



# Schweitzer Salt

Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association

February 2017

## ***Curt Goering, Speaker at March 12 Annual Meeting***

*Restoring the Dignity of the Human Spirit* is the focus of The Center for Victims of Torture (CVT), Curt Goering Executive Director. Curt oversees an international staff with offices in St. Paul, Washington D.C. and healing projects in Africa and the Middle East.

Curt Goering will be reporting about amazing work of CVT at the Annual Meeting of the Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association on Sunday, March 12, 2017, 2:30 p.m. at First Mennonite Church, Newton, KS.



Curt joined CVT after 30 years as Chief Operating Officer at Amnesty International USA where he led missions in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Egypt, Lebanon, Israel and other countries. CVT provides comprehensive care for victims of government-sponsored torture, conducts research and training, and undertakes policy efforts to commit the U.S. and other institutions to work against torture and aid torture survivors. Curt's writing has appeared in scores of major outlets including The New York Post, The Wall Street Journal, and Star Tribune. His media appearances include ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN, BBC, NPR, The Newshour, Al-Jazeera, HuffPost Live and many networks around the world.

Reservations are not required. Refreshments will be available. Bring a friend to hear a great speaker. Open to all.

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### **SMCHA Mission:**

\* Collect and disseminate information concerning the spiritual and cultural history of Anabaptists of Swiss Volhynian 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.

**2017 Membership dues \$20/year or \$100 for six years. *Schweitzer Salt* is sent to members.**

**Annual meeting agenda. Future plans. Reports of 2016. Budget approval. Election of officers. Cemetery booklets, Schweitzer program DVDs, history books, and Brothers Keeper database drives will be available for sale. Update your membership of \$20/2017 or \$100/six years.**

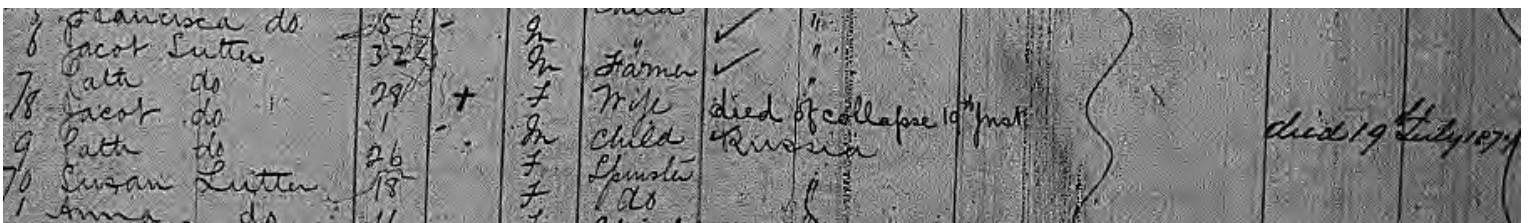
## Embracing your Lineage

From David G. Benner, Human Being and Becoming

*“Of the spiritual journey, he writes: Identifying and embracing your lineage is an important part of any pathway to greater wholeness because it involves remembering your own story...the great challenge was re-embracing traditions that I have grown beyond and that offered—even at the time—an oppressively small worldview.... Too many people live that life of dis-identification, and I did not want to share their anger and ‘stuckness.’ It was essential, therefore, for me to identify and embrace the gifts that had come to me from these traditions. This was the way in which I came to know that everything in my life belongs, that every part of my story has made important contributions to who I am.”*

## Who Really Died on the City of Richmond and What Happened to Jacob Sutter?

Listed on the original manifest of the steamship City of Richmond which docked at the Port of New York on July 27, 1874 were Jacob Sutter, his wife Katharina Albrecht, and their only surviving child at the time of immigration, Johann Sutter. The ship’s manifest indicates that the wife, Katharina, died while crossing the



Atlantic Ocean. However records indicate that Katherina married Jac Schmidt after J. Sutter died.

If records indicate that Katharina Albrecht passed away in late 1917, then the ship’s manifest is in error. If Katharina did not die on the City of Richmond, then who did? What happened to the missing father, Jacob Sutter? After significant research, the belief is that Jacob Sutter “died of collapse, 19th July 1874.”

Vernon Schrag visited with his Aunt Vi Graber. She recalled “They couldn’t find him on the boat.” Perhaps Jacob Sutter was not in the presence of his family when the medical accident which took his life occurred? His family may have been searching for him. It would seem unlikely that Katharina Albrecht would have remarried unless she was certain of her first husband’s fate. It is also difficult to believe that Jacob Sutter would have abandoned his wife and infant child.

Vernon’s research leads him to believe that Jacob Sutter: born 13 Mar 1848, Russia. Died probably 19 July 1874, S.S. City of Richmond; burial at sea; survived by wife and one son; baptism on Sunday before Palm Sunday, 21 Mar 1865, Kutusovka, Russia; marriage Sunday, 16 Nov 1869, to Katharina Albrecht in Russia.



Johann Sutter, the son of Jacob and Katharina, is known to have been a part of the early settlement at Pretty Prairie, Kansas and was a life-long member of the First Mennonite Church of Pretty Prairie. He is listed in the church history as becoming an unmarried member of the church sometime between 1885 and 1887. The conspicuous thing is that he would have only been 11-14 years old at that time and he was the only Sutter known in the early history of the Pretty Prairie settlement.

Vernon’s Aunt Vi Graber remembered John Sutter operated a threshing machine, doing custom work in the Pretty Prairie area. She told Vernon that when John Sutter moved the thresher into the farmyard, he would sound the train-like horn to let the family know it was time to thresh wheat. Vernon’s uncle Walter Graber worked for John Sutter (they called Mr. Sutter, “Sutta”). From time to time some individuals would try to start a fight with John Sutter and in that event he would grab a pitch fork, at the tip of the handle, between only his thumb and forefinger, and hold it straight out at arm’s length in the horizontal, saying to them, “wenn sie können tun und lassen, was ich dann tun werde ich sie.” (“If you can do what I can do, then I will fight you.”)

To read more of Vernon’s research on the search of Jacob Sutter, go to the [swissmennonite.org](http://swissmennonite.org) website.

Very interesting research methodology and techniques. –Information from Vernon Schrag vschrag@gmail.com 3/11/2015

## Spring Central Kansas Bus Trip

The SMCHA sponsored 2017 edition of the Local Sites Tour through parts of Marion, Harvey and McPherson counties is scheduled for May 6, 2017. The Tour brings to life the history of the area from the Indians, to the frontier days and to the more recent groups including the Mennonites who settled and developed the land. Brian Stucky is the tour guide. Participants have given the past tours very positive reviews; tours tend to fill quickly. If you would like to go or just get more information, contact LaVern Stucky 620-983-2348.

## Summer Bus Trip to Freeman

A bus trip is planned July 18-20, 2017 to the Freeman, South Dakota community to learn about the history and culture of three Mennonite groups, Swiss, Low German and Hutter that are a part of the Freeman Community.

Places of interest will include churches, cemeteries, historical sites and the Freeman Museum and Arboretum. Also featured will be a visit to the area where five Mennonite school children perished in the January 12 blizzard of 1888 and a visit to a Hutterite Colony including a noon meal there.

On the return trip we will stop at the Henderson Mennonite Heritage Museum and Park at Henderson, Nebraska and also see Bethesda Mennonite Church.



Contact LaVern Stucky at 620-983-2348 soon for reservations and further details regarding this trip.

## Scholarship Policy.

Start thinking who you might encourage to apply for the SMCHA \$500 Scholarship, requests due July 1, 2017. Applicants should be members of a Swiss Volhynian church or be of Swiss Volhynian descent. Applicants must send a letter of application and letter of recommendation from his/her pastor or congregation to the Scholarship Committee, Roger Juhnke, 328 Lakeshore Drive, Newton, KS 67114 or contact him at [fluhnke@cox.net](mailto:fluhnke@cox.net). Give our Swiss Volhynian students a boost.

## Moundridge Museum and SMCHA

The Moundridge Historical Association is planning to enlarge their primary display building. SMCHA has historical supplies at President LaVern's, Barbara Stucky's, Marlene Krehbiel's, and Kathy Goering's, and maybe other places, and more at the Mennonite Library and Archives on the Bethel College campus. The SMCHA Board has asked how we might cooperate with the Museum, possibly purchasing space in the new addition. Should we pursue conversation about some possibility that would address the handling of SMCHA historical materials, genealogical research, and books.

## Gone Fishing by Myron Zerger

It was a hot, humid day in Kansas back in 1948. It is hay bailing day at the Pete Zerger farm. Helping that day were three cousins, Eldon, Jim and Myron Zerger, all teenagers. In the heat of the afternoon the baler had a major breakdown, so the three Zerger cousins decided to cool off. They would quickly drive to the Smokey Hill River thirty minutes away. The water was beautiful and cool. We made our way down the river catching a carp now and then putting them in a gunny sack. We came upon a hollow log, inside the log was a large catfish — maybe five or six pounds. The catfish was trapped inside the log. There was only one opening and we had blocked it. Jim insisted that he could handle the fish and get it in the gunny sack alone. One swish of his powerful tail, he was back in the river safe and sound. So we continued our journey down the (continued on page 4)

**Cemetery booklets** available on web site and at Annual meeting. The SMCHA website lists Schweitzer names of people buried in the cemeteries of Hopefield, Eden, First Mennonite of Christian, Pretty Prairie, Kingman, Salem in Freeman, Salem Zion in Freeman, Lorraine Avenue, West Zion. We have printed specific booklets for most of these cemeteries which may be purchased at the Annual Meeting or have sent to you for \$5 (includes mailing cost). Request from Kathy Goering, P.O. Box 93, Moundridge KS 67107.

## RUNS OVER BOY WHILE PLOWING

### Dies of Injuries While at the Hospital

Sleeping in a tractor furrow cost the life of Paul Goering, eleven year old son of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Goering, who resides three and three-fourths miles west of Moundridge, Tuesday night.

After supper Tuesday evening, Walter, an older brother, decided to go back to the field and make several rounds with the plowing while it was cooler, asking if any of the boys wanted to go with him, Paul was eager for the opportunity to go along to help Walter with filling the furrows and riding the tractor around the field. After making several rounds, Paul grew sleepy, so Walter told him to go back to the end of the field and go to sleep and that he would make several more rounds before quitting. However, Walter warned Paul not to sleep in the furrow but to go to the fuel cans and lie down there. After making the first round, Walter watched closely when he came to that end of the field and saw that Paul was lying by the cans sleeping. Coming around the second time he presumed that Paul was still at the cans and paid no particular attention until making the turn and just beginning the third round he felt the tractor run over something and immediately jumped from the tractor and found that his presumption was correct. The tractor had passed over the head and right arm and chest. The boys were about 150 yards from the house but Paul was able to walk part of the way and part of the way Walter carried him. When examined it was found that he had a long cut clear across his forehead and around one side to the back of his head, doctors, who had been called, however, stated that the skull was not crushed and that the injuries to his head were not serious. His most severe injury, however was in his chest where it is thought that broken ribs had punctured his lung and caused internal hemorrhage. He was taken to the Halstead Hospital where stitches were placed in the wound on his head, but he died soon afterward from his internal injuries. The ac-

"Moundridge Journal" Story  
ran Thursday July 16, 1931



5-years old

**Paul Goering**

Born: Jan 8, 1920

Died: July 15, 1931

cident occurred at about 10 o'clock and the youth lived until 2 a. m. Wednesday morning. After his death doctors worked frenetically with pulmotor and other artificial means of respiration but their efforts were in vain. Paul was conscious until the end and a sixth sense must have warned him as he told the doctors to hurry up and do something as he was going to die. He also requested of his mother that she remain with him as his end was near.

Why he was sleeping in the furrow is not known, however, it is presumed that after Walter had made the first round the boy awoke and feeling that he was sufficiently rested went over to the furrow where he thought he would wait for his brother,

er, when he again fell asleep. Funeral services will be held at the Eden Mennonite Church Friday at 2:30 p. m. Services will also be held at the home at 1:30 p. m.

—submitted by Paul's nephew, Eugene Goering



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

#### SMCHA OFFICERS

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Jim P. Stucky

#### Research Committee:

Maynard and Marlene  
Krehbiel, Wayne Goering

#### Webmaster: Dennis Quiring

"Only Schweitzer Spoken  
Here": Norvin Schrag, Lorita  
Regier

Genealogy Advisor: Betty  
Graber Hartzler

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Moundridge, Kansas  
kjgo@mtelco.net  
Article submissions welcome.

Alice Suderman reports that her Dad taught them this verse and told them that this "Predigt" was recited by him and his brothers when they were little. Edgar especially liked to get on a chair and recite it with great emotion! It is probably more High German than Schweitzer dialect. She welcomes a more correct translation.

#### *MEINE PREDIGT (Author Unknown)*

*Stroh, stroh, schrille,  
Der Bauer hat a Filler,  
Der Filler lauft ihm weg  
Der Bauer hat Threck.  
Threck hat der Bauer,  
Sein Lebe wert ihm sauer.  
Sauer wert sein Lebe,  
Der Weinstuck tracht Rebe.  
Rebe tracht der Weinstuck.  
A Shof ist kei Ziegebuck.  
A Ziegebuck hat Herner.  
In der Wald wachsen Derner.  
Derner wachsen in der Wald,  
Meine Predigt ist ercht Halb.  
Halb ist meine Predigt,  
Mein Bouch ist ladich.  
Ladich ist mein Bouch,  
In der Mitze ist Rauch.  
Rauch in der Mitze,  
Mein Bruder heist Fritze.  
Fritze heist mein Bruder,  
Ein Schwein ist kein Luder,  
Ein Luder ist kein Schwein.  
Und jezt ist mein Predigt  
Zu Ende sein.*

#### *MY SERMON (Author Unknown)*

Straw, straw, \_\_\_\_\_?  
The farmer has a horse,  
The horse ran away.  
The farmer has mud,  
Mud has the farmer,  
His life becomes sour.  
Sour becomes his life.  
The grapevine bears unnatural fruit.  
Unnatural fruit is born by the grapevine.  
A sheep is no goat.  
A goat has horns.  
In the woods grow thorns,  
Thorns grow in the woods.  
My sermon is only half done,  
Half done is my sermon.  
My stomach is empty,  
Empty is my stomach.  
In the chimney is smoke,  
Smoke is in the chimney.  
My brother's name is Fritze,  
Fritze is my brother's name.  
A pig is no beast,  
A beast is no pig.  
And now my sermon  
Has come to an end.

#### **Gone Fishing** (continued)

river. After about a half hour, we decided it was time to return to the hay field. The river had high steep banks that were difficult to climb. Waiting for us at the top of the bank, his shirt soaked with sweat, was Carl the Central Kansas game warden. We with our sack of fish were caught red handed. "Noodling" or catching fish by hand is illegal in the state of Kansas. We all paid an eighteen dollar fine at the McPherson Courthouse. (today the fine would be much larger).

The story does not end here! A few weeks later I was back at school at Bethel College. One Saturday afternoon I told my good friend and cousin Orville, "Lets go fishing for a while." We found a road, a god forsaken dirt road, and stopped near the bridge over the Sand Creek. This time the fishing was legal using line and hooks. There was one problem—neither of us had the required fishing license. After a period of time a car started approaching down the road in our direction. We never dreamed there was traffic on this narrow dirt road. The car stopped, and Carl the game warden, who had ticketed us a few months past, got out of his car. I had a friendly talk with the game warden for a full ten minutes. Without asking for a fishing license, he finally left.

God was working during this whole time sending a message to me, I have never again fished illegally for the last sixty-nine years. Thank you Lord!!

—submitted by Myron Zerger's son Tom