



Schweitzer Salt

Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association



www.swissmennonite.org

October supplement 2023

October 26 Annual Fall Banquet at Faith Mennonite

The SMCHA Annual Fall Banquet will be held on October 26, 2023 at 6 pm in Newton, KS at Faith Mennonite Church, 2100 North Anderson Ave. **RSVP's can be made to Nancy Stucky via text message or phone call at 620-532-5693 by October 23.** The cost of the banquet, catered by The Breadbasket in Newton, will be \$25 per person payable at the door. Jerry Juhnke will be our featured speaker at the banquet.

Do you know of an ancestor that travelled back to Russia to settle a legal issue? Do you know of a very famous movie star that lived near Pretty Prairie? Do you know where our ancestors were originally going to settle, or where in New York our immigrant ancestors got off the ship?

The answers to these questions and others will be provided by our guest speaker Jerry Juhnke who will present "Interesting Happenings Over Our Last 500 Years".

Jerry Juhnke, son of Marvin, son of Wesley, son of Carl, son of Heinrich, has been researching Swiss Volhynian Mennonite genealogy and history for many years. Because his father liked to play the "Mennonite Game" (how are we related), Jerry bought a family tree program and installed it on his first computer to try to keep track of his relations. He soon became acquainted with Betty Hartzler which led to a lifelong interest in genealogy.

As a youth, Jerry attended Elyria Grade School and Eden Mennonite Church. He is married to DeDe (50 years in December) and has two sons, Ben (married to Emily with two daughters) and Gabe (married to Hannah with two sons). For 43 years, Jerry worked with Ameriprise Financial Services as a franchise financial advisor with his business, "Juhnke and Associates". He also enjoys music, travel, tennis and pickleball. He has served on the Wichita Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors and has



Jerry Juhnke

helped to raise scholarship funds for WSU music students as a board member of the WSU Music Associates. He and his immediate family live in Wichita.

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Swiss Volhynian Mennonite Genealogical and Historical Project

Jerry has studied Swiss Volhynian Mennonite genealogy and history for many years. A couple of years ago he organized a group of genealogists with Swiss Volhynian Mennonite background who would meet on monthly zoom meetings to work on a common online family tree and to organize historical information related to our ancestors. This was the start of the Swiss Volhynian Mennonite Genealogical and Historical Project (the

"G&H Project").

The goal of the G&H Project is to preserve and make available genealogical and historical information relevant to anyone with Swiss Volhynian Mennonite ancestry. Historical information for an individual might include photos, newspaper articles, funeral programs, awards, draft registration cards, marriage invitations, obituaries, audio recordings, video records or any other information that would help to

create an historical summary of that individual's life. The historical information might also include related information about churches, cities, events, organizations, schools, travel or other items.

By the time of our SMCHA annual dinner, many public libraries in the Swiss Volhynian Mennonite communities will have copies of the G&H Project genealogical database. If your library does not have a copy, send Jerry an email

he will send a copy to the library. The copy sent to the libraries will be a "privacy" version to protect any living individuals from the possibility of identity theft.

If you have a desire to participate in the G&H Project, please let Jerry or any of the other genealogists know. Jerry can be reached at Juhnke500@AOL.com.

We're Celebrating in 2023 and 2024



Schweitzers
& FRIENDS
1874-2024

*Mark your
calendars for
these special
upcoming events.*

From the 150th Steering Committee:

Our souvenir table will be set up at Bethel College Fall Fest, the SMCHA banquet, and the Moundridge Christmas Fair in 2023.

Events planned for 2024 leading up to the August 23-25 celebration of our ancestors coming to the United States in 1874 are:

- ◆ Movie of Ulrich Zwingli in February
- ◆ Genealogy Workshop with Jerry Juhnke in March
- ◆ Speaker, Matt Cotton, will present on contemporary Ukraine in April
- ◆ Historical Drama
- ◆ Moundridge Arts Council show
- ◆ Quilt display

Possible other appearances include:

- ◆ Black Kettle Festival in Moundridge in June
- ◆ Black Kettle Parade in June in Moundridge
- ◆ McPherson County May Day in May

A big celebration is being planned for August 23-25, 2024 at Eden Mennonite Church with:

- ◆ Historical seminars
- ◆ Reader's Theater
- ◆ Music
- ◆ Ethnic foods
- ◆ Worship
- ◆ Travels to ancestral villages
- ◆ Lots of catching up with your "cousins" or friends of Swiss Volhynian descent

Credit Cards Accepted

You can now use a credit card to purchase souvenirs at the 150th events, buy the new edition of Favorite Recipes, and also donate to support SMCA activities. To keep up with news, send a donation via credit card through <https://swissmennonite.org>.

If you know of other people that would be interested in receiving the Schweitzer Salt, please email Kathy Preheim at kathypreheim@gmail.com.

Articles or article topics are also happily accepted by the above email address.

<https://swissmennonite.org> and Facebook readers

By: Kathy Goering

Check our website frequently for updates. Take time to watch the 3 minute overview video developed by Dan Kliewer. Dan has been recording our many events leading up to our time of celebration in August of 2024. It will be a memorable keepsake of our 150th Swiss Volhynian anniversary.

Some of our wonderful writers are posting interesting articles on the Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association Facebook page every Wednesday. These are good to read and very informative. If you would like to share a story or history moment from your ancestors, send them to kjgo@mtelco.net for another Wednesday post.

Sowing Wheat Event from September 30

A good crowd gathered at the Moundridge Museum complex at 8:30 on Saturday morning, September 30 and watched while the Turkey Red Wheat was loaded out of an old wagon into the very old drills. Soon three teams of horses showed up to be hitched to the drills while the crowd looked on. Then the horses, drivers, and drills took off in the very dry field. It was so exciting to see the action.

Several men checked to see that the wheat was low enough into the ground so that the next week's rain would hopefully bring it up. Two more big, dark horses came from the back and were hooked up with two others, and we watched the drill pulled now by four. We wondered if the four were going to cooperate together but they did!

Beautiful windy weather, Kansas style, drove some to enjoy cinnamon rolls and coffee provided by the Gospel Mennonite Church. An added treat was that super homemade ice cream was for sale also! Spectators were encouraged to visit the Moundridge Museum, Cole House, and the other outbuildings. Items were purchased from the last day of Farmers Market producers, and people were able to make purchases from the Schweitzer souvenir table.

The next step in the process will be to wait for the wheat to grow, cut it, and then bind it in about June. It will be threshed in August.



Printed Books at Moundridge Library

The 150th celebration is a great time to catch up on knowing your history of our Swiss Volhynian past. What do you think are the best books to read?

The Moundridge Public Library now has the following books to be checked out:

[Swiss Russian Mennonite Families Before 1874](#) by James W. Krehbiel, 1995

[The Challenging Faith](#) Centennial Publication 1874-1974 of the First Swiss-German (Volhynian) Congregation in Kansas by Menno C. Kaufman and Committee, 1975

[The European History of the Swiss Mennonites from Volhynia](#) by Martin H. Schrag, 1974, 1999

[The Swiss Mennonite Memorial Monument](#) by Harley J. Stucky, 1999

Do you have any extra books of our history to contribute to public libraries or church libraries so that interested people can check them out?

We may republish several books that are out of print and have them available at our book table at events.

MATCH WEEK

NOVEMBER
6-10, 2023

November 6-10 is Match Week 2023

Match Day 2023 (Nov. 6-10) presents a week of truly amazing possibilities. These fund matching events have always been great and have presented amazing possibilities but this year tops them all. The Patterson Family Foundation has generously given the Moundridge Community Foundation a grant of \$70,000 to be used as matching dollars. That presents incredible opportunities for SMCHA. It is likely we could have a dollar for dollar match. However if the community organizations raise over \$70,000 the match will be prorated based on the percentage each organization raised, but the potential is amazing!

For SMCHA the opportunities are boundless. We are excitedly planning for the 2024 celebration of the 150 anniversary of the coming of these Swiss Volhynian Mennonites to Moundridge and Freeman, SD area. The celebration known as "Schweitzers and Friends" will have events planned all during 2024 with a major production to be held at Eden Mennonite Church in late August. This is a year when we will see how farming was done in years gone by. We will look at our culture and habits, listen to our music, be entertained by speakers and drama, enjoy our

special foods, call attention to our monuments and our historic treasures and more. Please plan to attend.

To help cover the costs of this celebration, we are planning to use the match money generated by the Match Day/Week event. Moundridge Community Foundation is very generous and supportive of our efforts to celebrate our heritage. Earlier this year they awarded SMCHA a grant to be used for expenses relating to the celebration. The foundation has been a constant partner with us over the years and have provided us with funds to complete a variety of projects. Match Day/Week is just one more opportunity for the foundation to assist us in reaching our goals. To capitalize on this opportunity requires our assistance. Please be as generous as you can by making a significant contribution.

There are a variety of ways that you can contribute. These include sending a check or doing it online. Also we encourage you to consider using your RMD to contribute. Anything by mail including your RMD intents must be post marked by Nov. 10. The actual RMD can come in later

if the intentions including the amount is turned in during the week of 6-10. A special 'in person' event is being held at The Hub Brick Oven and Brewery from 3 to 7 PM Thursday, November 9. A slice of desert pizza and a drink will be free to donors courtesy of the Moundridge Community Foundation. Remember, donations to Swiss Mennonite Culture and Historical Association are tax deductible. Please send checks and RMD intents to:

Moundridge Community Foundation,
Box 345
Moundridge, KS 67107

Thank you in advance for your support.

LaVern Stucky, SMCHA Pres.

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