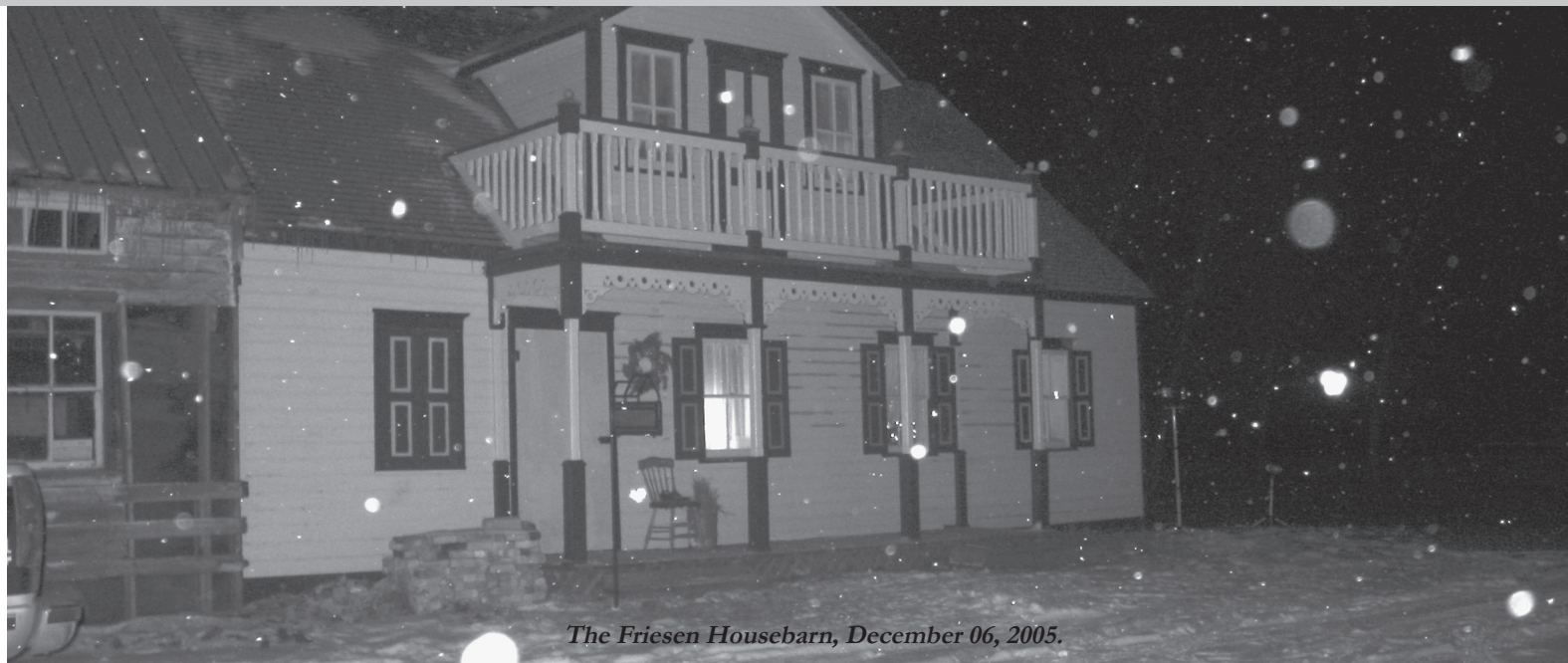


A picture is worth ...



The Friesen Housebarn, December 06, 2005.



above: Helena Klippenstein enjoys the company of friends at her 95th birthday celebration in Neuberghthal.

right: Anna Hamm on the Model T.

far right: Sarah Morgan (The Echo) Linie Friesen, Lil & John Gerbrandt listen to the presentation during the December 6 bakeoven thank you event.



An old-fashioned church-raising



Spring 2006

Coming events

June 10 to October 31

Neuberghthal Exhibition at the Diefenbaker Canada Centre, in Saskatoon, SK.

Come & visit

Tours of Neuberghthal - a Mennonite street village - are available upon request:

- * 1 to 10 people @ \$5 per person, includes coffee
- * 11-25 people @ \$4 per person, includes coffee.

Call ahead to make arrangements

We also take special requests for other types of tours and events. Please call or e-mail us for details on how we can accommodate your group.

Ph. (204) 324 1567 or 324 1612
email: NHFI@mts.net

Neuberghthal Heritage Foundation

Norma Giesbrecht
Ken Hamm
Frieda Klippenstein
Karen Martens
Peter Klippenstein (treasurer)
Jennifer Giesbrecht (secretary)
Teresa Hamm (vice chair)
Margruite Krabn (chair)

Neuberghthal

Notes



Helena Klippenstein celebrates her 95th birthday at Ebenezer Home in Altona.

Helena Klippenstein turns 95

Helen (Hamm) Klippenstein was born to Peter P. Hamm and Katherina (Funk) Hamm on Jan. 30, 1911 in Neuberghthal. Helena attended school here and the for her first two years had Simon Sobering, a strong disciplinarian, as her teacher. Later Mr. Peter P. Kehler was her teacher. He not only taught them the 3 Rs, but was concerned that they would learn the basic truths of the Bible. She loved this teacher and school days were enjoyable. She attended school from ages seven to twelve.

Helena was 17 years old when her mother died. Her sister, Sush (Sara), being arthritic and crippled, would now rely on Helena to be her care-giver.

At age twenty, Helena was baptized in the Sommerfelder Church in Sommerfeld. She was married to John P. Klippenstein on July 2, 1931. They made their home with her father, Peter P. Hamm for the first twenty-four years of the married life. Their two daughters,

Ruth and Katherine were both born here. In 1955 they purchased the Peter J. Klippenstein yard at the south end of the village (John's parent place) and lived in the herdsman's house until 1964. At this time they bought a new bungalow and resided there.

During all these years Helena cared for Sush who was confined to a wheelchair. She regularly milked cows, had a big garden, did a lot of canning and helped bring in the sheaves and bales. Being a care-giving person, Helena took in Lorna, her one week old granddaughter on December 24, 1961. Lorna grew up at her grandparents' place. Over the years, taking care of Sush became increasingly more difficult and in February of 1978 she passed away at the age of 71.

John and Helena were faithful church goers. Since the little church in the village closed in 1969, they made their church home in Altona at the EMMC church. Here John was a song leader and became

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To begin with I greet all "Die Post" readers from far and near, editor and co-workers. For the New Year I wish you all courage and faith in God even if things in this world look very

A letter from Mrs. Abram Friesen to "Die Post" in 1967

translated by Rose Hildebrand

dark. During the Christmas season so much is sung about "Peace on Earth." Things could be a lot better if there was more love for one another. We want to continue to seek God's leading. We have so much to be thankful for!

It seems there is no one else from here who contributes to "Die Post," so I'll write especially since I can do it in German.

Presently we are experiencing severe winter weather. The old year took leave at -35° and that has continued into the new year. The weather forecast says it will be this way for awhile and even go down to -40° with snow and blowing snow. So now we must stay well, fire up the stoves, but cautiously as not to cause a fire. Our house has seven rooms and we are now two people living here, just myself and our son, Abe. We have no livestock, only two cats. Abe is upstairs a lot, watching TV, and he often goes curling. I am used to being alone; as long as I can putter around I am happy.

With my 73 years, I get lazy and awkward carrying around my 170 pounds all day. In my younger years I would not have dreamed that I would become such a chubby old woman. Those that are eighty or ninety say I am still young. Who knows what lies ahead, but so far I am thankful that I have not had any severe illness. There are colds and fever and flu, but that we can take care of at home.

Our neighbour, Sara Hamm, is still sitting in her wheel chair and has for so many years, she is not improving. She has had a long hard journey, but is confident that one day she will be in Glory. She has difficulty eating but her sister Helena Klippenstein is taking good care of her.

Mrs. Peter F. Hamm who was living in her small house

cont'd from p.1

the secretary-treasurer. Some of his meticulous minutes and records are still on file there. They faithfully took Susan Hamm with them to church.

John's health deteriorated and he was hospitalized. On February 13, 1997 he was admitted to the Ebenezer Care Home. He passed away on August 22, 1998. Helena moved to the Ebenezer Manor on February 22, 1997. She has enjoyed this new home from day one. Although she is confined to a motorized cart because of her arthritis, this does not keep her from going to events at the Ebenezer Home. Recently she was asked to come to a Parkside School history class to share many of her experiences. Helena celebrated her 95th birthday at her home and later in Neubergthal.



Mrs. Margaret (Abram) Friesen in her garden.

hearing now.

A little to the north is cousin Anna Klippenstein and Frank Sawatzky. She still has her cows and chickens, which she cannot do without. She supplies her neighbours with eggs. Her many cats just keep multiplying. She seems to be getting shorter and more bent over every year.

My sister Helena, Mrs. Abram Driedger, is still on the farm with her daughter Agatha. She is beginning to feel her eighty years, but is in good shape. She enjoys driving her new Dodge car, but if it is too snowy and cold she doesn't drive. At Christmas she came here with her company from Saskatchewan, the David D. Driedgers. The John A. Hamms, (my sister Mary) came too and we reminisced about our school days and had a very good time.

Mrs. Peter J. Kehler, north of the village, is not well. She is not in the hospital but just isn't feeling good.

Mr. Bernhard G. Hamm, my cousin, also northeast of the village, is not well either. In fall he had surgery in the Victoria Hospital in Winnipeg. Now he has the flu and hopefully he'll feel better soon.

I would like to send warm greetings to our friends in Paraguay, the K.K. Hildebrands, Rev. B. Neufeld, the elderly Mrs. Philip Kehler. You will be having hot weather there now. We would gladly exchange some of that for our cold weather.

Everything comes to an end and so does this letter. Once a year I write to "Die Post."

Your faithful reader,
Mrs. Abram Friesen

has now moved in with her children, the Peter K. Brauns. She makes herself useful there washing eggs, etc. She is eighty years old.

Across the street from her is Mrs. Jacob Hoepfner, who is the oldest in the village at eighty-one. She is hard of

The NHF held its AGM on March 16. The total grants received for 2005 were \$67,162. New Board members elected were Norma Giesbrecht and Jennifer Giesbrecht.

The Foundation recently received a \$12,500 grant from the Winnipeg Foundation. These monies will be used to further the restoration of the Friesen Housebarn.

NHF update



Elizabeth Friesen watches over the abundance she helped to bake in the bakeoven, on December 6, 2005.

The NHF and members of the Village have been working hard to get the village signage, kiosk, and tour pamphlets ready for the summer season. Watch for the new housebarn signs.

Farewell and thank you to departing NHF Board members Wendy Friesen, Rose Hildebrand, and John Giesbrecht. Each of these will continue to work behind the scenes.

Making things do

by Otto Hamm

The second yard north of the crossroad on the west side of the street in the village was that of our parents, Peter W. and Anna Hamm (presently Ted & Darlene Klassen's yard). The original owner, and likely the person who built the buildings on it, was Heinrich Klippenstein. Our parents were the second owners of the property, acquiring it around 1923, shortly after they were married on October 26, 1922. Peter was the son of Peter P. Hamm, (living on the yard immediately to the north) and Anna, the daughter of Andreas and Elizabeth Hamm.

The rather primitive living style was similar to that of all the other villagers, with no electricity, running water or similar conveniences. Dad's farming operation was similar, working only 160 acres of land, which was rented. Eighty acres was two miles south of the village and the other eighty was two and a half miles northwest. To accommodate the distance there was a small barn at either location where the horses could be fed at noon. The first tractor was bought in the early 1940s, a model BR John Deere. As rubber was a scarce commodity at that time, the tractor had steel log wheels on the back rather than rubber tires, though the front ones were rubber.

Although grandfather had an old (1923 - 4?) Model T Ford (the canvas sides stood in the machine shed for many years), Dad only started driving it in the later 1930s. A few years later he really took a big step forward and bought a 1926 Model T Ford. When it was cold in winter it was common to see Dad jack up the rear, which made it easier to start, of course only with the hand crank. Just to go back and



Peter W. and Anna Hamm with Otto.

forth to Altona in winter (which was the farthest they ever went) he never bothered to put anything in the radiator, as it would never get hot over the five or six miles. Of course that meant there was no heat in the car either.

Though lacking many of today's modern conveniences, Dad was very versatile in making things do. His father had a workshop (schmaed), which even included a billow operated forge, on the property line between their two yards. Dad was seen many times making trips to the workshop to make things for different pieces of farm equipment or repairing them. One of his bigger projects was setting up the binder so he could operate the tractor from the binder seat, eliminating the need for a driver on the tractor. That way both John and I could be stoking while he was cutting. At first it was not uncommon to hear him shout, "Whoa, Whoa," a couple of times when he needed to stop. Soon he realized that he could, and had to, control the clutch himself.

Mom was the typical housewife of that time, doing the household chores as well as whatever came up on the farm. What stands out in my mind is the day in August of 1936, when the giant fuel tanks at Rhineland Consumers in Altona exploded in 108°F temperatures. Mom and Dad were hauling sheaves that day, with Dad pitching sheaves to Mom who was on the stack, in the shelter of all the big cottonwoods around that part of the yard.

Dad passed away on Nov. 20, 1982 at the age of 83, and Mother passed away on Nov. 15, 1996 at the age of 94.

Comings and goings

Elma Kruger, formerly of Neubergthal, residing at Boundary Trails Rehabilitation Centre, passed away at 89 years, March 25. She is survived by her husband, **Peter Kruger**.

