



Schweitzer Salt

Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association

February 2014

Four Speakers at Annual Meeting on March 9

Four recipients of scholarships awarded by the Swiss Cultural and Historical Association will be on hand at the Annual Meeting to tell us about their lives since those awards. First Mennonite Church of Halstead, Kansas, will be the location, gathering at 2:30 p.m. On the agenda will be election of officers and update of this year's SMCHA activities as well as announcements of coming events.

Over 30 young people have participated in the scholarship program since 1980 endowed primarily by Ozzie and Elaine Goering and their family. Recipients included college and seminary students, voluntary service workers, and those in the mission field. The scholarship program is one of the goals of this association. What a joy for us to hear from four of the recipients about life after scholarship.

Alan Stucky is pastor of the Pleasant Valley Mennonite Church in Harper, Kansas.



Alan Stucky



David Roth

David Roth is pastor of the Kingman Mennonite Church.



Bernie Kaufman

Bernie Kaufman works with Mennonite Women as well as part time library assistant in Moundridge; she previously served as assistant pastor.

Jim Ostlund is pastor at McPherson campus of Journey Mennonite Church.



Jim Ostlund

Each year \$500-\$1,000 scholarships are available to support our Mennonite scholars and those intent on serving the Church. Contributions will be welcome to the SMCHA Scholarship fund. Refreshments will be served after the program. Members will have opportunity to update their memberships at the 2014 rate of \$20 per year or \$100 for six years. All our welcome to come be a part of the mission of SMCHA and in this day to celebrate the affect of encouragement on young lives through the scholarship program.

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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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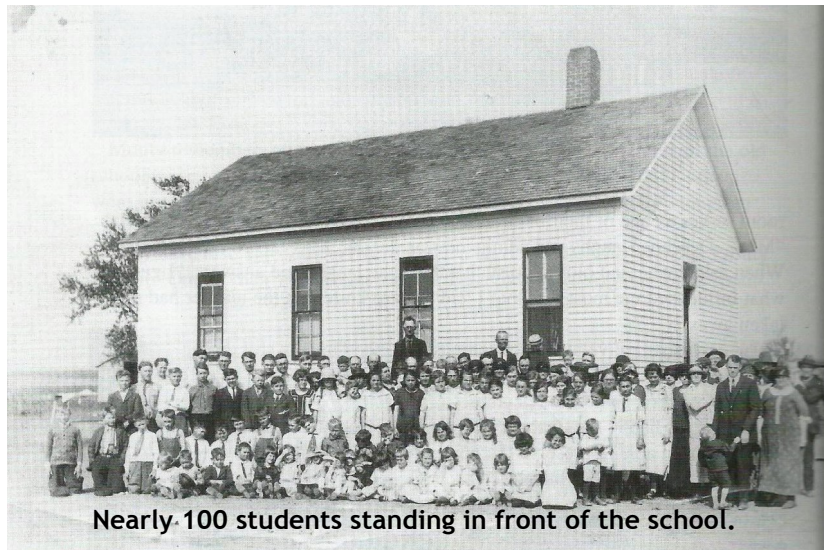
SEEKING CONTRIBUTORS

Spring Tour

The bus tour of sites of local interest scheduled for April 26 was well received, and the bus is full. Leaving from Hopefield Church west of Moundridge, the group will head east into Marion County, come back through Newton, have lunch at Bethel College Cafeteria, head west to Halstead and on to the Alta Mill, north toward Moundridge and beyond, west to Elyria, south to the Eden Church and back to Hopefield. The tour will emphasize the history and struggles of (continued last page)

My Liberty Grade School/Hay Barn

My Dad, Bill Albrecht bought the Liberty Grade School building in about 1954 from Paul G. Schrag. At that time the schoolhouse was setting about two hundred yards south of Dutch Avenue 4 miles south and 1 ½ miles west of Moundridge. It is not known for sure if it was ever used as a school at that location but I can remember there was still a wood burning heating stove, several school desks, and a chalk board on one wall when Dad bought the building. Dad and Paul tore



Nearly 100 students standing in front of the school.



My barn today.

all the plaster off the inside walls to make it lighter to move. They moved it to our farm which is 2 ½ west 1 north and a ¼ west on a large two wheel implement trailer. We used it for a hay barn many years. It was always filled to the rafters through the small hole shown in the second photo. I was the one who had to stack the bales inside. I can still remember how hot it was in there when I had the bales stacked up to the rafters. Today the



building sits nearly empty except for a few straw bales. Photo three is the inside showing where three of the four windows were that are seen on the first photo. Not shown, I can also see where the chimney was in the roof. Liberty was used as a church meetinghouse and later another school was built. —Keith Albrecht

What you can do for your family? Tell your family stories.

A psychologist, Dr. Sara Duke at Emory University, noticed that “her students who know a lot about their families tend to do better when they face challenges.” To follow up this hypothesis, they tested children by asking questions such as: “Do you know where your grandparents grew up? Do you know where your mom and dad went to high school? Do you know an illness or something really terrible that happened in your family? Do you know the story of your birth?” After analyzing their data, they realized that “the more children knew about their family’s history, the stronger their sense of control over their lives, the higher their self-esteem and the more successfully they believed their families functioned.”

They tested the children again after September 11. Again those who knew more about their families proved to be “more resilient, meaning they could moderate the effects of stress.”

Dr. Duke said that children who have the most self-confidence know they belong to something bigger than themselves. Advice was to create, refine and retell the story of your families’ ups and downs and note your ability to bounce back from the difficult days. Include family customs (even the hoky ones) and vacations and foods and gatherings and core values.... So convey the sense of history and customs to build up belonging and identity.

—Information adapted from article in New York Times March 17, 2013 by Bruce Feiler with headline: *The Stories That Bind Us*

Nationally-recognized Schweitzers

Conrad Nightingale grew up on a farm northwest of Halstead and began running competitively as a student at Fairview Grade School north of Halstead. He was a versatile athlete competing in football, basket-



ball and track each of his four years. His greatest achievements occurred in track. As a senior he set a new state record for his time in the mile in 1963. At Kansas State he received national attention as a distance runner (a 4.03.4 record mile). He competed in the 3,000 meter steeplechase in the 1968 Olympics. For

over 30 years the Nightingale Track meet has been held at Halstead.

Nightingale found inspiration in his grandfather J.B. Stucky's informal medical practice. Stucky was a self-proclaimed doctor in an area where there were no doctors. Nightingale became a veterinarian and settled in TX. He was named Texas Veterinarian Medical Association's 2002 Equine Practitioner of the Year for his work with horses. Nightingale is involved in community events. (*Bandera County Courier*, 013014)

Peter Goering, Silver Spring, MD will receive the Distinguished Achievement Award at Bethel College in June 2014 to acknowledge character and citizenship, achievement and benefit to humanity. He majored in natural sciences, graduating in 1977. He is a research toxicologist at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. At the FDA, his work mostly has been devoted to regulatory research in nanotechnology/nanotoxicology and biomarkers of toxicity, work that protects the health of the public. Goering has published more than 70 research articles in peer-reviewed journals. In 2006, he was elected by his peers as "Fellow" in the Academy of Toxicological Sciences. He will serve as president of the Society of Toxicology in 2015-16. He is married to Sara Fretz Goering and has two sons, Joel and Samuel.



Send information about your Schweitzer friends or relatives who have made memorable achievements.

Schweitzer Interviews by Jason Holcomb

Jason Holcomb is a professor of Geography at Morehead State University in Kentucky and more important to us, interviewer of area Mennonites. Jason has been coming to Central Kansas since the summer after his freshman year at the University of Kansas when he worked his first of many summers for a custom harvesting crew. Recently he did oral history interviews with Mennonite custom harvesters in Kansas.



He spoke about what he learned at the Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum Threshing Days in 2010. He is interested in Mennonite history and culture, so we asked him to interview people here.

Jason will be back in the summer of 2014 and speaking on Sunday, July 6, at 2:30 at the Wellness Center at Pine Village, sharing about what he has learned when visiting with Martin H. Goering, Fern Goering, Maynard and Marlene Krehbiel, Wayne Ensz, Toby Goering, Arnold Wedel, and Lloyd Goering.

SMCHA wants to encourage oral histories. Come listen to Jason and then start writing about all those life stories of your parents, grandparents, and yourself for others to enjoy too.

Die Tante und der Hahn

Die Tante war immer eine fleisige Frau. Sie saubert das Haus, sorgt für die Kinder, kocht, mülkt die Kühe, macht Gartenarbeit; schlacht die Hühner, USW. Aber diesen Tag alles ist falsch gegangen.

Die Kinder sind schon fort zur Schule und der Mann schafft im Feld und sie denkt. "Heit abend zum Abendsessen, mache ich eine gute Neüdeluppe mit Hahnefleisch. Ich schlachte den Hahn für die Suppa."

So sie stelt Wasser uf dem Offen für den Hahn rupfen. Sie macht sich fertig und geht raus zum Hühnerhaus den Hahn schlachten. Sie halt den Hahn in einen Hand und haked den Kopf ab mit den anderen Hand und auf ein mal hubst den Hahn aus ihr Hand und läuft weg, ohne Kopf. Tante hat los gekriesch und läuft hinter den Hahn und probiert ihm fangen, aber den Hahn ist hinter dem Stahl und im Hok gelauf und Tante hinter ihm. Sie konnte ihm nicht fangen so entlich ist sie zurück ins Haus, ganz verschrock, ohne Hahn.

Ich weiss net was die Familie für Abendsessen gegessen hatten, aber nächste Morgan lieght der Hahn by Hühnerhaus tot.
— Marlene Krehbiel

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Genealogy Advisor: Betty Graber
Hartzler

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

Spring Bus Tour (continued) people of Swiss ancestry who immigrated in 1874, but also include information and sites of other immigrant groups. The tour will be guided and narrated in a chartered air-conditioned bus. Sounds like a great deal for \$45. If you missed the opportunity to sign up and are interested in this kind of tour, contact LaVern Stucky (620-983-2348); maybe a Bus Tour #2 will be requested. Next *Schweitzer Salt* will contain a full report of the event.

Freeman South Dakota Schmeckfest 2014 on March 21-22 and 28-29. See the musical, "Children of Eden" by Stephen Schwartz based on two stories from Genesis. Check the schmeckfest.com website for more information.

SMCHA Banquet scheduled Thursday, November 13 at First Mennonite Church, Hutchinson. Jeff Koller will share stories of Mennonite alternative service experiences.

Anabaptist believer Maeyken van Deventer writes from her prison cell to her children, "*Hear, my children, the instruction of your mother, and incline your hearts to understanding, and open your ears to hear the words of my mouth, for I seek the salvation of your souls; believe me, and no one else, that you may come to me and live forever. Behold, my children, I hold before you the way of my Bridegroom, and our forerunner, Christ Jesus, who went before me, which leads to the truth, as the Lord has commanded me; and behold, I take up my cross, and follow the Savior of the whole world. Do so, too, my children; I shall go before you, without looking back, for this is the way of the prophets and martyrs, and behold, I shall now drink the cup which they drank. I now go the way which Christ Jesus, the Lord full of all grace and truth, who laid down His life for His sheep, went; this cup I must drink, as Christ says: "I have a cup to drink of, and a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!"* Matt. 20:22; Luke 12:50." Van Deventer died in 1573, a witness to a new Anabaptist faith that would result in suffering for the Lord. —from Reading the Anabaptist Bible.

Where are the Swiss Volhynians Buried?

After James W. Krehbiel published Swiss Russian Mennonite Families Before 1874, and completed the families that were begun in Volhynia, he added children born in America; then he completed work on the next generation. He examined church books from all over the western half of the U.S. as well as continuing with the three brought from Volhynia. He visited church cemeteries copying down information on headstones in:

Moundridge: Hopfield, First Mennonite Church of Christian,
Mound Township, Eden Church, Garden Church, West Zion.
Pretty Prairie: First Mennonite, Lone Star.

Freeman, SD: Salem Zion and Salem. Hopedale, IL and Minier City in IL. Emmanuel Evangelical Church in Sterling KS and Sterling City Cemetery. Banner Township in Cavalier County ND and Alsen, ND. Arlington KS. Bethlehem in Bloomfield MT. Bethany in Kingman KS. Menno in Ritzville WA. and I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Monroe WA.

Betty Graber Hartzler reports that the **Cemeteries on the Web Project** is continuing. Hoffnungsfeld is nearly finished; several are in process and Eden is just beginning tabulating. One of these days, you will be able to discover where your ancestors might be buried by checking the web. Lots of Schweitzers still need to be located. We need help with photographing graves. Interested in helping?