



Schweitzer Salt

Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association

Fall 2014

“Importance of our Story” topic at November 11, 2014, Banquet

Jeff Koller, writer and historian from Moundridge Kansas, will be the speaker at the Tuesday, November 11, 2014, banquet of the Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association (SMCHA) at 6:00 p.m. at the Water's Edge Restaurant, located in the Wellness Center at Schowalter Villa, 701 S. Main, in Hesston. He will focus on the stories of Mennonites who served in alternative service instead of serving in war. His interest in history and his passion for the Peace position of the Anabaptist faith combined to lead him to write The Eden Peace Witness composed of interviews of many who shared their stories.

Jeff has used his writing talent to write the 50-year history of Memorial Home (now Pine Village) with the editing help of wife Becky. They are currently working on a collection of stories preserving the ministry of Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS).

At this time Jeff is serving with MDS in regions west of the Mississippi River as Disaster Response Coordinator. He chairs the Resource Commission of the Western District Conference (WDC) and is on the WDC Death Penalty Task Force.

Jeff and Becky live on a farm near Moundridge. They have two married children and four grandchildren. They attend Eden Mennonite Church.

Cost of the meal will be \$20. Reservations need to be sent to Barbara Stucky (620-345-8367) or bstucky39@mtelco.net before Tuesday, **November 4.**

You can still pay your 2014 SMCHA membership dues or pay 2015 dues for \$20/year or \$100/six years.

The banquet is open to all. Bring your friends for an informative and fun Tuesday evening at Water's Edge.



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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 Hopefield Cemetery and Swiss Mennonite 1943 Marker and Centennial Monument.

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SEEKING CONTRIBUTORS

MATCH DAY NOVEMBER 6, 2014—ONE DAY ONLY

Your opportunity to send a \$25 and over contribution to SMCHA's Endowment Fund invested by Moundridge Community Foundation, and matched up to \$3,000. All contributions will build the SMCHA Endowment that will provide maintenance for the cemetery for many years in the future. Look for a letter from president LaVern Stucky with details and think how you could give a great boost through this timely opportunity.

Kentucky Professor Jason Holcomb's View of Swiss Volhynians

Over 100 folks gathered at the Pine Village Wellness Center on Sunday, July 6, 2014, to hear observations from Jason Holcomb, learnings from his interviews this year with Martin H. Goering, Fern Goering, Maynard and Marlene Krehbiel, Wayne Ensz, Toby Goering, and Arnold Wedel. Holcomb learned many things about Mennonites in the nearly twenty summers he worked for a Mennonite custom harvester from Sterling, Kansas.

Holcomb shared some observations.

Since Mennonites came from Russia, one would think they would be called Russian Mennonites but Swiss Volhynian Mennonites had always spoken German and never exchanged their German language for the Russian. In the U.S. the old people really bemoaned the loss of the German language because they didn't know how to explain their faith and help others to have that same faith because they couldn't speak the English well enough.

The doctrine of peace is still discussed quite a bit at some churches. Conference-wise, the issue of peace has never been minimized.

Stille im Lande. Several views. From sufferings in Switzerland and Russia. From being German during the War. Understanding not to retaliate. Remain quiet and try not to make any waves. Your faith and your church were to be separate from the outside world. "Separation of Church and State" is thought about very differently in Mennonite churches than in evangelical Christian churches. Some see this as "the biggest issue in the country" these days.

Mennonites have the reputation for being industrious... that came with them from Russia and Prussia.

A pure church. Importance of maintaining identity, the church identity, the Swiss German identity—they didn't want to have their heritage and their culture diminished or changed by outside influence."

Holcomb's Ideas to Consider

- Collect the fascinating folk stories of our elders.
- Research and write the founding story. Who are the fathers and mothers of the faith?
- Pool resources with Pretty Prairie, Kingman and South Dakota to mark historical sites.
- Connect with the Dayton International Peace Museum working on peace issues or initiatives.

Holcomb saw this Swiss-German Mennonite group as a distinct ethnic group within Mennonite and other communities of South Central Kansas, who actually have similar values. He encouraged us to "make yourselves more known to the state of Kansas."

Summaries of the interviews can be read on the website www.swissmennonite.org. The complete interviews are available on request.

SMCHA Board thanked Jason for his time with interviews and encourages more stories to be collected.

Please let SMCHA leaders know of persons to be interviewed or send stories to the SMCHA address.

How You Might Participate With Us

- Interview Schweitzers and write reports
- Work on ways to increase membership
- Book reports of Mennonite history/authors
- Fundraising to increase cemetery endowment.
- Assist *Schweitzer Salt* team (edit/publish/mail)
- Water at Marker occasionally—3 hours
- Document history at MLA

Little Plants Will Grow into Beauty at Monument

Now we have water to the plants (trenched by Kaufman



Trenching of Moundridge), and Daniel Wedel planting. Sidewalks have been straightened and next strengthening of the structure will be done — all to attract visitors to come read the story on the plaques. Next

project: directional signs so that visitors, historians, and descendants can find the Monument and the Hopefield Cemetery.



Mennonites interested in Trachselwald Castle in Switzerland as a Museum

Participants of last year's SMCHA-sponsored heritage trip walked up the winding stairs to see the prison where Anabaptists were tortured as heretics be-



tween 16th and early 18th centuries. To keep this place open for visitors as a reminder of the amazing faith of

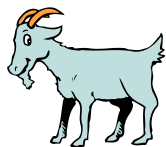
our ancestors, funds are sought (see trachselwald-castle.ch to see plans). An article with more information was printed in *Mennonite World Review*, August 14, 2014.

Only Schweitzer Spoken Here

A crowd gathered on Friday, September 19, 2014 at the Pine Village Wellness Center, Moundridge, to enjoy speaking and hearing the Schweitzer language. A CD from "Speaking Amish" (the language of many of our ancestors) was played and similarities noted between that and Schweitzer. Stories were told by Maynard Krehbiel, Norvin Schrag, Leona Graber, Stan Saner and Ben Stucky. The group sang "Holy God we praise thy name" in German. Next Schweitzer program is at Bethel College Fall Fest on Saturday, October 18, at 11:00.

Worth a million dollars of laughs

Der Ben Stucky
bruter, Jim,
cauft a goat
und fufsic



daller fun laufa von sei unfarstandt. Ubber net eira Mutter! Sie hut onhe a besem. gree. So ent-ba Sales platz finf and siebzig cents. Se hadden vierzig cents mehr gelt ober nemoltz hen sie vergess de millione daller laughs. — Ben J. Stucky (translated by Evelyn Schrag)



hut a geschicht von zei und er gep. Sie hen be-von Art Rump Sales fer tri cents un hat a millione

net kenna ous house ga Dar farrichte goat wult se lich sin se gang zu them sel-and hen der goat farkaft fir

Jacob Schrag Trunk at Moundridge Museum



Brothers Richard and Robert Stucky are seen here looking through some of the artifacts kept in this special chest. They decided to donate this family trunk in 2007 to the Moundridge Museum so that others could appreciate it rather than setting it in someone's basement. The chest was made by Jacob Schrag (1836-1922) in Kotosovka, Volhynia, Russia, in preparation for the trip he and wife Katherina Stucky Schrag made to Moundridge, Kansas in 1874. It was preserved at the home of Willard and Verna Stucky (Verna was granddaughter of Jacob and Katherina Schrag).

The chest is made of 1" thick boards (16" high x 41" long x 19" wide) slanting to 15" across top. Metal hinges extend 10" down the back and 6" on the lid. Handmade square nails hold the chest together. A large key in the shape of an "S" fits into the big built-in lock that still works. A hidden drawer is a special addition. The outside retains its original finish.

Also donated was the wedding attire of their parents — dress of Verna and suit of Willard Stucky.

Special historical family items that others would appreciate could be donated to the Moundridge Museum—brings back memories or informs us all of important events of long ago.



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

Come west of Moundridge
to see the changes that
are happening to the
SMCHA properties.



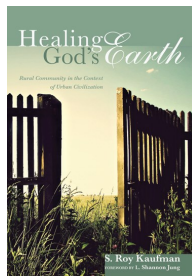
Online at:
www.swissmennonite.org

SMCHA OFFICERS

LaVern Stucky, President
Ron Preheim, Vice President
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Ben J. Stucky
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Maynard and Marlene Krehbiel,
Wayne Goering, Vic Goering
Webmaster: Dennis Quiring
"Only Schweitzer Spoken Here"
Norvin Schrag, Ben Stucky,
Verlene Kaufman, Lorita Regier
Genealogy Advisor: Betty Graber
Hartzler

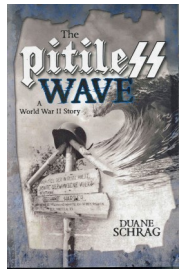
2014 Membership dues \$20/year
or \$100 for 6 years. Schweitzer
Salt is sent only to members.

Historical Annual Meeting in Moundridge. Civilian Public Service during World War II and the impact it had on psychiatric care in the U.S. and postwar reforms will be the topic of Aaron Barnhart speaking at the McPherson County Historical Association Annual Meeting. Moundridge will host the meeting on **Saturday, November 15, at 6:00 at the Wellness Center.** The meetings are rotated among seven McPherson cities. Tickets are \$15. Purchase from Citizens State Bank, Moundridge, or Rosemary Fisher (620-345-8287) by Tuesday, November 11.



Healing God's Earth. For over four millennia, the powers of urban civilization have been playing God, oppressing people, and exploiting the earth. This book reads the Bible through the lenses of rural communities. — a distillation of forty years of living, preaching, and teaching with these rural congregations by author S. Roy Kaufman, now retired pastor from Freeman, SD. (He will be speaking in North Newton soon-watch for date).

The Pitiless Wave, a World War II story, was inspired by the experiences of Eduard Giesbrecht Allertl, a German-Russian youth who, with over 200 fellow Mennonites, fought in Hitler's Waffen-SS. His people had farmed the Ukrainian soil for 150 years, and now they looked for a German victory, their only hope for recovering their collectivized land. Type author "Duane Schrag" in Amazon.com for more information or for purchase. Duane is archivist at the Freeman Museum, Freeman, SD.



Check out www.pinterest.com/arfamilies/swiss-mennonites/ for some interesting data and pictures.



The Mennonite Tree

That tree, outside of the east/west tree line, across 18th Avenue west of Hopefield Church, on the Florene Wedel property 4 miles west of Moundridge. Have you noticed it? Dennis Wedel considered taking it out but his brother told him his Dad, Ronald, called it "holy ground." Beside the tree is a foundation, and some yards back another one. So what was there? Someone's home? An early immigrant? One of the Swiss Volhynians?

According to the Register of Deeds, Joseph Kaufman and Napoleon Kaufman purchased this ground for \$1,000 from Morgan Bentley who got it from U.S. In 1897 Joseph Kaufman sold part to Trustees of Hopefield Eden for \$47.50. In 1901 John Gering purchased N² N² S² SE⁴ for \$4,000 and in 1913 he sold to Andreas Wedel. In 1928 Hopefield Eden sold Pt N² SE⁴ to Andreas J. Wedel and from Andreas Wedel the property went to Jacob A. Wedel. Do you know who lived there?



The tree is distinctive. I wish it could talk.

—Kathy Goering