

The Baumann Family Farm

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The Second Generation

The second generation's patriarch was Folke (Frank) Baumann, who was married to Lena and owned the farm from 1904 to 1937. Frank, Lena, and their children are all shown below in the 1920's.



Sitting in front are Frank Baumann, Sr. and his wife Lena. Standing from the left are Florence (Uphoff), Frank Jr., Adeline, Alfred, John, Sena (Telhorster), and Ann.

He farmed the same acreage and crops and had the same animals. Yet during this generation, the farming machinery slightly improved. A steel moldboard plow, which was obviously steel, instead of wood, and developed by John Deere, was used to plow the land with a horse. Primitive tractors were used by few farmers; however, Frank did use a tractor towards the end of his ownership. A reaping machine shown below was used to cut oats, which were then taken manually to a threshing machine, which separated the oat grain from straw.

The oats were still brought from the field by a wagon, or hay-rack. To harvest corn, the farmers still used the corn-husking peg to cut the stalks. Toward the end of the generation, the Baumann's had a corn picker machine to shuck (cut) the corn. There were still no hybrid corn or insecticides, and manure was still used as land fertilizer.

As Figures [A](#) and [B](#) show, production and size of farms were approximately the same as the first generation even though there was a small change in methods of production. From 1870 to 1930, covering two Baumann generations, the average bushels of corn per acre remained around 25 bushels. Hence, the farmers needed something more to increase their production.

The landscape and daily life also slightly changed in the second generation. The farmland was

now completely tiled and had the same buildings, except that a garage was built for the new Model T Ford. But they still mainly used a horse and buggy. There were more shade trees and fruit trees had been planted. The pasture remained the same size. There was still no electricity or indoor plumbing; therefore, they still used kerosene lamps, an out-house, a windmill, a cistern, and coal and cobs to heat the house.

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Frank and Lena had seven children who were educated in English. The family began speaking English and was bilingual. The family's busy daily routine remained the same as the first generation.



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