



# Schweitzer Salt

Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association

February 2019

## Growing SMCHA —Dues and Donations

### History lesson – membership = support

1980 Bylaws	2
Legal info on Properties Boundary Road	
Banquets 1980-2018	3
Siegrists at Banquet Commemorative plaque	
New Website and new files added	4
Items of interest	

The minutes of the Feb 4, 1979 annual meeting state, “concern expressed about how to attract young people.” How many times the board has wrestled with attracting new members!

In 1973 26 people met to start SMCHA, Harley J. Stucky chairman. They discussed Centennial. In Feb 1980 50-60 attended SMCHA meeting. In the years that followed, between 85 and 200 attended most banquets and the annual meetings where a speaker presented. In 1984 memberships were available to folks out of state for \$5 each. In 1987 \$10 paid for membership and meal at Eden banquet. In 1989 dues were raised to \$15. In 2000, the Board discussed ½ price for new members. In 2003, a joining option was \$100 for ten years.

In 2013 the board decided to give more attention to growing SMCHA, and the membership offered was seven members approved adding a mem- bership database developed by trying to identify Swiss Volhynians in church membership directories. In 2014 we sent mailings to 586 (+208 email) nonmembers plus 36 previous members. Many were returned with incorrect addresses but a few joined. In 2014 membership increased 16%. In 2016 we sent to 446 (+252 email) nonmembers. In 2017 we sent to 245 email nonmembers and 333 by regular mail. After each mailing, address updates were needed. At the Kingman annual meeting in 2015, we topped 300 members and since then the numbers have decreased - deaths and people who did not pay their \$20 dues. We’ve sent a membership letter each year inviting renewal.

**Members  
Rock!!!!**

give  
and the  
bership  
offered  
was  
seven

### SMCHA Mission:

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

\* Offer financial assistance to qualifying 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.

**2019 Membership dues \$20/year or \$100 for six years. Schweitzer Salt is sent to members.**

### Schweitzer Salt impact on Membership

In 2000 Donna Neufeld printed 2003 copies of *Schweitzer Salt* and delivered to churches at a cost of \$195 and their gas. In 2010 Charles Schrag collected and edited *Schweitzer Salt*—1350 copies printed by Baker Bros, Hillsboro. Church Representatives agreed to distribute 913 in church mailboxes; 330 were mailed. Total expense reported for one issue \$453.99. At one point, *Schweitzer Salt* was sent to 29 states, Canada, Puerto Rico, and Germany.

With increased cost of postage, we could now send *Schweitzer Salt* to all on the database for cost of about \$425/issue. We’ve been sending to members three times/year and to nonmembers approximately every other year.

(continued next page)

**Annual Meeting**—Sunday, March 10, 2019, at First Mennonite Church, McPherson KS at 2:30 pm. Kip Wedel, Professor of History at Bethel College, speaking on “Wrong Kingdom: Why Anabaptists are Suspicious of American Civil Religion.” No reservations needed. Poppyseed rolls, reports and fellowship. Bring your friends.

A decision was made in 2013 to only send *Schweitzer Salt* to members to encourage joining. So non members don't get *Schweitzer Salt*. Our concern then is that people won't join if they aren't familiar with SMCHA goals and activities. Since they received *Schweitzer Salt* anyway, now sometimes just one in a family paid instead of two.

People are very busy. Our membership is older and less able to attend all the functions. Often a person doesn't get interested in their history until about age 55 or so. How many new members can we expect?

SMCHA has important goals and we appreciate support from the Swiss Volhynian community. If your dues are paid, we would be elated if you would send a donation gift!!! Pat Rupp will be taking over the membership role. She will welcome your ideas and of course receiving your support – dues or donations.

**Please send your dues of \$20/2019 or \$100/six years to SMCHA, Pat Rupp, at P.O. Box 93, Moundridge, KS 67107**

## SMCHA in 1980 bylaws

### First Incorporators:

Harley J. Stucky, Box 394, North Newton, KS 67117  
Dale M. Stucky, Wichita, KS 67208

### First Governing body designated as Board of Trustees. Serve until their successors are elected and qualified.

Peter J.P. Schrag, McPherson KS  
Pete Kaufman, McPherson KS  
Lyle Stucky, Saskatoon, Sask., Canada  
Melvin Stucky, Moundridge KS  
Menno Kaufman, Newton KS  
Wm. E. Juhnke, McPherson KS  
Art Wedel, Halstead KS  
Elizabeth Wedel, Halstead KS  
Ed R. Stucky, Moundridge KS  
Ernest Saner, Burns KS  
David Stucky, Peabody KS  
Harley J. Stucky, North Newton KS  
William Voran, Kingman KS  
Lucy Stucky, Pretty Prairie KS  
Sam Schrag, Cheney KS  
Phil J. Goering, McPherson KS  
Jonas L. Stucky, McPherson KS  
Marvin Schrag, Kingman KS  
Herbert R. Kaufman, Moundridge KS  
John D. Voth, Moundridge KS  
Herbert E. Stucky, Moundridge KS

### Organizations listed in first bylaws

Burns Mennonite, Burns KS  
Eden Mennonite, Moundridge KS  
First Mennonite Church of Christian, Moundridge KS  
First Mennonite Church, McPherson KS  
First Mennonite Church, Pretty Prairie KS  
Hopefield Mennonite Church, Moundridge KS  
Kingman Mennonite Church, Kingman KS

## Legal Information on SMCHA Properties

November 20, 1973 - Hoffnungsfeld Mennonite Church (now Hopefield) deeded real estate (1 1/2 acres of land in the N2 of SW4 of 19-21-2 in Mound Township) to SMCHA. **Mennonite Memorial Monument**

September 2, 1998 - SMCHA Board approved Hopefield recommendation that land would be deeded to SMCHA from east hedge row 450' west and from north county road boundary 160' south, approximately 1.65 acres for **Cemetery**. Stipulations: "1) All present and future Hopefield Mennonite Church members be permitted to be buried there at no cost. 2) As long as we are able, Hopefield will maintain cemetery lawn. 3) \$10,000 given to be invested and principal maintained and interest used for repair and maintenance."

November 14, 2001—The **Mennonite Marker** tract of land was deeded to SMCHA by representatives of Hopefield, Eden, and First Mennonite of Christian churches.

January 9, 2003—Hopefield to write an agreement extending the south boundary 12' and east boundary 30' to the hedge. Deed for cemetery finalized and fee paid on 2-12-2003 for 2.98 acres total. Condition that "the real estate conveyed hereinabove be maintained as a historic cemetery and for no other use, except that part at the time of this conveyance that is maintained as farmland." For \$1.00 and as gift."

February 3, 2005—Aztec Lane is part of SMCHA property according to McPherson County Register of Deeds.

## Boundary Road near Pretty Prairie

Boundary Road runs straight through Kansas. Reed Graber lived north of Boundary Road, 1000' south of the mileline boundary. On one side the lots are not full 160 acres because of the Boundary. On his farm is a two-acre cemetery that he mowed once a year or so. The cemetery was north of a schoolhouse on the corner. During gold rush days, people going to CA would travel on Boundary Road. If they had deaths on the way, their babies or people would be buried there. School would be dismissed for a service for the burial and the travelers would go on their way.

Boundary Road was legal pathway for Indians to travel through Kansas. If an Indian was caught outside the boundary, he could be killed. Stories in that little cemetery have been covered up by grass and dirt. Some stones have been stolen. Wooden crosses often would have been put up and over time these would have disintegrated so few graves are identified.

In 2005 or so, Steve Roberts from Wichita State University spent several weekends doing research at that little cemetery. He brought cadaver dogs that were used in the Oklahoma bombing victim identification too and electronic equipment from his connection with Army Base at Junction City and wrote a report.

During the time of the Roots film, people would try to find relatives buried there. People have used metal detectors there too. Using two copper wires, Reed identified some graves too, a skill he also used identifying plots during his years as sexton at the Pretty Prairie Church. —Story from Reed Graber

## History of SMCHA Banquets 1980-2018

1980 - McPherson Reuben Goertz  
 1981 - Eden - Dr. John O. Schrag  
 1982 - Pretty Prairie - Reuben Goertz  
 1983 - Eden - Arthur Flegel  
 1984 - Moundridge Middle School Leann Toews' play  
 1986 - Eden - Dr. D. V. Preheim  
 1987 - Eden - Ransom Stucky family  
 1989 - Crosswinds - John McCabe Juhnke  
 1990 - Crosswinds - Martin Goering  
 1991 - Crosswinds - Dr. Norman Saul  
 1992 - Bethel College - Levi Miller  
 1993 - Bethel College - James Juhnke  
 1994 - Bethel College - Ozzie Goering  
 1996 - Pretty Prairie - Richard Ratzlaff  
 1997 - ? - Jacob D. Goering  
 1998 - Bethel College - panel  
 1999 - Pretty Prairie - Ralph Lehman  
 2000 - McPherson - Marion Bontrager  
 2001 - Eden - William Keel  
 2002 - Eden - James Krehbiel  
 2003 - Memorial Home Wellness Center - Jerry Stahly  
 2004 - Bethel College - Dr. John Ruth  
 2005 - Bethel College - Kirsten Zerger  
 2006 - Hutchinson - James W. Krehbiel  
 2007 - ? - Virgil Dean of KS State Historical Society on Gov. Walter A. Huxman  
 2008 - Eden - S. Roy Kaufman DVD  
 2009 - Eden - Norman Hofer  
 2010 - Faith - Brian D. Stucky DVD  
 2011 - West Zion - Gary Waltner CD  
 2012 - Bethel College Mennonite - Rich Preheim DVD  
 2013 - Whitestone - David E. Ortman DVD  
 2014 - Water's Edge, Hesston - Jeff Koller  
 2015 - Eden - Common Threads (John Sharp, Tony Brown, Ken Rodgers from Hesston College) DVD  
 2016 - Faith Mennonite - Susan K. Goering  
 2017 - Eden - Dale Schrag DVD  
 2018 - Bethel College-Don and Joanne Siegrist DVD

## Don and Joanne Siegrist at SMCHA Banquet, October 2018

A sumptuous banquet prepared by Bethel College Catering Service was enjoyed by 157 friends at Memorial Hall on Thursday evening. Two Bethel College vocal groups, "Woven" and "Open Road" entertained us.



Don and Joanne Siegrist from Bird in Hand, PA had been invited in 2005 to enter the Swiss Reformed circles and now shared their many surprising experiences giving and receiving hospitality from descendants of those who were involved in persecution of our ancestors. Their presentation, "Anabaptist History — Trachselwald Castle and Other Events in the Emmental," included a slide show of Switzerland sites, photographs by Don. In 2006 the Swiss Reformed Church initiated the "Steps to Reconciliation" meeting with Anabaptist groups in Zurich. Swiss people began to realize that the ugly Anabaptist story was in footnotes, mostly hidden, somewhat like we in the U.S. tried not to accept our part in the slavery story.

Throughout the last ten years, the Siegrists have been part of many efforts of reconciliation. — 200 events in

Taufertjahr 2007 including efforts to explain water baptism, a defenseless drama, a designed hiking trail to an Anabaptist Cave, and an Open Air worship below Trachselwald with communion and the reading of the Sermon on the Mount in German.

Joanne acknowledged the mixed feelings with contrasting events: during an outdoor drama about the Anabaptists and her brand new relationships with wonderful Swiss people.

On Friday morning, Siegrists shared their story with Bethel College students in convocation. This video is on the [swissmennonite.org](http://swissmennonite.org) website.

Joanne gifted SMCHA with a beautiful plaque commemorating the reconciliation efforts, "Statement of Regret," given June 26, 2004, in Zurich, Switzerland, during the laying of the monument stone along the Limit River. The Grossmunster Towers and the Felix Manz plaque on the riverfront are pictured.

*"The Reformed Churches and the Anabaptist movement are all essentially branches on one and the same bough of the great Christian tree. Both are offsprings of the Reformation. Right from the start, however, they went their separate ways, so that a tragic rift ran through the Zurich Reformation, painful traces of which are discernable to this day. Executions, persecution and expulsions were carried out to eliminate the Anabaptist movement. Yet it has survived and is still flourishing today. The descendants of those early Anabaptists are a living testimony to this.*

*The persecuted do not forget their history; the persecutors by contrast would prefer to do so. We — representatives of the Reformed State Church of the Canton of Zurich — acknowledge that our church has largely suppressed the story of the persecution of the Anabaptists.*

*We confess that the persecution was, according to our present conviction, a betrayal of the Gospel and that our Reformed forefathers were in error on this issue.*

*We affirm that the judgement against the Anabaptists in the Second Helvetic Confession, which discards the teaching of the Anabaptists as unbiblical and refuses any communion with them, is no longer valid for us and that it is now our earnest desire to discover and strengthen our common ties.*

*We acknowledge the faithful of the Anabaptist tradition as our sisters and brothers and their churches as part of the body of Christ, whose diverse members are united through the Spirit of God.*

*We honour the radical approach of the Anabaptist movement to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world as a free community of committed believers putting into practice the message of the Sermon on the Mount.*

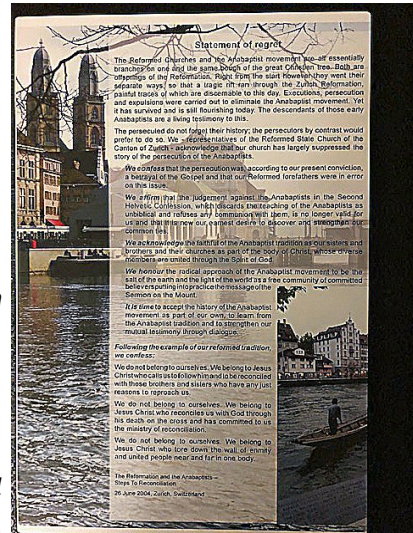
*It is time to accept the history of the Anabaptist movement as part of our own, to learn from the Anabaptist tradition and to strengthen our mutual testimony through dialogue.*

*Following the example of our reformed tradition, we confess:*

*We do not belong to ourselves. We belong to Jesus Christ who calls us to follow him and to be reconciled with those brothers and sisters who have any just reasons to reproach us.*

*We do not belong to ourselves. We belong to Jesus Christ who reconciles us with God through his death on the cross and has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation.*

*We do not belong to ourselves. We belong to Jesus Christ who tore down the wall of enmity and united people near and far in one body."*



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

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

#### SMCHA OFFICERS

LaVern Stucky, President  
Ron Preheim, Vice President  
Barbara Stucky, Secretary  
Clemon Kaufman, Treasurer  
Kathy Goering, Membership  
Keith Albrecht, Exec Trustee  
Trustees: Richard Stucky,  
Roy Kaufman, Eugene  
Goering, Nancy Stucky, Pat  
Rupp, LaDeen Frey  
Nominating Committee:  
Jim P. Stucky, Sandra Schrag  
Zerger  
Research Committee:  
Wayne Goering  
Scholarship: Roger Juhnke,  
Kerwin Graber  
Webmaster: Graham Unruh  
"Only Schweitzer Spoken":  
Norvin Schrag, Lorita Zook  
Genealogy Advisor: Betty  
Grabner Hartzler  
Honorary Historian: James W.  
Krehbiel

*Schweitzer Salt* Editor  
Kathy Goering, 620-345-8532  
Moundridge, Kansas  
[kjgo@mtelco.net](mailto:kjgo@mtelco.net)  
Article submissions welcome.

## swissmennonite.org—new website

Graham Unruh from Flint Hills Design in Newton, KS, has set up a new [swissmennonite.org](http://swissmennonite.org) website, launched December 2019. Be sure to check it out. You will be pleased at all the information there filed in categories of History, Cemeteries, Resources, Activities, Education Grants. Graham has made it easy to get around and find the information you need. The intention of the SMCHA Board is to consider this site as a repository for historical materials and out of print books as well as information about coming events.

### New files we will be adding there:

History of SMCHA from files at MLA, 1973-2000  
SMCHA Time Line 2001-2018  
History of Annual Meetings  
History of Banquets  
History of Officers 1978-2019  
History of all "Only Schweitzer Spoken Here" meetings 2003-2014  
History of Schweitzer meetings at Fall Fest, 1987-2016 (CDs of some)  
History of Scholarships 1980-  
History of SMCHA Property Maintenance  
History of Schweitzer Salt 2002-2018  
Video of the 2018 presentation by Siegrists at Bethel College convocation  
Pioneer Days in Dakota and Kansas: A Difference  
A Study Guide of the Swiss Mennonites, 1974  
Stories of family history -- I hope more people would send the board your stories.

Interesting. Fern Goering said the Hibbel (Andrew Goering) house was built @ 1906 on the hill overlooking current Moundridge. Sister Sophie was born in the chicken house because the house was being built. Her Mother remembered hearing the sound of hammers, builders of Moundridge just below the ridge.

**A Few Items:** David Ortman, Seattle, WA, note from 2013 suggesting a research topic would be the economic and political times that greeted our forefathers in 1874. An article <http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/transactions/3/bonanzafarming.shtml>. He

includes the arrival of Mennonites to North Dakota and mentions the "Panic" of 1873 that occurred just prior to the Swiss Mennonites arrival in SD and KS, evidently a financial and banking crisis.

**Wilhelm Heindrich Widiger.** Widigers were Germans

from Russia who immigrated from what is today the Ukraine. He came to America in 1883 at the invitation of the Mennonites in Moundridge, KS to teach in their newly formed school. His teaching duties consisted of reading, writing, morals, religion, German, and singing. He taught at the school Hope-

field. He was a lay Lutheran pastor and teacher in the Ukraine and the Mennonites that were living near them left about ten years earlier. He died Oct 5, 1910, age 85, in Moundridge and is buried in the Hopefield Cemetery. Nadine Epp would like more information. Contact Nadine Epp [nvepp4041@hotmail.com](mailto:nvepp4041@hotmail.com)