



Schweitzer Salt

Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association

November 2013

Heritage Trip Participants Were There in 2013

Seeing the Kotosufka, Ukraine, area was a dream come true for me. Swiss Volhynian families who emigrated to Moundridge KS and Freeman SD lived in Kotosufka area 1861-1874. Tour director Gary Waltner led 38 participants from PA, CA, SD, KS, TX, OK, WA, MN, and Canada, on the 2013 Heritage Tour.

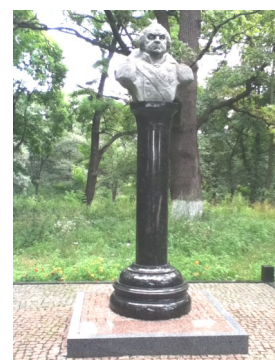


Kathy Goering and daughter Leslie Seifert at Kotosufka sign



In the Ukraine region we saw small houses with gardens in the front yard. Often a cow or horse was tied so it couldn't wander away since there were no fences. The ground was divided, usually in strips, with wheat, buckwheat or rye to be harvested with a scythe. Horse-drawn wooden wagons loaded high with produce passed us on the narrow dirt roads. Apple and other fruit trees were plentiful while some ground sat wasted – needing equipment and fertilizer to make it profitable. The occasional cow herder could be seen in the field after gathering the village cows for the day. Rundown buildings abandoned by government collective farms from 1991-1995 were a tell-tale sign of Russian influence. Young men could be seen sitting around without jobs, drinking and probably feeling useless. Most everyone had sun-tanned, old-looking skin and broken teeth, yet they shared warm and friendly waves as our big bus drove by. Our ancestors were farmers with large vegetable gardens and were quite self-sufficient as those people we saw.

We saw the bust of Field Marshall Kutusov, who was awarded land for helping to defeat Napoleon; he then invited Swiss Volhynians to farm it. Ukraine got its independence in 1991 and is still struggling to be independent. The



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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 Hoffnungsfeld Cemetery and Swiss Mennonite Marker and Monument.

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SEEKING CO-EDITOR.

Where have all the Scholarship Recipients Gone?

Did you know that at least 30 scholarships have been awarded by SMCHA since 1980 to Schweitzers attending seminary or college or involved in service assignments? These all have made significant contributions to the Church as hoped for by those who set up the scholarship fund. We will hear from some of them about life after scholarship at the **SMCHA Annual Meeting**, scheduled for Sunday, March 9, 2014, 2:30 p.m. at the First Mennonite Church, Halstead, Kansas. (Contributions welcomed to grow the scholarship endowment fund!)

east part of Ukraine is better ground and more profitable and tied still more to Russia. West is more pro-U.S. and is hoping to be accepted into the European Common Market.

We learned about geography beginning with the Netherlands canals and the closing dike designed by Mennonite Cornelis Lely. The Rhine River travels across Europe from Netherlands, by Dusseldorf, Worms, and Cologne, Germany; Strasbourg, France; Basel, Switzerland; and to Lake Constance in Switzerland. We learned to figure out money exchanges. Euros in Germany, France, Netherlands; Switzerland has the franc, Poland zloty, Ukraine hryvnia. As we moved west from Ukraine to Poland and then Germany, France, and Switzerland, houses were larger, farms contained more acres, equipment was larger and newer, roads were better. In all countries, streets were very narrow and buildings older, classic.

What fun to see the various groups identify and enjoy linking with locations of their ancestors. Krehbiels met the bachelor Frederick Krehbiel still living at Primmerhof; Pfrimmerhof had been in Krehbiel hands since 1709. Stuckys, Vorans, Waltners posed near Edwardsdorf. Grabers identified Montbeliard as the place where some of the Grabers had lived when we visited the Graber Farm still famous for the Montbeliard cow and cheese. Goerings saw the signature in the Montbeliard Church Book of Moses Gerig written at his baptism in 1766.



Meals were fabulous; each hotel served food characteristic of their area, mostly 4-course, always a stunning dessert. I especially loved the beroggi in Poland. Our big bus was comfortable, and hotels took great care of our 39 travelers.



Highlights for me were the walk to the Anabaptist Cave where we imagined how hiding there in worship might have been.



Trachelswald Prison where Anabaptists were chained until interrogated or executed.



Grossmünster Church in Zurich where Zwingli preached.



Gary Waltner showing us the Froschauer Bible used by Anabaptists, at the Weierhof Library.



Pingjum church where Menno Simons preached.

And the nests of storks, mated for life, we saw in rural Ukraine.
—Kathy G.



Words: Which are Russian and which Ukrainian? From list developed by Heritage Trip Travelers (spelling uncertain)

Kizelitz (made with dried fruits, like pluma moos),	Borscht (beef or cabbage soup)
kisse litze	Dumfnoodlin (picked up in Palatinate)
Kitza litza (a plum & raisin & cream pudding)	Pupke moos (jam made of cooked plums)
Barushka (fruit-filled raised-dough rolled/folded over pocket)	Kreib salat (lettuce salad mixed with cream)
Pierogi or Bierogi (cottage cheese or kraut-filled pocket folded)	Nalles nikki
Kutja (poppyseed soup with cream/sugar/cinnamon/wheat -sweet)	Makgorshi
Getrichelte bohnen or getrokene (dried green bean with ham)	Knepp
Krumber achashki (fried potato pancakes made from finely grated potatoes)	
Guerke salat (thin-sliced cukes with onion/salt/pepper/sour cream eaten over hot cooked potatoes)	
Schishlich (kabob made of mutton on a stick, still served around Freeman) (chislic)	

“Time Travel Schweitzer Style - More Research Needed”

On August 29, 2013 after a delicious meal and entertainment hosted and prepared by Whitestone Mennonite Church in Hesston, Kansas, David Ortman, Attorney-at-Law from Seattle, Washington drew attention to research needed about Mennonites.

Mr. Ortman reminded us that we were before 1525 Switzerland. What were we doing then? Many untold stories need more research.

David spoke of his family's history from 1525 summarizing that they went from Amish to Hutterite to Mennonite through Albsheim, Palatinate to Michalin, Kiev, Russia to the Eduadsdorf Church in Volhynia leaving quite a few families in Europe as some went on to the United States.

Our ancestors entered the United States during troubled times. While they were building their new lives, there were six bank failures that slumped into his family's history. “Mennonites, including my Great Grandfather, John C. Mueller, entered into the banking profession.” Native Americans were driven from the same land on which our families built their farms. Ecologic changes were seen in four great extinctions: bison, tall and short prairie grass, the passenger pigeon, and the Rocky Mountain Locust. “Where have all the animals gone?” While our ancestors were moving to Kansas, African-Americans were fleeing from the southern states in the reconstruction. Wars were fought and our families suffered as conscientious objectors.

Mr. Ortman mentioned a family member in Lw'ow, Poland in 1939. What was their story? We need these stories of imprisonment. What about alternative service experiences? Or the European Mennonites involved as InterMenno Trainees. Pieces of history are all around us needing explanation and research.

Mr. Ortman spoke of finding out the stories that have remained unspoken, gathering the pieces of the story, and adding them to the initial story of our settling in America. There is much more to our Mennonite story than we currently know. There is much research needed to keep telling our story. [CDs are available for \$5; request from Kathy Goering at 1906 Carnation Vlg, Moundridge KS 67107, 620-345-8532.]

—Cherie Wedel

More Russian or Ukrainian Words Written by the Travelers— Recognize Any?

Gotchka—ducks	Bohhej—bull
Jassla—hay manger	Kabann—boar
Chainik—tea kettle	Phert or Russ—horse
Kell or quell—“what” (is this French?)	Krimanzilche
Ahber—but is this German?	Kuberb
Hanne check—jar opening tool	Postmonie
Objinki—after harvest time party	Guezznik
Nushnik—“the necessary,” i.e. toilet or outhouse	
Ruzliznee—feeling poorly/lacking energy	
Brigatee—when the calves kick up their heels in fresh straw	

Fairfield Hills State Hospital 1-W Workers Reunion

A reunion of 1-W participants who had served at Fairfield State Hospital, Newtown CT in 1952 was enjoyed by a group of Central Kansans on August 28, at Hesston KS. Some conscientious objectors assisted with treatments including shock therapy, helped restrain violent patients, even gave injections despite their lack of medical training or experience. Many young wives came along resulting in quite a few babies needing care with most unit members sharing the duties. Many of the spouses also worked at the hospital. Participants were Peter Neufeld, Kenny Froese, Orval Regier, Leland Regier, Milford Lohrentz, Bernie Regier, Delmar Ortman, Elmer Kroeker, Dorothy Krehbiel, Lee Hertzler.

The state of CT closed the facility in 1995 due to many changes in health care. But the friendships established as the COs struggled with many challenging experiences continued through the years. Delmar Ortman's son David followed the sharing time by acknowledging the impact on him and other children growing up in homes of people who lived their beliefs. Noted was the importance of this 1-W growth experience on young lives and the Church.

--information from participants and from excerpts by Rich Preheim printed in Mennonite World Review www.mennoworld.org/2013/3/4/peacemakers-newtown-conn/ March 4, 2013

Salem Zion Monument to 96 Burials

Lives of loved ones were remembered on Sept 29 at South Dakota's oldest Mennonite cemetery, at Salem Zion Mennonite Church where a monument stone listing 96 Swiss Mennonite names was dedicated. Earliest recorded burial was a Graber in 1875, and in 1878 a plot was



started for burial. Some of the 96 died of the flu, one of exhaustion, several by drowning. Some lives were extinguished by blizzards, floods and fires, diphtheria, scarlet fever. Early wooden gravesite markers that identified the resting places were casualties of prairie fires that were common in the early decades of the settlement. The first caskets were made of wood by local Swiss carpenters. Grave digging was done by friends and relatives of the deceased. Some family members buried on their homesteads were later trans-

ferred to this church plot. A sobering realization is that of the 96 names listed, 57 are names of persons aged 18 and younger; of these 57, 38 are infants having the same birth and death years, a testament to the hardships and difficulties of life for early pioneers. In 1905 a shack was added in the southwest corner for digging tools. In the 1930's, undertakers took over for a fee though family members could still be in charge. Land was added to the cemetery in the 1940's and a committee established to provide a systematic plan for burial. East Freeman, Salem-Zion, and Salem congregations joined to erect the marker. Planners of this dedication expressed hope that this granite monument will serve as a valuable resource to many others as they seek to make connections back to their own ancestry.

--From comments from LaNae Waltner, Tim Waltner, S. Roy Kaufman, Bernie Koller, Marlys Tieszen, Duane Tieszen (picture from David Ortman)

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"Only Schweitzer Spoken Here"

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**2014 Membership dues \$20/year
or \$100 for 6 years. Schweitzer
Salt is sent only to members.**

Let's go a Touring

The Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association is committed to help foster and develop an understanding and appreciation for history. With that goal in mind, a **guided bus tour** of local historically significant sites is being planned for **Saturday April 26, 2014**, starting first thing in the morning. We will view the footprints made by our ancestors in McPherson, Harvey and Marion County, in all about 50 places. Most relate to the early days of the Swiss Volhynian Mennonites (Schweitzers), but there will be sites relating to other groups as well as those that relate to the history of the area. There will be both 'drive by' as well as 'get out of the bus' sites.

The cost of the tour including transportation, lunch at noon as well as snacks (maybe even poppyseed) and drinks along the way is likely to be about \$50 per person. The tour is filling, but places are still available. For now we need you to express an interest; later we will need payment. We will provide final details soon. To respond, contact LaVern Stucky at 620-983-2348 or lavern@powwwer.net.

Every effort will be made to make this a comfortable, relaxing learning experience. This will be an opportunity to learn more about the area where we live and our pioneer ancestors lived. Planners are excited about all we can learn. Grandparents might sponsor their grandchildren, an opportunity for a bonding experience as well as a learning experience.

One often hears the lament, "I wish I had done that." Or perhaps the old adage "Opportunity only knocks once." This is an opportunity. It's knocking, it's affordable, it's well worth your time, and SMCHA would love to have you join us.

—LaVern Stucky

Schweitzer Graves on the Web Project Awarded Foundation Grant

SMCHA was awarded a \$500 grant from the Moundridge Community Foundation for a new project, "Schweitzer Graves on the Web." Betty Graber Hartzler (composer of the Schweitzer software on Brothers Keeper), Dennis Quiring (SMCHA webmaster), and SMCHA board members Barbara Stucky (Eden Mennonite Historical Committee) and Dale Schrag (Pretty Prairie previous sexton) have the expertise to bring records to the project from their respective churches. Delonna Barnett, Rick Krehbiel, Becky Pohl and others are assisting with providing records and typing.

In order for people who live most anywhere to discover where their ancestors are buried once they start asking those questions, project organizers decided to make accessible these records on the web, instead of found only on paper in a file cabinet in the church office or not known at all. Included will be name, date of birth, date of death, where specifically buried in cemetery and plot, spouse, parent, and if possible picture of the grave and picture of the person.

After this initial area project is accomplished, planners would like to increase the information to include cemeteries in South Dakota, Kingman, and wherever Schweitzers are buried. Watch for more information.