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# Neuergthal a pretty village

• by J. C. Fehr

Neuergthal is a village located five miles southeast of Altona. It centres on the intersection of sections 25, 26, 35, 36 of 1-1W.

It had its beginning in 1876 when two brothers, Bernhard and Peter Klippenstein came here from the East Reserve to look for better land. Withing the next few years more poeple came and Neuergthal was begun.

At first only the east side was settled but as the well water farther south was of reduced quality, the village expanded on the west side and to the north.

The first year or two, many lived in semlins, while their homes were built. An interesting fact is that the buildings were set farther back from the street than in other villages.

For the first few years the children were taught in homes, until a log cabin was built in 1882. This was soon replaced by a better building.

By the year 1900, a larger school was built which also had living quarters for the teacher. This building served as a private school until 1921, and as a public school until 1953.

A new school was built and the old school was moved to Chortitz in 1955. Neuergthal S.D. No. 1594 operated until July 1, 1967 when it became part of Altona Consolidated S.D.

The village people cooperated quite well, in work and in play, as they did many things together.

Around 1900 the village bought a steam threshing outfit and did all their threshing together. Later, for many years they had two threshing gangs, the Hamm Company and the Klippenstein Company that did the threshing.

Neuergthal also had a store in the village for many decades. It was the place where the men-folk came together on winter mornings after the chores were done. It closed in 1973.

The village also had a church. It was built in 1944 and served the people till 1969.

Today, the school is gone, the church is gone and the store is no more. However, they built a community centre in 1976 where local get-togethers are held.

Most of the 130 plus residents of Neuergthal today are direct descendants of the original pioneers.



Neuergthal youth (1915-20), the "Groote Gesallshaft", an older youth group. Front row, left to right: Helena Hamm, Mrs. J. Schmidt; Mary Hamm, Mrs. W. Loewen; Helena Hamm, spinster; Helen Sawatsky, Mrs. Isaac Enns; Elizabeth Hamm, Thomas Sawatsky; Anna Piedus, Mrs. Wiebe; Marg Hamm, Mrs. Abram Friesen; Agatha Klippenstein, Mrs. Hiebert; Mary Klippenstein, Mrs. Jac. C. Friesen; Helena Klippenstein, Mrs. Wil. Schwartz; Barbara Kehler, Mrs. Dave Duerksen; Kath. Klippenstein, Mrs. Henry Duerksen; Aganita Unrau, spinster; Anna Kehler, Mrs. Henry Dueck; Eva Hamm, Mrs. Peter B. Hamm; Marg Schmidt, Mrs. Died. Loewen; next unknown; Helen Friesen, Mrs. John Loeppky; Kath. Friesen, Mrs. Frank Braun; John A. Hamm; Henry Sawatzky; Peter B. Klippenstein; Henry Klippenstein; Henry Leach; Jacob Kehler; Peter Banman; Died. Loewen; Bern. J. Hamm; Andy Krueger, Abram Friesen, John F. Kehler, Bernhard Klippenstein, and Bernhard G. Hamm. The village had two youth groups, the big company and the young company. The group is seen here in front of the house built by original pioneer, Bernhard Klippenstein, around 1892. The attached barn, built when the yard was started, and house are both still standing today. Mrs. B. J. Hamm has resided in the home for almost 60 years.



This 1910 photo shows teacher Peter G. Hamm with students in front of the school that served Neuergthal until 1953. Included in photo are: B. J. Hamm, H. Sawatsky, J. A. Hamm, H. Klippenstein, P. Kehler, J. Unrau, J. Kehler, A. A. Hamm, H. Kehler, A. Krueger, B. Friesen, M. Friesen, H. Kehler, P. Hamm, N. Unrau, W. Kehler, T. Friesen, J. Dueck, B. Hamm, J. Sawatsky, A. Krueger, B. Klippenstein, H. Kehler, M. Klippenstein, H. Klippenstein, T. Hamm, M. Klippenstein, E. Hamm, M. Hamm, M. Hamm, and M. Hamm.