



Schweitzer Salt

Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association



www.swissmennonite.org

June 2023

Plowing Bee to be Held West of Moundridge July 15

It has been 150 years since our ancestors came to America. We want to remember the old days with agriculture beginning this summer. Glen Goering, Darrell Schrag, Nathan Graber and the Agriculture Committee have invited horse and plow owners to show us how plowing was done long ago. This event will be held on Saturday, July 15, at a 22-acre field west of the Moundridge Museum from 8:30-2:00. The event will conclude with a Vintage Tractor plowing demonstra-

tion. You are invited to bring a lawn chair and watch this event.

Concessions will be available from Gospel Mennonite and a tent for shade will be provided to view the demonstration. The Moundridge Museum will also be open that day. Come out and see it on Saturday, July 15.

- 150th Committee

Mark Your Calendar

The committee plans on planting Turkey Red Wheat as an event in the fall of 2023.



Carol Kaufman Voran: New SMCHA board member

Carol Kaufman Voran was born, raised and currently lives in Kingman County. Her husband for 41 years, Dale, is a farmer raising wheat and cattle. They have 2 daughters. Michelle lives in Dodge City and teaches geometry at Dodge City High School. She and her husband, Tom Ochs have one child and are expecting another. Meredith is a pharmacist in Kingman. Carol received her BS and MS in Education at Emporia State University. She taught accounting and business subjects for 7 years. She then became a licensed abstractor and title insurance agent. This allowed her to pursue her interest of Kingman County history. She also served as Kingman County Commissioner for 12 years.

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If you have a story to share for a book of stories about our ancestors, submit them to Bryan Adams at smolts123@yahoo.com or Casey Adams at cpadams992@gmail.com



Two Scholarships Awarded

The SMCHA Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the awarding of two \$1000 scholarships this year. The recipients are Rachel Miller and Elizabeth Wipf (Schrag.)

Rachel Miller is a member of the Salem-Zion Mennonite Church, Freeman, South Dakota. Rachel graduated from Bethel College in May 2022 with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work. She received a

scholarship last year when she began Mennonite Voluntary Service as a case management intern with the Prenatal Homeless Program in San Francisco. Rachel applied again this year and said in her application, "I have had such a positive experience so far, that I have committed to staying another year. I work as a case manager on the New Beginnings Team, and I support and provide resources to pregnant

homeless mothers." Her parents are Nancy and Corey Miller.

Elizabeth Wipf (Schrag) grew up attending Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge, Kansas, and maintains associate membership there. She now lives in Canada and is completing a Master of Divinity degree at Canadian Mennonite University. She is also currently working half-time as the Faith Development Pastor at the

North Kildonan Mennonite Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Upon graduation from CMU, Elizabeth plans to move into ministry on a full-time basis. She is married to George Wipf and is a young mom. Her parents are Jennifer and Bob Schrag.

Terry Graber: New SMCHA board member

Terry was born at Freeman SD and raised on the family farm with one foot on the farm and one foot in his mother's Gering family printshop, Pine Hill Printery. It seemed to him that choosing printing was an easy choice. Working in the family print shop gave him a solid background and experience in the business. He went on to become a co-owner of a printing business for 18 years and then became a management team member of MennoMedia (MCUSA/MC Canada publisher) for 23 years. His interests include history, Mennonite book collecting, and woodworking as retirement permits. He is now also overseeing the Pine Hill printing display at the Freeman museum.

Terry and his wife, Chris, are in their 50th year of marriage. Chris is now retired but spent 45 years in many administrative roles in the Mennonite offices in Newton. They have two children, Monty and Allison. Monty and Hope live in North Newton and have three boys, Nikolas, Ian and Andrew who have their grandmother wrapped around their little fingers. Allison and Julius also live in North Newton. Monty teaches social studies at Chisholm middle school and as well as class at McPherson college. Allison is an accountant at Wray roofing.



Immigrant House Museum Plans

To Schweitzer Salt readers and those interested in preserving the history and culture of the “Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association”:

SMCHA started fifty years ago and has tried to educate, celebrate and, tell our history through banquets, annual meeting speakers, bus tours (locally and a Freeman, SD trip) and special events. The organization’s goal has been to point out the sacrifices, risks, and uncertainty these people of faith endured to come to this country 150 years ago. It also wishes to recognize the communities, churches, and towns in which SMCHA descendants played a significant part in helping building the area.

Through the fifty years of existence as an organization, we have never had a physical facility to recognize and permanently preserve our unique history and to tell our story of how it ties to Anabaptism and the larger Mennonite story in Europe and America. We would also tell the story of other faith groups that played a very important part in the settlement of the Moundridge community. The “Holdeman” community has a particularly interesting story of coming to this country.

Therefore, we have organized a Moundridge Im-

migrant House Museum task force for the purpose of developing a plan to acquire funds, develop construction plans and ultimately build a museum.

The museum would border the Moundridge Historical Association Campus and Museum. We, in no way, are competing with the Moundridge Museum. Being adjacent would enhance attendance for both museums.

The current owners of the land, the Jenkins family, are descendants of the original owners. They have indicated their support for the project and their willingness to donate a portion or possibly all the land for the project. The Moundridge city manager has indicated all necessary utilities are conveniently accessible.

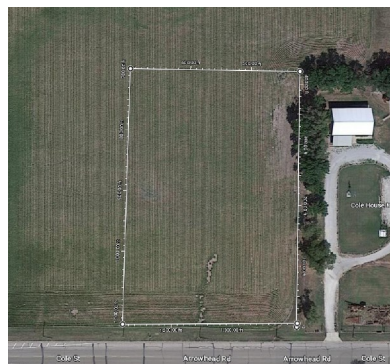
The museum’s exterior appearance would replicate the typical models and concepts of immigrant houses. Early plans are a building 120’ x 20’ with a kitchen annex of 15’ x 15’. The final building plans are flexible. We re-

cently applied to the Kansas Department of Commerce for a \$704,000 (\$404,000 for physical structure and land and \$300,000 for the museum technology and interior design) but were unsuccessful in the request. We are sure we could pare this back some, however, a new building for public use has required codes to meet and is surprisingly expensive. We would also solicit funds from local foundations and other museum grants for the project.

This information is to inform you of what SMCHA would like to pursue and to determine if the financial support would be forthcoming for the project outlined. Therefore, we are asking you to participate in a survey to determine support for the Moundridge Immigrant House Museum project. The survey indicates how much you think you might be willing to contribute to the museum project. This is in no way a monetary commitment but just a preliminary survey to determine support for the project. To take part in the survey [click here](https://swissmennonite.org/museum-survey/) or go to <https://swissmennonite.org/museum-survey/>



Museum Site:
Moundridge Museum
on the right



Google map view of
site

Accepting Credit/Debit Cards

The SMCHA website (www.swissmennonite.org) is now capable of accepting credit/debit card payments to purchase cookbooks or to make donations. Look for instructions on the website as to how to make that happen. You will also be able to use credit/debit cards at all of the 150th Year Celebration



I have learned so much this past year in preparing for this Celebration. I'm finding relatives I never knew, and getting reacquainted with some I barely knew. Relatives in fact and in faith. My thoughts of what this celebration should entail have changed over the past year. We need to recognize and appreciate our ancestors' struggles and decisions, but we need to also recognize those like minded folks who were experiencing similar struggles and decisions. "Schweitzers and Friends" became the thinking of the steering committee as we dream and plan for activities that stimulate our goals of celebrating faith. Keep tuned and feel free to volunteer, donate, and inspire us all. Danielle Goering, Steering Committee Chair, wgdg@cox.net.

Schweitzers and Friends will be celebrating 150 years since our Swiss Volhynian ancestors came to the U.S. The first event will be horse-drawn plowing on July 15, 2023, near the Moundridge Museum followed by a Turkey Red Wheat Planting event in August at the same place using horses and vintage equipment. Several more happenings will follow yet in 2023 leading up to the celebration on August 22-25, 2024 at the Eden Mennonite Church in rural Moundridge. A historical drama will start us off on Thursday, August 22, 2024, and then seminars, videos, music, genealogy teaching, threshing wheat, and trips to the SMCHA properties will follow Friday to Sunday. Save the dates for good old-fashioned family reunions. Kathy Goering, Publicity Chair, kjgo@mtelco.net.

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

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 Hopedief Cemetery and Swiss Mennonite 1943 Marker and Centennial Monument