



Schweitzer Salt

Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association

March 2019

Annual Meeting Sunday, March 10, 2019

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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.

Kip Wedel will discuss Anabaptist attitudes toward American civil religion at SMCHA's annual meeting on Sunday, March 10 at First Mennonite Church of McPherson at 2:30 pm.

Wedel is an associate professor of history at Bethel College, where he teaches courses in American history, political science, and peace studies. He is a native of McPherson County, completed his Ph.D. at Kansas State University, and has taught at Bethel College seven years.

Recently, his article titled "Wrong Kingdom: Why Anabaptists are Suspicious of American Civil Religion" appeared in the book Civil Religion and American Christianity, edited by Liam J. Atchison, Keith Bates, and Darin D. Lenz and published by BorderStone Press. An essay by SMCHA member Jim Juhnke appeared in the same volume.

Wedel's article describes why Anabaptists have traditionally been troubled by civil religion. In his talk on March 10, he will explain what civil religion is, the nature of the Anabaptist case against it, and what he found when he examined one Mennonite church's debate about whether or not to display an American flag on their premises.

On the agenda at the annual meeting will be an overview of the 2018 year, election of SMCHA officers for 2019, and opportunity for members to give counsel and ask questions. The Handbell Choir of First Mennonite Church will provide music. Membership renewal payments can be made at the meeting or sent directly to P.O. Box 93, Moundridge KS 67107. All are invited to enjoy poppyseed rolls (made by Deanne Loganbill) and refreshments provided by First Mennonite members and stay for visiting and fellowship. No reservations are needed, so bring friends and enjoy the time.



In order to keep SMCHA a vibrant and helpful organization, supporters who believe in SMCHA goals and activities pay annual dues — currently \$20/year or \$100 for six years. We are encouraged when our friends send a donation. We look forward to our members continuing their interest. Please send dues or donations to P.O. Box 93, Moundridge KS 67107. Include your own ideas about what is helpful to you.

Early Historical Data

The City of Richmond ship arrived in New York on August 31, 1874. Some went to Dakota and some to Kansas. The Kansas group traveled to Peabody, Kansas, first and then to Halstead Kansas before many moved in to the Immigrant House in the prairie identified now as just west of Moundridge. They continued in the U.S. in the same pattern of worship, use of the German language, and under the same leadership of Elder Jacob Stucky and his assistant, Rev. Jacob D. Goering, as in the Ukraine. They called themselves the Gemeinde zu Hoffnungsfeld congregation, Lakeview Post Office. The Immigrant House was used for worship for eight years.

In 1870 a state census estimated the McPherson county population at 738. By 1878 the population was listed at over 11,000 (probably around 1500 Mennonites or more). The Mennonites experienced a change from the village system of Russia to rural communities of farms and small towns.

The town of Christian was established already in 1874 with a post office in 1876 and a few years later a store, church, and blacksmith. In 1886 the Missouri Pacific Railroad established a station named Moundridge just one mile to the north and the town of Christian was dissolved. Moundridge became the main trading town for these Mennonites who now invested in new businesses of a telephone company, hardware store, bank, and others. By 1904 a telephone was available for some of the rural occupants. Automobiles did not become standard public transportation until the 1930s. The electric power line from McPherson was not accessible until after 1922.

In 1882 the Hopefield Church building was constructed with 160 families and 182 persons eligible for communion. On February 5, 1895, 80 members and their families broke from the mother congregation and formed the Hoffnungsfeld-Eden Church. Both congregations used the same church building until 1898 when the Hoffnungsfeld-Eden group dedicated their new building across the road west. Leaders of the new congregation were the Reverends Peter M. Krehbiel, Peter Stucky, and C.J. Goering. The German language was spoken in the church for many years.



The Freeman Three

From Shirley Waltner, Freeman, SD, note dated 2012: "Our community is the only one in the U.S. that has the Low German, Hutterites and Swiss living in the same community. We also have Hutterite Colonies within ten miles of Freeman. Although the

Low German, Hutterites and Swiss spoke different dialects of German, we all originated from the Anabaptist movement and Freeman Junior College became a unifying effort to provide education of the young people in the late 1800's. Most of the three ethnic groups came about the same time. 1874 from Russia although the Hutterites were followers of Jakob Hutter (Austria) and the Low Germans came from Holland, and the Swiss from Switzerland."

SMCHA Annual Meetings

1979 Hopefield. Dale Stucky.
1980 - 1986 - Hopefield - business meetings
1987 - Hopefield - William Juhnke showed slides
1988 - 1991 - Hopefield - business meetings
1992 - Hopefield - William Gering
1993 - Hopefield - Marlene Krehbiel
1994 - Hopefield - Dale Schrag
1995 - Hopefield - Don Kaufman
1996 - Hopefield - James Krehbiel
1997-2009 - Hopefield - business meetings
2010 - Eden - Pretty Prairie drama
2011 - Eden - Rosemary Fisher
2012 - First Menn of Christian - David Habegger
2013 - First Menn of McPherson - Marlene Krehbiel
2014 - First Menn of Halstead - scholarship recipients
2015 - Kingman - video and panel
2016 - First Menn of Hutchinson - John McCabe Juhnke
2017 - First Menn of Newton - Curt Goering
2018 - First of Pretty Prairie - Kathy Goering Reid

Looking Back at Centennial 1974 Plans

Excerpts from August 20, 1973 Progress report on Memorial Marker (we call it Monument now) folder: Footings and foundation have been poured. It will take approximately two months to build. Vernon Wedel has been secured as a stone mason to put up the memorial marker. Seventeen tons of Silverdale Limestone has arrived. Old square nails were found at the site of the Immigrant House during the time of the foundation digging. Kansas State University ordered 21 bushels of Turkey Red Hard Winter Wheat from the Wheat Commission to plant in test plots.

The celebration for the coming of the Swiss Volhynian Mennonites will be held August 31, September 1-2, 1974. People will be coming from as far away as Louisiana, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

The suggested activities include a parade, an old-fashioned threshing bee, a walking plow contest, demonstrations, pony and wagon rides, tours, contests for the most authentically dressed man, woman, child, family group, contest for the most Mennonitische "beard and moustache, recognition for those who have gone into the ministry, mission work, or MCC service. There will, of course, be plenty of Swiss Volhynian food.

"City of Richmond" docked in New York on August 31, 1874. A commemorative service of this docking will be

held in connection with the Centennial activities west of Moundridge.

Prizes will be offered for those who grow the largest poppyseed heads and excel in other categories. Prizes will be awarded in a folk-lore writing contest.

During the first quarter of this year, the Fine Arts Committee will put on the play “Von Russlant auf America” and the Clothing Committee will sponsor a style revue of authentic costumes.

\$18,000 budget includes money for memorial marker, replica of the Immigrant House, Centennial publications, wheat and poppyseed centennial activities, drama, music, and a variety of Centennial programs. [More money was requested to carry out the event.]

The Centennial belongs to all of the descendants of the Swiss Volhynian forefathers. It represents our effort—that is all of our efforts collectively—to commemorate and express appreciation for the arrival of our forefathers 100 years ago and for the faith and commitment which motivated them.”

You can view the video of the **125th** Anniversary celebration in 1999 on the swissmennonite.org website. Showing plowing with horses, cemetery tours, stories of early leaders, speech by Congressman Moran, and much more.

SMCHA incorporated on Feb 14, 1973

Presidents of SMCHA: Harley J. Stucky, beginning, Milo Goering 1979-, Milton W. Goering 1981-, Oswald H. Goering 1982-, Arthur Waltner 1984-, Martin H. Goering 1986-, Delbert Goering 1988-, Erwin C. Goering 1990-, Gordon Schrag 1991-, Waldo Waltner 1994-, Vic Goering 1996-, Elmer Schrag 1998-, Arnold Wedel 2001-, LaVern Stucky 2010-.

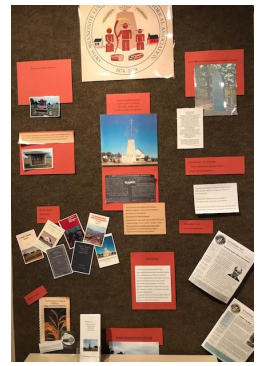
Record of Earliest Names of Burials in the Hopefield Pioneer Cemetery

August Beutler 1852-1875, age 23
Anton Voran 1815-1876, age 61
Susan Beutler 1860-1877, age 17
David Beutler 1869-1877, age 8
Christian Schrag 1849-1878, age 29
Anna Schrag 1868-1878, age 10
Maria Preheim Wedel 1837-1878, age 41
Johann Wedel 1851-1879, age 28
Jacob Gering 1861-1880, age 19
Magdalena Schrag Strausz 1809-1880, age 71
Karolina Krehbiel Kaufman 1854-1880, age 26
Katrina Gering Kaufman 1811-1884, age 73
Tobias Unruh 1861-1884, age 23
Anna Schrag 1885-1885
Peter P. Flickner 1880-1885, age 5
Lydia Kaufman 1885-1886, age 1
Peter JP Gering 1886-1886
Peter Kaufman 1824-1887, age 63
Lidia Flickner 1887-1887
Karolina Waltner 1885-1888, age 3
Heinrich Bachman 1838-1888, age 50
The list continues in the Directory Building.

See the SMCHA Display at the Moundridge Museum.

Major SMCHA Events

- 1974 100th Centennial celebration
- 1974 Pioneer Heritage Days
- 1984 110th anniversary celebration
- 1995 McPherson County Tour
- 1999 125th Anniversary celebration
- 2002 Hopefield Cemetery Directory building completed, Stan Regier architect
- 2002 Historic oak tree planted near monument
- 2002 Web site developed, Dennis Quiring webmaster
- 2003 Stone posts installed at end of each cemetery row
- 2006 Trees planted at Hopefield Cemetery, gift from Harley Stucky family
- 2010 Ozzie Goering family scholarship funded
- 2010 Delbert Goering family gift to Endowment Fund
- 2010-2011 Mike Putnam interviews about dialects
- 2012 Brush cleared and new plantings at the 1943-Marker
- 2012 Catlin monument dedication
- 2012 Makeover planned for Monument plantings
- 2012 Research Committee identified pioneer homesteads
- 2012 Endowment Fund at McPherson County Community Foundation
- 2013 Salem Zion Cemetery Marker
- 2013 Trip to Ukraine, Switzerland, Holland...
- 2013 Compiled master list of cemeteries, on web
- 2013 Betty Hartzler's Swiss Volhynian Database
- 2014 New logo by Jesse Graber
- 2014 Water well drilled at Monument site
- 2013,2014,2015,2016 Match Day Earnings
- 2015 Major monument maintenance work
- 2015 August Local bus tour
- 2016 Future oversight responsibility agreement signed with Eden Mennonite Church
- 2016 Digitizing out of print historical books for web site
- 2017 “Swiss Volhynian Favorite Recipes—800 books sold
- 2017 Freeman and Henderson NE bus trip
- 2017 Signage installed with directions to SMCHA properties
- 2017 Opened an Expendable Endowment Account at MCCF
- 2018 Discussion about identifying Immigrant House



Board officers 1978-2018 : Milo Goering, William Juhnke, Ted Graber, John W. Stucky, Hobert J. Goering, Lucy S, Phil J., Milton W. Goering, Oswald Goering, Doris Stucky, John W. Stucky, Art Waltner, Art J. Goering, Esther Foth, Martin H. Goering, Walter Juhnke, Delbert D. Goering, David D. Schrag, Ruth G. Galle, Erwin C. Goering, Gordon Schrag, Levi Krehbiel, Evelyn Miller, Waldo Waltner, Arnold Wedel, Vera Thiesen, Victor Goering, Marie Wedel, Elmer Schrag, Vernell Kaufman, Rich Preheim, Jay Goering, Roger Juhnke, Waneta Goering, Melvin Graber, Kip Wedel, Keith Goering, Helen Nachtigal, Bruce Stucky, Kathy Goering, Val Krehbiel, Ryan Goering, Alice Suderman, Ron Preheim, Barbara Stucky, Clemon Kaufman.

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

Online at:
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
Graber Hartzler
Honorary Historian: James W.
Krehbiel

Schweitzer Salt Editor
Kathy Goering, 620-345-8532
Moundridge, Kansas
kjgo@mtelco.net
Article submissions welcome.

**2019 Banquet
November 7**
Looking Forward
From Christmas letter from
Jim and Shirley Goering,
2017 are meaningful and
appropriate encouraging
words for our time.
“Looking forward, it seems
to be a time of particular

Alta Mill. Research continues at the Alta Mill site. If interested in a tour, contact Brian Stucky at 620-367-2610.

150th Anniversary of Swiss Volhynian Mennonites coming to the U.S. is in 2024. How shall we celebrate? Looking for leaders to plan ahead.

The SMCHA archive box at the Mennonite Library and Archives contains

- 1971, 1973, 1975 Centennial Committee Minutes. 1974 program, brochure
- State of KS Articles of Incorporation filed Feb. 14, 1973. Bylaws.
- 1976 Our Town Our Country play by Bill Juhnke
- 1976 Pioneer Heritage Days poster
- 1979-1980 membership records, correspondence, newspaper clippings
- Board minutes 1976-2001
- 1977 Certificate of Amendment (Milo Goering, William Juhnke)
- 1977 on immigrant house that Felix Stucky built
- 1978 handwritten list of original trustees
- Article re: whatever happened to Menno play by J.O. Schrag
- Reconciliation - Which Way: Phil A. Goering, written by M.S. Kaufman
- Unsere Leit copy - directions to actual original
- And more.

Anyone can ask to see these historical items for study or research. We will be taking more items this year to update the ongoing history of SMCHA.

“Unser liebe Gott,
segne euch als ihr versuchen
die Christlicher wege unsere
Forstellung folgen.”

“Our loving God,
bless you, *our readers*, as you
seek the ways of Christ our
Forefathers followed.”

(Schweitzer blessing for our readers, written by Marlene Krehbiel)

economic and political un-
certainty. In 1939 the
British were facing growing
anxiety at home and in-
creased political and mili-
tary tension on the conti-
nent. In this situation the
words of King George VI in
his Christmas Day broad-
cast to his British subjects,
seem appropriate:

*“I said to the man who
stood at the Gate of the
Year, ‘Give me a light that
I may tread safely into the
unknown.’ And he replied,
‘Go out into the darkness,
and put your hand into the
hand of God. That shall
be better than light, and
safer than a known way!’”*

**My time on the SMCHA
Board and as editor of
Schweitzer Salt for ten
years has been rewarding
and fulfilling. I have
learned much about histo-
ry and my Swiss Volhynian
ancestors. This issue is my
last, but I will be seeing
you at SMCHA events.
Best wishes for a vibrant
future. —Kathy Goering**