

A DESCRIPTION OF NEW BADEN BEFORE 1896

This is an excerpt from a letter written by Mrs. Helena Griesbaum, a senior citizen and long time resident of New Baden, describing the town of New Baden prior to the cyclone. Her memory is excellent and she gave a clear picture of New Baden as she remembered it. She was born in New Baden in 1876. She told of her father Peter Johnson, an early settler of New Baden who came from Copenhagen, Denmark. He was a peddler, she said, and he went about the country selling groceries and dry goods and buying poultry and eggs. Every three or four weeks he would drive to St. Louis with horses and covered wagon to sell the poultry and eggs and bring more groceries and dry goods home.

THE DESCRIPTION:

There were houses and businesses on both sides of Hanover Street. There was only one street north of Hanover Street. A goodly portion of what is south side of Hanover Street was farm land up to the 1900's.

Starting at County Line and going along North Side of the Hanover street:

There was an ice house in which they stored ice which had been cut from ponds in big blocks. It supplied ice to all the taverns. This burned down when I was about six. It was operated by Ben Speiser.

Then came the old Bachmann home and the Melchoir Kiefer home. These homes are no longer standing.

The Speiser Dance Hall was next and then Old Lady Speiser's saloon.

Conrad Woerner then had a wagon shop, his home, and an old frame house all in one yard.

My parent's home, Peter Johnson, came next; next was the Goldenberger home and blacksmith shop; then the Duggenburger or Jonas home; the William Rust home—he was a tailor.

The Hettersheimer home was at the corner of Nagele's. (Where Manwaring Garage is now).

There was a bridge to walk over the Hog River—then the Monken home. He was a school teacher.

Then there was City Hall.

The Blaetz building was next. (In its place is the Hempen Hardware store).

Then Old Lady Wanger had a saloon and her residence. (Where Hertenstein Garage is now).

Where there is now a hotel there was a mill and the block in which it was located was referred to as "the mill block." There were no houses in this block.

The Stempel house—I think Hoggs lived in it then.

Dr. Kruger's drug store was where Lillie Griesbaum had her living rooms.

Next was Valentine Heinzmann's saloon and home. He suffered the loss of part of an arm during the Civil War.

Then the Laurence Speiser place. He was a butcher. Just before the graveyard was the dear old schoolhouse.

George Ebel's home was where Rathmann's Park and Tavern are now.

Now for the South Side of the Street, again starting at the County Line:

Fritz Kram's home at corner—(brick) still standing. Then the Christ Schlosser home.

Henry Hummel home—they had a well and I believe it is there yet.

Then the Hurst home and then the Oswald home.

Where Hill's Bakery is John Bassler lived. He was the mailman and had to go to Trenton for the mail.

Then Uncle Rudolph Hertenstein's store and living rooms. Grandpa Hertenstein's house was next. William Griesbaum's farm was all the way to the corner of Hanover Street.

The Striegel home was where old Wangler later lived.

Next was the Stahler home and blacksmith shop. This is one of the oldest residences in the town.

Christ Schumacher store and living rooms (where Goebel's Store is now).

Henry Hummel store, implement shop, living rooms, and the park picnics were held.

Then the old Schrag house. Then the Grasholz home. The son, Ferdinand Grasholz was the painter and band leader.

Tony Griesbaum farm was just across from the school and we went skating and sleighing there at recess time.

The Kuhner house was where Wilken's home is now.

Now for the back Street just North of Hanover Street:

Just behind the Peter Johnson home was the Pius Meyer home and across the street from the Meyer house was the Georger home, which is still there. In the back of the Georger home was the brick yard which is now the city dump.

Then Grandpa Butzow's home—he was the carpenter boss.

The Birkley home—parents of Mrs. Krumreyer (then Mrs. Moritz Haas). Mr. Krumreyer was the tinner.

Mueller's house was where the Wuebbels live now.

Then the old Andrew Mueller house which I think is the oldest in town.

Heinzmann Park was behind the Andrew Mueller place. Town picnics were held there.

There was the Butzow lumber yard where the Hempten and Baehr residences are now.

New Baden Centennial Book, 1855-1955, pages 15-16.