



Schweitzer Salt

Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association

February 2018

"Annual Meeting at Pretty Prairie"

Annual Meeting—Sunday, March 11, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. at Pretty Prairie Mennonite.

Swiss Volhynians Who came to America after the Main Groups Left Russia in 1874 **2**

Only Schweitzer Spoken Here

M&M: Maynard and Marlene Krehbiel **3**

Scholarship \$1,000

Schweitzer Eck

150th Anniversary 2024

Fall Fest 2018 **4**

Foundation earnings, Recipes, Gift to MLA, Bus Tour

SMCHA Mission:

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

* Offer financial assistance to qualifying 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.

2018 Membership dues \$20/year or \$100 for six years. *Schweitzer Salt* is sent to members.

Speaker Rev. Kathryn (Kathy) Goering Reid will be speaking on "Schweitzer Culture and Peace in Our Homes." Reid is currently the Executive Director of the Family Abuse Center in Waco, Texas. The Family Abuse Center's purpose is to eliminate domestic violence and to prevent abuse through education and prevention activities. The programs include a 64 bed emergency shelter, prevention programs working with families with small children, legal advocacy, a supportive living program and a permanent housing program. Kathy has more than thirty years of experience working in the religious community to prevent child abuse and domestic violence.

Kathy is the daughter of Oswald H. and Elaine Wedel Goering. In particular, her grandparents (Edward & Katie Wedel, Henry and Mary Goering) were inspiration and extremely important in the formation of her values and faith. She graduated from Manchester College with a BA in English and taught more than 7 years in the public school system in the Chicago suburbs and in Atlanta, Georgia. First ordained in Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren in the late 1980s, Kathy began her ministry as first Director of Christian Education and later as Associate Pastor of Epworth United Methodist Church, Berkeley, CA.



In 1990, she was ordained in the Mennonite Church. For 12 years, she was a church planter in Austin, Texas (Austin Mennonite Church). At the same time, she served as the Executive Director of the Texas Homeless Network. In 2004, she blended her passion for the caring ministries in the church with her skill in administrative work to become the Executive Director of the Association of Brethren Caregivers, Elgin, Illinois. For nearly a year, she was Associate General Secretary of Ministry & Program of the Church of the Brethren supervising nearly 100 employees and overseeing a nearly five million dollar budget.

Kathy is the author of several books and curriculum about preventing child sexual abuse and one on "Uncovering Racism."

Kathy is married to Dr. Stephen Reid, Professor of Christian Scriptures at George Truett Seminary, Baylor University, Waco, Texas. They have four children living all over the country. They also have five grandchildren.

SMCHA reports and election of board members will be on the meeting agenda. Refreshments will be served. No reservations needed. All are invited.

Annual Banquet—Thursday, October 18, 2018. Don and Joanne Hess Siegrist from Pennsylvania will speak on Anabaptists in Switzerland. Siegrists are knowledgeable about Trachselwald Castle where early Anabaptists were imprisoned, its important history and current ownership. Put the date on your calendar.

“On the Swiss Volhynians Who Came to America After the Main Groups Left Russia in 1874” by Vernon C. Schrag

Upon finding the SMCHA website some years ago, Vern Schrag, Kingman, KS, became aware of the work of Martin H. Schrag "The European History of the Swiss Mennonites From Volhynia", James W. Krehbiel's "Swiss Russian Mennonite Families Before 1874" and Betty Graber Hartzler's "Swiss Volhynian Database". Being impressed with these and the works of others, he wanted to make a contribution and decided to make a study of the handwritten immigrant ship manifests that were filed at the Port of New York by the Captains of the steamships that carried our Swiss Volhynian ancestors to America. According to the National Archives Records Administration, there were 37,471 voyages which brought 4.5 million German and Russian immigrants to America between 1834 and 1897.

The focus of his current article (now available on swissmennonite.org) is about the Schweitzer families who remained when the four congregations left Russia in 1874. Some of these 20 or so families remained in Europe indefinitely but about a dozen of them immigrated to America later. Vern has been able to locate and transcribe ship records for these families (about 66 persons).

Vern grew up on a farm in the Pretty Prairie, Kansas area. His father, Erwin C. Schrag, was raised at Moundridge and his mother, Frieda G. Graber, was descended from those who came from the Dakota Territory to resettle in Reno Co., Kansas in 1884. His basic training in research methodology came when he was an assistant geochemist at Wichita State University. He later became a consulting petroleum geologist working in Eastern Colorado and Kansas.

In the process of his research, begun in 2006, Vern has found that much of the previously published ship information is incomplete. He hopes to provide in the near future a more complete accounting of the four Schweitzer groups that came to America from Russia in 1874 and to identify those persons by correlation with the available genealogical data.

“Only Schweitzer Spoken Here”

In May, 2003, the SMCHA Board entertained the suggestion to initiate “Only Schweitzer Spoken Here.” A committee planned programs three to four times a year. Sometimes as many as 100 Schweitzers attended and appreciated the stories, music, skits, jokes and poems that were shared all in German. An observer could tell who understood the German by the number of people who were laughing at the jokes. Some say stories are funnier in German than English, stories about use of horses on the farm, taking up electricity, snakes, nicknames, butchering days and reminiscing. Programs were usually at Pine Village Wellness Center.



Dr. Michael Putnam, professor from Penn State University, interviewed 23 Schweitzer-speaking people in 2011 and returned in 2013 to share his observations. He also understood that we are slowly losing the dialect, a comment of great concern to those who love the language and see that as important to our ethnic community.

“Only Schweitzer Spoken Here” has not met since 2014. Lorita Regier Zook, Stan Saner, and Norvin Schrag are thinking about ways for those who love the language to still gather to speak German. If you are interested in participating in some kind of forum in the future, let them know.

Financial Assistance for Students

Note the new due date of May 30, 2018 for Mennonite students to apply for up to \$1,000 financial assistance from SMCHA. Individuals of Swiss Volhynian descent who are preparing for Christian service, seminary, or voluntary service may submit a letter of application before May 30.

The first SMCHA scholarship was given in 1980 to Preston Goering, student at Bethel College. Since then, 32 Mennonites have received helpful financial assistance.

Check the requirements on the swissmennonite.org website. Apply to Roger Juhnke, 328 Lakeshore Dr., Newton KS 67114 (316-283-0452 rjuhnke@gmail.com) or to Kerwin Graber, 44065 278th Street, Freeman, SD 57029 (620-660-3382 krgraber@goldenwest.net). Affirm a young adult to benefit.

M&Ms

Like M&M candy. Flavorful. Maynard and Marlene Krehbiel. Both have a strong Schweitzer heritage. Both have participated faithfully through SMCHA activities about old time customs, Only Schweitzer Spoken Here, presentations at Meetings, Fall Fest, *Schweitzer Salt* articles, etc. They have traveled overseas on heritage trips and have great respect for their ancestors. Sweet.

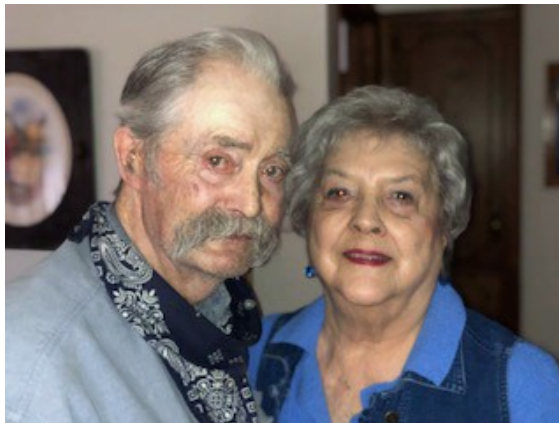
Marlene's early years were in the country, moving into town at age 5 learning English in Grade One. She remembers the barriers between country and town kids in those days. In Sunday School, some country kids would refuse to sit with her causing her much pain. When she finally told her Mom that she was not going back to church any more, her mother told her, “The reason we go to church is because we love Jesus. We don't stay away when things happen that are difficult. Your classmates will grow up some time and realize that too.” Now Marlene notices “outsiders” standing alone at church and is concerned that they be included.

Marlene helped with harvest; she drove her Dad's (Pete Ferd Stucky) two-ton truck full of wheat to the elevator already at the age of 13 (no drivers license). Marlene thought she didn't wear jeans until junior high. She was in Girl Scouts and now wondered if she wore dresses to the campouts. Playing softball (pitcher) at school earned her the name “Slugger Pete.”

Born in Hutchinson, Maynard also lived in Pretty Prairie and later Moundridge. He worked in the oil field, at Hesston Corporation, and for years as farm manager for McPherson Concrete. "Religion was not poked at us. Our Christian life grew all through life, not one major event," Maynard said. He wanted to farm and did not want college. Maynard participated in Harvest when wheat was bound and thrashed; finally they got a combine. Harvest took a long time.

Mennonites farmed in Russia and they farmed here because they knew how. They were also good business people. Great Grandpa Krehbiel was born in Russia (Black Joe Krehbiel); his brother Red Jake Krehbiel started the Krehbiel Hardware in Moundridge. Another Krehbiel brother (Arkansas John) moved here and then to Pretty Prairie and then died digging out coyote pups (sounds like a story there).

Maynard was baptized by Rev. Peter Dyck (who he was afraid of) at Eden Mennonite Church. Maynard registered as a conscientious objector at age 18 but didn't have to appear before the draft board; most all his friends at this time were Conscientious Objectors. So after marriage to Marlene, they went to Colorado for 1-W service. Both from small communities,



religious life," Marlene said. Because of this experience, she is joyous to see young people give time to voluntary service.

After hunting one day in Colorado, the word got back to Peter Dyck about having guns. The next time the Krehbiels were in Moundridge, they were rebuked for having a gun in 1-W service. Maynard said he kept the gun though.

Maynard comes by his ornery attitude honestly as his Dad Ed Krehbiel was involved with pranks, sometimes getting friends to dive into shallow water and then pulling them out of the mud. His Mom Della was described as a "spitfire."

Marlene wanted to be a writer but put that off to get married. Four children later, Marlene attended college and loved it. She taught in Inman and Moundridge schools for 33 years. She also initiated the Forensics program in Inman.

The Krehbiel family always had horses and Maynard has had horses for pleasure and for work. For many years, every first Saturday in November, horse owners from Kansas and other states came to his farm near Elyria, Kansas, for a plowing-with-horses event. Maynard served on the Moundridge Museum Board but left when he felt that Mennonites were not getting credit for their pioneer contributions to Moundridge.

Both Ms have a high regard for Mennonites and also for their community. They express pride in the strength and character of the people and appreciate their contributions to life, particularly their steadfastness and willingness to invest themselves in what is important. They are chagrined at people who are critical of Mennonites or who don't honor their upbringing.

When asked, "what do you value about your heritage," Marlene answered, "our work ethic." Maynard hopes that "stille im lande" never changes. He says that way of thinking has been around for a long time and probably is a good thing. These days after their move to Moundridge, he appreciates sitting in Sunday School class with 14 other old guys.

Just like M&Ms candy, we appreciate the flavor and goodness that Marlene and Maynard have brought to us through their lives. Ummmmmm.

Schweitzer Eck—

A Kurtza Daag Uf Dem Baurnhoff

Es war moll a Frau was in der Stadt geboren und ufkevaxed war und sie denkt as es goot vare moll zum a Baurhoff a paar dag bleiba. Sie kent frischers Luft schnaufa und vielleicht sich goot ausruha.

Sie hut freindschaft was a Bauer farhirat hut so dut ist sie anagang. Der Bauer hut Fee unjd Sei und deas Luft war net so Frisch. Am drei Uhr im Morget hut der Hahn kekraet und van er schtill war hut der Hund kapellt.

Im Morget ist sie ausang zum Heisli, but die Daer uf gemach unds war ke hinders Vant. Sie is base und hut der Bauer angeruffed. Er hut ihr gesaht das ist schun zehn Yahr so. Das giept bessera Ventilation und vom hinda niemant ware dich viesä.

—Der Schweitzer Bauer

There once was a lady who was born and grew up in town and she thought it would be good to spend a few days at a farm. She thought she could breathe some fresh air and really get rested up.

She had relation that married a farmer so that is where she went. The farmer had cows and hogs so the air was not too fresh. At three in the morning the rooster started crowing and when he was quiet the dog was barking.

In the morning she went out to use the outhouse but when she opened the door she noticed there was no back wall. She was mad and called the farmer over. He told her it's been like that for ten years. He said it has better ventilation and from behind nobody knows you anyway.

—Maynard Krehbiel

150th Anniversary of Swiss Volhynian Mennonites Coming to America is 2024. How shall we celebrate? Looking for leaders to plan ahead. (Check the website to see the 125th Celebration at Hopefield.)

Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association
P. O. Box 93
Moundridge KS 67107



Online at:
www.swissmennonite.org

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"Only Schweitzer Spoken" :

Norvin Schrag, Lorita Regier

Genealogy Advisor: Betty

Graber Hartzler

Honorary Historian: James W.
Krehbiel

Schweitzer Salt Editor
Kathy Goering, 620-345-8532
Moundridge, Kansas
kjgo@mtelco.net
Article submissions welcome.

Schweitzers at Fall Fest

February 1, 1987 SMCHA Board minutes report: "We are offered a one-hour slot at Bethel College Centennial Fall Festival. Charge \$1.50; we keep \$1, Bethel gets \$.50. J.O. Schrag will write a play." On October 8, 1988 J.O. Schrag's play, "The Steckleman" (Matchmaker) was presented. The tradition continued every year after (1998??) through 2010. All meetings were in Schweitzer German and participants were from South Dakota, Pretty Prairie, Moundridge, and surrounding communities. DVDs of programs in 1989, 1990, 1991, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006 and 2010 (thanks to copy work by Gib Burgan) are being added to our website so that people can enjoy the events in German.

May 1, 2009 Board minutes report: "Vic Goering reported that Bethel College Fall Fest officials are considering having Schweitzer and Low German programs on alternate years." Schweitzer alternate years were 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016 and now we are planning a Schweitzer event for 2018.

Planners and program participants were: Harley & Ruby Stucky, Roland & Fern Goering, Delbert & Mary Ann Preheim; Arlan & Ellen Ortman; Martin & Marjorie Stucky, Maynard & Marlene Krehbiel, Gordon & Annie Schrag, Levi Krehbiel, Elmer Schrag, Ellis & Esther Goering, Verna Kaufman Goering, Victor Goering, Neva Stucky Kaufman, Ed Krehbiel, Waldo Voth, Alice Schrag, Marjean Stucky, Nadine Wedel, Don Kaufman, Lowell Goering, Martin H. Goering, Delbert Goering, Sharon Durst, Harold Schrag, Ozzie Goering, Clemon Kaufman, Wayne Stucky, Lavera Schrag, Geneva Siefker, Vernell Kaufman, Anne Schrag, Lena Krehbiel, Toby Goering, Jim Stucky, Doris Stucky, Ben Stucky, Vernon D. Goering, Richard Stucky, Joe Schrag, Norvin Schrag, Edythe Entz, Delmar Voran, Lynn Kaufman, Jake Goering, Vickie Kaufman, Stan Saner, Evelyn Schrag, Lorita Regier.

This is the year for the Schweitzers. Saturday, October 6, 2018. Since attendance has decreased year after year as fewer people speak or understand Schweitzer, the SMCHA Board decided this year to have a Schweitzer Party at Fall Fest — a gathering to interact and eat poppyseed rolls. The attraction will be Max Voran showing pictures of Ukraine, the trip that 54 Schweitzers took in 2013, that will remind us of our shared past. The German dialect will be included for a few minutes to enjoy the sound but no German required to attend. Many Schweitzers don't know they are Schweitzers but we are betting that if they hear that poppyseed rolls are being served, they will realize that they belong to the family.

What do you know about the Immigrant House? How large was it? Where did it stand? Sure wish somebody would have taken a photo. The Board is discussing how to draw attention to the Immigrant House west of Hopefield Church, rural Moundridge KS. Ideas?

Moundridge Foundation SMCHA earnings:

2013 Develop Cemeteries on the Web project

2014 Maintenance

2015 Directional signs

2016 Digitize history books/ records

2017 Immigrant House

Gift to Mennonite Library and Archives (MLA).

Because one SMCHA goal is disseminating historical information, the board decided to send a financial gift to the new MLA endowment drive.

Swiss Volhynian Favorite Recipes

Out of 800 ordered, 28 are left (cost \$20) plus 19 without DVDs (cost \$10). Get one at Annual Meeting.

**NEW BUS TOUR
PLANNED.**
Watch for details.