



# Schweitzer Salt

Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association

October 2016

## Moundridge Community Foundation MATCH DAY, Nov. 3

### ***An Opportunity to Increase SMCHA Endowment***

Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association has established an endowment fund with the Moundridge Community Foundation with the goal of being sufficient size for the proceeds to allow for the maintenance of SMCHA properties into the future. Last year at Match Day 2015, members and friends contributed over \$7,000 to build the SMCHA endowment – nearly 45% of the total collected from all organizations in Moundridge. This is a reason for congratulations and is also a challenge for 2016.

**Thursday, November 3, 2016**, is our next opportunity to continue our long-term savings plan from **12:00-6:00 at Quincy's** on the main street in Moundridge. Will you help?

The 2016 Match Pool of \$15,000, provided by the Moundridge Community Foundation, will be shared by participating non-profit organizations, divided in proportion to the total amount raised on November 3. For example if \$50,000 is raised and SMCHA brought in 10% of that total, we will receive \$1,500 to use for a special project.

This year the board has decided that any money received from the 2016 match pool will be used to preserve and digitize old Swiss Volhynian history books and records no longer available.

**MATCH DAY INSTRUCTIONS:** Cash, checks (payable to Moundridge Community Foundation with MATCH DAY noted on memo line), and credit cards (use this link: <https://squareup.com/store/mcpherson-county-community-foundation/item/swiss-mennonite-cultural-historical-association>) will be accepted. Only gifts made on November 3 will count toward the match pool but there is no limit on the amount of funding donors may contribute to SMCHA's endowed fund. Gifts of cash, stock, real estate or other assets may be donated. All donations are tax deductible. Becky Goss, Director of McPherson County Community Foundation, can assist with legacy gifts (620-245-9070).

Those who live close by can stop at Quincy's between 12:00 and 6:00 on that Thursday to bring your contribution to SMCHA. Out of town supporters may send donations in advance to Secretary Barbara Stucky, 100 Blake Ave., Moundridge, KS 67107 or to SMCHA, P.O. Box 93, Moundridge KS 67107 and these will be delivered to Quincy's on that day. A receipt will be sent for each donation. **THANK YOU, THANK YOU TO ALL FOR PARTICIPATING.**

Give a  
Gift ...  
watch  
it  
grow!

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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  
and CO-EDITOR

## Digitizing old Swiss Volhynian History Books

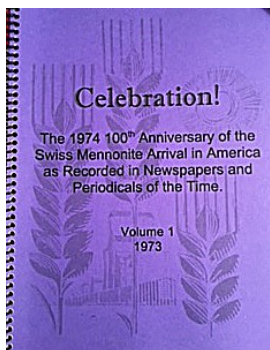
Do you know your Swiss Mennonite history? Not many books are available to learn it. Some are old and out of print. The SMCHA Board is investigating which books are (continued next page)

## Digitizing Books (continued)

copyright information, which books are still available to order and which are no longer found. We have purchased OCR Software (optical character recognition), electronic conversion of images that can be then changed to PDF for us to have on our website for more people to have access to historical information.

Some assistance for this effort came from Brethren Digital Archives. They have been digitizing publications for years. Hopefully we can make some YouTube videos that would draw attention then to historical materials.

Check our website for the first efforts. Leann Toews brought me scrapbooks of Harley J. Stucky from the time period of the Centennial of Mennonites coming to America. Three scrapbooks were full of newspaper articles about the events of that time frame. Wayne Goering scanned all those articles into three files full of details of the building of the monument, the centennial celebration, bringing turkey red wheat to Kansas and so much more. They are titled:



Celebration 1, 2, and 3 divided by time periods. I have paper copies of those if you want to call me for copies (\$8 each).

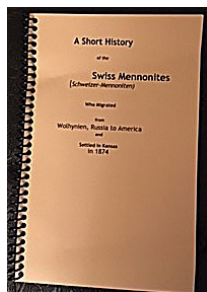
On the website also now are copies of short newspaper articles printed in the Moundridge Journal in 1973 by William E. Juhnke of :

- "The real story behind King City"
- "Farms Community History, exciting, humdrum, unique"
- Early Mound Township History"
- Looking Into Lone Tree Township"

Paper copies of these are also available for \$1 each.

Another digitizing effort was scanning the 75 anniversary presentations, dated September 5, 1949. Very interesting presentations by Wilmer E. Goering, Menno Kaufman, Rev. P.P. Wedel, and Dr. R.C. Kauffman are included. Paper copies are \$3.50.

Our first effort for a book is "A Short History of the Swiss Mennonites (Schweizer-Mennoniten) who Migrated from Wolhynien, Russia to America and Settled in Kansas in 1874" (long title) written by P.P. Wedel in 1929 and then translated and published by Mr. and Mrs. Benj. B.J. Goering, 1960. Grandchildren encouraged making this 114-page history book available for many more readers. Read it on the web site or download it for your own library. Paper booklets are \$7.



If I need to send any of this to you, please add \$3.00 for postage. Questions: kjgo@mtelco.net.

If you have specific books that you want to encourage us to digitize, let us know. Our next choice will be "After Fifty Years," a fascinating story of the history and activities of the Swiss-German Mennonites from Russia who settled in South Dakota in 1874 by John J. Gering.

## 2016 Banquet report

Susan K. Goering, Mennonite attorney from Baltimore, MD, was the speaker at the September 22 banquet. Susan heard Martin Luther King give his "I have a dream" speech and though she never knew a black person,



decided then as a 6th grader to be a lawyer as a key to social change. Susan's Dad Milt Goering, was a role model for her as he served as an activist for others as a conscientious objector, with MCC, MDS, Amnesty, etc. Her Anabaptist faith also encouraged her service choices. Susan acknowledged the kind of one to one service that Mennonites custom-

arily do and considers the efforts she directs as an attorney for the ACLU in Maryland as service for those in need. ACLU is not a feed and clothe people organization, but is at work to show mercy to those especially who have no voice. The organizers of ACLU cared about marginalized people. The abused pacifists and Jehovah Witnesses who were tortured for their religious views actually helped bring attention to the rights deserved by all people.

Susan shared many cases of discrimination and injustice where she has been involved and drew attention especially to housing problems of African Americans in Baltimore exacerbated by decisions made by past governments that resulted in poverty. Her department takes cases where they can help the most people.

Over 100 people enjoyed the meal catered by Bread Basket and served by Faith Mennonite Church folks.

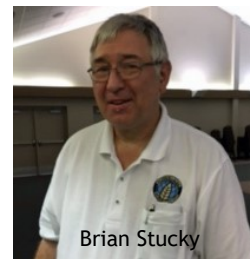
## Schweitzer Program at Bethel Fall Fest

This year the Schweitzer program emphasis was on children's stories in German. Leaders were Marlene Krehbiel, Neva Kaufman, Ben Stucky, Evelyn Schrag, Don Kaufman. A small crowd enjoyed listening, especially to "The Three Little Pigs." Check the website ([www.swissmennonite.org](http://www.swissmennonite.org)) to see it for yourself.

Gib Burgan has transferred the Schweitzer programs through the years to DVDs. Order any of these from Marlene Krehbiel, 1807 Iris Vlg., Moundridge KS 67107. Cost \$5 each. These are all in German, years starting 1989.

## Shirt with SMCHA Logo

Brian Stucky shows the shirt he bought at Atomic Sports in Hesston (448 N. Lancaster 620-327-2441). Good looking. Show off our logo. Buy one and advertise SMCHA.



## Collecting Schweitzer Stories

Would you join a team to collect stories? Call Kathy Goering (620-345-8532, [kjgo@mtelco.net](mailto:kjgo@mtelco.net)) to help.

## kansasmennonitesinpolitics.wordpress.com

Check the blog by Jim Juhnke, North Newton KS. Learn about active Mennonites in public service including Kansas legislator Steven Becker, of Buhler Mennonite; John Waltner, Don Schroeder and Christine Downey Schmidt.



## Memories of Joe C. Goering

*Joe C. Goering, my great-grandfather, was a larger-than-life character in many respects. He founded the Citizens State Bank and Goering Hardware; was active in politics; and exerted a wide influence in community affairs. For that reason I especially cherish these recollections from my father, Elmer H. Goering, of the man he knew as "Grandpa." - Wynn Goering*

My earliest recollections of Grandpa date back to the time when I was 5 or 6 years old.

It was a family custom to invite the families of two or three children for Sunday dinner on a regular basis. On such occasions the youngest grandchildren frequently gathered in the parlor because it was the only room with a large rug on the floor and well suited for broad jumping, turning summersaults, playing horse on hands and knees, and all the gymnastics kids can dream up.

Sometimes Grandpa came into the parlor, sat down in his platform rocker with the red velvet upholstery, and watched the show. He never suggested that we should quiet down although the noise level was deafening at times. In fact, he never said a word. He just sat there with a grin on his face and watched us while we continued to entertain ourselves as though the adult world did not exist. In retrospect it is my impression that he was literally counting his blessings.

Physically he was a big man. He was at least six feet tall and somewhat overweight, so his German speaking contemporaries nicknamed him "der dicke Joe." But his expanded waistline was matched by a barrel chest which gave him the appearance of being big without being pot-bellied.



Joe C. Goering 1932

When I grew a little older I was exposed to a sterner side of Grandpa's nature. I was about 12 years old when I first helped with the wheat harvest on the farm.

While the majority of farmers harvested with a binder, Grandpa chose to use a header. This required a crew of five or six people and Grandpa always operated the header. My job was to drive the team pulling the "header barge" beside the header. The trick was to keep the barge in position so that the elevator on the header would deliver the wheat into the barge where the pitcher would stack the load.

Grandpa attempted to give me directions by yelling "Ha!" or "Gee!" which was understood by his generation to mean "turn left" or "turn right." Somehow I never seemed to know Gee from Ha and when I got the header barge too far off course he would roar in a voice that reverberated across the township, "Whoa! Where de devil you driving?!" These occasions always

left me feeling thoroughly squelched and highly motivated to make sure it didn't happen again.

It became a private joke between me and one of the pitchers. For many years when we met in the street in Moundridge, his greeting was, "Where de devil you driving?"

I never developed a close relationship with any of my grandparents. Grandpa and Grandma Kaufman, and Grandma Goering, spoke no English and I spoke no German. Although Grandpa Goering and I did not suffer from a language barrier I can't remember ever having anything like a normal conversation with him. When we spoke to each other it was only because of a need to convey some bit of information. "Small talk" was nonexistent. Our lives sort of touched but never overlapped. In later life I came to realize that he was very much aware of each of his grandchildren and deeply concerned about their welfare. He just didn't have the capacity to express those feelings in any overt manner.

In spite of his gruff exterior, Grandpa Goering was a generous man, as shown by his relationship with Dr. A.E. Hertzler of Halstead. In contrast to Grandpa, the famous "horse and buggy" doctor was a poor business manager who, it was rumored, rarely got around to sending bills to his patients. The time came when his affairs were in such disastrous condition that he was on the verge of losing his hospital.

Grandpa came to his rescue and provided the money to save the hospital and put Dr. Hertzler back on his feet. A business manager was employed to take care of financial matters while the doctor concentrated on his practice and becoming a legend in his own time. Dr. Hertzler never forgot the favor, noting in a Bethel College commencement address years after Grandpa's death, that Joe C. Goering used to send him patients with instructions to "fix them up and send me the bill." Dr. Hertzler, of course, never got around to sending such a bill.

Elmer H. Goering, c. 1995

## Johann and Freni Come to America

"During the years of 1770-1780 the ancestors of the Johann Goering family belonged to the group that came to Russia, which at that time was sort of a haven for the Mennonites, who for years were driven from place to place, mostly on account of their religious belief and doctrine. They were invited by the Queen of Russia to come and settle in that country. They were exceptionally good workers, thrifty, ready to clear land and make it fit for farming. They were granted certain privileges, if they settled there. The main ones were religious freedom and exemption from military service. During the century that they were in Russia, Johann Goering was born ...in Waldheim. In 1861 they moved to Kotosufka, where they spent their youth and were married in 1872. When the government came with the proposal that they must take military training or...emigrate, it was easy to decide at that time what to do. With nearly one accord, the congregation decided to emigrate to America. (continued next page)

**Annual Meeting Scheduled for Sunday, March 13, 2017, 2:30 p.m. at First Mennonite Church, Newton. Curt Goering, formerly with Amnesty International and now with Victims of Torture is scheduled to be the speaker. SMCHA Board has lots of things to report to the membership and friends.**



Online at:  
[www.swissmennonite.org](http://www.swissmennonite.org)

#### SMCHA OFFICERS

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Ron Preheim, Vice President  
Barbara Stucky, Secretary  
Cleon Kaufman, Treasurer  
Keith Albrecht, Exec Trustee  
Kathy Goering, Membership  
Jeanette Wedel, Richard  
Stucky, Roy Kaufman, Eugene  
Goering, Nancy Stucky, Leann  
Toews

#### Nominating Committee:

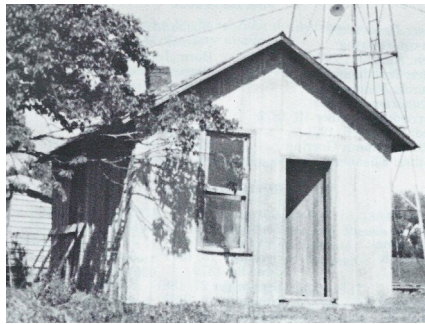
Ben J. Stucky, Wayne Stucky,  
Jim P. Stucky

#### Research Committee:

Maynard and Marlene  
Krehbiel, Wayne Goering  
Webmaster: Dennis Quiring  
"Only Schweitzer Spoken  
Here": Norvin Schrag, Ben  
Stucky, Verlene Kaufman,  
Lorita Regier  
Genealogy Advisor: Betty  
Graber Hartzler

**2016 Membership dues  
\$20/year or \$100 for six  
years. Schweitzer Salt is  
sent to members.**

On the 3rd day of September, 1874, the steamship *City of Richmond* entered the harbor in New York and 73 families landed to make their future home in this country: Johann, then 24, his wife Freni Krehbiel, 23, and one daughter Anna I. They had a little more than the ordinary responsibility since his father had died about three years before they left Russia, also Freni's mother. They both being the oldest in their respective families, it was their duty to look after the welfare of his mother and her children



and also her father and his family. Representatives from Kansas had come to meet the group in New York and to help them and encourage them to come to Kansas, where there still were areas large enough for the whole congregation to settle. They came by train to Peabody, Kansas, where they were housed for two weeks or so until the fathers had found a location for a settlement. It was decided to start a settlement in southern McPherson County, Mound and Turkey Creek townships. From Peabody they went by train to Halstead, which was a little nearer to the community where they had decided to make their home. From here they drove by wagon to Section 23 in Turkey Creek Township where Johann, Freni, Anna, his mother Elizabeth, and Johann's siblings (Peter, Elizabeth, Jacob, Maria, Freni, Anna) lived in a house (see picture) the first winter. It was nearly the end of September when they arrived...The first years they lived on the E1/2 of Section 23, Turkey Creek Township. ....We cherish their memory and admire their thrift, their attitude toward God and the church, and their prayers and well wishes for their posterity."

—from The Johann Goering Family Record 1850-1979, compiled by committee

## What's Happening—from the Board

- \* Coming—Watch for SMCHA on Facebook.
- \* Visit to Freeman, South Dakota area to hear the history from leaders of all three ethnic groups that settled there — Swiss, Low German, and Hutterites. Maybe include a tour of the museum, the site where the boys were found frozen in 1888, and lots more, probably in summer 2017. You want to go along?
- \* Fourth Bus Trip in South Central Kansas, May 6, 2017, with Brian Stucky expounding on all the markers you should have seen but didn't. Waiting list, so let LaVern know if you want to be included (620-983-2348 or [lavern@powwwwer.net](mailto:lavern@powwwwer.net)). \$60.
- \* Discussing printing cemetery names on gold plates. Want to help?
- \* Do you know where the Immigrant House stood? We want to mark it somehow.
- \* Placards identifying the plants at the Monument have been added.

Der 23. Psalm. Der Herr ist mein Hirte; mir wird nichts mangeln. Er weidet mich auf einer grünen Aue und führet mich zum frischen Wasser. Er erquicket meine Seele; er führet mich auf rechter Strasse um seines Namens willen. Und ob ich schon wanderte im finstern Thal, fürchte ich kein Unglück; denn Du bist bei mir, dein Stecken und Stab trösten mich. Du bereitest vor mir einen Tisch im Angesicht meiner Feinde. Du salbest mein Haupt mit Öl und schenkest mir voll ein. Gutes und Barmherzigkeit werden mir folgen mein Leben lang, und ich werde bleiben im Hause des Herrn immerdar.