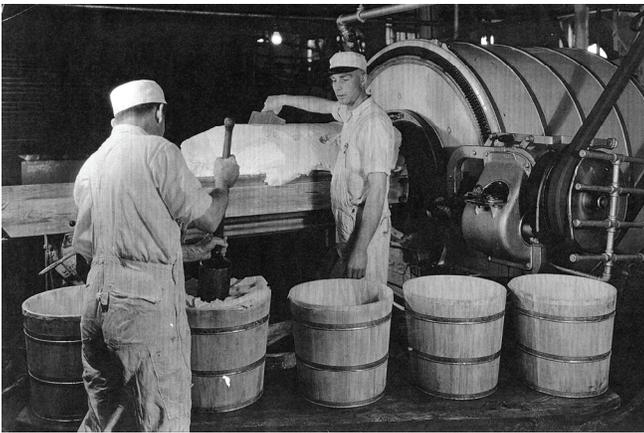


MADE IN NEW BREMEN, MADE IN WAPAKONETA

Working in cooperation with the New Bremen Historical Association, the Auglaize County Historical Society created a traveling exhibit honoring the two birthday communities' industrial and manufacturing heritage. *Made in New Bremen, Made in Wapakoneta* visited New Bremen through September 5, after which it was exhibited at the Auglaize County Public Library through the end of the month. This special newsletter insert highlights some of the companies whose products were included in the exhibit. Thanks to all those who provided photographs and artifacts for the project, and to the library for its cooperation in hosting the exhibit.. At right, a sleigh made in Wapakoneta by Herman Albrecht, on loan from Paul Eisert.



White Mountain Creamery



In 1882, **Louis Huenke** began the sale of milk and butter, laying the groundwork for a business of far-reaching consequences. In 1884, he opened a creamery, the first in northwest Ohio, and named it the **White Mountain Creamery Company**. The White Mountain Creamery pioneered the use of the silo; one of the first silos was erected on its grounds. Huenke realized that farmers needed green feed for their cows to keep up milk production. He also knew that good farmers were leaving forty percent of the corn crop to spoil in the field because there was no way to store it. The company conducted early experiments with silos and alfalfa to store green feed for the cows. Mr. Huenke

spread the news about better silage. *The Creamery Patron* was published in 1909 with results of the experiments at White Mountain farms and plants.

White Mountain merged with **Beatrice Foods** in 1928 and processed butter, milk, ice cream, condensed milk, and related products. The annual sales reached \$2,800,000.00 by 1933. The milk for local schools was all bottled at this location. The plant closed its doors in 1990.

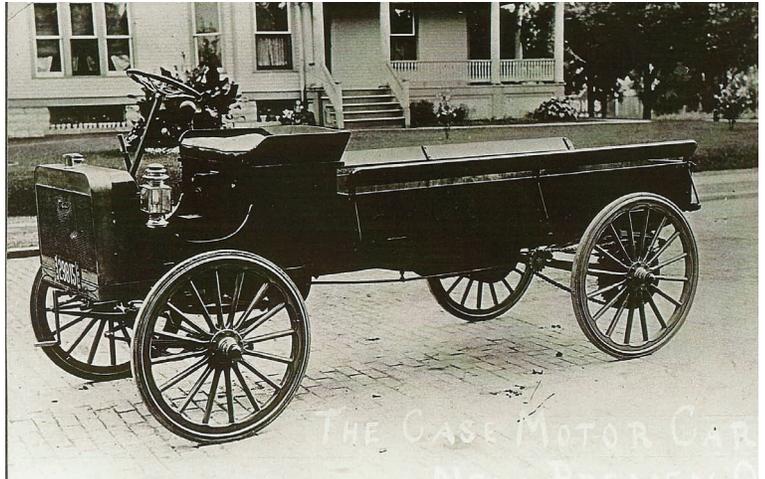
The Fisher Cheese Company Timeline

- 1912 Charles Fisher reads about the then-little known breed of Dutch dairy cattle known as Holsteins and persuades a banker to loan him \$500 to purchase ten.
- 1914 With his Holsteins producing exemplary amounts of milk, Fisher starts a milk route.
- 1915 Fisher establishes a second milk route as well as a business he names Fisher's Purity Dairy. Butter is also offered for sale, made by Fisher's wife Anna.
- 1920 The Fishers build a pasteurizing plant and add ice cream to their offerings.
- 1936 The Fisher Family decides to make cheese.
- 1977 Amfac purchases Fisher Cheese.
"On the first day of production, the Fishers and a few employees produced 500 pounds of Colby cheese from 5000 pounds of whole milk. [In 1984] Fisher's Cheese will produce over 90 million pounds of cheddar, Liederkranz, processed cheese and cheese substitutes.... A day at the plant, which begins at 6:30 a.m., will end with 540,000 pounds of cheese being processed." --*The Evening Leader*
- 1986 Fisher Cheese is closed.

Plows, Bridges, and Cars

The **J. F. Lanfersieck Company** began manufacturing cast iron plows in 1859. The plow shares were cast in the shop and the wood handles made by carpenters on site. Rakes, threshers, and steam engines were also produced here.

In 1895 **John F. Lanfersieck** and **John Henry Grothaus** formed a bridge company, located between First and Walnut Streets and the canal. The steel was shipped by boat on the canal and unloaded behind the shop. The firm won its first bridge contract (\$216) in 1897 for a 16-foot wide structure with a span of 24 feet. (The site is on SR 219, just east of the Auglaize-Mercer County line.) Four types of structures were built—steel lattice, trussed-steel lattice, truss leg bedstead, and pony truss—most with wood decks. In 1911 the company purchased lots on Herman Street south of Vogelsang to receive steel via the railroad. The flood of 1913 was a boom for business because so many bridges had been destroyed or damaged. The company was sold to Streine Tool Manufacturing Company in 1929.

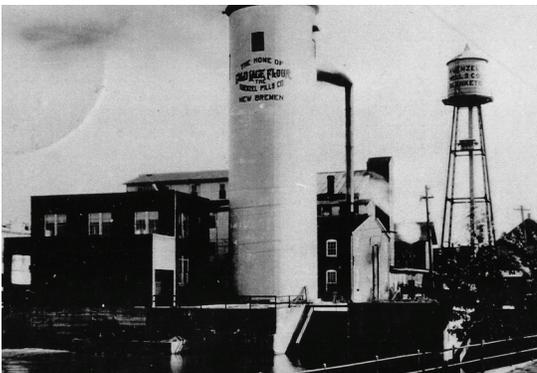


Established in 1909, **The Case Motor Company** was located at the northwest corner of First and Walnut streets in a former plow factory. Case was primarily an assembly plant. The truck bed, seat, and frame were fabricated here, while the remaining parts were purchased from outside sources. The company closed its doors in 1918.

Feeding Wapakoneta's Sweet Tooth: The Abraham Chocolate Company

The Abraham Chocolate Company was located at 20 East Auglaize Street. Founded in 1918 and incorporated in 1923, the company produced the "Gobby," as well as other types of chocolate bars.

According to a March 1923 article in the *Wapakoneta Daily News*, the company "has sprung from a small industry in to a large concern, which sells candy to such towns in Ohio as Piqua, Sandusky, Tiffin, Toledo, Dayton, Lima, Kenton, Marion, Celina, Springfield, and Columbus," as well as to Detroit and Fort Wayne. At the time Abraham Chocolate employed eight persons, who produced 2500 boxes of candy each week. Hopes were then that the company could expand to 20 employees, producing 3000 boxes weekly. "The candy company is a great aid to this city in the employment of people and aids in making this city an industrial center." The company went into receivership in 1926.



Left: Kuenzel Mills, New Bremen

Right: Artifacts made in New Bremen and in Wapakoneta (the porcelain hand was used in the manufacture of rubber gloves)