



Neubergthal Notes

Stories Live Here

Fall 2020

Volume18 # 2

A NEW **TREATY ONE** FLAG WAS RAISED AT ROSEAU RIVER FIRST NATION ON JULY 31.

“...as long as the sun shines, the grass grows and the rivers flow...” is a line that was often used in the treaties between the Crown and the nations of the land.

The yellow circle is for the sun, the green is for the grass, and the blue is for the water.



Elder Charlie Nelson, left, speaking a prayer at the ceremony

The seven triangles are the seven nations of Treaty One: Brokenhead Ojibway Nation; Fort Alexander (Sagkeeng) First Nation; Long Plain First Nation; Peguis First Nation; Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation; Sandy Bay First Nation; Swan Lake First Nation. Treaty One territory is south central Manitoba and it also reaches up into the southern part of the Interlake area. Neubergthal is in Treaty One territory.

In 1870, Canada purchased most of Rupert’s Land from the Hudson’s Bay Company. In 1870, Manitoba was organized as a province and became part of Canada. It is not clear how HBC became the owner of all this land. Treaty One was signed in 1871 at the present site of Lower Fort Garry. sick

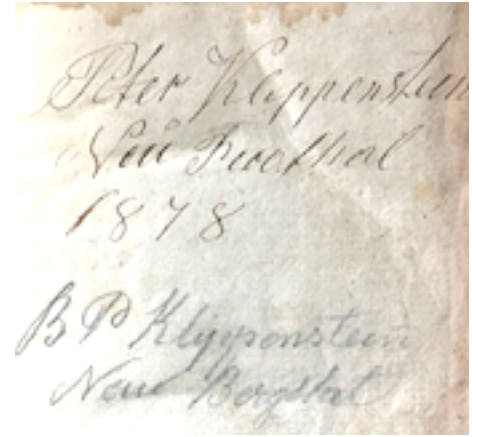
There were many unfortunate aspects of the dealings with the indigenous people by the Canadian government; these are documented in the government records and newspapers of the time.

Neubergthal Heritage Foundation looks for stories of this place, of this area. The stories of these nations, stories of the Metis, are parts of the story of this place. One of the working groups of NHF is focusing on building relationships with Roseau River First Nation. Today we look for truth and understanding and try to build reconciliation.

Author Lois Braun's most recent work was published by Great Plains Publications in spring. Part memoir, part social history, *Peculiar Lessons: How Nature and the Material World Shaped a Prairie Childhood* is a collection of ten essays that explore the physical and natural elements that form the backdrop to her mid-20th century childhood on a farm near Rosenfeld, Manitoba, not far from Neubergthal. From blackboard chalk to curling rocks in the chapter on stone, from mirages to straight-line winds in the essay on light and air, she reflects on her interactions with these elements and how her responses influenced her evolution into adulthood. She also includes profiles of artists she's come to know who pursued these substances beyond childhood. mask

Because Neubergthal is characterized in large part by its interesting old barns, you might want to read this book. David Elias grew up in the Haskett area south of Winkler, MB. *The Truth About the Barn* offers answers to important questions about how barns came into being, why they look the way they do, why they're worth reflecting on, and what possible future they may have. With wit and romanticism, David Elias investigates the barn's place in culture and religion, art and literature, exploring psychological and philosophical implications of barns over time.--Great Plains Publications

From a hymnbook found in the Klippenstein House



HELP WANTED -

Wedding coordinator for Neubergthal Commons. This person would respond to inquiries about information and rates, show facilities to interested parties, and make sure that all went well for the actual event. The coordinator would also be involved in promotion and advertising. The coordinator is not a wedding planner. The coordinator earns \$350.00 per event, on a contract basis. Five weddings have already been booked for 2021. For details or to apply, send an email to nhfrayh@icloud.com or call/text to 204 324 4115.

CONVERTING CASSETTE TAPES TO DIGITAL FORMAT - Can you help?

This fall 25 cassette tapes of interviews from 1997 were brought to the village by Frieda Klippenstein, Parks Canada historian and writer. (NHF already has 17 other interviews in digital format.) NHF would like all these tapes transferred to digital format. Do you have equipment for transferring data from tapes to digital format? Would you be willing to do some or all of this project for NHF? For more information or to indicate your willingness to help, send an email to nhfrayh@icloud.com or call/text to 204 324 4115. to cough

NEUBERGTHAL HERITAGE FDN INFORMATION

2020 NHF AND COVID

Cancel was the word for 2020. Limiting attendance and emphasizing social distance were some of the new guidelines for NHF.

The staff of Steinbach's **Mennonite Heritage Village** carried through with their plans to hold a staff retreat in the Commons barn on Oct. 19, and NHF board members joined them for a pizza supper.

SUMMER ASSISTANT

Faith Enns was hired to be summer host. The half-time position (usually full-time) was possible thanks to a grant from Young Canada Works. She did a lot of documentation and other work in May and June. Individuals and families began coming for tours in July and August, by appointment. A bus group (bus was only half-filled) came for a tour in August.

GRANT AWARDED

NHF received a grant from the federal Museum Assistance Program. Thanks to this grant, NHF will be able to pay the interest on the mortgage for the Commons barn project this year.

Find the English word for these Low German words in the different articles in this issue

Jeft

Loaw

krank

Feeba

hooste

NHF 2020-21 AND A BIG NEXT STEP

Food and kitchens are an important part of many events. Neuberghthal Heritage Foundation has acquired equipment for a commercial/catering kitchen, purchased from Jeff and Kathy Dyck when they closed Nora's Diner in Gretna. The price was affordable and the purchase was funded by local donations. NHF has a house, attached to the Commons barn. Now the house needs to be prepared—repaired, renovated, brought up to code—to receive the kitchen. virus

Plans for the kitchen area are in place. The rest of the house is being evaluated and plans will be made for upgrades and restoration. Patterns that had been hand-painted on the floors will be protected.

Barn payments are not yet complete, but given the availability of this equipment and the need for food services at the Commons, the board decided that NHF should move ahead.

NHF 2020 AND FINANCES

Over and above existing pledges, NHF needs \$160,000.00 to cover the principle and interest on the mortgage for the barn project on the Commons yard. The house project could add another \$250,000.00.

Even "Neuberghthal Notes" takes up \$2000.00+ of the NHF budget. **Donations** to help cover this cost would be appreciated.

NHF recognizes that there are many needs all around. Encourage one another to do good and to take care of neighbours, nearby and far away. At the same time, Parks Canada said that "Neuberghthal, a Mennonite Street Village on the Canadian Prairies, has national historical and architectural significance."

NHF asks for your ideas and your financial support in presenting experiences and stories of faith, freedom and farming; stories of Mennonites and stories of the Canadian prairies. All donations are receipted.

Reflections on Summer
Fatih Enns

I can only imagine how my time as the Summer Host for Neuberghthal Heritage Foundation has been quite different from the previous years. My summer in Neuberghthal was quiet but definitely not boring. Simply having a conversation and sharing stories with a visitor would be the highlight of my day. Visitors were not as abundant as they would have been during a “normal” summer, but I cherished the characters I met. Due to the pandemic, and the encouragement for “staycations,” visitors who went through Neuberghthal were Manitobans who might not have come during their summer break in a ‘normal’ year. I had the opportunity to meet an eclectic group of people with many different backgrounds. All of them were able to make a connection or simply were able to relate to some aspect of the heritage site and its stories.

One of my favourite projects this summer was working on the Bergthal Schoolhouse library. The books put in the Schoolhouse library follow the timeline of the Neuberghthal School. These books hold the names and work of their previous owners. I was thoroughly entertained reading some 100-year-old scribbled gossip on the back pages of workbooks. fever

Throughout the summer I was exposed to local history which I would not have learned otherwise. I would frequently go to my parent’s house with a new “Did you know” story. I am so thankful for the opportunity to meet so many new people and hear so many new stories.



The Corvette Club of Manitoba came for a visit to Altona and Neuberghthal on August 22 The Manitoba Classic & Antique Auto Club came out earlier in the summer.

SCHOOL BOOKS

NHF has many boxes of extra and “newer” school textbooks. The shelves in the Bergthal school at the Commons display books that were used in Manitoba rural schools before the mid-1960s. The shelves are almost full. (The actual Neuberghthal school was closed and the building move to Altona in 1967.) If anyone would like some of these books, send an email to nhfrayh@icloud.com or call/text to 204 324 4115.

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