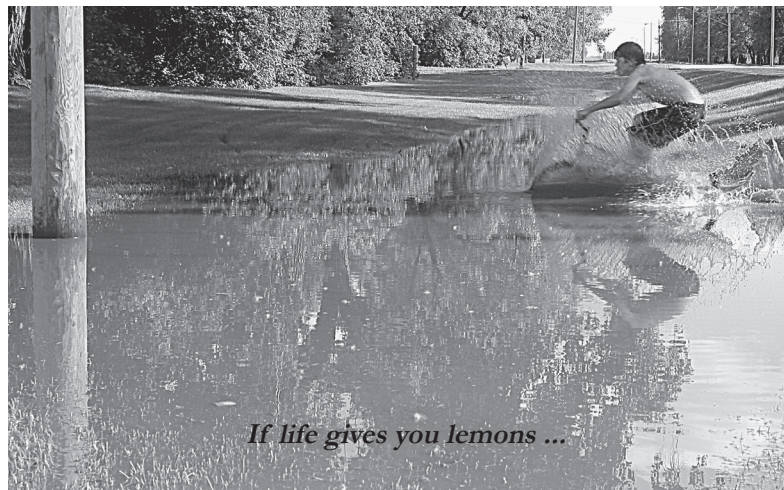


A picture is worth ...



Assessing the damage



If life gives you lemons ...



Damage



And more damage



And in three days, the power returned.



Summer 2005

Coming events

August 31

Mennonite Literary Society event featuring Joel Kroeker (singer), Aiden Enns, & Will Braun (writers) - 7 pm at the Krahn's barn.

September 8

Landscape Architecture students from University of Manitoba tour the village.

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: krahn@borderland.ca**

Neuberghthal Heritage Foundation

*John Giesbrecht
Rose Hildebrand
Frieda Klippenstein
Karen Martens
Peter Klippenstein (treasurer)
Wendy Friesen (secretary)
Teresa Hamm (vice chair)
Margruite Krahn (chair)*

Neuberghthal

Notes



Henry Krueger, Mrs. Peter Voth, Andrew Krueger in front of the old three room house

The Jacob Krueger family story

Jake Krueger

A verbal portrait of the original Krueger family as they emigrated to Canada from Rosenthal, Russia in 1900. The seven member family found temporary lodgings with Mrs. Krueger's sister, Mrs. Henry Sawatzky, the parents of Andrew Sawatzky. Soon a place was found for this family on the old Klassen yard, but the two room house could not contain the seven member family, so three of the older children found work and lodging on nearby farms.

My grandfather, Mr. Jacob Krueger, had brought with him some basic carpentry tools in a small shop on the yard he started building basic furniture, such as tables, chairs, and "schlop-benki," the original hide-a-bed. My grandfather could not adjust to this "new" country and was often seen walking along the village street, cap low over his eyes, hands folded behind his back, his mind in his old "heimat" in his beloved Ukraine. He died suddenly in 1921.

My uncle Jacob Krueger, who later lived in Kleinstadt, and my father, John Krueger soon found work on neighbouring farms and married into the well-established Johan Hamm family. Andrew and Henry Krueger never married. They went into carpentry and later started up their own apiary. Both being well-read, they studied bee culturing and soon had a fair size bee colony going. Living in rented quarters they had to move in the early 1940s. They bought a three acre yard just south of the village, from Mr. B.J. Hamm. Here they built a four room house, three for themselves and one for Molly, the cow.

They kept up their apiary and started a U-Pick strawberry farm. That became a thriving success. After a few years they bought another three acre plot from the Jacob Friesen yard and planted another strawberry patch. My grandmother passed away in 1954, leaving Andrew and Henry fend for themselves. They did fairly well.

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Eddie Schmidt auction



On June 2nd Eddie Schmidt held an auction at his place. The event was well-attended. In addition to the people from the surrounding area interested in the auction, most of the village showed up as well. Hot dogs and drinks were available and on the whole the sale was a celebration and a success.

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with all the household chores, even the art of bread baking. They took all these things in stride.

Both of them worked for farmers during harvest time. Henry also took up carpentry, building homes for the pipe-line workers in Gretna. He helped build the Isaac Enns farm home in Schoenthal and worked for Henry Berg when they built the present Berghthaler church in Altona.

They developed individual hobbies, Uncle Andrew did fret-saw work and loved his violin, plus grafting on trees. He had developed his branch grafting to such an extent that he had three different species of fruit growing on the same tree. His aim, he told me tongue-in-cheek, was to grow six different types of fruit on the same tree so he could make his favourite mooss any time.

They were avid readers and built up quite a library. Their interests ranged from history books to Mennonite migrations, and especially the South African migrations and colonization by the Boar settlements of South Africa. A book that had a prominent place on their bookshelf was a well-worn family Bible, and in their quiet, subtle way they were a good witness to their faith.

They saw humour in almost all situations, right to the end of their days, and it was never expressed in barnyard language. During one of his lengthy stays in the hospital Uncle Andrew gave his brother some instructions about his burial. A concrete box was to be placed in the grave, the coffin placed inside it and a concrete lid was to be placed on top. All this because he didn't like dirt falling in his eyes; his sense of humour was intact until the end.

Henry too had a sense of humour. One day he helped a lady at the Mall when she was carrying a grandfather clock through the door. With a questioning look on his face he asked her "Wouldn't it be much handier if you wore a wrist watch?" Fortunately this lady saw the humour in that and nearly dropped the enormous time piece, laughing.

Wine-making was one of their hobbies, as was playing their violins. Henry was also an amateur photographer. Though they were quiet, they were always doing something interesting. When Andrew passed away, Henry was lonely and shared that it was something like losing a spouse, because he was extremely lonely. When he passed away in July of 1985 he had appointed me as administrator. That meant that I was to look after the funeral and later also the auction. An interesting side light at the auction was the disposal of half a dozen jugs of wine, as it was illegal to sell liquor at an auction. So the auctioneer announced that the jugs were for sale, and the wine in them was free. They all sold, each for nine dollars.

After the executor had paid all outstanding bills, the remainder of the money was equally divided among three charities, which the brothers had supported for years.



*Henry Krueger,
Mrs. Krueger,
Andrew Krueger*



*Henry Krueger
with an armful
of bees*



The Krueger apiary

NHF update

Since the last newsletter we have received grants from the following: Community Places (Culture, Heritage & Tourism), The Thomas Sill Foundation, Friesens Corporation, Loewen Manufacturing, The Town of Altona, and The Altona Foundation. The monies received are designated for the restoration of the barn portion of the Friesen housebarn, and the completion of the information kiosk on the community centre yard. Work on the barn will proceed this Fall.



*Painted floor pattern
in the Ed Schmidt housebarn*

In July and early August we have hosted three Fehrway Tour groups. In early September the landscape architecture students of the University of Manitoba, led by professor Ted McLoughlin, will make their yearly trip to Neuberghthal.

Javad & Razi (of the "little house on the prairie") will donate \$1 of every \$7 container (500 g) of honey sold, to the NHF. The honey is available at their place on weekends, or from Margruite Krahn.

Comings and goings

Farewell to **Rick & Dorothy Hildebrandt** who recently moved out of Neuberghthal, and welcome to **Brendan & Jen Giesbrecht** and their children, Samuel (4), Hudson (2 1/2), and Gideon (10 months,) who recently moved in.

Congratulations to **John & Joanne Isaak** on the recent marriage of Sara to **Derek Heinrichs**.



Condolences to Anne (Hamm) Krueger and the two daughters and their families on the passing of husband, father, and grandfather, **Jake Krueger**, age 84 (b. Dec 16, 1920, d. July 2, 2005). The funeral was held on July 5, with interment in the Neuberghthal cemetery.

History & theatre for the road

This year the **Mennonite Journey** was dramatized once again, during the Sunflower Festival, July 15 - 17. **Marilyn Houser Hamm** directed the play, which played to full crowds once again.

The Mennonite Journey is a 2 hour drama with limited seating of 47-50. It starts with Catherine the Great in 1788 where she grants the Mennonites from Prussia a Privilegium. They wanted freedom of worship in the German language and exemption from the military. She granted them these privileges which had never been granted before. The first 3 scenes take place in Altona.

In the 1870's these privileges were threatened and once again the Mennonites were ready to emigrate to a place where they had freedom to worship. Canada was a place that needed settlers and this was the opportunity they were looking for.

The group is transported by bus to Neuberghthal where these scenes in Russia and the first year in Canada take place. A semlin was built in 2001 for this drama. After a short thanksgiving service the group is served raeshje and coffee. A narrator fills in historical details on the bus to Neuberghthal and back to Altona.

