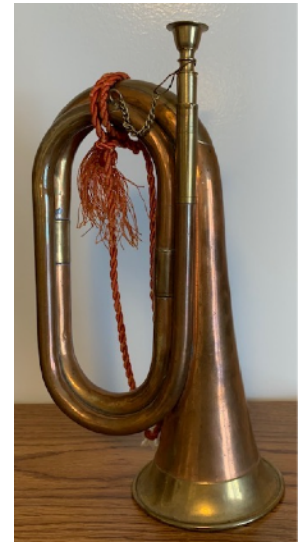


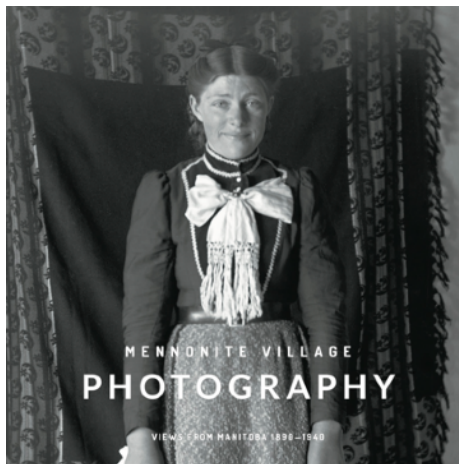
Jeschichte en Leeda von Reinlaund, October 16

Delightful and humorous Reinland stories and songs were told and sung by Al Ens, Armin Ens and John Zacharias. Al Ens and his brothers were among the last to be cattle herders in the village (1950's?). On October 16, Al, Armin and John took us for a walk along the village street gathering the cows and telling stories of each family, mostly in Low German. Al Ens brought a horn like they used to have. Reinland, a large village a few miles southeast of Winkler, was founded in 1875. The present community centre was the first Mennonite Church built (1878) in the West Reserve. Later, different denominational groups held their own worship services in different locations, but Sunday School was a village effort. Youth and sports and choir stories sounded familiar to anyone growing up in a village.



PG HAMM PHOTO EXHIBIT, October 23

By Susie Fisher



On the evening of October 23, 2021, as part of this year's Darp Days, we had the pleasure of hosting a small exhibit in the Commons Barn featuring the photography of Neubergthal's very own Peter Gerhard Hamm (1883-1965). This exhibit was generously loaned to us by the Mennonite Historic Arts Committee, and was part of a much larger traveling exhibit and publication launched in 2020 called Mennonite Village Photography. The Mennonite Village Photography project celebrates four early-twentieth-century Manitoba Mennonite photographers and the archives of fragile glass negatives they each left behind.



Committee member Susie Fisher spoke about the life and creative work of P. G. Hamm, and invited us to consider both the subject matter of each photograph, and also what was "hidden" in the background. Most of the glass negatives from which the life-sized photographs were printed were intended to be cropped in the post-processing phase of development. The images as they were presented to us, however, are from their full negatives, as they existed before they were processed for printing, allowing a view of their entire contents. Both the subjects and the incidentally included backgrounds are available to divulge meaningful material aspects of everyday lives in the 1910s and 20s in Neubergthal. Learn more about the Mennonite Village Photography project at mennonitehistoricarts.ca!

For more pictures about Darp Day events and other events, keep an eye on facebook.com/neubergthalcommons and neubergthalheritagefoundation.com

Next Stop Heaven - a music concert, October 30

By Marilyn Houser Hamm

What do you call 2 + 1? Awesome! The Commons Barn reverberated with down-home sounds of old time gospel and original roots music performed by southern Manitoba's husband-wife duo Jeremy Hamm and Jess Reimer, joined in the second half of the program by friend and vocals/rhythm guitarist TJ Blair.



The light-hearted fun created by the couple as they moved through their first set seemed to toss off Jeremy's technical brilliance on the mandolin - then fiddle- then guitar. All the while Jess' amazing full-throated sound continued throughout the night as she played guitar, or her signature upright bass.

The height of old time gospel harmonies, however, was reached with the addition of fellow-musician TJ Blair in the second half of the concert.

Dazzling instrumentals were matched equally by tight harmonies in close three part vocals time and again, delighting their audience from start to the finish that came much too soon. Jess and Jeremy convey that "something extra" - authenticity and performing skills, love of what they are doing - that makes them a favourite at The Commons Barn.

Writers of the West Reserve, November 6

By Lois Braun

On a sunny Saturday afternoon, the NHF hosted eleven writers/readers who represented the amazing abundance of published storytellers and poets that has emerged from the Mennonite settlements surrounding Neubergthal. The list includes: Di Brandt, Lois Braun, Eleanor Chornoboy, Nathan Dueck, David Elias, Victor Enns, Paul Hiebert, Esther Matz, Doug Reimer, Alfred E. van Vogt and Armin Wiebe.

A. E. van Vogt and Paul Hiebert, who have already passed on, were represented by Neubergthal resident Paul Krahn, and by Schoneau resident Franklin Rempel, the latter appearing in costume as Sarah Binks. Di Brandt invited fellow poet Sarah Ens to read in her stead; Victor Enns of Kelowna performed his poetry via video; and a sampling of Nathan Dueck's highly visual poems was distributed to the audience on paper. The audience was treated to a wide variety of material — short stories, poems, songs, novel excerpts, and snippets from David Elias' recently published memoir, *The Truth about the Barn*. Approximately 50 people were present for the event. The readings were followed by a fasma prepared by the NHF's faithful Karen Martens and her crew.

