



Schweitzer Salt

Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association

June 2012

Funds Needed to Honor the Swiss Volhynian Mennonite Children Who Died in 1874 at Peabody, Kansas

Elder Jacob Stucky and the Kotosufka Congregation left Russia in 1874 with the intention of joining the other Volhynian brethren in the South Dakota Territory. Representatives of the Santa Fe Railroad met the group in New York City promising them many things if they would come to Kansas. They changed plans and most of the group went to Kansas arriving in Peabody in early September. Immediately the men went off to scout for land suitable for their new homes. While they were gone an illness attacked the children claiming as many as 17 lives. Since the young city had no cemetery and there was already a burial on the H. Hornberger farm north-west of town, the bodies were carried there by the women and buried in graves whose markings have long since become lost (*A Short History of the Swiss Mennonites* by P.P. Wedel). The site later became the cemetery of the Catlin Mennonite Church. In *Swiss Russian Mennonite Families before 1874*, James W. Krehbiel mentioned the article printed in *Herald of Truth* January 1875 that said, "Brother Stucky's party buried about 14 children here on Brother H. Hornberger's farm."



Some families have preserved this story as part of their family lore. Others have not. If your ancestral family was in the group that came to Kansas, one or more of these children could be part of your genealogical history. **SMCHA believes it is time to remember and memorialize these children! To tell their story!** The task force that researched this event is planning to erect a marker this summer to commemorate these young lives with an early fall dedication. See more at www.swissmennonite.org.

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 Hoffnungs-feld Cemetery and Swiss Mennonite Marker and Monument.

In memory of the Swiss Volhynian Mennonite children who died at Peabody on the journey from Russia to Kansas in 1874 and were buried here in September 1874.

Those believed to be buried here are among the following:

JOHANN ALBRECHT
Dec 9, 1872--Sept. 13 1874
TOBIAS DIRKS
Nov. 18, 1872--Sept. 1874
FRENI FLICKINGER
Jan. 24, 1872--Sept. 1874
KATHARINA GERING
Aug. 7, 1871--1874
PETER GERING
June 21, 1873--Sept. 1874
PETER P. KAUFMAN
Feb. 24, 1871--Sept. 15,

ANNA KREHBIEL
Nov. 15, 1871--Sept. 10, 1874
ELISABETH KREHBIEL
Mar. 2, 1872--1874
ELISABETH SCHRAG
July 25, 1873--1874
KATHARINA SCHRAG
Oct. 16, 1872--Sept. 15, 1874
ANDREAS STRAUSS

FRENI STUCKY
Oct. 16, 1873--Sept. 9, 1874
ANNA VORAN
July 18, 1871--1874
JACOB VORAN
Oct. 29, 1873--1874
MARIA WALTNER
Aug. 1, 1872--1874
FRANCES WEDEL
Oct. 29, 1869--Sept. 25, 1874
SALAMON WEDEL
Mar. 10, 1872--Sept. 25, 1874

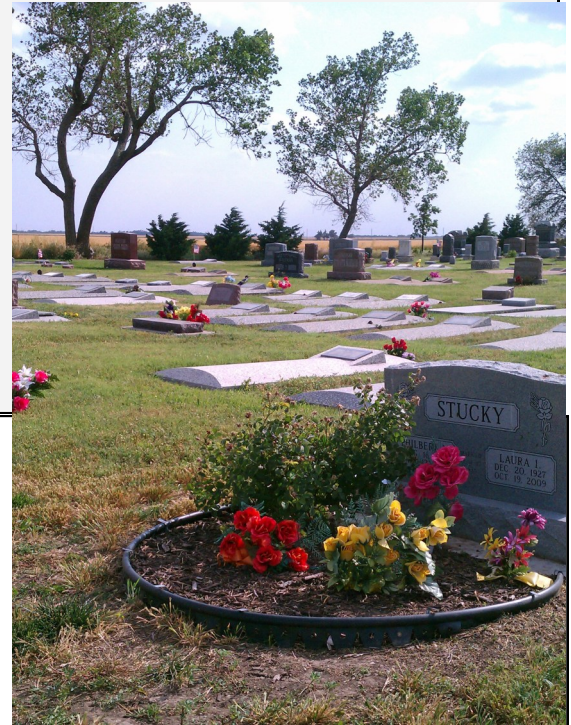
Erected by the Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association, 2012

We need your help. The cost of the memorial marker is nearly \$2200, and only a small portion of those funds have been raised to date. Please help us give these children, our ancestors, a fitting memorial. Send contributions to Ryan Goering, SMCHA Treasurer, 2040 Arrowhead Rd, Moundridge, KS 67107. Any funds collected in excess of the amount needed for the memorial will be placed in the Hoffnungs-feld Cemetery endowment. Contact the task force for additional information: Brian Stucky, Vic Goering, Arnold Wedel, and James Juhnke. Thank you for remembering a very important story in our history.

COME BACK HOME TO HOFFNUNGSFELD CEMETERY

The Hoffnungsfeld Cemetery located west of Moundridge, KS near the site of the Hopefield Church, is the historical burial place for the Swiss Volhynian Mennonites and others who migrated to the area in 1874 and later. It is located on a tract in the NE corner of the SW quarter of section 19 in township 21 of McPherson County. The cemetery was the only Mennonite cemetery west of Moundridge until the dedication of the new Eden Church cemetery in 1924. A large percentage of the original immigrants and pioneer families are buried there. In 2001, the cemetery became the property of the Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association (SMCHA) and it is being preserved as a historical site as well as an active cemetery.

The cemetery provides a final resting place with pleasant rural surroundings. The SMCHA Board would invite people who live in the area, as well as those who have roots here but have lived their lives elsewhere, and those who are contemplating a pleasant final resting-place to consider the Historical Hoffnungsfeld Cemetery.



RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO BE INTERRED IN THE HOFFNUNGSFELD CEMETERY

CEMETERY MANAGEMENT. The Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association Board is responsible for establishing fees, etc. for the use of the cemetery. The Board may charge fees such as grave opening fees, etc. as needed. They may also reduce the price to anyone as deemed appropriate. The Board is responsible for appointing or hiring persons to care for and maintain the cemetery. Perpetual care will include mowing the grass, filling in settlings around grave sites, maintaining monuments that are properly placed, caring for any approved plants, and associated tasks. Perpetual care of the cemetery will be financed by interest earned by the cemetery endowment fund and supplemented from other sources. All user fees will go into the cemetery endowment fund.

PURCHASE OF CEMETERY LOTS. Cemetery lots may be purchased at the time of death or before death if desired. Upon purchase of a lot, SMCHA will issue a certificate in the name of the purchaser. Each lot must be purchased individually and a certificate issued for the same. Each certificate is good for 20 years from the date of issue; at that time an extension may be granted at no additional charge at the request of the certificate holder. The Board is responsible to contact the certificate holder before the 20-year expiration date. A burial certificate is not transferable except with the written permission of the SMCHA Board.

The location of lots may be assigned at the time of death or at the request of the certificate holder. No specific lots may be reserved in areas other than the active rows. In the event that the certificate holder chooses to be buried elsewhere, the certificate reverts back to SMCHA, and the lot may be resold.

Purchase of lots is open to anyone.

GRAVE MARKERS. All graves must be marked with a permanent marker. Grave markers must be placed on a permanent base which is to be at ground level, made of reinforced concrete at least 8 inches thick with footing that extends below the frost level (30 inches). The concrete must be 8 inches larger in all directions than the marker. All markers must be approved by either the sexton or the Board prior to placement. New graves may not be capped or outlined with anything that is not flush with the ground. All new graves must have a cement box or vault which will prevent settling of the grave.

DECORATION OF GRAVES. Decoration is welcomed. Decorations placed on graves at Memorial Day must be removed within two weeks to facilitate mowing. Decorations at other times may be placed at the peril of the mower's schedule.

CREMATION. Cremated ashes will not require a vault. However, lot costs and marker requirements will remain the same. Ashes may be spread over the cemetery at no cost if no marker is erected.

SEXTON. The Sexton keeps all cemetery records. He meets with families to show them burial sites. He will be responsible to stake out graves for digging, to be certain that graves are properly closed, and to stake out locations for monuments.

FALL BANQUET

Thursday, October 18, 2012, at 6:00 at Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton KS. Richard Preheim, recent director of Mennonite Church USA Historical Committee and Archives will be the speaker. His topic will relate to Schweitzers involved in early mission work. Put the date on your calendar.

Face Lift at Mennonite Marker

In October, 1943, almost due east across the road where the first Eden Mennonite Church building stood, the descendants gathered 69 years after arriving to dedicate a granite memorial marker to the pioneers who first settled in the Moundridge community. The marker stands four miles west and one-eighth mile north of Moundridge, Kansas.



Edmund G. Kaufman, Christian H. Goering, Gerhard Zerger, _____, C.J. Goering, P.P. Wedel, Ed R. Goering

Eighteen family names appear on the east side of the marker (Albrecht, Dirks, Flickner, Goering, Graber, Kaufman, Krehbiel, Nachtigal, Schrag, Schroeder, Schwartz, Strausz, Stucky, Sutter, Voran, Waltner, Wedel, Zerger).

Rev. Christian J. Goering, president of the planning committee, Ed R. Goering and P.P. Wedel were all instrumental in erecting this monument. C.J. was very determined that the memory of his Swiss forefathers be preserved. To his ancestors, religious freedom was a most valuable possession, often refused them. These preservers of the faith sought refuge from bitter persecution emigrating through France, Austria, Poland, and Russia and now their families wanted to express their gratefulness for acceptance in this new country—USA.

A mimeographed page of minutes of a planning meeting listed the following resolutions adopted on Thursday, March 18 (no year stated):

1) *In commemoration of important experiences the children of Israel erected memorials. In view of this scriptural procedure be it resolved that we too erect a memorial stone in memory of the faith of our Mennonite Fathers.*

2) *Resolved, that we endeavor to collect \$1250.00 to finance this project; if there shall be a surplus left after all expenses have been paid, the same shall be sent to the treasurer of the Emergency Relief Board of our General Conference for relief work.*

3) *Resolved, that a soliciting committee of five shall be elected to secure subscriptions for the financing of this undertaking, and that this committee go to work at once. The following brethren were elected: Jac. J. Goering, Jac. H. Stucky, Val. Stucky, John D. Schrag and John P. Krehbiel. (Assisting them were Peter J. Schrag, Jac P. Kaufman, Jac H. Stucky, Dave T. Stucky, Peter Zerger, John C. Goering, Gideon Stucky, Peter C. Stucky, Ben Krehbiel, N.P. Stucky, David Zerger, Andrew Flickner, Paul Goering, C.C. Kaufman, Herman Krehbiel, C.C. Graber, Andrew Kaufman, John E. Stucky.)*

4) *Since the Santa Fe Railroad Company gave our fathers a quarter section of land for church purposes and built an immigration house on the same, the memorial stone shall be erected on the southwest corner of this quarter.*

5) *Resolved, that a public program shall be arranged in connection with the dedication of this memorial stone and that a program committee of five members be chosen to prepare the program.*

6) *Resolved, that a cache be made into the stone, into which shall be placed historic and other materials as shall be determined by the executive committee and the program committee.*

7) *That a committee of three shall be chosen to make investigation on the procuring of a stone.*

8) *That an inscription be placed on the stone to read something like this, "Dedicate to the faith of our Mennonite fathers, who for the sake of religious freedom immigrated to this country from Russia in the year 1874."*

—Information from interviews by Betty Ann Zerger in 1945 and from mimeographed pages in C.J. Goering files

The inscription on the west side of the stone reads:

IN MEMORY OF THE SWISS MENNONITE CONGREGATION OF KOTO-SUFKA, VOLHYNIA, RUSSIA, WHOSE MEMBERS LEFT RUSSIA IN SEARCH OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY. SIXTY-TWO FAMILIES SAILING ON THE CITY OF RICHMOND LANDING IN NEW YORK SEPT 3, 1874 AND IN OCTOBER ARRIVING ON THIS QUARTER SECTION (S.W. QUARTER SEC 19-21-2W) WHICH WAS DONATED BY THE SANTA FE RAILROAD COMPANY FOR CHURCH PURPOSES AND WITH A FEW MORE FAMILIES ARRIVING LATER SETTLED THIS NEIGHBORHOOD AND IN GRATITUDE TO THEM AND TO OUR BELOVED COUNTRY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WHICH GRACIOUSLY GRANTED THE RELIGIOUS LIBERTY SOUGHT, AND TO OUR HEAVENLY FATHER TO WHOM WE GIVE ALL THE HONOR THEIR DESCENDANTS ERECTED THIS MONUMENT OCTOBER 1943.

EVERYONE THAT HATH FORSAKEN HOUSES OR BRETHREN OR SISTERS OR FATHER OR MOTHER OR WIFE OR CHILDREN OR LANDS FOR MY NAME'S SAKE SHALL RECEIVE AN HUNDREDFOLD AND SHALL INHERIT EVERLASTING LIFE. MATTHEW 19, 29

After a time, the trees grew up to nearly dwarf the marker. The SMCHA Board trimmed the trees so the marker stands out large and strong. To make the site more attractive, some hollyhocks, lilacs, grasses and vinca minor ground cover were planted just now

(they'll have to be pioneer plants to survive in the Kansas heat and wind). Gardeners trimming their vinca minor plants are encouraged to add more around the marker.



Stop by to appreciate the memorial commemorating the faith of your ancestors.

Online at:
www.swissmennonite.org

SMCHA OFFICERS

LaVern Stucky, President
Alice Suderman, Vice President
Kathy Goering, Secretary
Ryan Goering, Treasurer
Don Kaufman, Exec Trustee
Gerry Schrag, Keith Albrecht
Bessie Huxman, Richard Ratzlaff
Jeanette Wedel, Stan Saner
Research Committee: Wayne
Goering, Victor Goering,
Maynard Krehbiel, Marlene
Krehbiel

Scholarship: Alice Suderman,
Clark Graber, Roger Juhnke.
Nominating Committee: Arnold
M. Wedel, Richard Stucky, James
Juhnke

Webmaster: Dennis Quiring

Schweitzer Salt Editor

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Update the Centennial Recipe Book. At the banquet last year, a member reported that her "The Centennial Treasury of Recipes" was falling apart and needs to be updated. Jeanette Wedel has agreed to lead the project – to print 15-20 traditional favorite ethnic recipes (no brownies or recipes that could be found in many cookbooks) with some variations and include a DVD of women preparing the Recipes. Hopefully the DVD could be helpful in passing on the traditions to those who want to serve all those dishes that Grandma used to make. Those interested in participating please contact Jeanette Wedel at P.O. Box 457, Hesston KS 67062 djwedel@embarqmail.com 620-327-4166.

Encourage persons to apply for SMCHA Scholarship. July 1, 2012 is deadline for applications for the \$500 scholarship available to students who are preparing for the ministry or other full-time Christian service or individuals serving in long-term voluntary service (\$250 part time students). Scholarships are for the 2012-2013 school year. Applicants must have membership in a Swiss-Volhynian church or be of Swiss-Volhynian descent. Applicants may submit letter of application to Alice Suderman, Chair, Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 526, North Newton KS 67117.

Ukraine Trip. SMCHA is hard at work planning a trip for the summer of 2013 to spend time in Switzerland, Germany and the Ukraine (Volhynia). Currently we are working on plans for a 14-day trip in July or August of 2013 for approximately 35 people. Gary Waltner who grew up in South Dakota and lives in Germany will conduct the European part of the trip. Gary, a retired teacher currently working with Mennonite Archives, is very knowledgeable in the area of Mennonite history. We soon should have a definite date, itinerary and cost figures. If you have an interest in this type of trip and would like more information or want your name included on the list, please contact LaVern Stucky, 1962 E. 30th, Peabody, KS 66866 lavern@powwwwer.net or 620 983 2348.

SMCHA Annual Meeting, Sunday, March 11, 2012, First Mennonite of Christian, Moundridge KS

- Budget approved—\$5,150
- Gift of \$10,000 given to SMCHA Endowment from Harley J. Stucky estate
- 166 SMCHA members currently
- LaVern—year's activities (Gary Waltner banquet speaker in October 2011, Research Committee identifying homesteads; Charles Schrag and Neah Ortman received scholarships; SMCHA display now at Moundridge Museum, Only Schweitzer Spoken Here met three times)
- Brian Stucky—on memorial at Catlin Cemetery near Peabody for Schweitzer children who died 1874
- New Officers elected: LaVern Stucky, president; Ryan Goering, treasurer; Stan Saner and Jeanette Wedel, trustees. (Alice Suderman later was appointed to fill Val Krehbiel's office as vice president.)
- Hoffnungsfield (Hopefield) Cemetery Guidelines approved
- David Habegger gave very interesting view of Valentine Krehbiel who pastored at Halstead and First Mennonite Church of Christian. CDs are available for \$5 (sent to P.O. Box 93, Moundridge KS) or summary of transcript available from Kathy Goering. See more on www.swissmennonite.org.

Clean Room or Not
*Die Ma hut ihre 3
jahre alte tachter
gesaht das die
grossmutter kommt
dich see und "du
musht die Toy
Schtup ganz sauber
mache sonst ich var
dich goot prigela."
Die Tochter is in
die Schtup gang for
about zwei minute.
Sie kommt raus,
hebt ihre Rock in
die hay, biegt sich
um und saht zu die
Mutter, "Du konnst
mich Prigelo."*

—Sweitzer Baur