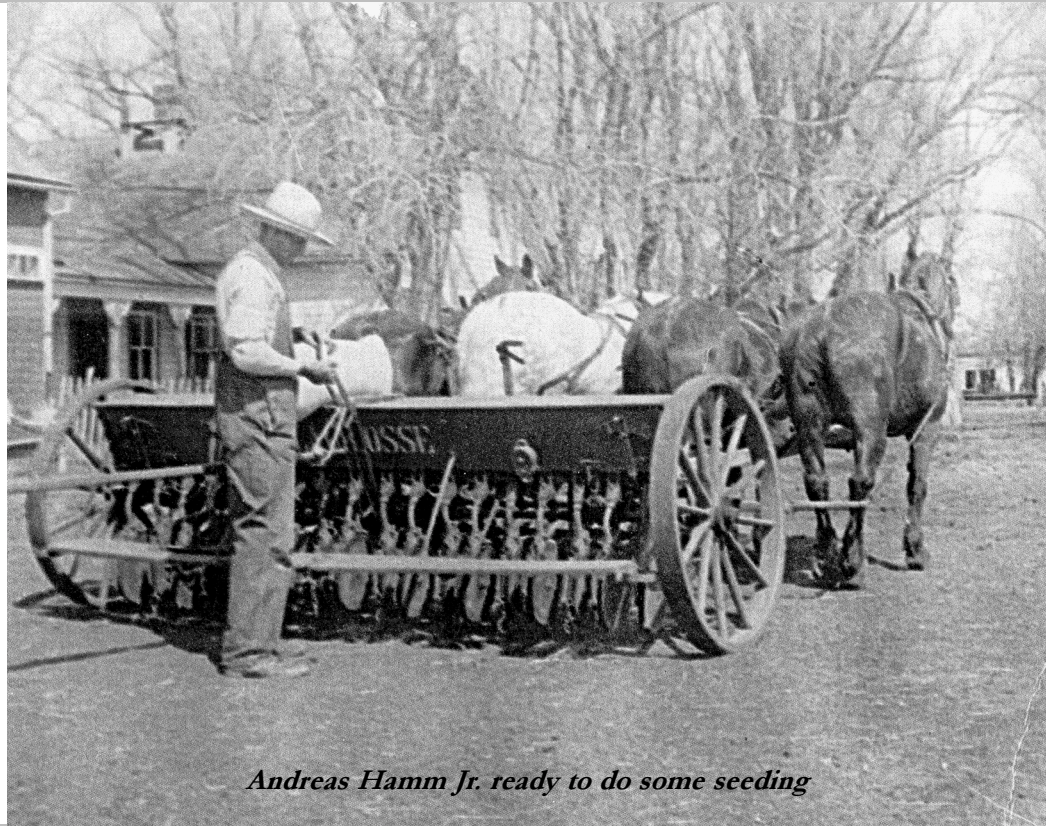
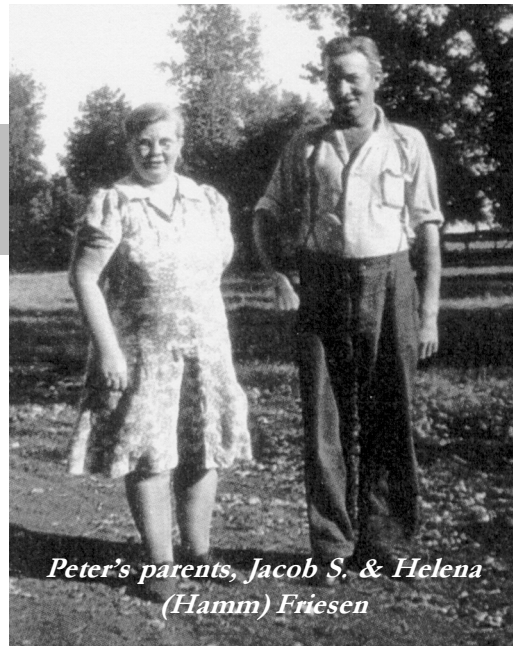


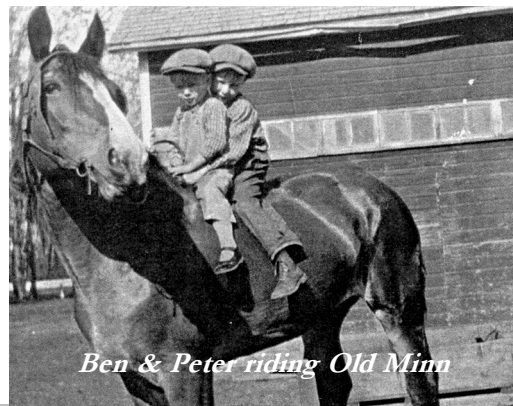
*A picture is worth ...*



*Andreas Hamm Jr. ready to do some seeding*



*Peter's parents, Jacob S. & Helena (Hamm) Friesen*



*Ben & Peter riding Old Minn*



**Summer 2004**

*(Yes, this issue is late, but we've been waiting for Summer! It never arrived. At least NB Notes is better late than never.)*

**Coming events**

**December 4 -**  
Village Christmas potluck supper  
(further details to come)



# Neuberghthal Notes



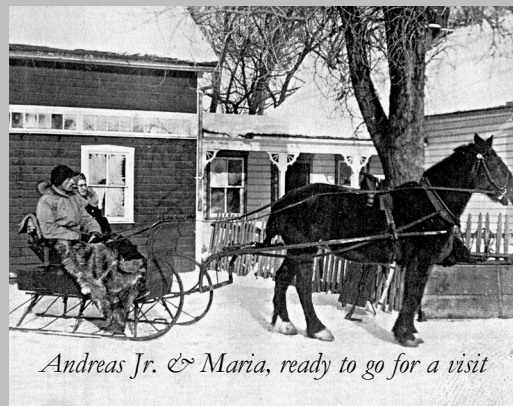
*Peter Friesen's grandparents Bernhard & Susan (Froese) Hamm, with Helen (standing) & Sara (sitting).*



*Andreas Jr. & Maria Hamm & Tina*



*Andreas Sr. & Elizabeth (Abrams) Hamm & Jacob*



*Andreas Jr. & Maria, ready to go for a visit*



*Jacob S. Friesen yard, where Peter grew up, & owned by his grandparents, the Bernhard Hamms.*

**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: [krahnp@borderland.ca](mailto:krahnp@borderland.ca)**

**Neuberghthal Heritage Foundation**

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

## Early hardships

*Bernhard P. Hamm via Peter Friesen*

It was very difficult for us. In the fall of 1905 we rented uncle Bernhard Hamm's buildings and moved into them. We lived there until the spring of 1906. Then we bought Martin Klassen's farm and moved there in April. First, we had to get the buildings ready to live in, since no one had lived there for a long time. It was a lot of work for my wife, because she believed in order. It was very difficult for her, as she was in great pain that she had to endure during the process. It meant fixing things, as Klassen's had not maintained the place since they had decided to build a new home. Thus, there was a lot of work, but we were so glad to have our own home again. My wife went with dull hope and pain to work. The place had a "rohr" roof, which was in bad condition with a lot of rain leaking in. The water came right through the ceiling into the room. The first task, then, was to have a new roof put on. This did not take long to do, as people around us were very helpful. With time we brought the place back to order. The cost including buildings was \$1200. In the fall of 1906 we bought 80 acres of land from Mother [Sarah (Kehler) Hamm] for \$2500. Thus we farmed on with problems and pains and often with sad hearts.

In the fall of 1910 we bought another 40 acres from Uncle Heinrich B. Klippenstein for \$2250. I traded this for the 80 acres, which the children Jacob and Helena are now farming. Thus we continue to have fortune with our misfortune. We have experienced a lot of good and nice things in our working lifetime. Yes, we



## NHF update

Several tours have passed through the village this summer:

- Mennonite Heritage Village staff & volunteer staff (approx. 35);
- University of Manitoba landscape architecture students;
- University of Winnipeg geography students;
- Kym Terry of the federal restoration workshop is currently preparing building assessment reports for grant applications.

The NHF plans to apply for grants for the barn of the Friesen housebarn, the Herdsman's house on the Krahn's yard, and stackwall house on Brian & Janet Hamm's property.

## Comings and goings

Recently someone has taken the liberty of **removing dirt from the cemetery** without permission. If **you** are that someone, please speak with **Lynne Heppner** in order to make things right.

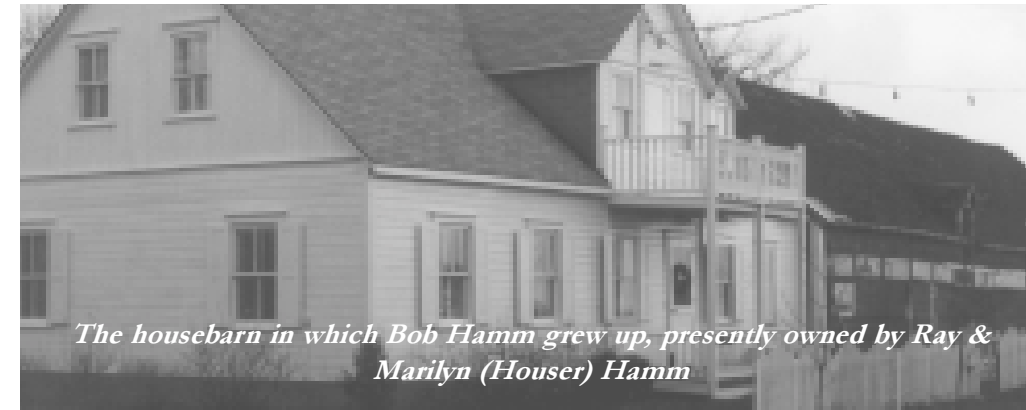
On **October 5 Terry McLeod & CBC Manitoba Information Radio** broadcasted their morning show from the loft of the Krahn barn. In addition to interviews (some taped and some live) with **Sharon Friesen (Yup), Ray Hamm (the dancer), Tamara Franz-Martin, Marilyn Houser Hamm, Margruite & Paul Krahn**, the show focussed on music, featuring **Apostle Paul, Marilyn Houser Hamm and Tamara Franz Martin, Dennis & Phyllis Reimer, The Dry River Boys, & Curt, Wanda, Jordan & Mackenzie Friesen**. A come & go audience of approximately 100 enjoyed the show over coffee & muffins. A week later on the air Terry McLeod commented that one of the highlights of his radio career was when Marilyn led the audience in singing the Doxology in four-part harmony.

I grew up in Neuberghthal on the third yard south of the corner, east side, between Schwartz's on the north and Unrau's to the south, currently Ray and Marilyn Hamm's place. At that time this was the centre of the universe, and of course I was at the very centre. Gradually my universe grew to include Mom and Dad (Susan and Bernhard J. Hamm), a brother (Art), and sister (Rose). As time

## The cycle of farm life

went on this continued to grow, to include Gramma Hamm just north of the corner, as well as school. Later another brother (Ray) appeared, completing the family unit.

The cycle of life on the farm turned on the annual calendar. In spring, "zoadel teet" (seeding time) started in March with seed cleaning, then field work



*The housebarn in which Bob Hamm grew up, presently owned by Ray & Marilyn (Houser) Hamm*

in April and May, and in exceptional years early June. Then came "high eivst" (haying time), with beet weeding thrown in, together with wood chopping and various other duties. Early summer also meant that the manure pile, accumulated over the winter, had to be spread on the fields. Late summer brought harvest with the two threshing gangs — the Hamm Company and the Kehler Company — handling most of the village threshing, going from farm to farm in sequence. Then came fall ploughing, and we were ready for the winter.

Winters always included a skating rink on somebody's yard. One year this rink was located in our pasture, which made it very handy to go skating at any time. A special treat was in the spring when conditions were just right, with a lot of puddles and enough frost that seemed to be half of the village population outside to the ice, including our Mom. We would skate from one end of the village to the other, running over the drive-ways. In the days before gravel, this did not damage the skate blades too much. In the late forties, a semi-permanent placement of the rink was made on the yard of B.F. Hamm, with higher boards and even electric lights.

Winter also brought Christmas, and the Christmas Concert, where every child got a bag of candies and peanuts and an orange. This was an event for the whole community, first in the school, and later (after 1944) in the new church.

On a daily basis, there was always something going on. My daily routine included looking out of the "ovi zeed" (barn lean-to), waiting for Jake Schwartz to come out of the front barn door, and shouting "bla, bla, bla, bla" as a form of "Good Morning!" This was interrupted by the war when he left for the CO camp, but we resumed our greetings when he returned.

An electrifying event occurred in 1946. The Manitoba Power Commission had brought electricity to rural Manitoba, including Neuberghthal. One August morning the lights were turned on, and that same afternoon Dad started combining wheat with our brand new Cockshutt combine.

For me the electricity meant that I could spend more time reading, a favourite pastime of mine, especially in wintertime. For the farm, it meant milking machines, automatic watering for the milk cows and many other conveniences.

Looking back, there have been many changes for the farmers as well as the village, and only time will tell which changes improved the quality of life, and which changes harmed it.

Andrew and Peter. Olga died when she was nine weeks old and Peter died when he was a month old.

Our father Andreas A. Hamm stayed on the 30 acre homestead and

rented 74 acres from his father-in-law, Peter Hamm. He used horses for working the land till the last years when he bought a Ferguson tractor. When they moved to Altona in 1968, he continued to use the tractor to plow and work various gardens in town. Andreas and Margareta Hamm added a chicken barn on the property. Mr. John Klippenstein, who had a grocery store in Neuberghthal, sold the crates of eggs in Winnipeg. The egg sales funded groceries and kerosene for the family at the grocery store.

Andreas served as a school trustee for a few years. Margareta stitched gloves for a company and was in a Ladies Sewing Group. She always had a beautiful garden, even in the "dirty thirties" when water was scarce. She grew very nice tomatoes, and there were always enough vegetables to last through the winter months. Meat was sometimes scarce by the time autumn came around, but the pigs were slaughtered at that time. Sausage, ham, lard, and crackles were made. Hardly anything of the pork was thrown out. Mother canned both pork and chicken for the long winter months.

The grandchildren have very fond memories of visits to the farm. Grandpa loved to sing and play the fiddle and accordion. Grandma's homemade buns and soups were the best, and a treat they all looked forward to on their visits.

In 1968, after the children had all left home and married, the homestead was sold to Ted Klassen. The buildings were all demolished shortly after they moved. Andreas and Margareta bought a house in Altona where they lived for eight years until Andreas died on June 12, 1976. Margareta stayed in the house until she sold it in 1979. She moved to an apartment and passed away on June 13, 1981.

*See back page for the pictures accompanying these articles.*

## Memories of the Andreas Hamm family

We, the Andreas Hamm family, will try to review some of the main happenings on our parents' property in the village of Neuberghthal (NW5a, just north of Lynne and Joanne Hoepfner's.)

Elizabeth, John, Maria & Andreas (twins), Anna, Jacob and Peter. Peter died at birth and is buried on the homestead yard.

Their son, Andreas A. Hamm

The first family that lived there were the John Friesen's, who sold the land to Jacob Kehler. Our grandfather, Andreas Hamm, bought it from Mr. Kehler. The farm of 30 acres consisted of a house and barn joined together, a pigpen and a machine shed. There were seven children born to Andreas & Elizabeth (Abrams) Hamm:

married Margareta Hamm, also of Neuberghthal, on November 1, 1923. They lived on the 30 acres till they moved to Altona in 1968. There were seven children born to Andreas and Margareta Hamm. A mid wife attended the home births when Tina, Mary, Olga, Susie and Elma were born. Dr. McGaven attended the birth of twins

### *cont'd from page 1*

were always fortunate with the cattle and the horses. To date we have raised 14 colts and only two died till 1933. In 1915 we again bought more land — 80 acres from the widow Heinrich Doerksen for \$3500. That is the last farm land we bought. However, in 1912 we bought the yard, 12 acres, in Neuberghthal and that is still where our buildings are standing. That was the year that the land was divided into farms. Till then it was in numbers, 10-11-12, which consisted from three to nine acres. Since the building site was on Uncle Johann Hamm's farm we had to buy this land from him for \$40 per acre, totalling \$720. There we lived for several years, till 1914. Then my wife could no longer walk. She needed walking canes, and she suffered like that till 1917 when she finally had to use a wheel chair. She was in that chair for fourteen years and four months.

In 1918 our daughter Helena became sick. I drove her to Winnipeg where she had a tonsil operation. The total cost of this was \$141, but what is money compared to health? She was so young, only 12 years old. Since my wife could not walk, it was very hard for her. In my opinion everything became too difficult. Thus we rented out all our land, and in the summer of 1920 we bought a house in Gretna from Gerhard Spents for \$4000. We had an auction sale in the fall and moved to Gretna for the winter."

*The preceding article is forwarded to us by Peter Friesen, a fourth generation resident of Neuberghthal. His grandfather, Bernhard P. Hamm, recorded these events, which gives an idea of the kind of hardships village families endured in the early years.*

*As background, we include a little information about Bernhard's ancestry. We start with his great grandfather, Peter Hamm, who was born in Prussia in 1790 and died in 1859. His son, Peter H. Hamm, was born on March 22, 1817 and migrated to Russia in 1836. The journey to the Chortitz Colony took him five months and five days. He continued on to the Molotchna where he worked as a hired hand for five years. In 1843 he moved to the Bergthal Colony, where he married Helena Penner on Dec 1, 1847. He taught school from 1849-51, and they settled on a farm. In 1853 he bought a windmill in Bergthal, and in 1858 he bought a treadmill in Einlage. Peter H. and Helena Hamm had eight children, two of whom died in infancy. Peter died in 1867 and was buried in Bergthal. Helena was remarried to Bernhard Klippenstein in Russia. Helen's oldest son Peter Hamm and his wife (Sarah Kehler) and daughter migrated to Canada in 1874. Peter kept a daily diary of the journey from Russia to Canada. Peter and his brothers Johann, Gerhard, Jacob, and Bernhard are the Hamm brothers that are often referred to in Neuberghthal. Peter built the house that was across the street from where Martin Klippensteins now live. Later his son Bernhard P. Hamm lived there. Then Bernhard's daughter Helena and her husband Jacob S. Friesen became the third generation of that family living there. They had two sons, Ben Friesen and Peter Friesen, our present Neuberghthal resident. This piece by his grandfather, Bernhard P. Hamm, was recorded in the early 1930s.*