Emil, and Albert graduated from the newly formed New Bremen High School. Both Edward and Emil were schoolteachers in the New Bremen school system after their graduation. Edward continued his education at Indiana University and then earned a fellowship for his doctorate at Clark University in Massachusetts before his move to Florida. Emil became the owner and editor of the local newspaper, *The New Bremen Sun*. Albert studied at The Ohio State University, earned a master’s degree at the University of New Hampshire, and became a well-known entomologist in the South while serving as professor at Texas A & M and Clemson University in South Carolina.

As I became older, I began to appreciate the accomplishments within the Conradi family, but I still wondered where my great grandfather was from, did he have sisters and brothers, and what had brought him to New Bremen.

In 2007 I posted a sentence in a genealogy group on Facebook. “My great grandfather was Carl Friedrich

Wilhelm Conradi, born in 1817 in St. Andreasberg, Germany.” Several months passed and then one day I received an email from Rowena in Melbourne, Australia. She told me that her great-great-grandmother Christiana Fredericke Conradi Scherger was born in the small town of Wieda in the Harz Mountains and lived in St. Andreasberg before immigration to Australia with her husband Johann Friedrich Rudolph Scherger and their three children. Rowena wondered if Christiana and Carl were related and if I had any information about them. We compared our genealogy records and began to think we were related.

Rowena explained her difficulty finding information about her ancestors in Germany. She learned that the information she wanted was tucked away in the old church books in the small towns. She also learned that she needed a local genealogist she could trust to help her. Rowena offered to put me in touch with her German genealogist.

I contacted the genealogist and she agreed to help me find the Conradi information. She stated that she, too, had Conradi ancestors. Conradi is a common name in that part of Germany. I told her that I had a few letters written to my great grandfather in the 1850s. She suggested I send copies to her for clues. One letter was written in March 1852 and provided a valuable clue. The letter, in old German script, was written by C. G. Louis Palm who we soon learned was a brother of my great grandfather. The letter, when translated, revealed that Louis had arrived in Adelaide, Australia the month before and he was very lonely and had no money because his brother-in-law Scherger could not keep the promise, he had made to help him. Louis wanted Carl, his brother (my great grandfather), to join him in Australia to dig for gold in Melbourne. He also reported that their mother was not well.

From this clue, the genealogist found records about the family. She found the names of my great grandfather’s parents, siblings, and information about their emigration. Georg Friedrich Wilhelm Conradi (b.1760), a widower, married Louisa Lauenstein (b. 1790) about 1810. Georg was a Schmiedemeister (Master Smith) at the local silver mines. A baby Wilhelmine Louisa was born in 1812 but lived only one week

**Christiane Fredericke  
(Conradi) Scherger  
(1814-1896)**

In 1814 on March 4th  
Christiane Fredericka



Conradi was born, followed by the August 8, 1817, birth of my great grandfather Carl Friedrich Wilhelm Conradi. Twins, Georg Wilhelm and Johanna Wilhelmina arrived in 1820, the day after Christmas, but lived only one week. This information was found in the church records of the Lutheran Church in Wieda, Germany, just 15 miles southeast of St. Andreasberg.

The father Georg Conradi prepared a will in 1818 and died in February of 1825 at the age of 65 years. The mother Louisa remarried the next February to Georg Heinrich August Wilhelm Palm, a widower with one daughter Henriette Ernestine Palm born in 1826. A baby was born to this new couple, Carl Georg Louis Palm, on March 28, 1828, who was called Louis.

I learned from the genealogist that my great grandfather's emigration plan is in the national archives in Germany, and states that his destination was New Bremen, Ohio before 1850. We know he arrived in New Bremen in 1847.

I also learned that in 1848, his only sister Christiane Fredericke Scherger and husband Johann Friedrich Rudolf Scherger were on the second ship to Australia in Germany's push for emigration. The Harz mines were almost exhausted, the area was overpopulated, and South Australia needed miners for the new copper mines and farmers to farm the land. The Schergers traveled with their children, ages 11, 9, and 4 years. A fourth child was born on the ship during their voyage to Australia. Five more children were born after their arrival.

One of their grandchildren made quite a name for himself in Australia. Sir Frederick Rudolf William Scherger (1904-1984) was the first RAAF Officer to hold the rank of Air Chief Marshal during WWII and was Knighted for his services to Australia.



*(Scherger: A biography of Air Chief Marshal Sir Frederick Scherger*

*KBE CB DSO AFC by Harry Rayner, Australian War Memorial, 1984)*

The information in this article shows that many of my questions about my Great Grandfather Conradi have been answered. It has taken certain factors coming together for this to happen. First, I am grateful that my family has preserved stories and artifacts through several generations. Second, I think the connection with Rowena in Australia and the genealogist in Germany demonstrates the power of social media in this endeavor and my good fortune with using it. The family stories provided little clues to learning more about my roots but did not tell the whole story. Now that I have more facts about the family, I can integrate the family stories and have a better sense of who I am.

The song that William Schulenberg referred to in the beginning of this article is entitled "Kennst du das Land?" In English- "Do you know the land?" The words to this song were written by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe in 1797. There have been many composers that have written the music. I think I like Beethoven's version the best. Google Kennst du das Land Lieder Beethoven on You Tube to hear it.



**My Grandparents Louis & Johanna (Ahlers) Conradi**

**My Parents Carl & Marjorie (Gieseke) Conradi**



**Genevieve Conradi & her brother  
Dr. Edward C. Conradi (1939-2006)**

### Dairy Freeze Arrives in New Bremen

Ice Cream has been popular in New Bremen for many years. The White Mountain Creamery and the Equity both offered ice cream for sale. Schwieterman's Drug Store, Schulenberg's Store, Lester Howe's Store, and others offered hand-packed ice cream treats to customers.

Soft serve ice cream came on the scene in the mid-1920s when the Taylor Company in New York made the first soft serve ice cream machine. The special machine puts air into the pre-mix during the freezing process to yield a softer dessert product. The Taylor Company continues to make McDonald's ice cream machines. The Dairy Queen opened its first store in 1940 and is frequented by many for its soft serve treats.

Soft serve ice cream arrived in New Bremen in 1954 when Leonard Widau built Leonard's Dairy Freeze. Born in the Auglaize County town of New Hampshire, Leonard first trained as a barber but then moved to New Bremen in 1949. He worked as a meat cutter at Schelper's Meat Market before accepting a position at Stamco. After the Dairy Freeze opened, his wife Virginia was in charge during the day while Leonard was working at Stamco.

We remember everyone was happy to learn the Widau family was bringing this taste treat to New Bremen.



Beverly & Sharon Widau in front of the family's Dairy Freeze.

#### **Leonard Widau to Build Dairy Bar on SR 66**

Leonard Widau today purchased a building lot owned since last fall by Lester Howe. The lot, adjoining the Harry Gilbert residence on SR 66, north of New Bremen, was acquired by Howe from Gilbert. Both deals were handled by Carl D. Abbott, New Bremen real estate broker.

Widau is understood to be planning a new type of dairy bar. Work on the building will be started immediately. (New Bremen Sun, 2/18/1954)

#### **Saturday is Opening Day for Leonard's Dairy Freeze**

Leonard's Dairy Freeze, SR 66 North, will be reopened Saturday, March 12, by Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Widau. Sundaes and cones will be given free with purchases made between 2 and 4 p.m.

A second freezer was installed last week by the Widaus. (New Bremen Sun, 3/10/1955)

**Leonard's Dairy Freeze**  
 SR 66 North -- New Bremen  
 Opens Again  
**Saturday, March 12**  
 Opening Day Special, 2 to 4 P.M.  
 One Sundae, any size or kind, or one Cone free with the purchase of either.

LOOKS GOOD!  
 TASTES GOOD!

Sundaes -- Cones -- Shakes -- Malts  
 Pints and Quarts to take home  
 Barreled Root Beer  
 Open 11 A. M. to 10:30 P. M.

(New Bremen Sun, 3/10/1955)



The picture shows Janet Fledgerjohn, Virginia Widau, Beverly, & Sharon Widau. Virginia and Janet were working together at the Dairy Freeze when this picture was taken.



**Leonard & Virginia Widau with daughter Beverly.**

The Widau family enjoyed their time owning a Dairy Freeze. Beverly remembers that her Uncle Larry Novean owned a Dairy Queen in Troy and sold the pre-mix to her Dad for the New Bremen store. Sharon remembers that her parents kept strawberries in the freezer which they enjoyed eating.

After their venture in the ice cream business, Leonard then continued his position at Stamco and Virginia accepted a position at Crown. Leonard was active in the American Legion Post 241 and served on the New Bremen Village Council. They were both active members of St. Peter's Church in New Bremen and enjoyed retirement in the mid-1980s. Virginia died in 1996 at the age of 72 years. Leonard died in 1997 at the age of 77 years.

**Thank you, Beverly Widau Fledderjohann, for your pictures & memories about the Dairy Freeze.**



**Leonard Widau with his daughters, Beverly, and Sharon**

**Mr. & Mrs. Ray Sanders New Owners of Dairy Freeze Store**  
*Mr. and Mrs. Ray Sanders, 324 South Franklin Street, this week took over the management of Leonard's Dairy Freeze, SR 66 North, which they purchased from Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Widau.*  
*The sale was handled by Carl Abbott, New Bremen real estate broker. (New Bremen Sun, 4/7/1955)*

(New Bremen Sun, 5/12/1955)

**Sanders' Dairy Freeze**  
 SR 66 North - New Bremen  
 (Formerly Leonard's Dairy Freeze)  
**Special for Saturday Strawberry Shortcake**  
**35c**  
**LOOKS GOOD!**  
  
**TASTES GOOD!**  
 Served in Durable Plastic Sealed Dishes Suitable For Home Use  
**OPEN EVERY DAY - 12 NOON TO 10 P. M.**  
 Cones Malt Sundae Milk Shakes  
 Take Home Packages, Quarts, Pints, Half Gallons  
 Owned and Operated by Ray & Irene Sanders  
**Watch for Grand Opening**

**Readers:** we would love to hear your memories of the Dairy Freeze!

Do you remember going to the Dairy Freeze?

What was your favorite treat?

Do you remember who worked at the Dairy Freeze?

Give Gen or Joyce a call, a text, or an e-mail!

The following is a **1974 memory** of the Dairy Freeze from Marjorie Lietz (former editor of the Towpath):

*Tonight, my mother and I ate our supper at Sanders Dairy Freeze. It has been hot and muggy today. While we were eating, the Dinky came from the south and stopped on the west side of 66A. Out climbed five men of all ages and one said, "Tonight, I'll treat."*

*Where but in a small town could you find a train stopping for ice cream! They all had grins on their faces, especially the older trainmen, and probably had the same thought as I did. "Hurrah for ice cream when it is hot!"*

*-Marge Lietz, August 22, 1974*

## DID YOU KNOW?

By Karen Eckert

My research has shown that there were six classes (1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, and 1972) from New Bremen High School that did not go on a class trip. After talking with many of those students, it is still not clear why the trips were denied.

Students remember that reasons were lack of funds, fear that students would not behave, or lack of chaperones to go on trips. Once again, many different memories were shared by the students, but none recall an official reason why the trips were denied.

Several reasons have been suggested. Perhaps the increase in numbers of students in each class was a factor which would have increased the cost of the trip and challenged the traditional fundraisers to fund the trips. Prior to 1967 class trips had been organized/arranged by a travel agency to New York City and Washington DC and lasted for a week. Typically, students traveled by train, with one smaller class who traveled by air.

For several years before 1967 the students earned money for their class treasury to pay for expenses of the junior prom and fund the senior class trip. Various fundraisers such as collection of sales tax stamps receipts for refunds, magazines sales, sale of ice cream after lunch, and staffing concession stands were employed. Perhaps asking students to assist with the cost of the trip was not an option in those times. The late 1960s and early 1970s was a time of social unrest and economic strain. Perhaps there were fears and concern for the safety of students.

**During the years 1967-1972** classes continued to conduct their fundraisers to pay for junior prom and graduation expenses. If any of the classes had money left over after graduation, the school requested they use their treasury balance to purchase an item needed by the school.

We learned that class funds were used to make the following donations:

**Class of 1968** – Scoreboard on the north wall for the new gymnasium in the old high school.



**Class of 1969** – The silver New Bremen School letters placed on the brick outside of the north high school entrance.



**Class of 1972** – The first outdoor bulletin board in front of the high school in front of the flagpole. Because it was constructed of wood, it rotted over time and had to be replaced by one made of metal.

*If there were any other class donations made due to no class trip, please let us know.*

**THE RETURN OF CLASS TRIPS...** The Class of 1973 approached administration and asked if they could go on a shortened class trip which was approved. The class along with their class advisor, Jerry Maxson, collaborated with a travel company to put together a three-day trip to Chicago. Jerry and Sue Maxson were two of the chaperones and they remember it being a nice trip, organized and with no problems.

Class trips have been taken every year since. At some point the class trip became a trip to Washington DC only and required students to make monetary contributions. The Class of 2005 was the first class to go on the class trip as 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

## ICE MEMORIES

As the summer days approach, I am thinking about hot weather and cool drinks. Today our refrigerators cool our foods and always offer us ice cubes. I find it difficult to imagine what life was like before the invention of the refrigerator.

The first refrigerators were available in the 1920s, but they were not mass-produced and were expensive with a cost of \$1000.00. The refrigerator market did expand in the 1930s when freon was developed as a less dangerous and more affordable refrigerant, but those years also brought the Great Depression and the beginning of the world war which slowed the manufacture of refrigerators.

After the WWII ended, the era of modern refrigeration began. By 1950 more than 80% of American farms and more than 90% of urban homes had a refrigerator. Before this time, ice harvest in the winter and sale of ice through the summer was the norm. Ice was cut or harvested in large blocks and then stored in barns called icehouses. Blocks of ice were then sold for the icebox in each home.

Ice harvests ended in New Bremen in the mid-1930s. More information on ice harvest can be found in the January 2013 issue of *The Towpath*. This issue features an interview with Forest Combs about ice harvests in New Bremen. Forest was the son of William Combs, canal boat captain and owner of the Star Brewing Co. ice pond. The interview was conducted by Janet Fledderjohn.

After the demise of the ice harvest business the old ice houses were torn down.



**This 1932 picture depicts Ben Waterman and others harvesting ice from the pond near the canal. It also shows one of the large barns (icehouse) that was used to store the ice.**

### TEAR DOWN ICE HOUSES ALONG M-E CANAL

#### New Bremen Landmark Believed To Have Been Built Nearly 100 years ago

Razing of the old ice houses owned by William Combs, West Plum Street, means the disappearance of another of New Bremen's oldest landmarks. The work, expected to be

completed next week, is being done by the Wilson Wrecking company of Troy.

Exactly how old the two big rectangular-shaped buildings are, is not definitely known. Mr. Combs believes they "must be more than 75 years old, maybe a hundred." Now over 85, Mr. Combs recalls his first trip, as a boy of seven or eight years with his father, a famous Miami and Erie canal boatman. "Even then," he insists, "the ice houses were standing and looked about like they did in later years."

J. W. Wilson, head of the wrecking company, agrees the buildings could very well have been erected a hundred years ago. Hewn logs, roughly sawed timbers, and square nails such as were used before the Civil War era are his evidence. Despite its age, he claims, much of the heavy timber is remarkably well preserved, and many of the 28-foot rafters cannot be matched today. (*New Bremen Sun*, 4/2/1953)



**The Minnich Family house in 2004 on Plum Street, just west of the canal.**

**This property had been owned by William Combs. The ice ponds and icehouses (barns) were to the rear of this house. In 1983 Robert Minnich reported that when he purchased the property in 1956 the icehouse had been torn down, but the ice ponds were still there. He filled in the ponds with grass.**

The following article from the *New Bremen Sun* mentions both Rabe's Pond and Star Brewing Pond as source of ice. It also mentions Vogelsang Street which was the original name of Plum Street.

*The last days of last week were indeed busy times for local icemen. Rabe's pond was taken possession of by Chas. Block and his force of men, while Ed Heil and his helpers started operations on the Star Brewing Company Pond in the rear of the warehouses, on Vogelsang street. Mr. Block had his needs supplied before Saturday evening while Mr. Heil continued over Sunday until the entire covering of the artificial lake had been removed, leaving a couple of tiers in one of the warehouses still vacant. As soon as another layer of sufficient thickness has formed Mr. Heil proposes to complete the work, and in addition put up a temporary store on the south side of the building, under cover of straw and saw dust, for early delivery in the season. In this way he proposes to be in position to meet any demand. (*New Bremen Sun*, 2/14/1913)*

## New Bremen's Civil War Flag



**The Rabe Family came to see the restored flag in 2010. From left: Anne Rabe, Matthew Rabe, Susan (Schulenberg) Rabe, Callie Rabe, and Margaret (Rabe) Stempe.**

This flag which has been restored and is on display at the Bicycle Museum of America in New Bremen has an awesome 160-year history. It is amazing that this banner has been honored enough to be preserved and returned to its hometown.

The flag is made of cotton and wool. It is believed to have been made by women of New Bremen under the leadership of Mrs. Maria Anna (Fricke) Langhorst. The flag has a field of 33 stars representing the 33 states at the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. It was presented to the New Bremen soldiers of Company C, 37<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry as they were mustered in October 1861.

During the next four years, Company C of the 37<sup>th</sup> Regiment was part of the Army of the Tennessee and served mostly in the Western Theater of the Civil War, participating in the campaigns of Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Atlanta, and General Sherman's *March to the Sea*. After the *March to the Sea* at Savannah, Georgia, Sherman ordered his army north through the Carolinas. They were in North Carolina when the news of the surrender came. They continued to march north through Virginia and into Washington, D.C. to participate in the Grand Review in May 1865. This was a military parade and celebration along Pennsylvania Avenue of the Union Armies.

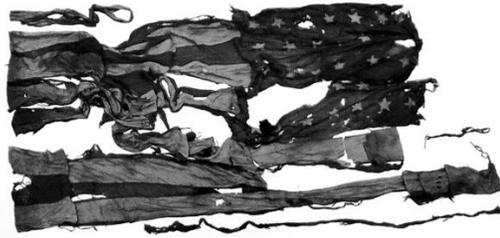
The flag carried by Company C was returned to New Bremen by William Schulenberg in 1865. William Schulenberg was active in the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) and carried the flag to encampments after the war. For almost 100 years it passed within the Schulenberg family for safekeeping. From William it



Theodore Nieberg  
Photographer  
St. Marys, Ohio

William & Catherine (Helwig) Schulenberg  
married 7/27/1865 just after Wm. returned  
from the Civil War

went to his son Herbert, then to Herbert's son Cade. In 1959, Cade's widow Norma, gave it to her late son-in-law's father Ray Knipple. Ray donated it to the New Bremen Historic Association.



The flag was in fragile condition, tied in a bundle and stored in a wooden case with a glass panel for viewing. Attached to the flag was a cloth banner which read, "Presented to the Volunteers of New Bremen by the Citizens of New Bremen."

The flag remained in the case undisturbed until 2005 when Jim Dicke II found a way to have the flag restored. It was sent to Textile Conservation laboratory at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in Manhattan, New York City and remained there for four years while it was painstakingly unfolded and pieced together to display its 7.5x14 feet grandeur. The workers at the laboratory said the smell of gunpowder still remained when the flag was unfolded.

With the restoration completed, the flag was returned to New Bremen and put on display at the Bicycle Museum. As a celebration a rededication ceremony was held on August 22, 2009. This was a celebration to remember and honor the volunteers by the citizens of New Bremen.

Now in 2022 the flag has a place of honor at the Bicycle Museum. More Information is available in the book *Company C: New Bremen and the Civil War* by Mark Bernstein, published by the Crown Equipment Corporation in 2008.



**Civil War Vets in 1912. Left to right: Red Tellman, H. Mueller, Herman Hermsmeyer, Henry Schaefer, B. Tschudy, William Waterman, F. Roettger, Ben Schulenberg, H. Dickman, Anton Friedericks, Fred Behm, William Schulenberg.**

## Encampments and Reunions

The Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) was established by Union veterans in 1866 to aid fellow veterans and their families, obtain pension increases, and preserve the memory of fallen comrades. The fraternal organization grew to include many local units called “posts.” The posts allowed veterans to remain connected and share their experiences. Peak membership in the G.A.R. was in 1890. The G.A.R held conventions called “encampments” each year from 1866 through August 1949, when only six of the thirteen survivors were still able to attend.

*The following officers were installed in the New Bremen Encampment No. 162 of the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) on Monday evening, January 16, 1899: A.C.Buss (C.P.), C. Laut (S.W.), August Lanfersieck (J.W.), Dr. M.S. Ekermeyer (H.P.), William Dierker (I.S.), Edmund Grothaus (O.S.), William Grothaus (Scribe), J.L. Hoffman (Treasurer). (New Bremen Sun, 1/20/1899)*

The article, below, was published in *The New Bremen Sun* in June of 1895. It describes a reunion of local veterans and the activities that they participated in during the event.

### **SOLDIERS’ REUNION: War Recollections Recalled: They Sing, Shout, Run, and Drink to each other’s Health**

One of the largest and happiest reunions of surviving veterans that ever took place in this vicinity occurred last Sunday at the farm home of Wm. Hoewischer, five miles north of New Bremen. The reunion was prominent for two special features, but there were many features within these two which conjointly furnished amusement, recreation, and reinvigoration enough to impress itself firmly on the book of memory of all who were present.

It is doubtful whether there is any company of ex-soldiers in the State of Ohio that can gather a greater percentage of surviving members on such short notice as Company C of the 37<sup>th</sup>. The greater portion of the company reside in this immediate vicinity, but some have scattered to distant points. Company C however was not the only company represented. In all there were forty-five soldiers and four widows of soldiers besides other relatives and friends making a grand total of people present at dinner, 128. As stated, there were two features prominent. One, the surprising of Comrade Hoewischer and the other the caning of comrade and flag carrier Herman Barnbrock of Illinois who is now visiting, here.

The soldiers and families began to center at his beautiful farm home some time in the forenoon. Delegations came in from every point of the compass, each additional load bringing additional cheer. It may be unnecessary to say that the soldiers upon meeting need no formal introduction. They know each other enough to warrant them to start in with their jollity at first sight. This was done, Sunday. Hardly had Andrew Kohler the main songster of the company reached the house, when they picked up the “Delineator,” lying on a table, held it upside down and sang out of it stirring war songs which were soon reechoed by everyone of the least musical inclination. The

crowd had fairly gathered, and the spirit of the occasion was well under way when Captain Charles Hipp arrived with the original flag of the company. This flag was at Toledo and was sent for, for this occasion. The flag bearer of the company, Comrade Herman Barnbrock was also present, but he had no inkling even at this juncture of what was really in store for him.

As soon as Capt. Hipp arrived, he handed the old weather worn, bullet torn flag to its once faithful bearer, and a mighty hurrah went up by all comrades who surrounded the proud flag master and sang the patriotic song: “Marching through Georgia.” What a glorious scene this was. It would have sent a thrill of awe and delight through the most stoical and stupid looker on. The soldiers do nothing by halves. With hearts cemented with friendship, formed, and developed during the darkest hours of the nation’s history, they spare no pains in bestowing tributes of respect to persons rightfully deserving of them.

This done, Comrade Ben Schulenberg was detailed to execute a warrant of arrest upon Comrade Barnbrock. The prisoner was brought before Judge William Schulenberg and before he could catch his breath and explain away any of his misdoings, the charge was openly read to him, and quick justice meted out. Judge Schulenberg charged the prisoner in his characteristic interesting style. Evidence was gathered before-hand and about all that Comrade Barnbrock could do, was to plead guilty to every charge preferred.

Comrade Barnbrock was charged firstly, with leaving his peaceful pursuits of business in 1861, and deserting his home and loved ones to take up arms against his fellowmen. Secondly, with boarding railroad trains and steamboats without paying the usual fare – not even saying “thank you” to the conductors. Thirdly, with invading the fields and gardens of the Southern people and shooting holes through Southern people for no other reason than the hauling down by the Southerners of the old flag from Fort Sumter and substituting a “brand new one.” Fourthly, with violating the rules of health, by wading through swamps and rivers for days and nights without changing his clothes which consisted chiefly of holes; by sleeping on hard and frozen ground when he ought to have been at home tucked up between two feather beds; by treating his stomach to two beans soaked in hot water when it craved for chicken pot-pie and when it craved for quail on toast he gave it quail on the fence, 15 miles away. Fifthly, with carrying the flag during the storming of Southern forts and rifle pits, marching with it over the dead bodies of Southerners and wounding the feelings of those who escaped death by flinging it in their faces, and finally deserting them to return to the North and accepting the advice of Horace Greely to go west and grow up with the country.

The comrade having pleaded guilty to all these charges, the jury which comprised the entire congregation of comrades was asked, what should be done with him. They simultaneously shouted, cane him! cane him! And caned he was. A gold headed cane with the inscription “Presented to Herman Barnbrock by the surviving soldiers of Company C., O.V.I. No. 37” was handed over to him accompanied by an appropriate address from Judge Schulenberg. The recipient of this honor was filled with emotion and gratitude and very gracefully accepted the gift. He subsequently said that he wouldn’t part with the cane for a 40-acre farm.

Immediately after this ceremony, another warrant of arrest was issued upon Mr. and Mrs. Hoewischer. The former was charged with being an accomplice of Comrade Barnbrock and the latter for assisting and encouraging a husband who took an active role in the late civil war. The couple could not evade the proof against them, and likewise pleaded guilty to the charges preferred, whereupon they were presented with a handsome red chair.

The remainder of the day was passed in swapping war recollections, singing war song, playing foot-ball, running foot races, and other items of amusement and pastime. The entire farm was in the hands of the guests and exercised nearly as much freedom and ease as was their wont in the 60s. Following is a list of all the soldiers and widows of soldiers who were present:

Company C, 37<sup>th</sup>, O.V.I.

Chas. Hipp, Capt.; Henry Schmidt, Capt.; Henry Finke, Lieut.; Herman Barnbrock, Flag carrier; Henry Herman, Fred Dickman, John Kiefer, Jacob Kiefer, Wm. Kohlhorst, Fred Roettger, A. Friederich, F. Heusch, F. Buchholtz, H. Wieser, M. Brodbeck, Chas. Prange, F. Tellman, H. Eppighausen, A. Kohler, R. Schroeder, C. Schnell, H. Kettler, B. Schulenberg, Wm. Schulenberg, C. Aue, D. Fritz, L. Lambert, Jacob Weller, Wm. Hoewischer, John Schneider, Mrs. John Blasé, Mrs. John Bucholtz, Mrs. Geo. Knost.

Company H, 37<sup>th</sup>, O.V.I.

F. Hilgemann, Wm. Waterman, F. Hummel, Geo. Burmeister, P. Flath.

Mrs. H. Dryer, Co. A, 52 Ohio, F. Behm, Co. C, 1<sup>st</sup> O.C., Wm. Tschudy, Co. D, 28, O., John Gootz, Band, 37, Dr. M. Stone Capt., Co. G, 81, O., J. Zwez, Co. E, N.Y., F. Kolter, Orderly 37, O., J. C. Titus, Co. C, 10, Kan., Geo. Mulford, Co. K, 57, O., Geo. Hermsmeyer, Co. A, 40, Mex.

#1.



#2



#3



## A NEW QUIZ FOR YOU

### WHAT IS IT... WHERE IS IT?

The cover of this issue of the Towpath shows pictures of military displays found in New Bremen and the location of each.

On this page and the next we have formulated a quiz for you called What is it...Where is it? Now it is your turn to name the item in each photo and tell where it is located.

Send us an email, note, or call when you have the answers!

--Gen & Joyce

#4



#7



#5



#8



#6



**New Bremen Historic Association  
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**UPCOMING**

**NBHA MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE**

**Luelleman House & Pape House**

**4<sup>TH</sup> Sunday thru September**

**1:00 – 3:00 PM**

*(The museums can also be visited at other times by calling  
any NBHA BOARD MEMBER for an appointment.)*

**Firemen’s Picnic**

**July 23, 24**

**Bremenfest 2022**

**August 19, 20, 21**

**Auglaize County Fair**

**July 31-August 6**

**Pumpkinfest**

**September 24**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

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

**NBHA  
25 Years Ago**



**OUR CREW AT THE ANNUAL DINNER & PROGRAM - 3/17/97**  
BACK: Craig Griesdorn, Mark Gaerke, Gene Kuck, Doug Harrod, Don Ruese.  
CENTER: Bea Young, Susie Hirschfeld, Lois Moeller, Vernita Scheer, Donna Warner.  
SEATED: Rev. Lawrence Holmer, Martha Plattner, Lucille Francis.

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