



Schweitzer Salt

Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association

September 2018

Schweitzers at Bethel College Fall Fest

Saturday, October 6, 2018, at 10-11 a.m.

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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.

The Schweitzer event at Bethel College Fall Festival will be Saturday, October 6, 2018, 10:00-11:00 a.m. No German language required to attend but we will hear some Schweitzer spoken too.

Main focus will be Max Voran showing Ukraine photos from the 2013 Heritage trip. Native of Kingman, Kansas, Max graduated from Bethel College in 1965 with an Education degree. Since photography is a passion, the opportunity to walk in the steps of our ancestors and photograph the areas was a once in a lifetime privilege. Max will show you many Ukraine sites and tell you about the harrowing bus shortcut—we could still be stranded there.



Schweitzer descendants at Edwardsdorf sign



Come to the Will Academic Center (old Science Hall), Room 216, at 10:00 for the Schweitzer gathering AND poppyseed rolls and coffee and hang around for visiting.

Know about Anabaptists? Let's get ready to learn more from Don and Joanne Hess Siegrist about Switzerland and Trachselwald Castle at the SMCHA Annual Banquet on Thursday, October 18, 2018, at 6:00 pm at Bethel College Mem Hall. RSVP bstucky39@mtelco.net. 620-386-0186.

1525, Then What? Learn at Banquet.

Speakers Don and Joanne Hess Siegrist from Pennsylvania are knowledgeable about Trachselwald Castle in Switzerland where early Anabaptists were imprisoned, and its important history. This presentation, titled “Anabaptist History: Trachselwald Castle and Other Events in the Emmental, Switzerland” will include visuals with background music by Swiss Reformed choir.



SMCHA Annual Banquet will be at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 18, 2018, at Memorial Hall, Bethel College. Bethel College Music groups, Open Road and Woven, will entertain us.

Reservations are needed before Friday, October 12, for Bethel College Food Service who will be serving our banquet; cost \$20/plate. RSVP to Barbara Stucky (bstucky39@mtelco.net; 620-386-0186).

Bethel College’s Friday morning Convocation—October 19, at 11:00, at Krehbiel Auditorium—is **open to all students and the public**. This presentation by Don and Joanne Hess Siegrist, “Building a Bridge Back to Switzerland,” will feature events of persecution days and their connections with Swiss people who care about apologizing and being reconciled with Anabaptist groups.

Furgge

For a view of what life was like for early Anabaptists, read Katharina Zimmermann’s fascinating book *Furgge*. It opens significant doors for understanding Christians called Anabaptist. The names of the Anabaptists are real persons who lived in Schangnau and include names such as Gerber, Augsburg, Hershey, and Stucki. One can find these names in the actual church books of Schangnau, nearby Eggiwil, and in the prison records/ship deportation lists now located in the archives in Bern.

Historian John Ruth writes, “It is evident that Katharina Zimmermann has carefully and judiciously gone through the sources...The reader is taken with memorable specificity into the flora and fauna, the topography, the weather patterns, the superstitious folkways and speech of setting, character and society.”

“The novel creates a vivid picture of what life was like for these people as they followed their convictions and suffered for their beliefs, says historian John E. Engle. The imprisonment and deportations from Bern in the years 1710 and 1711 are clearly depicted. Descriptions of the activities of the bounty-hunters known as Tauferjager are particularly poignant.” Readers who have Anabaptist ancestors from this area will have a deeper appreciation of their struggles.



This history is ours as well.

Some of the earliest Swiss Volhynian ancestors:

- Jacob Kaufmann born about 1532. His son Jacob Kaufman born about 1562 in Schopfen, Basel, Switzerland
- Hanns Schrag born 1547 in Mistelberg, Wynigen, Bern, Switzerland
- Jost Krehbiel born about 1650 in Switzerland. His father Jost Krayenbuhl died in prison because of Anabaptist beliefs.
- Christian Stucki born ca. 1700, died 1780 in Montbeliard France and buried in Mennonite graveyard in Vois-Bourgeois.
- Mossi Gering born 1751 in Montbeliard France (Wurttemberg) and baptized there in 1766.
- Heinrich Moses Preheim born 1785 probably in the Netherlands, buried in Russia.
- Johann Wedel born 1800 in Ostrug, Russia.
- Carl Friedrich Wilhelm Juhnke born 1841 in Hinterpommern, Germany
- Michael Waldner born in Unteramblach, Carinthia, Austria.

SWISS ORIGINS

From The European History of the Swiss Mennonites from Volhynia—Schrag, Martin H 1956

The early Anabaptists were educated and urban—but the persecution drove them from the cities and towns to the remote and relatively inaccessible highlands and mountain fringes of the fertile areas of the Canton Bern. Here they hid and

persisted in spite of persecution, through the centuries to the present time.

Persecution, of varying intensity, was the lot of the Swiss Anabaptists (Mennonites) until the middle of the eighteenth century. During the intense periods of persecution many, perhaps most of the Anabaptists, fled to whatever havens of refuge they could find, especially in the Germanic areas to the north and northwest of modern Switzerland. The Swiss-Volhynians were among this group.

Documentation of Swiss Origin. Documentation of the Swiss origin of the Swiss-Volhynian Mennonites is found in families that can be traced back to Switzerland, and in early records written by or about Swiss-Volhynian Mennonites.¹ Mention should be made of the fact that families of interest in this study left Switzerland in the later part of the seventeenth century and the forepart of the eighteenth.

The Krehbiel family is traceable to Switzerland genealogically. Jost Crayenbuehl,² characterized as a leader in the church, lived at Zäziwil, Switzerland, near the River Aar.³ He was located on a large hof in the immediate vicinity of Zäziwil. Three sons were born to Jost. One of these, named Peter, states that they were reared in the fear of the Lord and with much Bible teaching. They worked their fields and were not too much concerned with matters outside their immediate context. The Anabaptists living in the area met at different places on Sunday because the congregation was scattered. Nearly all of the members were farmers, with a few weavers and carpenters. Persecution came in 1670. Jost Crayenbuehl was imprisoned and mistreated. After something of a miraculous delivery from prison, he and his family left Switzerland.⁴

On the basis of primary sources, as recorded by the historian Mathiot, it can be asserted that the families arriving in Volhynia from the Montbeliard community in France were of Swiss origin. Mathiot states in relation to families living in the Montbeliard community, that the Fluckiger family came from Lützelfüh and Hettiswil in Bern, the Graber

family from Bern (possibly Kirchdorf), the Kauffman family from Grindelwald, Bern, and the Stuckys from Kirchdorf, Diessbach, and Diemtigen.⁵ This evidence relates family names found among Swiss-Volhynian Mennonites with explicit points in Switzerland.

Reinforcing the last paragraph, there is conclusive evidence that the Alsace and Montbeliard communities were almost entirely composed of Swiss Anabaptists and their descendants. A Catholic priest notes the coming of the Swiss Anabaptists to Alsace in 1643. (Earlier Swiss Anabaptists in Alsace had been virtually wiped out by persecution and war.) Primary sources attest to the fact that a large group arrived in Alsace in 1671.⁶ The Swiss background of the two mentioned communities is commonly accepted by historians conversant with the story.⁷

Footnotes:

¹[It is interesting to note that three Swiss-Volhynian family names are found in early Anabaptist records. In a listing of early Anabaptists is found one Jan Zurcher from Schaffhausen. The year is 1535, and he is listed as a city dweller \(Peachy, p. 127\). A Peter Stucki from Oberiesabach attended the Anabaptist debate in Bern in March, 1538. A person by the same name, possibly the same individual, was executed in Bern on April 16, 1538 \(Gratz, p. 25\). In July, 1531, an Anabaptist named Fluckiger reported in court that he had been baptized the previous Easter \(John C. Wenger, "Martin Keninger's Vindication of Anabaptism, 1635," *Mennonite Quarterly Review* XXII:3 July, 1948, p. 180\). There is no way of knowing, however, whether these men were related to the later Swiss-Volhynian families.](#)

²[J.J. Krehbiel, Moundridge, Kansas, states regarding the origin of the name: "The saying about the name is this. There was a hill and lots of crows, so the hill was called Crayenbuhl." \(Letter from J.J. Krehbiel, Moundridge, Kansas, to C. Henry Smith, Newton, Kansas, March 18, 1923, and now in the Historical Library of Bluffton College, Bluffton, Ohio.\) Variant early spelling was Krahenbuhl. The *Mennonische Lexikon* states that the Krehbiel family came from the Kirchspiel Grosshochstettern in the Canton of Bern \("Krehbiel," *Mennonische Lexikon* II, p. 565\).](#)

³[See location, p. 18](#)

⁴["Nach alten Papieren und Erzaehlungen eines Grossvaters Wie die Krehbiels auf den Weierhof kamen," 1792 \(unpublished article, Bethel College Historical Library\). Authenticity of information based on the fact that information in the first part of the article was recorded by Peter, the son of Jost.](#)

⁵[The work by Mathiot is a scholarly written book, based on primary sources. Ch. Mathiot, *Recherches Historiques sur les Anabaptistes de l'Ancienne Principaute de Montbeliard, d'Alsace et des Regions voisines* \(Belfort: Mission Interieure, 1922\), Annex. See Location, p. 18](#)

⁶[Ernst H. Correll, "Alsace," *Mennonite Encyclopedia* I \(1953\), pp. 68-70.](#)

⁷[An example of this is Gratz, pp. 38 and 87.](#)

This article continues in next [Schweitzer Salt](#).

Documentary: Traveling the Anabaptist heritage trail in Europe

John Ruth's 90-minute documentary entitled *Is There a Lesson?* will be shown at Hesston College as a part of Homecoming Weekend—September 29, 2018 at 3:30 p.m. at Lambright Hall which is just west of the Administration Building or north of the Library. Photography from the 1960's through decades of film footage to video from John Ruth's more than 60 heritage tours will help bring the stories of Anabaptist leaders to life. Even if you never went on a heritage tour, you will enjoy seeing the sites in the Netherlands, France, Germany, and Switzerland. John Ruth has led many tours and he is now retiring so we're glad that he is sharing many of these sites with all who are interested. **Tickets are free and open to the public.**

150th Anniversary of Swiss Volhynian Mennonites Coming to America is 2024. How shall we celebrate? Looking for leaders to plan ahead.

Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association
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"Only Schweitzer Spoken" :

Norvin Schrag, Lorita Zook

Genealogy Advisor: Betty
Graber Hartzler

Honorary Historian: James W.
Krehbiel

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Article submissions welcome.

Names on Cemetery directory building.

Keith Albrecht and Richard Stucky, SMCHA board members, have installed a new display in the Hopefield Directory Building that lists names of people *probably buried or possibly* buried there in those years for which no records are known. Stop by to admire the attractive setting for this information.

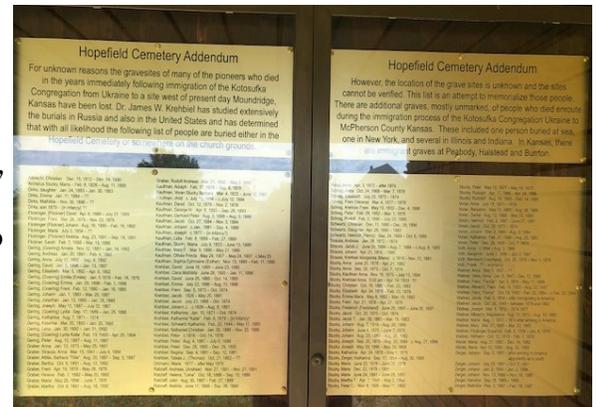
Kip Wedel Award.

Congratulations to Kip Wedel, former SMCHA board member and Associate Professor of History and Peace Studies at Bethel College for being awarded the Ralph T. Schrag Distinguished Teaching Award.



Three Groups, One Story.

Freeman Mennonites and Hutterites have filmed a documentary, *Three Groups, One Story*, directed by Marnette Hofer, archivist of the Heritage Hall Museum and Archives, and written by leaders of the three groups: S. Roy Kaufman (Swiss Mennonites), Norman Hofer (Hutterite), and Robert Engbrecht (Low German). A video production company, FiveCore Media, received two bronze Telly awards (professional competition) for their hour-long documentary telling the stories of settlers in South Dakota in the 1870's. —Heritage Hall Museum, 605-925-7545.



Civil Religion and American Christianity

A very thought-provoking read is "Wrong Kingdom: Why Anabaptists are Suspicious of American Civil Religion" chapter written by Kip A. Wedel of Bethel College. He refers to the doctrine of two kingdoms that prevailed as core of early Anabaptist thinking.

The final chapter, "Kansas Mennonites and the Bicentennial" by James C. Juhnke explains actions and attitudes in various areas in Kansas in 1976. Check it out.

Digitizing books at MLA.

The Mennonite Library and Archives website makes accessible to anyone the digitized printed holdings that Director John Thiesen has been digitizing over the past several years. Thank you, John, for your work using cutting edge technology.

Learn About CO's Here.

New website curated by Swarthmore archivist Anne Yoder features World War I conscientious objectors:

<https://emu.edu/news/2018/02/new-website-curated-by-swarthmore-archivist-anne-yoder-81-features-world-war-i-conscientious-objectors/>