



Schweitzer Salt

Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association



www.swissmennonite.org

October 2024

Match Week is November 4-8

Match Week 2024, held this year November 4-8, presents truly amazing possibilities. These fund matching events have always been great opportunities but with the Patterson Family Foundation's \$70,000 matching grant the opportunities become fantastic. It's 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 raises. For SMCHA the potential is amazing!

Among the descendants of the immigrants, there has long been a high level of nostalgia about the immigrant house . Built by the Santa Fe Railroad, as temporary housing for the refugees from Ukraine, it became a temporary home, church and school for the first several years of homesteading. After 150 years SMCHA is proposing to build a replica of this building to display our heritage and culture plus providing it with a home. The proposal is to locate this structure just west of the current Moundridge Historical Association complex. Your donation would be applied to the SMCHA endowment. The matching money from the Patterson Foundation would be used towards building this immigrant house.

Moundridge Community Foundation is very generous and supportive of our efforts to celebrate our heritage. 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 Week is just one more opportunity for the foundation to assist SMCHA in reaching its goals. To capitalize on this opportunity requires the assistance of our supporters. 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. For online giving instructions ,call 620 245 9070. Also we encourage you to consider using your RMD to contribute. Anything by mail including your RMD intents must be post marked by Nov. 8. The actual RMD can come in later. A special 'in person' event is being held at The Hub Brick Oven and Brewery from 3 to 7 PM Thursday November 7. 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, with Match Week on the memo line and RMD intents to:

Moundridge Community Foundation, Box 345, Moundridge, Ks 67107

Thank you in advance for your support,

LaVern Stucky, SMCHA President

Inside this issue:

<i>150th Celebration by the Numbers</i>	2
<i>150th Celebration a Success</i>	2
<i>Burgan Researches and Marks Graves</i>	2
<i>Annual Banquet Held</i>	3
<i>Thank You!</i>	3
<i>Immigrant House Task Force Message</i>	3
<i>Nominating Committee Search</i>	4

Please share Schweitzer news and events with others to expand our readership and inform about our organization.

We thank the members of the Hopefield Church that kindly offered their church and time for tours. Their generosity and delicious snacks were truly appreciated!

150th Celebration by the Numbers

- ◇ 463 people registered from 33 states (with more attending that didn't register)
- ◇ 340-370 people estimated to be at the evening programs and Sunday morning
- ◇ 400 people for the Saturday evening meal
- ◇ More than 200 people at each agricultural event throughout the year
- ◇ More than 70 people in each small seminar room with over 150 people in the sanctuary worship sessions
- ◇ 30 people in the Sunday morning choir
- ◇ 12 children at the various children's activities
- ◇ The number of volunteers that made the 150th celebration a success is too numerous to count!!!!
THANK YOU!!!!

150th Celebration A Success

The final event of the 150th Celebration of Schweitzer and Friends was held on August 23-25, 2024. The year included agricultural events, a drama musical, "A Goodly Heritage," a sculpture dedication, a quilt show, genealogy workshops, many guest speakers, and more. Souvenirs of shirts, caps, cups, mugs, books, etc. were sold at many events. The weekend rounded out a very busy three years leading up to it. Guest session speakers, reader's theater, delicious food, good music, children's activities, historical booths, cemetery tours, a milling and threshing demonstration along with an antique farm equipment show, monument and marker tours, Hopefield Church tours, and more created a very busy and interesting weekend. Brian Stucky even marked out the first Hoffnungsfeld Eden Church site across the road west of Hopefield Church. There were so many things to see and hear and do that not all events were able to be attended. Some of the sessions were recorded by Dan Kliewer. They will be added to our website so that you may view them at your leisure. The 150th Year Celebration of Coming to America highlight video is up on the front page of our website. Make sure you check it out.

Burgan Researches Swiss Mennonite Immigrants Born in Russia Who Died in U.S.

Gib Burgan has spent countless hours researching cemetery records and information from more than 16 churches to find the graves of immigrants born in Russia who died in US. He used Betty Graber Hartzler's database, Vern Schrag's "Identifying of Swiss-Volhynian Immigrants from Russia 1874", Jerry Juhnke's new G&H Project (Genealogical and Historical Project), Harley Stucky's Ship List, plus Ancestry.com and Find a Grave. Gib and his wife Kay Krehbiel Burgan drove to South Dakota to discover the approximately 230 immigrants buried in Salem Church and Salem Zion Church cemeteries.

At the 150th celebration, Gib recognized the Kansas immigrants by placing a medallion on the gravestone with a flag beside it. The names and locations of these immigrants at Eden, Hopefield, and First Mennonite of Christian, as well as others, are listed on our website under the Cemeteries heading so you can visit the graves of your ancestor relatives any time.

Some early burials were marked with a wooden cross that burned or was lost so some burials sites can be longer be found. Nearly 1,000 Swiss Volhynian ancestors are listed in Gib's book including Swiss Volhynian Mennonites buried at other cemeteries at Pretty Prairie, Kingman, Burns, Halstead, Burrton, Mound Township, McPherson City in Kansas and some in Oregon, Colorado, and other states. Contact Gib at hopper4life70@gmail.com if you need specific details. This effort allows us to honor and not forget the very important people who are part of our heritage. Thank you Gib! -Kathy Goering

Annual Banquet Held on October 10



On the evening of October 10, participants gathered at Faith Mennonite Church in Newton to attend the SMCHA annual banquet. President Lavern Stucky opened the evening, and Joel Schroeder, pastor of Faith Mennonite, led the prayer. An impromptu singing of Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow was sung by the participants. Delicious ethnic food was eaten with bohne beroggi and poppyseed roll served for dessert. Dale Schrag spoke on what the future could look like moving forward. It was a wonderful way to wind up the first three sessions he gave during the celebration with part four at the banquet. Thank you's were made for various people during this event.

Thank You!



Jenny Schrag - Drama Director



Danielle Goering -
Celebration
Coordinator



Kathy Goering - Publicity



Lavern Stucky 14 years as SMCHA president



Glen & Lisa Goering - Agriculture

A Message From the Immigrant House Task Force

The "Moundridge Immigrant House Cultural Center and Museum" is in the process of securing a museum curator/fund development director. The position would entail contacting possible donors and applying for and securing grants for the project.

With the success of and interest shown at the 150th celebration for the Cultural Center and Museum, we are very encouraged and optimistic. The event helped confirm the need and reason for such a place. We need a building to place significant memories and events of the past 150 years and before to help educate future generations.

A display set up at the Bethel College Fall Fest generated much interest. We thank you for your support and interest.

-Immigrant House Task Force



Send articles, ideas for articles, or requests to be added to the mailing or email list to Kathy Preheim at kathypreheim@gmail.com



Nominating Committee Searching

The 150th celebration of Schweitzers and Friends has happened. Keynote speaker Wynn Goering noticed that no longer are the 1874 immigrants present and asked about our purpose now. Dale Schrag, banquet speaker, pointed us to the Anabaptist values that brought our ancestors to the United States. This might be an opportunity for renewal. The Nominating Committee is seeking new board members who have ideas about SMCHA direction that would attract younger people and would affect the world around us using Anabaptist values. We seek people who care about our history and culture to join the board with your energy and ideas. Any ideas from Schweitzers and Friends on ways to be a meaningful organization in the years ahead would be helpful.

Board member suggestion(s):

Thoughts about direction:

Nominating Committee: Kathy Goering kigo@mtelco.net; Don Kaufman donkauf49@gmail.com, Steve Stucky steveandjeanette@gmail.com

A Collection of Stories Preserving our Mennonite Heritage

Thanks to Brian Adams and Casey Adams for collecting the stories for the book, A Collection of Stories Preserving our Mennonite Heritage. We asked for stories all year and people did a great job of submitting them. Many people were interested and purchased the book. There are still approximately twenty available for purchase. Contact Frank Stucky if you would like to purchase one.

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