

# THE TOWPATH

Published Quarterly

January – April – July - October

THE NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2014

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

The NBHA was fortunate to have a visit from an Ohio History Connection consultant. After meeting with board members, touring our museums and becoming familiar with the organization he sent a report with his suggestions. **To keep us moving forward he suggested we get our members' opinions on the best use of the Pape House.**

We thank all our donors for making the purchase possible. Our primary goal was the preservation of this historic house. Now that goal has been met and we are asking for your help in deciding the best use for the property. Nothing has been decided and all ideas will be considered. **We hope you will take the time to share your ideas.** If you have comments or questions about this matter please contact any board member or mail your ideas to The New Bremen Historic Association, P. O. Box 73, New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073.



## UPDATES ON THE "PAPE HOUSE"

In 1865 after returning from his Civil War service, Ernst Pape built the house at 236 N. Main Street. It was one of the first structures built after the war and the lot was in the "new" section of town called North Addition.

The house is an excellent example of the German-style brick architecture of the canal era. A summer kitchen, originally built as a separate structure to keep the heat of the kitchen out of the house during the summer, was later attached to the house for added space. At the back of the lot is another historic structure that will be preserved. Built in 1870 the barn is believed to be the oldest remaining barn in New Bremen.

Inside the house, floors have been refinished and the bathroom has been redone. Outside work is being completed this summer. Repairs to the eaves and porch are underway. New sidewalks have been added with a handicap ramp to the porch. Overgrown shrubs and bushes have been removed and flowers have been planted around the house.



This photo reminds us of Fall weather and a time long ago. (Photo from the Paul Lietz Collection)

## WEATHER RECORD

Following is the report of observations made for the week ending Oct. 1, 1914, at 4:30 p.m., by **Miss Lillian Grothaus**, Co-operative Observer of the Weather Bureau of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Date	Temperature		Precipitation	Character of Day
	High	Low		
25	62	43	0	Partly Cloudy
26	66	37	0	Clear
27	71	43	0	Clear
28	72	42	0	Clear
29	77	48	0	Clear
30	76	45	0	Clear
1	70	40	0	Clear

( *The New Bremen Sun* -10/2/1914)

Lillian Grothaus (1878-1942) was the youngest child of William & Marie Elizabeth (Lanfersieck) Grothaus. She was born in New Bremen and was a graduate of NBHS in the Class of 1897. For many years she was a bookkeeper for the Auglaize Furniture Company in New Bremen.

The Cooperative Observer Program was established by the Weather Bureau (now called National Weather Service) in 1890 and is still in operation. The position of a Cooperative Observer is voluntary and in 1914 there were about 2000 observers. Today there are over 12,000 cooperative observer stations with each about 25 miles apart.

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



## Letters.....

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

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

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### Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month

#### **Membership Dues**

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

Lifetime membership - \$250.00 (includes spouse/S.O. at same address)

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

**All levels of membership receive "The Towpath."**



**Sterling and Lynn Skinner**

For some years my husband and I have been members of the New Bremen Historic Association. We are extremely interested in your preservation of history as my husband is a direct descendant of Phillip Jacob Maurer, one of your early residents from 1833.

If you recall, Phillip Jacob Maurer's original diary came into our possession and we presented the NBHA with a translation photocopy and CD before presenting the original diary to the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus, Ohio for safekeeping and research purposes.

Because we feel closely connected to New Bremen through history, we thought that you might be interested in our lives in retirement. My husband, Sterling E. Skinner, is an electrical engineer by profession but in more relaxed years has enjoyed researching programs regarding history and economics.

As the wife, I have extended my love of teaching by writing a series of books on character building for ages roughly 4-7. The stories revolve around a very creative mouse which builds a go-kart in Book 1 and then uses the go-kart in making decisions in Books 2, 3, 4. If my retirement writing peaks your curiosity, view my website @[www.Lynn C Skinner.com](http://www.Lynn C Skinner.com) or give me a call (912-583-4741). It is always interesting to talk to others with a similar connection.

Many thanks – **Lynn C. Skinner- Ailey, Georgia**

*(Sterling E. Skinner is the great-great-great grandson of Phillip Jacob Maurer (1791-1833). Sterling and Lynn presented the photocopy and CD to the NBHA at the Annual Dinner Meeting in 2009. The [Life of Phillip Jacob Maurer \(pdf\)](#) can be found in the genealogy section on our website.)*



**Thomas & Beverly (Huenke) Yoder on their Wedding Day, 1944**



**The photo on the right was taken in the Huenke home at 304 W. Monroe Street in New Bremen**

...I can't tell you how much we enjoyed visiting the NBHA Museum. I was thrilled to see my mother's wedding dress on display. The dress looked exactly as it did 70 years ago! Enclosed are the pictures I promised to send to you for the Museum. I hope you will be able to display these pictures with the dress.

My mom & dad, Beverly A. Huenke of New Bremen and Thomas F. Yoder of St. Marys were married on September 13, 1944 in Corpus Christi, Texas. My dad was in the Navy and stationed at the base in Corpus Christi.

Thank you again for your time and for all you do for the Museum. With best wishes,

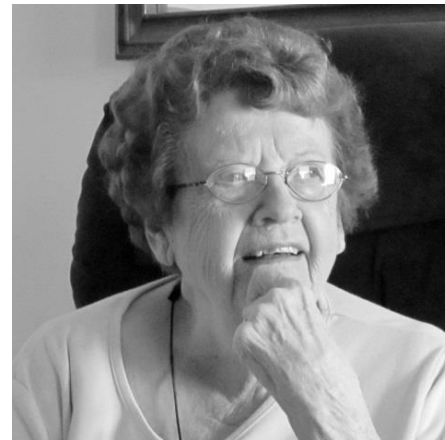
**Kendra A. Yoder Covert, Searcy, Arizona**



And then we received a letter from **Lois (Westerbeck) Stammen**. She wished to donate a few items to the NBHA Museum. We had a nice visit with Lois and learned about the Westerbeck family history.

**Lois  
Westerbeck  
Stammen**

One of New Bremen's early residents was John Caspar Westerbeck. Born in Germany in 1823 he came to this area as a young man and worked as a



laborer on the Miami and Erie Canal. In 1846 he married Anna Engel Wissman in St. Paul Church. Just three years later he died and left his widow and two year old son John Frederick Westerbeck. He also left a legacy of the name Westerbeck that remains in New Bremen today.

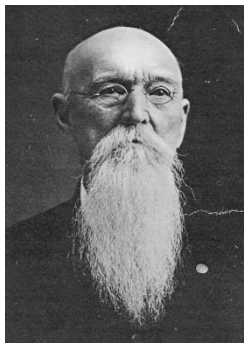
John Frederick Westerbeck grew up in German Township. His obituary says "he was engaged since his youth at farming." He married Liesette Luebke and they had a family of nine children including a son Irwin (1888-1957). Like his father, Irwin became a successful farmer on land north of New Bremen. He was active in the German Township and Auglaize Farm Bureau and was a county commissioner.

Irwin married Alma Heil daughter of Charles Heil. On the farm they raised their family of four children: John (1918-1999) Marge Schmidt (1920-2010). Lois Lammers Stammen and Kenneth (1925-2011). The last member of this branch of the Westerbeck family is Lois. She has given some family history items to the NBHA. Among these are a wooden butter churn from her father's farm and a stoneware jug that belonged to her grandfather Heil, a New Bremen teamster.

Lois is a 1940 graduate of NBHS. One of her good friends is classmate Oatie (Fark) Busse. After graduation Lois became a beautician and worked in St. Henry. She married Linus Lammers and they have five children. After the death of Mr. Lammers she married Al Stammen but is now widowed again.

Although she has been away from New Bremen for many years she is still a member of our Historic Association. Lois has happy memories of her hometown such as visiting her Heil grandparents on S. Main Street and going to the Tip Top Grocery or visiting the Equity for an ice cream treat.

We are glad that Lois has so many good memories of New Bremen and we thank her for sharing them and her family items with us.



### 1864 Civil War History for New Bremen's "Boys in Blue"

January of 1864 found the 37th Ohio Volunteer Infantry in Alabama. According to New Bremen native **William Schulenberg** they went into winter camp without shelter and had little to eat.

*...We spent the night in the open air hugging our little campfires,*

*blinded with smoke of the green wood that we had to use for want of any other.*

*The next day we made good use of our lungs in yelling for hardtack and sowbelly whenever a commanding general came into sight, but it was of little avail. The officers tried their best to get provisions but were unable to get any more than enough to keep soul and body together.*

*The second day our regiment was ordered to proceed up the rail road some 8 or 10 miles to pull down by hand a cracker train that for want of a locomotive could not otherwise be brought down. The order was received with great delight and it was obeyed readily.*

*The 37<sup>th</sup> Regiment was never very slow in charging upon anything much less a cracker train, but it was not my lot to accompany the regiment on the pleasant expedition, having been detailed for picket duty near the Camp. The Regiment returned with the cracker train a little after dark the same day and the distribution of the crackers began soon thereafter and amounted to one and a half cracker to a man. Three crackers for each two when the roll was called for drawing our ration.*

*I found that my Brother Ben and Comrade William Wiedeman were missing. I made due inquiries of what had become of them but no one knew anything about them anymore than that they had been in the ranks all day and were not missed until after dark. I drew my brother's portion of the crackers and returned to my post on picket.*

*An hour or so later, I heard the approach of someone cautiously coming through the timber towards me. The night was dark and nothing could be seen 5 feet away. I waited until the object came within reach of my gun and locating it by the sound of the breaking of twigs and underbrush through which the object was coming, drew up my rifle and commanded, "Halt, who comes there?" The answer came quick but not in its usual form of, a friend, with the countersign but instead, "Yes, who comes there. If you only had something to eat you wouldn't be so particular about who comes there." I recognized the voice of my lost brother and allowed him to advance without the countersign. He was accompanied by Comrade Wiedeman each bearing on their backs some dark object which they dropped at my feet and upon examination I found to be a box of crackers that had in some mysterious way deserted the cracker train and hid in the rubber blankets. That night was spent in surprising our inner man...*

Excerpt from speech by William Schulenberg at the 9<sup>th</sup> Reunion of the 37<sup>th</sup> Regiment O.V.V.I., 1889.

In 1864 the regiment's term of enlistment was about to expire. The government was promoting re-enlistment by giving incentives. The soldiers were paid bonus or bounty for re-enlistment. The following items from the German Township records relate to these bounties and how they were funded.

#### **March the 28<sup>th</sup> A.D.1864**

*This day the Trustees of German Township met for the purpose of Levying a Tax for Township purpose and for the Pay of Bounties to Volunteers and Veterans...*

#### **June the 6<sup>th</sup>/64**

*The Trustees of German Township met at the House of Carl Gilberg in Vogelsang Town, a full Board being present and the Clerk in the Chair.*

*The following were the cause of Meeting, the Trustees had to settle the Claims, and borrowed money made up for the Purpose of paying a Township bounty to Recruits, or Veterans as the case may be, said Claims is allowed, and verified by the*

*Trustees of German Township.*  
*To Christian Schmidt & Co. Note,400.00;*  
*Henry Finke,100.00;*  
*Fred Storks,100.00;*  
*Christian Roetcher,100.00;*  
*Christian Aue,100.00;*  
*John Blasé,100.00;*  
*John Buchholz,100.00;*  
*William Hoewischer,100.00;*  
*Christian Henke,100.00; Henry Meyer,100.00;*



**John Blase**

*Charles Kuhle,100.00; August Nebel,100.00;*  
*Fred Roetcher,100.00; William Reiter,100.00;*  
*Henry Schulenberg,100.00; William Thiemann,100.00;*  
*Fred Liemer,100.00; Fred Ziegler, 100.00;*  
*And for interest and cost 200.00, 2300.00.*

#### **June the 10<sup>th</sup>/64**

*The above sum, and amt. of Money, is allowed by the Commissioners of Auglaize County, and therefore the Trustees of German Tp. levied the above sum of Two Thousand and Three hundred Dollars (\$2300.00) on all taxable Property within the Limits of German Township, according to Law inacted March the 28<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1864.*

**Attest: F.H.L.Nieter**  
**Township Clerk**

A further incentive for reenlistment was the promise that they would be sent home, as a group, on a 30 day veteran's furlough. Since a majority of the 37th regiment re-enlisted for 3 more years or until the war ended they were given furlough until the end of April, 1864. This re-enlistment also changed the soldier's title to veteran volunteer. So the 37th Ohio Volunteer Infantry (OVI) became the 37th Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry (OVVI). Although he re-enlisted, William Schulenberg did not accompany his unit on veteran's leave. Instead he was assigned to transfer substitutes to the front. Until the end of the war he was assigned to duty at Tod Barracks in Columbus, Ohio.

At the end of the group's furlough, they traveled by train back to Chattanooga. There the men were equipped with new Springfield rifles. The regiment moved through Georgia engaging in skirmishes around Kennesaw and Stone Mountain. The battle at Ezra Chapel occurred in July and it was at this battle that their commander Major Hipp was wounded. The month of August was spent around Atlanta until it was captured. They remained in the Atlanta area as part of General Sherman's army until November. Then they drew the equipment and rations needed for a long march, because they were to be part of Sherman's epic March to the Sea.

### ***Marching Through Georgia***

*Bring the good old bugle boys, we'll sing another song,  
Sing it with a spirit that will start the world along,  
Sing it as we used to sing it, 50,000 strong,  
While we were marching through Georgia.*

*Chorus:*

*Hurrah! Hurrah! We bring the jubilee!  
Hurrah! Hurrah! The flag that makes you free!  
So we sang the chorus from Atlanta to the sea  
While we were marching through Georgia.*

*(This retrospective of the March to the Sea was written in 1865  
by Henry Clay Work)*

The army moved slowly through the lowlands of Georgia. The swamps made it necessary to build miles of corduroy roads\*\* for their artillery and supply wagons. They also had to rebuild bridges burned by the retreating forces. It was December when they approached the coast and took part in the siege of Savannah.

After their lengthy march, Sherman's men were in dire need of food and supplies. When Ft. McAllister along the coast fell they were put in connection with the Union Fleet. Mail from home and new food supplies did much for their morale. One veteran remembered that good old salt pork, beans and hardtack finally replaced the rice from the Georgia swamps.

Basic rations for Civil War soldiers consisted of four items: meat, beans, coffee and hardtack. The meat, usually pork or beef, was preserved by salting or canning. This was the first use of canned meat which was termed "embalmed meat" by the soldiers. Hardtack was another name for the crackers that William Schulenberg mentioned in his speech. The three inch square crackers were made of flour, salt and water. Cut one-half inch thick, they were baked and dried until very hard-hence the name hardtack. When on the march the rations were carried in canvas bags called haversacks.

Union cargo ships were able to make the Savannah area into a vast supply depot. With their supply lines restored the 37th OVVI went into bivouac there until the end of 1864.

We publish this history to honor our Civil War Veterans. Hopefully as we remember their deeds 150 years later, a part of them will live on. The final chapter covering 1865 and the end of the war will be published next year.



**"We were of the millions and a half of brave hearts who donned the Federal Blue in 1861 resolved to brave death and hardships for the charter of liberty our fathers had bequeathed to us."**

**Comrade William Schulenberg**

**Company C Memorial**

**Kuenning-Dicke Natural Area**

**Lock Two Road near New Bremen.**

\*\*Corduroy Road – A road made by placing logs perpendicular to the flow of traffic.

Plank Road – a road bed covered by planks (boards) with ditches on each side to drain the water to prevent mud from accumulating.

## Tuberculosis in Early New Bremen

In past issues of *The Towpath* we have included information about the cholera outbreak and children's illnesses and deaths in the 1800s. We have also written about polio and how it disrupted so many lives in our community. In this issue we will examine tuberculosis (TB) and the grief it brought.

Hippocrates called the disease phthisis, the Greek word that meant to "waste away." In the United States in the late 1800s it was commonly called *consumption* because the body seemed to be "consumed" by the disease. It most commonly affects the lungs but can affect other parts of the body. Many well-known persons have succumbed to the disease - Keats, Chekhov, Emily Bronte, Chopin and Robert Louis Stevenson to name a few.

Some of the milestones in fighting this disease include:

- 1869 - first recognized that TB might be contagious
- 1882 - Robert Koch identified the bacteria that caused TB - *mycobacterium tuberculosis*
- 1890 - A test for the disease (tuberculin test) was developed, sanatoriums opened, public spitting banned, spittoons were introduced



opened, public spitting banned, spittoons were introduced

- 1895 - The x-ray improved the ability to diagnose the disease

- 1904 - National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis was formed and increased public awareness

At a time when there was little knowledge of and no treatment for this dreaded disease, tuberculosis took the

lives of many persons in New Bremen. St. Paul Church records show the cause of death for individuals who died between the years of 1832 and 1922. About 191 of those deaths were attributed to tuberculosis or consumption. Other causes of death listed lung or chest disease.

There was probably not a resident of New Bremen who was not touched by the loss of a friend or family member to tuberculosis. Indeed one of the hardest parts of the disease was the way it descended on certain families. Following are excerpts of obituaries from two families that suffered greatly.

**The Carl Heil family had ten deaths from TB. Both parents and eight of their ten adult children died of the disease.**

*N.B.Sun - 11/18/1893. Gustave Henry Heil, died at the residence of his father Mr. Carl Heil, on Tuesday afternoon, November 14, 3 o'clock, from consumption, at the age of 21 years, 6 months and 15 days.*

*Deceased was a lingering sufferer. The dread disease has had its death grip on the young man since several years ago*

*and whether cognizant of his fate or not he bore up remarkably well. This is the seventh death from that sickness in this family and all have occurred within a period of five years. We heartily sympathize with the distressed household in their continued sorrow...*

*N. B. Sun - 5/12/1894. Amanda Pauline Heil, daughter of Carl Heil, on Monday 7<sup>th</sup>, from consumption at the age of 19 years, 6 months and 4 days.*

*Deceased was born in New Bremen, November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1874, and is a member of the family wherein the dread disease has held sway for the past five years. This is the eighth death. Universal sorrow is expressed at this misfortune. The family was composed of good quiet people and was held in highest esteem by all who were acquainted with them...*

**Three of the five adult children of John Henry and Mary (Wuebbeling) Hartwig also died from tuberculosis.**

*N. B. Sun - 7/3/1903. Anna Katherine Margarethe Schaefer nee Hartwig was born in New Bremen, Ohio on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December, 1878. After growing to womanhood, she was for a number of years employed in the Woolen Mills, where she learned the trade of blanket weaving and was on account of her diligence and steadiness of purpose well-liked by her employers. She resigned this position last April, and on May 7<sup>th</sup> was united in holy wedlock with Edward J. Schaefer, which union was blessed with one child. Since last Christmas, after the birth of the child, she began suffering with a throat and lung disease rapidly growing worse until she decided to go back to her mother's house in order not to be so lonesome during her husband's absence and to be able to be waited upon better while Mr. Schaefer was at his daily employment. However, her sufferings became greater as time went on and it did not take long until the family knew they would have to prepare for the worst, as her strength was gradually failing and it became but a question of time when the inevitable would occur.*

*Aside from her bodily sufferings fate had given her and her family more hard blows within a short time than are allotted to the average family. It was only in 1892 when her father met a very tragic death in his capacity as firemen, on the third of last month death called away her older brother on such short notice, and during her illness her little child also became very ill so that its life was also despaired of....*

*N.B. Sun - 8/24/1906. After a long and painful siege of tuberculosis, Mrs. Henry Schaefer, Jr., nee Hartwig (Malinda Hartwig Schaefer), died at her home on South Franklin Street, Thursday noon, at the age of 24 years, 7 months and 20 days. Mrs. Schaefer was the youngest daughter of Mrs. Hartwig, and but about two years ago was married to Mr. Henry Schaefer, Jr., and the young couple full of hopes and aspirations erected for themselves the pretty little dwelling where the young wife was to live but such a short time with a life of pain and suffering.*

*Though from the beginning there were little hopes for recovery on the part of her friends and loved ones, she herself never for a moment lost faith in the belief that soon she should be well and happy in the possession of good health. She bore her suffering without murmur, but from day to day her condition became more hopeless, until at the above mentioned time death called her to her home above where cares and*



sorrows are unknown and where she has joined her loved ones who have gone before...

**N. B. Sun – 1909.** Unable to live and unable to die for a long time, **Harry Hartwig's** unfortunate existence came to an end Wednesday evening when death relieved him of all suffering from a disease which has so far taken away almost an entire family of children leaving but the aged mother and one sister of the immediate relatives.

Harry Hartwig was born January 17, 1888, and while yet a small boy his father met an untimely death as the result of injuries received as a fireman, and for several years after approaching maturity he was the sole support of his mother who within only a few short years saw a son and two daughters taken away by the hand of death, the latter two dying from the dreaded disease, consumption, which also carried away Harry after having suffered a long time. He was confined to his bed almost a whole year...

**APPLIES TO NEW BREMEN**

A stringent anti-spitting ordinance should be enacted and rigidly



enforced. To see our wide pavements defiled at prominent corners by broad splotches of tobacco juice until ladies are compelled "to pass by on the other side" is surely sufficient cause for wrath and disgust. The fountains of foulness which commit such nuisances should be compelled to move on and not permitted to roost in flocks on iron railings and stone steps until we have laws to fit the case and officials with backbone to enforce them. -Sidney Democrat, N.B.Sun, 5-20-1904

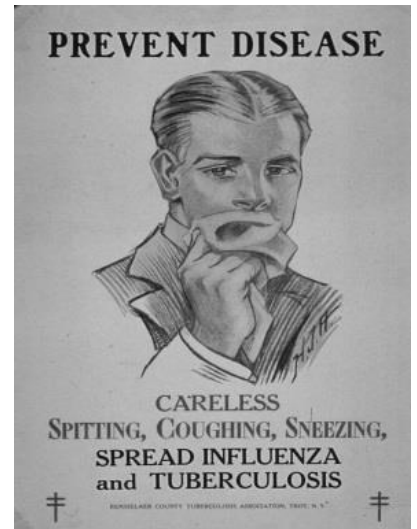
This editorial led us to find information about chewing tobacco and New Bremen's cigar shops.

In the 1800s the use of tobacco was believed to be a cure-all. So it became popular to smoke tobacco in cigars and also to chew tobacco. Historically chewing tobacco was made with cigar clippings. These clippings were the leftovers of tobacco leaves used in rolling and molding cigars. New Bremen had several shops that made and sold cigars and probably chewing tobacco made from the clippings. One such store was Laut's where John Laut and his son Clarence made "Manhattan Puffs." Their cigar mold can be seen in our museum. J. M. Brucken was the maker of "The Practical Cigar." A box which contained Brucken's cigars is also in the museum. Other New Bremen cigar makers were William Dierker, Joseph Weseli, Gust Oberwitte and Ernest Tomhafe.

The use of chewing tobacco created the need to spit. It was common for men to chew tobacco and spit on floors, streets and sidewalks. When the mycobacterium that caused

tuberculosis was identified it was learned that this organism could survive for weeks to months in the sputum. Many towns became concerned about the health issue. Laws were passed against spitting in public unless it was into a spittoon. Thus the spittoon or cuspidor began to appear in public places in the late 1800s.

Chewing tobacco was mostly replaced by cigarettes during WWI. Cigarettes were considered more mannerly and hygienic than spit-producing chewing tobacco. After the 1918 Flu Epidemic, doctors discouraged the use of spittoons in public places because of the fear they could harbor contagious diseases. Most of the spittoons met their end in scrap drives during WWII.



The popularity of cigarettes also meant the end of New Bremen's handmade cigar business. In an interview Clarence Laut said he started working with his father in 1890 when he was 11 years old. His first job was helping strip the tobacco which involved removing the center rib of the leaf. It was the job that required the least skill so was the first job of the apprentice. The obituary of John Laut {1857-1942} stated he too learned the skill of cigar making at an early age in New Bremen. The Lauts made cigars until 1924 when as Clarence Laut remembered "all the cigar shops went bad and had to quit."

Closing their cigar shops gave these men the opportunity to pursue other interests. John Laut then opened a lunch stand and Clarence took a job as a cook at Wint's. The Lauts also had their own band and played with the Little Six Band. Joe Brucken became a salesman for the White Mountain Creamery. He also managed the New Bremen baseball team.



**Wint's Restaurant in the 1920s. Notice the three spittoons on the floor.**



## Sweet 50's Memories

Written by **JoAnne  
Berning Meckstroth,**

Provoked by **Pat Gels  
D'Alessio**

Fifty-five years ago, the New Bremen graduating class of 1959 stuffed their last bit of papers, scribbled notes, pencils and candy wrappers into a leftover Howell's IGA brown paper sack. Off we went, filled with a myriad of emotions; ones of excitement, sadness and anxiety, we walked, carrying the crumpled remnants of our childhood, into whatever our future held.

Fifty-five years later, we gathered at JoAnne Berning Meckstroth's home to reconnect. Some are scattered around the nation, a few are global travelers and others have lived and raised their family right here in New Bremen. We are older, wiser and a little bit slower now; however, our memories remain strong.

The following tidbits are a collection of memories from a few 1959 graduates. Maybe another article will follow, since there are far too many stories to tell in this one. I hope you will enjoy the memories.

**Teenagers on the Rampage** This was the theme of a 1954 Time Magazine special issue. In it, psychologist Robert Linder claimed, "The youth of the world today is touched with madness, literally sick with an aberrant condition of mind." While juvenile delinquency did exist in some cities across the nation, life in New Bremen seemed to go on with few changes.

We, for the majority, came from strong family units, typical of any small town atmosphere. Friends still gathered on the front porch to hear the local gossip while the neighborhood kids played "kick the can" and "spin the milk bottle" late into the evening. Sometimes on hot, sultry nights we laid out under the stars to share our most secret dreams. It seemed like the thing to do with only the stars as our witness. There was no sense of danger in those days.

As classmates, we played pranks and teased one another, but bullying was not a part of our culture. We simply accepted our differences. We had the "Farm kids"

like Daryl and Ed Koenig, Wilbur Rodeheffer and Martha Topp. They were the hard working kids that rode the school bus, starting their many chores as soon as they got home.

The "Church kids" like Pat Pittsenbarger, who openly shared her faith in Jesus Christ. They were often found wide-eyed around the "Party kids."

These kids, which we won't name names, cruised the streets of New Bremen, crashed weddings for free booze and snuck cigarettes from their parents. They pushed the edge.

The "Working kids" were the first to have after school jobs, the first to have a car and usually had more money in their pocket than most.

The "Whiz kids," like Sarah Valentine and Larry Landwehr were exceptionally smart, studied hard and were the teacher's favorites. Some were able to span more than one group, like Pat Gels, who walked a well-worn path between being a whiz kid and a party girl.

**WANNA SEE A MOVIE?** Entertainment options were scarce in New Bremen; the movies were both an escape and adventure. The monster movie Frankenstein was playing at the local theatre, so a neighbor boy and I (JoAnne) paid our quarter and settled into the best seats in the house. At the age of thirteen, that would be the front row. During a particularly scary scene, my bag of popcorn flew into the air as I threw myself on the floor screaming; my face plastered amidst sticky, syrupy soda pop spills, buttered popcorn kernels and stale wads of gum. At some point, while cowering underneath the seat, my "no longer" boyfriend ran out of the theater, leaving me to walk the ten blocks home after dark ... alone ... sensing boogey men and violence behind every bush.

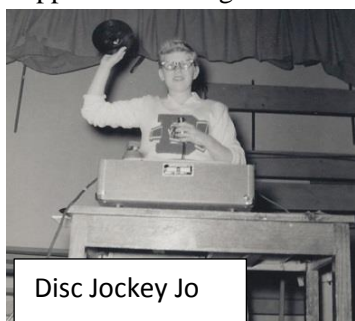
For most of us, the movie screen was our window into life outside of New Bremen. We packed out the theatre when Debbie Reynolds and Gene Kelly danced and sang their way through the story line and Marilyn Monroe sizzled the screen in "Some Like It Hot!" Since it was far too early to go home, we'd gather for food, chatter, board games and soda pop.

My first taste of pizza pie was experienced on one of those evenings. Larry Landwehr, with great grandeur, showed the girls how to make the homemade Chef Boyardee pizza kit. We anticipated every bite as the smells from the oven filled the room. Larry plopped the piping hot cheese pizza in the middle of the table and we



scrambled for a slice, feeling pretty “citized.” That night we became a part of a worldwide movement of pizza lovers. He even taught us the right way to eat this city dish! He said, “Pick it up with your fingers, eat it hot and don’t drink your soda pop until you’re finished. That way you will be able to eat more pizza!” We were amazed at his worldly wisdom.

Dollar night at Lake St. Mary’s drive-in theatre was a great bargain! It was now our challenge to squeeze as many kids as possible into one car for a dollar. Since few of us had our own car, we coaxed JoAnne’s dad into loaning us his old 1948 Chevrolet two door sedan. Once the word was out, kids squeezed into the back seat three layers deep; on the floorboard, the seat cushion, while others single checked on knees, hanging their heads and arms out the window. Our next challenge was to get through town before the village cop, Molly Wehrman, spotted us. Whew! We had one more stop in St. Marys, where we picked up a couple of guys and stuffed them into the trunk for the short drive to the theatre. Mouths dropped as moviegoers counted the ten twisted bodies



Disc Jockey Jo

rolling out of the car like a giant bag of hot cinnamon ball candy spilling on the ground. It wasn’t nearly as much fun going home!

#### SMALL TOWN VICES

Although smoking and drinking was frowned upon by our parents, it was widely experienced among older teens. Cigarettes were available for 25 cents, with no questions asked, and 3.2% beer was almost as easy to get as long as you knew someone who was 18.

Information on sex was a little bit harder to find. It was not taught in school, nor was it a hot topic of conversation around the kitchen table with mom and dad. The early reader books, “Growing Up with Dick and Jane” didn’t cover it, so most of our information came from late night talks with the “older” girls. The guys, as author Bob Gilberg has readily admitted in his newly published book, acted as

if they knew everything about sex, but they were as ignorant as the girls!

Cruising around town symbolized freedom. While Pat Gel’s parents were on a weekend vacation, she, at the age of 14, took mom’s car on a notable escapade. Pat, her first time behind the wheel, lurches and swerves down Amsterdam road burning momma’s gas. With the windows rolled down, belting out the top hit songs playing on the radio, feeling like an eagle soaring. With an empty tank of gas, we turn into Pat’s driveway feeling very confident, until the screeching sound of grinding metal jolts us to a stop. Now what are we going to do? Mom and dad come home tomorrow! Frantic telephone calls for help were unsuccessful. The mangled chrome strip went under the bed; hoping mom wouldn’t notice that one whole side of her car was stripped naked. Of course, the first thing she did was check her car. Pat was again put on a two-week (or was it a month?) restriction. However, the thrill-seeking, free spirited feelings of two teens was worth it all.

AT THE HOP Wednesday nights at the American Legion was a major part of our lives. The former occupants of the old-Boesel Opera House, most likely turned over in their graves as the new sound of Rock ‘n Roll bounced off the walls. Elvis Presley’s “Hound Dog” and “Jailhouse Rock,” Fats Domino’s “Blue Berry Hill” and the Crew-Cuts “Sh Boom, Sh Boom” were just a few of our favorite vinyl records. Patti Page, belting out lyrics to “The Tennessee Waltz,” created even more unforgettable emotions.

Jeanne Brown, in her fashionable black and white poodle skirt and black and white saddle shoes twirled the night away, never lacking for a dance partner. The evening always began with the boys lined up on one side and girls on the other, both in their private world of anxiety. Jim Kettler, the swing king, was the first on the dance floor, encouraging others to do the same. However, if the girls didn’t get an offer from one of the guys, we’d dance with each other, seeing who could swing our poodle skirt the highest.

The Bunny Hop was a highlight. With boy, girl, boy, girl in a straight line...and hands on the hips of the person in front



Pat & Jo

of the other person, the dance of hopping like a bunny got everyone on the dance floor. After several sets of the bunny hop, the heady aroma of sweaty bodies, mixed with Evening in Paris perfume and Old Spice cologne infused the air. It was a smell like no other! When the nostalgic song “The Great Pretender” by the Platters started spinning, it was our cue to say good night, leaving more secret memories locked up inside the silent, dark hall ...until next time.

Beckie Bruner, one of the few girls with her own wheels, would give some of us a ride home. She figured her dad always wanted a boy, so... in addition to teaching her to shoot, he had a bright yellow ‘49 Willies Jeepster ready for her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. It definitely made a statement. Not for its beauty or speed! She had not begged for a ‘49 Willies Jeepster! However, she could turn that jeep on a dime and acted like she was driving a brand new Ford Thunderbird convertible with a V8 engine. Before taking us home, she’d cruise past the Hollingsworth Hotel, just in case she could show off her wheels to the guys standing outside.

Sixteen was a magical year. It meant we could pass for 18 and sneak into the regional dance halls. Crystal Ball, Eagle Park and Edgewater Park in Celina were some of the more popular places to go. For the younger crowd, Eagle Park was the most popular, since it was the closest to New Bremen. We’d sip our bottles of Coca Cola and anxiously wait for the Fred Astaires of the dance scene to show up so we could watch the swing kings in action!

Crystal Ball in Russia was a more grown up event with square dancing sets interspersed throughout the evening. It was our chance to “dress up”; with men in suits and skinny ties and the girls in high heels and pretty dresses with crinolines that bounced and poofed up when they danced. It was dreamlike.

**AFTER SCHOOL SCENE** Hanging out at Schwieterman’s soda fountain, sipping a lemon phosphate drink, was a favorite after school hot spot. Warnings from Dave, the town pharmacist were regular occurrences. When the boys started getting rowdy, Dave would pull their ear and tell them to straighten up. Great memories were left on those bar stools.

Except for those of us who had to attend band practice. Marching in a straight line while playing an instrument seemed to be an impossible feat for most of us, so we practiced a lot! I marvel at the difficult dance

routines and superb rhythm of many of today’s high school bands! Why couldn’t we have performed that way in the 50’s? I think our problem was the hot, itchy, scratchy and ugly, 100% wool band uniform! They were to be worn for ALL events – no matter how intense the heat!

The Auglaize County Fair was an annual event. One year, sweltering in our 100% wool uniforms and peaking hats, our straight line marching got really crooked as band members dropped like flies in the blistering heat. Those of us that were fortunate to make it to the finish line, stripped off our jackets, exposing wet t-shirts plastered to our sweaty skin, looking like we had been hosed down by the local fire department.

**GENTLEMEN... START YOUR ENGINES!** Hanging out at the New Bremen Speedway was another gathering place. Even if you weren’t a racecar fan, most of the classmates showed up for the annual parade of the high school queen and her court. Sitting on the back of convertibles in our strapless gowns and heels, we drove around the dirt track, giving our royal wave to the cheering crowd. However, fame was only a fleeting moment as we moved from the fancy car to front row seats on the wooden plank bleachers, still in our gowns, to watch the race. Dust kicked up by the stock cars racing around the dirt track, now laid like a cloudy blanket on our pretty dresses. The finale was Jeanne Braun, the high school queen, presenting the winner’s trophy.

Those were the days, my friend!



**2014 REUNION DURING BREMENFEST** **Front:** Daryl Koenig, Wilbur Rodeheffer, Martha Topp Ewing, Jeanne Braun Inglis, Joanne Berning Meckstroth, Pat Gels D’Alessio, Oneta Dicke Lyda, Becky Bruner Dicke, Janice Wiehe Howell

**Back:** Tom Fricke, Ed Koenig, Gary Wiedeman, Sarah Valentine Glover, Christine Richey Glass

# NBHS 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY FOR THE CLASS OF 1964



**Front Row: Carole (Dicke) Ferguson, Diane (Kettler) Grilliot, Barb (Margerum) DeRoxtro, Bonnie (Quellhorst) Elsass, Karen (Moeller) Farley, Marlene (Schoenlein) Olberding, Karen (Westerbeck) Diffie, Mary Ann (Moeller) Voisard, Joyce Ruedebusch, Marcia (Ashbaugh) Weadock, Mark Froning**  
**Back Row: Larry Gruebmeier, Duane Dammeyer, Jim Wilson, Jim Suchland, Don Scheer, Tom Wentz, Jerry Koeper, Bill Kuck, Jerry Wahoff, Jim Tontrup, Jim Elking, Diane (Gruebmeier) Gast. Delores (Luedeke) Kittel also attended but is not pictured.**

The New Bremen High School Class of 1964 celebrated the 50th Anniversary of their graduation on August 16. Starting with a visit to their old school they next had a tour of the Crown Farm Complex and enjoyed dinner there. A booklet was prepared that contains many photos and mementoes of our school days plus current information on class members. The book is dedicated to the memory of deceased classmates: Tom Westerbeck, Sandy (Boesel) Stickan, Gary Maich, Mary (Pohlman) Kill, and Stan Topp.

A flutophone for each class member was a gift that certainly brought back memories of our elementary days. Some 1964 trivia: The jukebox at Wints cost 5 cents or 6 for a quarter and the price of gas was about 27 cents a gallon. The top movie was "My Fair Lady" and the number one hit record was "I Want To Hold Your Hand" by the Beatles. We flew Saturn Airways on our class trip to Washington and New York City and saw the World's Fair. Remember those good old days? We did at our great class reunion!

The NBHA thanks the Class of 1964 for their donations towards the purchase and preservation of the Pape House.



## History Mystery Page



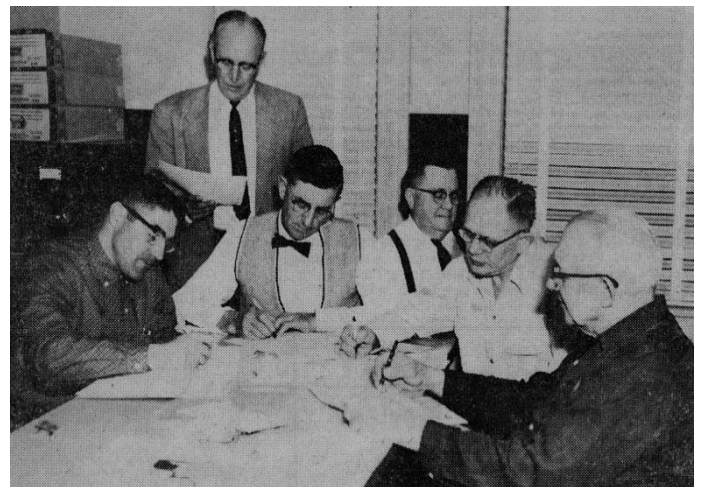
1. Stan Kuenning is showing an antique tool used inside in cold weather. What is it?



2. Who is playing basketball in the 1950s? (Hint: The picture was sent in by Jim Kettler.)



3. Who is this NBHS Homecoming Queen working at the Drug Store?



4. These men are New Bremen officials in 1960. How many can you name?

*(Look for the answers on page 15.)*



## NEWS ITEMS FROM THE PAST

### ROAD LAW

#### AS IT WILL BE ENFORCED IN NEW BREMEN

#### Two Days Actual Labor, Or Cash Payments Acceptable

#### Street Commissioner is Notifying Citizens to Appear

*New Bremen Sun, June 7, 1907*

Within the next few days street commissioner Watermann will begin serving notices on the citizens to appear on certain specified days in order to perform the two days labor on the public highways as provided by statute, and it is the intention of the village council to have this law strictly enforced, we herewith publish the following from the road law as taken from the statutes. By a mutual agreement, however, the payment of \$2.50 will be accepted in lieu of the two days' work, instead of \$3.00 as required by statute. It will be readily seen that it will pay any one to make this trifling payment rather than spend two days laboring on the streets and highways. Following is the provision of the law:

*All male persons between the ages of twenty-one and fifty-five years, able to perform or cause to be performed the labor required except every honorably discharged soldier who served in the United States army during the actual war, pensioners of the United States government, acting and contributing members of companies, troops and batteries of the Ohio national guard during their membership and any person who is a member of any fire engine, hook and ladder, hose or other company, for the extinguishment of fire, under the control of the corporate authorities of any municipal corporation, and who received no pay for such services during the time he may continue as acting member of such company, shall be liable annually, to perform two days' labor on the highways under the direction of the street commissioner or road superintendent of the district in which he resides.*

*But if a person, being warned as hereinafter provided, pays to the street commissioner or the road superintendent in whose district he resides the sum of three dollars within three days after being notified by the street commissioner or road superintendent, the same shall be received in lieu of two days' labor and the same shall be paid by such street commissioner or road superintendent to the municipal treasurer or to the township treasurers, as the case may be, and placed in the fund for the improvement of the roads in the township or municipality in which such person resides.*

**We would be interested in more information on the enforcement of the road law in New Bremen. Please share your memories on this subject.**

#### NEW BREMEN POST OFFICE PERSONNEL HONOR FELLOW EMPLOYEE



**Left to Right: Postmaster O. C. Ruedebusch, Arthur Heil, Kenny Wissman, Carl Pape, Jr., Lester Blanke, Mervin Quellhorst, Paul Koenig, Wilton Dicke, Walter Behm. (Leonard Lunz was absent for photo.)**



**Carl Pape, Jr., Mervin Quellhorst and O. C. Ruedebusch**

Carl Pape, New Bremen city carrier, was presented by Postmaster O. C. Ruedebusch, a certificate of recognition and a check for \$100.00 in appreciation of his alert action August 9, 1967, while making his appointed rounds. On that date he noticed smoke coming from the home of Carl Schrage, immediately opened the door and helped Mr. Schrage, an invalid, outside the room where the fire burned to the open air. He found that an upholstered chair was afire. Mr. Pape called the New Bremen fire department and the blaze was promptly extinguished...*The Evening Leader, 10/14/1967*

Born in 1919 to Carl and Hilda (Dicke) Pape, Carl, Jr. is the great grandson of Ernst Wilhelm Pape, first owner of NBHA's Pape House. Carl, Jr. graduated from NBHS with the Class of 1937. He served in the Army during World War II before beginning his work with the Post Office. Carl died in 1985.



# THEN & NOW

## FEATURING THE KUENZEL MILLS NEW BREMEN, OHIO



1968



2014

Corner of Monroe & Washington Streets

On November 1, 1844, the state of Ohio granted a 30-year lease on the canal land between Monroe and Front Street in Ober Bremen to John F. Bosche and W. F. L. Koop. In 1866, a Woolen Cloth Manufactory was built there by William Finke & Son (Henry Finke), Frederick Bakhaus and William Meyer.

The lease was transferred to Bakhaus & Kuenzel and a flour mill was added in 1877. Water power from the canal and a 75 horsepower engine propelled the machinery of both the flour mill and the woolen mill. The company name was changed in 1914 from Bakhaus & Kuenzel Company to Kuenzel Mills Company.

Kuenzel Mills Flour Mill sold flour under the trade names of Gold Lace and Gold Star. Kuenzel Mills Woolen Mill made the New Bremen Blanket and a wool cloth known as Kuneta Cloth. The mills closed in 1956, the Village acquired the land and the buildings were razed in 1968. The area is now the home of the New Bremen Public Library and the Lock One Park.



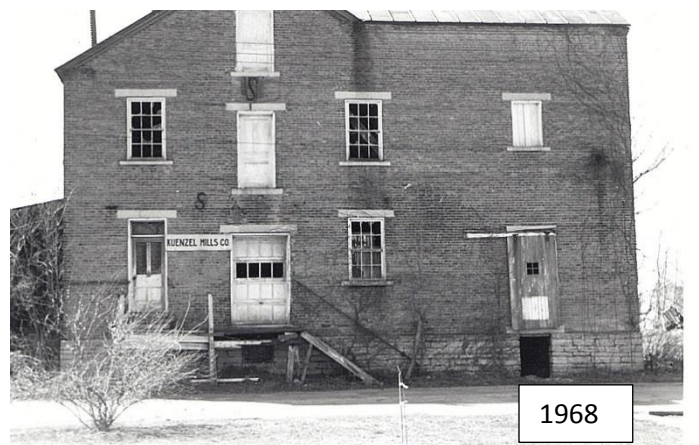
1920



1968



1968



1968

## Book signing at the Luelleman House Museum



From Left: Cindy (Wuebbenhorst) Tester, Kathi (Wuebbenhorst) Overley, Carla Wuebbenhorst, Marilou (Richey) Wuebbenhorst

Kathi Wuebbenhorst Overley has written and published a book called *Walk in the Steps of History*. It is a story about her great-great-great grandparents' journey to America. Johann Wuebbenhorst was one of the founders of the Bremen Society who settled New Bremen. Kathi has carefully researched her genealogy and gathered historical facts to write this work of historical fiction. Congratulations, Kathi!

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

(Dennis Dicke, Recorder)

#### NEW MEMBERS

**Darlene Neuman**

**Jeffrey & Christine Boruvka**

#### NEW LIFE MEMBERS

**David Sunderman**

#### MEMBER DEATHS

12/7/13 **Frances (Kuck) Reese** (LM)

6/24/14 **Nancy (Baxter) Steiner** (LM)

#### DONATIONS

**John & Joyce Gilberg, Leon Homan, Anonymous donor from Class of '64.**

### ITEMS RECENTLY DONATED TO MUSEUM

WWII V-Mail Christmas card from Richard Dammeyer, 10 certificates of her parents, 2 autograph books from 1929 & 1934, Centennial (1933) parade program by **Darlene Neuman**, 4<sup>th</sup> reader (1922) belonging to Carl Wuebbenhorst by **Kathi Wuebbenhorst Overley**. Hutch top Klanke furniture by **Werner Heckman**. Butter churn, stoneware jug, White Mountain milk jug (1939), ceramic chicken waterer by **Lois Stammen**. 1880 Auglaize County Atlas, 1930 picture of Auglaize Furniture Factory employees, white dress by **Connie (Huckriede) Burgess**.

## New Volunteer at Museum

**Sydney Holdren**, a senior in New Bremen High School, has volunteered her services to the New Bremen Historic Association. She is the granddaughter of Tom & Joyce Holdren. Joyce is our former curator.

This summer Sydney completed a display in the Museum featuring the history of Girl Scouts in New Bremen. She has returned to school now and is working with Mr. Overman and Mr. Pohl on a display in the High School. This display will feature the history of New Bremen Schools and its sports activities.

We are pleased to have Sydney working with our organization. Please watch for more information about Sydney in the January issue of The Towpath.

### NBHA RAFFLE WINNERS

**JULY**-\$100 to **Laura Brandewie** (NB), \$75 to **Tom Phlipot** (NB), \$50 to **Everet Topp** (N.B.).

**AUGUST** - \$100 to **Leon Homan** (N.B.), \$75 to **Ron Hittepole** (N.B.), \$50 to **Jon Carter** (Meridan, ID).

**SEPTEMBER** - \$100 to **Robert Leugers** (N.B.), \$75 to **Lewis Bertke** (N.B.), \$50 to **Michael Hirschfeld** (Cincinnati, OH)

**A special THANK YOU to all the winners who returned their winnings to the NBHA!**

If you pay your dues each year, it is now time to pay your 2015 membership dues. Payment is required by January of each year to assure uninterrupted delivery of *The Towpath*. The annual membership is \$25.00 and includes your spouse /significant other. Please renew your membership and consider a donation to the NBHA.

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

### Answers to History Mystery on page 12

1. A tool to remove clinkers from the grate of a coal stove. What is a clinker? A rock-like formation that blocks the ash from falling through the grate thus interfering with the stove's function.
2. Paul Opperman, Jim Kettler, Carl Roediger, Don Waterman
3. Jeanne Braun at Schwieterman's Drug Store
4. Frank McCune, John Salm (Sidney engineer), Paul Ritter, Mel Laut, Wilson Braun, Louis Kohl

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

**New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073**

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**NBHA Museum – 120 N. Main St.**



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**PLEASE KEEP US ADVISED OF ANY ADDRESS CHANGES.**

If your newsletter is “undeliverable”, it will be returned to us, costing us from **\$2.50-\$3.00** per copy postage!

**Membership Status Code - Check your address label**  
PD 14 – Means you are Paid through Dec. 2014.  
LM P-11 - Means you Paid for a Lifetime Membership in 2011.  
LM D-11 - Means you are a Lifetime Member and made a Donation in 2011.  
CM P-76 - Means you are a Charter Member and Paid in 1976.  
CM D-11 - Means you are a Charter Member and made a Donation in 2011.

**You can still participate in the Current Raffle Drawings.**  
**Send your name & address and a \$20.00 donation (or 3 names for \$50.00) to:**  
**The New Bremen Historic Association**  
**P. O. Box 73**  
**New Bremen, OH 45869**

**NBHA  
UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Raffle Drawing at each NBHA Board Meeting  
(April, 2014 through February, 2015)**

**Luelleman House Museum will be open to the public by appointment. Call a member of the Board.**

**September 26&27 .....PUMPKINFEST**

**December, 2014.....Christmas Tree Festival and Open House at the Lockkeeper’s House**

**March 16, 2015 - Annual Dinner Meeting**

**Tickets will go on sale February 1.**