



Schweitzer Salt

Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association

July 2017

July Bus Trip Visit to Freeman, South Dakota

July 18, 19, and 20 is your opportunity to rekindle relationships with South Dakota Mennonites on a bus tour sponsored by the Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association (SMCHA). In the 1874 migration, some Swiss Volhynians went to Kansas and some to South Dakota, even dividing families. Over the years, the strong contact between the communities has tended to wane. This tour will allow us to reacquaint ourselves with the South Dakota folks and the land and culture they call home.

Plans are to leave the Central Kansas area Tuesday morning, July 18 in an air-conditioned luxury coach, arriving in Yankton, South Dakota mid afternoon and staying at a very nice Best Western Hotel. A video-illustrated presentation will educate us about the three Mennonite ethnic groups in the Freeman Area -- namely the Swiss, the Hutterites and the Low German.



Wednesday activities include a guided tour of the Swiss and Low German areas and a tour of a Hutterite Colony with noon meal there. The afternoon tour of the sites related to the deaths of the 5 boys who died trying to get home from school during the surprise January 12, 1888, blizzard will be led by Susan Schrag, owner of the land where the tragedy occurred.

In Freeman we will walk through the historical museum, the arboretum, and the academy campus as well as the town in general. Our evening meal will be in the Interpretative Center at the arboretum.

Among the Freeman sites are the homestead of Charles Kauffman (founder of the Kauffman Museum at Bethel College), the homestead of F.C. Ortman (founder of Freeman Jr. College and Academy), and the Salem-Zion Mennonite Church. Also, we plan to view the site of the first post office in Childstown Township, site of the first Hutterite settlement, Low German Historical Marker, Graber homestead, and restored pioneer house and more. S. Roy Kaufman, Norman Hofer, and Bob Engbrecht will guide the tour.



On our way home on Thursday, plans are to stop at Henderson, Nebraska to spend time at the Heritage Museum and Bethesda Mennonite Church arriving home later that evening.

Contact LaVern Stucky at 620-983-2348 or lavern@powwwwer.net for details.

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SMCHA Mission:

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

2017 Membership dues \$20/year or \$100 for six years. *Schweitzer Salt* is sent to members.

SMCHA Fall Banquet Thursday, October 26, 2017 at Eden Mennonite Church in rural Moundridge with Dale Schrag as keynote speaker. Dale spent much of his professional career working at Bethel College in College-Church Relations. Currently Dale volunteered to spearhead the campaign to raise a million dollar endowment for Mennonite Library and Archives operations. SAVE THE DATE. More information later.

Spring Central Kansas Bus Trip Report

After several weeks of rainy/cool weather, May 6, 2017 dawned clear and beautiful. All 56 of us were off to an exciting day. The bus pulled out of the Hopefield parking lot at 8 AM to take a look at the huge grave stone in the center of the Hopefield Cemetery to honor the life of Joe Schrag.

Leader Brian Stucky helped participants view the rich history that occurred in this small part of a three-county area. We called attention to the Mennonite groups who came here, developed the area and made it home. We also gave recognition to others who have had a hand in shaping this region. We referred often to the fact that this area was a transportation hub with major transcontinental trails and others crisscrossing the region. The tour brings home the realities of pioneer life and the fact that it was often a challenge.



Monument commemorating 8,000 Mennonite immigrants who came through Peabody, erected 1974

We saw where the hapless poles wintered on the banks of Sand Creek in Newton and the death trap warehouse in Florence. Participants realized that death was the constant companion to these people when they observed the memorial to the children at the Catlin Cemetery. The 'ah ha' moment when they realized why the hedges do not line up east of the Hopefield Cemetery. They were amazed by the entrepreneurial skills of Bernard Warkentin as a miller and in making Kansas the Wheat State, of John Schrag who drained

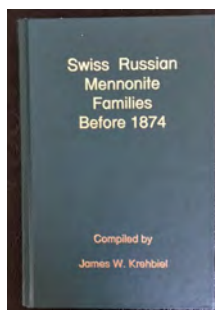
the swamp west of McPherson or Lyle Yost whose efforts led to AGCO in Hesston. They were amazed at the positions people took on issues such as buying war bonds and consequences of them.

One person wrote, "Keep up the good work! A big thank you for a well planned bus trip." —LaVern Stucky

Swiss Russian Mennonite Families Before 1874 from the Michelsdorf, Michalin, Eduardsdorf, Horodyszczce, Waldheim, Zahoriz and Kutusovka Congregations.

Try to say that in one breath. Previous SMCHA president, Arnold Wedel, said that James W. Krehbiel's book contained everything about the families of the ancestors who came to the U.S. from Volhynia Province in the Ukraine of Russia in 1874.

In April 2017 I met James in Charleston, IL, in a Senior Home where he is currently bedfast unable even to roll over, suffering from Inclusion Body Myositis, a muscular dystrophy disease which attacks arms, hands, legs and



feet. However, James was cheerful and visited with energy with his wife Barbara sitting with us.



James was involved first with his music career. He was born April 30, 1929, and grew up in Moundridge KS where his father John P. Krehbiel was a partner in the Krehbiel Hardware and sold International Harvester implements. To his father's dismay, James developed a great love of music while attending Bethany College. Then while serving in the Navy he played a French Horn in Navy bands. His music education continued in Paris, France, and then his M.M. and PhD. at Indiana University. He taught music at Bethany College from 1960-1965; then at Eastern Illinois University for 26 years, 1965-1991 before retirement.

After taking flying lessons, James started exploring genealogy to discover his own ancestral history. He spent countless hours poring through genealogy books at the Bethel College Library and found the Kotosufka churchbook and started tracing the journeys of the 37 families named in the book. Then he found the Horodyszczce and Waldheim books in the safe of the Salem Zion Church. Fortunately the three books had been brought to America from Russia.

Lying unmoving in his bed, James spoke with amazing clarity about the Swiss Volhynian history; he knew well what was printed in those first pages of his published 1995 book. Sixteen pages of maps and history gave the framework for the Swiss Volhynian journeys. He knew which families had Amish sojourns and which did not (see "Just which Swiss Volhynian Families were originally Amish and which were not" chart on swissmennonite.org website under Past Monthly Features, March 2003). He spoke of why Mennonites got to farm land in Volhynia because Russia had wanted farmers. Then when Tzar Alexander II took over, he wanted the foreign settlers to give up their language to learn the Russian language and attend Russian churches. Children had to attend Russian schools, and the men had to bear arms. Russianization policies changed the plans of the Mennonites, and many moved to the U.S.

In 1993, James and Barbara learned more about Swiss Volhynian history on a tour to Switzerland, France and Germany with Delbert Gratz, Bluffton College. After his book was published in 1995, James and Barbara had a tour to Poland, Ukraine, and Russia with Harley Stucky and Ozzie Goering.

James continued the genealogical history by adding those children born in America plus the next generation. Through the years he traveled to nine states searching for church books and cemeteries.

In Monroe, WA, James found only one Mennonite in the area who had attended the local church (that no longer had services) and who miraculously had all the church records in a closet at his house. In OK, southeast of Weatherford, where some people from Pretty Prairie had moved in 1898, he found graves in a cemetery, identified as the Kaufman Cemetery, where only three monuments were not covered with plow sand from the dirty thirties. He also found Mennonite church books and cemeteries in California, Montana, and many other states. Imagine what it might have been like to find the grave of his great grandfather in a muddy cemetery in the middle of a field because the church had moved to town—Alsen, ND. Surprising “finds” like that keep a researcher going.

James and Barbara’s three children, James, Mark, and Elizabeth are successful adults. Barbara worked 37 years in the Charleston Public Library and set up the library’s genealogy and Illinois history section there.

James’ health challenges with two cancers, leukemia, and thyroid and IBM disease diagnosed in 2007 have been traumatic, but he still keeps a smile on his face as he remembers many joyous travels and experiences to over 25 countries. When asked what has been most important to him, he replied that he wants to be remembered for his music. He had been a teacher, a tenor, director of choirs, orchestras and bands, played a number of instruments, and a composer.

I never heard him play his French horn, but I recognize what an amazing contribution James W. Krehbiel has made to the understanding of the genealogical history of the Swiss Volhynian Mennonites.

—Kathy Goering, James and Barbara Krehbiel

Scholarship Policy.

A \$500 scholarship is waiting for one of our Swiss Volhynian students—deadline July 1. Application should be sent to Scholarship Committee, Roger Juhnke, 328 Lakeshore Drive, Newton, KS 67114 or contact him at fluhnke@cox.net. Encourage a Swiss Volhynian student to apply.

Beroge, Pirogy, Berrogi, Berogga, or Beoregs?

Being newly married, (seven months), and living in my husband's community at Freeman, South Dakota, I bravely invited my parents-in-law and my husband's siblings for an evening meal. As a low-German, I was eager to learn how to cook Swiss ethnic foods. Poppy seed rolls were being mastered thanks to Grandma Waltner's tutelage. She gave me insider tips of putting into the dough some rendered chicken fat and rolling the dough about the size of a dinner plate.

The Pioneer Cookbook printed by Freeman Junior College Women's Auxiliary in 1961 was my Swiss Cooking Bible. Turning to the traditional main dishes section, page 22, I settled on Bona Berogga. The cookbook named Mrs. J. G. Graber (Edna) as the contributor for this fare and translated bona berogga as 'Bean Bis-cuits'.

The Bona Berogga recipe had a lot of sugar mixed with the cooked mashed navy beans so thinking there must be a mistake in printing I lessened the sugar amount considerably. The directions said to use a favorite sweet roll recipe in which to place the cooked bean

mixture. My land lady, Betty Gross, had frequently graced me with her baking and I trusted her roll recipe, page 35, in this cookbook of favorites from the Swiss, Hutterite, and Low German Pioneers.

Shaping the 'Beroggas' was doable, but the dressing for this main dish called for 1 and 1/2 cups of cream and one cup sugar. This meant another adaptation; I cut out all the sugar and mixed into the cream one browned onion and simmered the white sauce for 10 minutes. As per my custom I dated the recipe the day I first made it, January 23, 1963. Changes/adaptations to the recipe were noted and an evaluation was written on the right side. The word 'delicious' appears beside the Bona Berogga.

I learned 11 years later, when the newly published *Melting Pot of Mennonite Cookery* in 1974 published by Bethel College Womens Association p. 294 that the Beroge-Pirogy was also considered a main dish appearing along side noodle dish recipes. *The Russian Cookbook* by Barbara Norman, 1967, translates PIROGI as a large covered pastry and the first three letters of pi-rogy mean a feast. In this Russian cookbook, page 36-41, the filled pockets are 'Beoregs'.

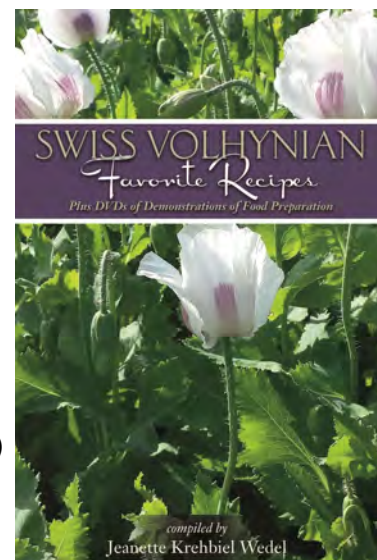
The meal with the in-laws was a feast. I learned in subsequent years that Sieglinda, my mother-in-law, had never made bona berogga. Another observation after being married 50 years and moving to Kansas, was to experience the Mennonite Central Committee Relief Sale of Feeding the Multitudes in Hutchinson, KS. Bona Berogga or as spelled in Kansas 'Bona Berrogi' was one of the items purchased in the food line. I had fond memories of serving my new family in South Dakota the Swiss delicacy. I must confess that after taking my first bite I decided to leave the rest for the starving children in India; it was so sweet! But at the annual (SMCHA) banquet the baked mashed navy bean pocket with a cream sauce was re-deemed. The delicacy was absolutely unequivocally delicious and not too sweet, but just right.



Now who will be brave enough to put the bona berogga (pirogi) back in the recipe book as a main dish? I recommend adding the browned onions instead of sugar to the cream gravy. Why would mashed beans be considered a dessert? And how will the delicacy be spelled in the new Swiss cookbook: Beroge, Pirogy, Berrogi, Berogga, or Beoregs?

—B. Lois Thieszen Preheim, September 23, 2016

Editor's Note:
Hang on, Lois; the "Swiss Volhynian Favorite Recipes" book is at the printer—with 23 ethnic recipes and four foods (including bohne beroggi) demonstrated on two helpful attached DVDs. You'll want a copy.



Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association
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See at Heritage Hall Museum in
Freeman SD on the Bus Trip in July.

Online at:
www.swissmennonite.org

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Happenings in Late 1800s+ from Swiss Germans in South Dakota Book

1874 Mennonite immigrants came to South Dakota

1876 First school in Rev. Joseph Graber home. Teacher salary \$16/month

1880 Sunday School classes. (Worship in German language up to WWI)

1880 Horodisch and Waldheim separated and Salem Church built

1884 Some families moved to Pretty Prairie KS, organized First Mennonite

1890 General Conference held its 12th sessions in the Salem Church

1890s Some women wore hats. Boys dresses to 3 years. Fabric 6-12 cents/yd

1894 Salem and Zion merged.

1898 Bethany Church built. Hutter, Low German and Swiss

1900 Phone party line. Horse-drawn carriage.

1903 Classes began at Freeman Jr. College

1906 Dr. Edwin J. Kaufman first medical doctor among Swiss Germans

1908 Model T Ford

1908 New Salem Church dedicated

1910 Organ purchased at Salem Zion Church. 1920 pipe organ

1912 Autos made their appearance

1915 Churches presented the Messiah and for many years following

1929 October stock market crash

1930 Foot washing eliminated

1932 Depression. Dirty Thirties

1940 Chas. J. Kauffman moved his museum to Bethel College, N. Newton KS

1951 Salem Home Inc. 50 people

1952 Freeman Hospital opened

1959 March 13, Schmeckfest. 1000 people.

"The Daily Bonnet" is a Mennonite comedy website from Canada, but will cover other Mennonite sub-cultures. <http://dailybonnet.com>. These hilarious and intentionally false stories will make you laugh. Here's one about poppyseed cake. From Brian Stucky. <http://dailybonnet.com/mennonite-woman-arrested-border-possession-poppseed-cake/>

Cemetery booklets The SMCHA website lists names of Schweitzers buried in the cemeteries of Hopefield, Eden, First Mennonite of Christian, Pretty Prairie, Kingman, Salem in Freeman, Salem Zion in Freeman, Lorraine Avenue, West Zion. Printed specific booklets may be purchased at the Banquet or have sent to you for \$5 (includes mailing cost) from Kathy Goering, P.O. Box 93, Moundridge KS 67107.

2017 Annual Meeting Report

First Mennonite Church of Newton welcomed 130 members and friends to hear board reports and Curt Goering, Director of the Center for Victims of Torture. Ron Preheim, Barb Stucky, Keith Albrecht, and Roy Kaufman were approved for another term on the Board. The budget of \$5,900 approved. Ron Dietzel shared the history of the church. Curt Goering reported that the Center for Victims of Torture is involved in healing physical and psychological wounds of those who have been tortured around the world. HealTorture.org is a website with more information. The largest program is in Jordan where there are 650,000 Syrian refugees and another 650,000 who have not registered with United Nations. Poppyseed rolls and other refreshments were served.