



Schweitzer Salt

Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association

March 2016

SMCHA Annual Meeting, April 3, 2016, 2:30 p.m., Hutchinson

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John McCabe Juhnke, professor of communication arts, spent his Fulbright Scholar year at Lesya Ukrainka East European National University in Lutsk, Ukraine. He was eager to visit the land of his German Mennonite foremothers and -fathers, who emigrated in the 1870s from what is now north-central Ukraine. He will share insights and learnings from his travels in that area.

Come learn from John's experiences and hear about the activities of the Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association during 2015. The budget and election will be on the agenda.

Refreshments will be served by members of First Mennonite Church, 52 Rambler Road, (620-662-9385) Hutchinson, Kansas.

SMCHA members may update their membership and new members may join. Dues are \$20 per year or \$100 for six years paid to Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association.

SMCHA Mission:

- * Collect and disseminate information concerning the spiritual and cultural history of Anabaptists of Swiss origin.

- * Offer scholarships to qualifying college and seminary students.

- * Relate in a meaningful way the faith of our Mennonite forebears to present and future generations.

- * Maintain the Hopefield Cemetery and Swiss Mennonite 1943 Marker and Centennial Monument.

Central Kansas Bus Trip, 2016

Have you ever wondered what the towns of Empire, Christian and King City have in common? How are The Lone Tree and Indian Guide similar? What happened at the Alta Mill? Have you seen the KDOT marker in honor of Turkey Red Wheat?

Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association is sponsoring an all-day bus tour on Saturday, April 30, 2016, to view more than 55 sites of historical significance in parts of McPherson, Harvey and Marion counties. The story of the Mennonites who came to this area in the 1870's is a central focus. Find out about:

- the Indians and the treaties made with them and the trails that crisscrossed the area;
- the Hapless Poles and their tragic first winter in the U. S.;
- the site near Peabody where the children of the Swiss immigrants are buried;

(continued next page)

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SEEKING CONTRIBUTORS

(BUS TRIP continued from page 1)

- the original Warkentin farmstead;
- the Monument to the Mennonite Settler.

Tour guide Brian Stucky will share human-interest stories about the area and much, much more.

The tour will originate west of Moundridge at the Hopefield Church leaving at 8 AM and returning late afternoon. The \$50 cost per person will include transportation, noon meal, and snacks. This is a great opportunity for anyone with an interest in history or for your family members to get better acquainted with the area and its history.



Seating is limited. Don't miss the fun. For more information or to join the tour, contact LaVern Stucky at 620-983-2348 or lavern@powwwer.net.

Salem Zion Directory at Cemetery

This summer a new brick cemetery directory was constructed on the West side of the Salem-Zion cemetery near Freeman, South Dakota. . It is a three sided enclosure with open areas on the sides to view the cemetery to the East and the church to the West. The directory contains a 3 foot by 3 foot map showing the sections, rows, and layout of the cemetery. Along with the map is an information box containing a 3 ring binder listing the names of all known burials in alphabetical order and also by row location. The listing includes the birth and death years, along with the section number, row number, and plot number of each burial.



numbers at each end of the rows have been installed to aid in finding burial plots.

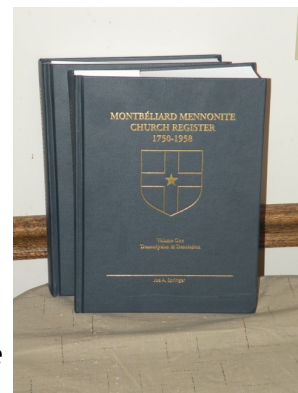
The funds for this directory and signage were given in memory of Grandparents Peter J and Elizabeth (Graber) Miller by Maurice and Cora (Miller) Conner.



Montbeliard Churchbook Translated

"A document has been published recently that is one of the most important resources for the early history of the Swiss Volhynian Mennonites. The Montbeliard (France) Church Record Book has now been transcribed

and translated into English. The church book has been researched and translated by Joe A. Springer of Goshen College in 2015 and published by Masthof Publishing of Pennsylvania. This is the earliest church record book that was kept by any Swiss Mennonites, begun in 1750. The original is still at the Mennonite church in Montbeliard, France.



This is a two-volume set, with the second volume a genealogy in family groupings. The reason why it has not been published until now is that the handwriting was so difficult to read. The reason why Goshen College would be interested in publication is that a number of names come from the Old Mennonite/Amish background.

Names that would be of interest to SMCHA members are the earliest documentation of ancestors such as Albrecht, Flickinger/Flickner, Gerig (Gering, Goering) Graber, Kaufman, Krayenbuhl/Krehbiel, Preheim, Shrock/Schrag, Stucki/Stucky, Zuercher/Zerger, and many, many others. —Information from Brian Stucky

Note: Brian Stucky will give a verbal report and additional information on the publication of this book at the SMCHA Annual meeting April 3."

Swiss Names Spelling and Pronounced

Swiss Volhynian names are spelled various ways. Crayenbuhl might have been our Krehbiel. Schrag was seen as Schrack. Our Waltners came from Waldners. I wondered why my Goering changed from my ancestor Moses, Moses Gering that is.

When in Montbeliard France on the SMCHA-sponsored Heritage Tour in 2013, we saw Mossi Gerig's signature at his baptism in 1766 in the Montbeliard Church book.

An explanation from Solomon Stucky's The Heritage of the Swiss Volhynian Mennonites explains:

As various groups of Mennonites emigrated to different areas, their dialects would gradually change and family names would also be pronounced somewhat differently. The spelling would then be changed to accommodate the different pronunciation. "Moses Gerig added an "n" in Montbeliard, probably to accommodate the softer (g) sound of the French language, which was undoubtedly having an influence on the local German dialect. (His son) Peter Gering continued spelling it this way, but others, realizing that, according to German language rules, this was not the correct spelling for the name as it was being pronounced, began spelling it "Goering." Some made the correction by spelling it "Gehring."

The passport of Jacob D. Goering, my great grandfather, shows "Gering." But then his son Christian J. used "Goering" on homestead records. Why? I wish I would have asked Grandfather.

Christian C. and Maria Stucky Graber

Living in a dugout in South Dakota in 1874 with eight other family members has to color your world. So many struggles to deal with in a new land. Peter O. and Freni Graber came from the Ukraine to the U.S. with eight children. Freni died in May 1875 and a month later Peter O. married Susanna Goering, Freni's cousin who had traveled with them to help care for the children. Eight more children were born to Peter O. and Susanna. The second of these was Christian C. Graber, born in 1878. Then the family faced the tragedy of 1888 when Christian's brother Peter P. died in the South Dakota school blizzard. After fires and hardships, they decided to move to Kansas in early 1890s. Two older siblings had already moved to Pretty Prairie Kansas. Daughter Elizabeth married John Saner in Pretty Prairie in 1885. Christian's youngest brother, Peter P.O., was born in Pretty Prairie in 1893. Father Peter O. died there in 1897. We can hardly imagine the struggles of this family that would have been experienced also by Christian.

The ancestor families originally went from Ukraine primarily to South Dakota and Moundridge Kansas and then some moved on to Pretty Prairie. Quite a lot of communication happened between Pretty Prairie and Moundridge folks despite the miles between. Christian discovered Mary M. (Maria) Stucky in Moundridge. In fact he rode his bike those 60 miles from Pretty Prairie across not so smooth terrain to Moundridge to court Maria. They married in 1902, and nine children were born. Now his grandchildren are learning and sharing this story.

In 1910 Jacob C. and Barbara Preheim Stucky, Maria's parents, gave Maria the north half of NW quarter of 32-21-1, 80 acres of land east of Moundridge, and then Christian purchased another 80 adjacent acres from Maria's sister Anna, also given to her by Jacob C. and Barbara Stucky.

In 1929 came the discovery of west of Moundridge. Kansas was place for oil since oil was found out of the ground. Quite a few the possibility of oil exploration

When Christian's 15-year lease run out, he negotiated with the of his royalties, so the company Christian had \$3,000 left on a deal. After 56 days of drilling in Ponca City to announce that

well blew for two hours. The oil was so pure it could be used directly out of the well. The entire family was astonished by the entire event and considered it unbelievable. Christian was so thankful but never would flaunt his good fortune.



oil in the Voshell Oilfield north-actually known favorably as a in shallower ground, easier to get landowners leased their land for as did Christian.

on his 160 acre farm was about to lease company agreeing to sell ½ moved ahead to drill on his land. debt to be paid so he made the 1934, the oil workers called they had struck oil at 3300'. The

Problems came with oil. Their water well was ruined. Fire burned off the oil on the creek. Smell of sulfur was prevalent. A neighbor died when he fell off a well. Even all the fish on son Richard Graber's nearby pond were killed. Many oil worker houses were built on the land changing the view. Oil wells changed many lives.

No matter the money, Christian retained his frugal approach to life. When a son wanted to purchase a new manure spreader, Christian suggested the old one was good enough. Always with an attitude of thankfulness, he shared his wealth in ways seen and unseen. He purchased the property for the grocery store in Moundridge from Alf Landon and helped his brother-in-law John G. Stucky build the store and keep it going. Along with Moundridge bankers, C.H. Goering, John, Ed, and Chris Goering, he started the Co-op and the Creamery. His funding helped with First Mennonite of Christian Church expenses. Visits from missionaries Henry and Maria Brown indicate that he contributed to their work in Japan. Each of the children inherited 80 acres and a house through the generosity of Christian and Maria.

The family felt blessed. As they noticed the struggles of so many through the depression days, they understood that life was difficult. Christian remembered early days in South Dakota where his family lived for a time in the dugout, losing a half brother in the 1888 blizzard, their farm burned by fire, and moving again, now to Kansas to start over there. They had experienced good and bad, and now they would use their oil with a thankful spirit to help others. This attitude of generosity would be passed on to their children and grandchildren, the best part of their heritage.

—From Interview of Edna Ruth Graber by Kathy Goering

Comment of young son of family genealogist: *"I think Daddy got stuck in the family tree."*

Online at:
www.swissmennonite.org

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"Only Schweitzer Spoken Here"

Norvin Schrag, Ben Stucky,
Verlene Kaufman, Lorita
Regier

**2016 Membership dues
\$20/year or \$100 for six
years. *Schweitzer Salt* is
sent to members.**

Banquet Thursday, September 22, 2016. Susan Goering from Baltimore MD will be the speaker for the 2016 SMCHA Banquet to be held at Faith Mennonite Church, Newton, KS. Susan is an attorney working with the underprivileged who has much to share with us about life in the city. Susan grew up in Central Kansas, daughter of an activist father, Milton Goering. More information coming.

Schmeckfest in Freeman, South Dakota. April 15-16 or April 22-23, 2016. Order tickets on their website.

SMCHA Recipe Book and DVD of Demonstration. Look for it this summer.

Harley Stucky Collection now accessible to researchers at Mennonite Library and Archives (MLA). Known for his work in initiating the plans for the Mennonite Centennial Monument constructed near Hopefield Church, Harley Stucky also gave strong leadership to the role of Kansas in bringing Turkey Red Wheat to this country. Harley was visionary and involved in many important Mennonite activities including the development of Camp Mennoscah. Take the time to check out this information at the MLA on the Bethel College campus.

Remember Clark Graber. SMCHA appreciated the work of Clark Graber on the Scholarship Committee 2012-2016. Clark died in January. SMCHA was grateful to have participation from Freeman SD in educational activities.

Future Oversight Responsibility. An Agreement has been signed with Eden Mennonite Church to maintain SMCHA properties should this organization disband in the future.

Directional Signs

Signs will be placed on Arrowhead Road just west of highway 81 and then near to the 18th Avenue turn to SMCHA properties.

A large sign is planned on the corner of Aztec Road and 18th Avenue pointing visitors to the Centennial Monument and Hopefield Cemetery. Small signs with more information will be placed by the 1943 Marker and Centennial Monument.



Swiss Volhynian Storytelling

I have an idea. Let's compile a Swiss Volhynian Story Book filled with lots of vignettes from all ages, about little deals and big deals, little words and big words, stories using correct grammar and some with "how they said it." A paragraph or two or a page. Just for us to read and smile or cry and relate to. Send your contribution to Kathy Goering (kjgo@mtelco.net or Box 93, Moundridge KS 67107) and we'll get started with storytelling. I want to read what you write. Or you can ask me to edit it for clarity. What do you remember?

Johannes 3:16

Also hat Gott die Welt geliebt das er seinen eingeborenen Sohn gab, auf das alle, die an ihn glauben, nicht verloren werden, sondern das ewige Leben haben.