



**2010 European Heritage Tour**



# 2010 European Heritage Tour Participants

July 16 - August 2, 2010

*Standing on the steps outside  
the Grossmünster in Zurich.*

Roy and Marolyn Armstrong, P. O. Box 1583, Bellaire, TX 77402; myidlewild@aol.com

Merle and Marlene Beck, 4161 Co. Rd. 20, Archbold, OH 43502; mmbeck@embarqmail.com

Fannie Frey, 241 White School Road, Honey Brook, PA 19344

John H. and Sandra Gindlesberger, 6909 T.R. 331, Millersburg, OH 44654; JHGPHD@gmail.com

Jennifer Glover, 2000 Huntington Ave. #319, Alexandria, VA 22303

David and Marcella Kerstetter, 631 Black Springs Road, Bedford, PA 15522

Omar and Sara Lapp, 376 Mount Vernon Road, Gap, PA 17527; omarsara@epix.net

Dick and Neil Ann Stuckey Levine, 108 Parkside Drive, Princeton, NJ 08540

James and Bernadine Beck Mast, 6766 T.R. 351, Millersburg, OH 44654; jbmast@embargmail.com

Lemar and Lois Ann Mast, 219 Mill Road, Morgantown, PA 19543; mast@masthof.com

Judy Miller, 65 Hill Road, Macon, MS 39341; judrosmil@hotmail.com

Garnet Naslund, 1224 E. Evergreen St., Apt. 110, Mesa, AZ 85203-57331; gnaslund@cox.net

James and Karon Schwartz, 61028 Klinger Lake Road, Centreville, MI 49032-9742;

karon@karonschwartz.com

Terry and Susan Short, 1358 N. Park Lane, Wauseon, OH 43567; terry.s@shortagency.com

Russ and Linda Smucker, 4855 Old Wheeling Road, Zanesville, OH 43701; rsmucker@wildblue.net

J. Scott and Sue F. Steffy, 125 Briar Hill Road, Lititz, PA 17543; hisgrace@ptd.net

Ronald and Pauline Stitt, 59955 Brunswick Road, Holton, MI 49425; art.drs@gmail.com

*Front Cover: Street scene on a Sunday morning in Emmendingen, Germany. Photo Credit: J. Lemar Mast.*

*Tour participants on the July 16-August 2, 2010, European Heritage Tour recorded daily journals of our travels. Thank you, Neil Ann Stuckey Levine, for applying your valued editing skills!*

Friday-Saturday, July 16-17, 2010

The adventures begin! We picked up Mom (Fannie Frey) and headed to Masthof to meet some of our new traveling family over lunch. By 12:15 p.m. we were off to Newark without any hitches, and no one played any lost camera jokes on Lois Ann. At Newark we met up with the Ohio cousins, and Merle and Marlene Beck's plane was delayed. We were relieved they made it.

Traveling Air India is a cultural experience in and of itself. Our sari-clad hostesses served up curried lamb or vegetables and yogurt. They also served hot tea, probably a British tradition. Even the blankets held the faint scent of curry. Sound sleep eluded me on the plane, replaced with light dozing. It was a really short night, but at least it was quiet. When we landed in Frankfurt it was raining, and we easily found Jim and Karon Schwartz and Ron and Pauline Stitt at the baggage claim where Russ and Linda Smucker found us.

Our driver Fons was waiting for us, and we were off to Mainz. After a rainy walk through town to the Gutenberg Museum, we met our English-speaking guide. By reviewing the history of how books were created prior to Gutenberg, he effectively illustrated the revolutionary nature of Gutenberg's marvelous invention. Gutenberg's moveable type meant 180 Bibles were printed in three years instead of one Bible created in three years. After a short segment on Gutenberg's family, he demonstrated the printing press for those of us who could stay awake. I had a wall at my back, but several less fortunate souls had to balance on folding stools.

We had the option of more Gutenberg or the outdoor market and Mom, Marian Stoltzfus and I chose the cool outdoor air and colorful action



We enjoyed listening to a wonderful guide at the Gutenberg Museum in Mainz, Germany, in spite of our tiredness from flying all night to Europe.

Photo Credit: J. Lemar Mast.

to keep us awake. Each stand-holder was eager to declare his/her wares superior to others, so we sampled our way through the market, noshing on bits of cheese, fruit and sausages.

I needed some coffee to stay awake, and it sure worked! I can tell I'm in Europe – Starbucks seems mild by comparison. The market was filled with stands offering all kinds of delectable edibles. There were assorted cheeses from various sources, some of which emitted strong odors, and lots of different breads and sausages of all kinds and shapes. I bought a mini-loaf of bread, and knew I was back in Europe when I could barely break it apart. I got a mini-sausage to share and some fresh grapes and blueberries.

How delightful to nibble on our lunch as we drifted through the colorful rows of fruits and vegetables, absorbed into the bustling activity and sounds of commerce! When we posed for a photo in front of the local well, a cheerful German man called out, "Käse" or "Cheese" as Marian was taking the photo.



The Pfalz Castle along the Rhine River was one of many castles where our ancestors were required to stop and pay a toll.

Photo Credit: J. Lemar Mast.

We picked our way through the shoppers, dodging bicycles and people with rolling carts and sacks of purchases. The flower sellers' displays were gorgeous, and not all the fruit was familiar. We sampled a kind of white peach that looked like a warped apple and some tiny sour red berries, probably currants. This market was all food, no housewares as I had seen in Italy, and many of the stands proclaimed the organic nature of their wares. I saw stands that featured honey products and herbs and several stands selling veggie and pasta salads.

Back on the bus, I drifted off to sleep until we left the highway and started jackknifing down to the Rhine. Our hotel, Ebertor Boppard, is clean and tiny with no AC, but the patios and view of the Rhine more than make up for any lack of amenities.

Before supper we explored the river's edge promenade, stopping occasionally to watch the barges and other river craft. Here at Boppard am Rhein the Rhine makes a huge bend around a small village on the opposite shore. At the close of day, the setting sun illuminated the church tower and

## LORELEI

*by Heinrich Heine (1799-1856)*

I cannot determine the meaning  
Of sorrow that fills my breast:  
A fable of old, through it streaming,  
Allows my mind no rest.  
The air is cool in the gloaming  
And gently flows the Rhine.  
The crest of the mountain is gleaming  
In fading rays of sunshine.

The loveliest maiden is sitting  
Up there, so wondrously fair;  
Her golden jewelry is glist'ning;  
She is combing her golden hair.  
She combs with a gilded comb, preening,  
And sings a song, passing time.  
It has a most wondrous, appealing  
And pow'rful melodic rhyme.

The boatman aboard his small skiff –  
Enraptured with a wild ache,  
Has no eye for the jagged cliff –  
His thoughts on the heights fear forsake.  
I think that the waves will devour  
Both boat and man, by and by,  
And that, with her dulcet-voiced power  
Was done by the Lorelei.

white-walled houses one last time before dropping behind the hillside.

Our meal tonight was a barbecue buffet, and it was really good! Homemade tomato soup without milk, salad, grilled veggies, and pork chops, hot dogs and chicken. European gelato was a perfect dessert to end with.

After super we walked to the train station and watched a freight train fly through the station. We slept through the nighttime fireworks celebration, but I'm not surprised. Sleep deprivation makes the pillow a refuge of oblivion.

~ Sue Steffy

### **Sunday, July 18, 2010**

We were up again after a glorious sleep. Our beautiful breakfast was served indoors, and everyone found something tasty. After loading our luggage, we waved goodbye to Fons and walked down to the boat dock right outside our hotel. We were the first ones on board and had our choice of places to sit. Some climbed the three flights of steps to the observation deck. Some chose the shady west side of the boat and others the upholstered chairs of the indoor cabin. At later stops the boat gradually filled with people, culminating in the boarding of approximately two busloads of teenagers who sat on the stairs and stretched their feet into the aisles.

Every turn of the river brought a new view. Sometimes it was a castle, poised on an elbow of rock high above the water. The princes of the castles effectively controlled who navigated the river by collecting tolls from all river travelers. Most of the castles were perched on the top edge of the river valley, but one was on an island in the center of the river. Some had their own private chapels either attached or close by.

The river traffic was heavy with barges, most of which were loaded. I recognized barges carrying gasoline and coal. There were also barges with covers that may have been carrying grain or some

other commodity that could not get wet. Each barge had living quarters at the end and carried at least one car and a small motorboat. Some of the barge houses had lace curtains and plants on the windowsills. What an unusual home with a changeable back yard!

Both sides of the river had high-speed railway lines. Most trains were passenger, but I did see two freights, one of which was loaded with new cars. There were many sightseeing boats on the river and several cruise ships. Every time we passed one, people waved to each other. Speed-boats buzzed by like giant white hummingbirds, and the smallest boat we saw was piloted by some very brave kayakers.

Every so often you would see a large white painted sign with black numbers. A German man befriended by Omar told us they tell the kilometers to the source of the Rhine in Switzerland. We were in the low 500's – so, some 300 miles.

This is wine country, and the hillside vineyards looked like green corduroy quilt patches on the slopes. Some of the fields were irregularly shaped, but all the rows of vines were perpendicular to the river to maximize sun exposure. In some areas were very small terraces held in place by ancient stone retaining walls. Most were abandoned, but they must have been the farming locations for early river-edge dwellers.

One of the most famous sights on the Rhine is the Lorelei rock. A poem tells the legend of a beautiful golden-haired girl who sang to the sailors, mesmerizing them to the point that they forgot to steer their boats and wrecked on the rocks. Nowadays the rocks are gone, blasted out by dynamite. But the legend remains in the form of a song, which was played on the boat for us in German.

[German poet Heinrich Heine (1799-1856) wrote "Lorelei" in 1822. Neil Ann read the English translation by Frank Petersohn done in 1998.]

After passing the Lorelei rock, the boat gradually emptied at the next few stops, and some



Omar Lapp, Marcie Kerstetter, Marian Stoltzfus and Russ Smucker posed in front of the Ringweilerhof sign.

Photo Credit: J. Lemar Mast.

of us grabbed a quick lunch in the dining room. Fons met us at Bingen, and we were off to France. The country became flatter, and there were endless fields of wheat. I found it interesting that there were no farms or barns in the countryside, just fields and villages. In Germany, even the farmers commute. Just before the French border, we stopped at Ringweilerhof near Zweibrücken, today the organic farm of Peter and Karin Showalter and Peter's parents. In the eighteenth century, the hired man on this farm was Nicholas Stoltzfus, who later immigrated to America and is the ancestor of record for Stoltzfus descendants. The house was built in 1540. All the Stoltzfus descendants on the tour posed for a group photo at the sign marking the farm's lane.

We all admired Karin's beautiful flower garden, and Peter's mother served us sparkling apple juice from the back patio. Some took a walk through Karin's equally gorgeous vegetable garden while others played with Stella, a black Labrador retriever. Everywhere were golden fields of rapeseed, oats, wheat and barley. The farm produces pigs, and Karin brought out a baby one for us to pet.

Our next destination was Strasbourg. Although this charming city is located in France, it is more German than French. On the way there, Neil Ann told us about finding her ancestors in Strasbourg. I'm sure our Strasbourg in Lancaster County was named for it. The outskirts of the city are very modern, but we are staying in the center of the oldest part. There the waters of the Ill River split into several parts and, with a bit of human help, create a canal network with a lock system that in the past was a source of power. The iron railings are hung with beautiful flower boxes, as are the windows of the hotels and houses beside the cobblestone streets.

You'd never know from the outside how modern and lovely our hotel is. Its exterior blends with the surrounding half-timbered houses from the Middle Ages. The glass lobby wall showcases some of the equipment from power generation, and the river actually flows underneath the hotel.

After supper on the riverside terrace, we walked through the old town and checked out the old machinery that operated the locks and drawbridges. The tour boat riders always waved to us when they came through the locks. We noticed a large carp in the water. Scott estimated it at about 24 inches. We also watched a female nutria and her litter, one of which was light-colored. At first I thought it was the largest rat I had ever seen,



Enjoying our evening dinner along one of the many canals in Strasbourg, France. Photo Credit: J. Lemar Mast.



Elder Nicholas Augspurger’s home at Salm, France—now in the process of restoration. Photo Credit: J. Lemar Mast.

probably 30 inches total in length, but its beaver-like swimming skills soon suggested this was not so. And when it nibbled a green branch, I knew it was a nutria. I saw a charming scene of an older bicycle chained to the iron fence beside a flower-box overflowing with multicolored geraniums.

~ Sue Steffy

### Monday, July 19, 2010

Breakfast was at our elegant Hotel Régent Petite France. We walked to Notre Dame Cathedral, built 1176-1439. The cathedral is Gothic architecture and famed for its astronomical clock.

Devotions were held on the bus by Omar Lapp: Paul’s letter to Philippians. “Pick something that we can use today.” Singing followed.

Neil Ann spoke of Salm, the place to which we are headed. Salm was an independent territory in France, where Anabaptists could hide and feel secure. We visited Elder Nicholas Augspurger’s (1801-1890) home. Elder Augspurger was known for his knowledge of herbs and medicinal plants,



Bernadine Mast inspecting one of the tombstones in the cemetery near the Nicholas Augspurger homestead in Salm, France. Photo Credit: Lois Ann Mast.



Exploring the Augspurgen Cemetery. Photo Credit: Lois Ann Mast.

for both humans and animals, to cure diseases. The Elder's niece [Barbara Gerber Güngerich (1803-1859)] married and sailed to the U.S. Upon the death of the Augspurgers, all articles were sold at public auction. The current owner of the house, Hans Mattaugh, greeted us and spoke of the history of the house. Hans is a German from Heidelberg. He bought the house 40 years ago and is restoring it. A very gracious man.

We then went to the cemetery on the land of Nicholas Augspurgen. Christian Neuhauser, Gerber, etc. are buried here.

Neil Ann read a reporter's story of Nicholas Augspurgen published 1850-1860. [The reporter was Alfred Joseph Xavier Michiels (1813-1892), and his newspaper articles from the 1850s were republished in a book called *Les Anabaptistes des Vosges*, now long out of print.] The reporter reported eight dwellings here, fruit trees, red sandstone, and tile roofs, white-washed walls. No dirt—a very clean house. He was gracious, and his wife [Magdalena Gerber (1806-1896)], still pretty, brought wine and food—blueberry wine,

very strong—water of life or *eau de vie*.

Dishes were red and blue flowered plates; clothing with no buttons—hooks and eyes; fabric of half-linen, wool and hemp or flax, color of grey, brown or blue. Women wore black or white bonnets.



St. Hippolyte—ancestral home of the Schwartz family.

Photo Credit: Karon Schwartz.





We were in search of the Ohnenheim mill where the “Dordrecht Confession of Faith” was accepted in 1660. This mill, built in 1491, is one of the few old mills still standing today. Since we have documentation proving that Anabaptists, including Neil Ann’s Ulrich ancestors, lived at Moulin du Ried, today Moulin Herzog (above), we continue to speculate that this was an important site in our faith history. Photo Credit: J. Lemar Mast.

The reporter went several times to interview Augspurger. In the library of Augspurger’s home were volumes gilded by age, medicinal references from 1703.

Next, we went through Bruche [today Bourg-Bruche], a community of Amish—beautiful hills and pine trees. In the Ste. Marie-aux-Mines (Markich) Valley, 70% of the farms were owned by (1690) Amish.

Jacob Ammann (?1644-bef. 1730) lived here. Amish were employed to manufacture tiles. The *Martyrs Mirror* and the “Confession of Faith” were the most common books owned. Some Augspurgers came to the United States in 1819.

We had lunch at a grocery store in Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. From 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., all shops are closed, so no food is available to buy except at grocery stores. One of our adventures was using the public restroom that is sanitized between customers.

We visited the Schwartz ancestor site at St. Hippolyte. A great-grandfather of Jim Schwartz came from the outskirts of town. Schwartz was born and raised Amish.

The early Amish could work at tileworks if not needed on leased farms. We drove through the beautiful town of Ribeauvillé where we saw a stork resting on special roof supports in the middle of the town.

Near the town of Zellenberg, we stopped along the road and took pictures of grapevine fields. We spent the night in nearby Riquewihr, with its beautiful architecture and lots of restaurants and shops. Our evening dinner was at a nearby restaurant consisting of pork and potato patties, but first we were treated by Lemar and Lois Ann with *tarte flambée*—a type of white pizza. Very good!

~ Marcie Kerstetter

## Tuesday, July 20, 2010

We continued our journey through Alsace today. Sue led devotions and singing this morning. We left Riquewihr, driving through a beautiful valley filled with vineyards and cornfields and headed for Mussig, a farm village where some of Berna-



European Heritage Tour at what was once Riedmühle, now known as Moulin Herzog.

dine's ancestors lived. At Mussig we stopped and had a few minutes to take pictures of the colorful homes. We observed the large Catholic church in the center of town that was built in 1898.

Next we headed for Ohnenheim in search of the location of the mill where the Anabaptists met in 1660 to discuss the Dordrecht Confession of 1632. The exact location of the mill was unknown, but we did have several leads. After navigating down several narrow roads, thanks to our excellent driver, Fons, we made our way down a road along a small river, which led to a mill. Lemar and Lois Ann got out to inquire from the owner if this might possibly be the place. We watched anxiously from the bus, and suddenly someone said, "Lois Ann is smiling." Then a moment later, "This must be the place. Lois Ann is jumping up and down!" We poured out of the bus to see for ourselves. The mill, which is actually Moulin du Ried or Riedmühle, we learned, was built in 1491. And, based on the historical knowledge of the location of the mill that we knew and that the owner knew, we believe this mill, Moulin du Ried, is the famed Ohnenheim



Another view of this old mill. Photo Credit: J. Lemar Mast.

mill. What a discovery!

After taking pictures of the mill and the flower-laden millstones outside, we gathered back on the bus and headed for Colmar, the hometown of the builder of the Statue of Liberty [Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi (1834-1901)]. On the way, we traveled through several smaller villages. I noticed many crucifix statues along the roadside, many

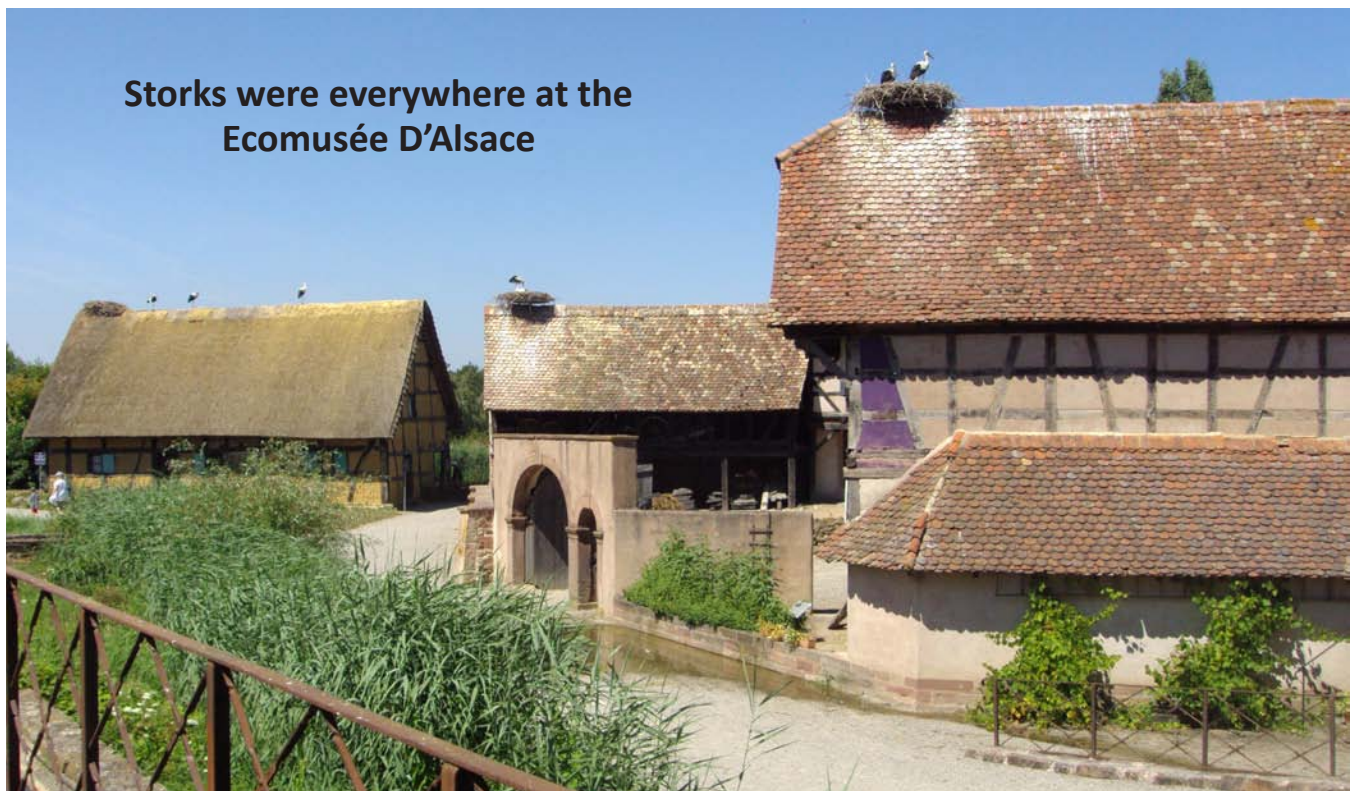
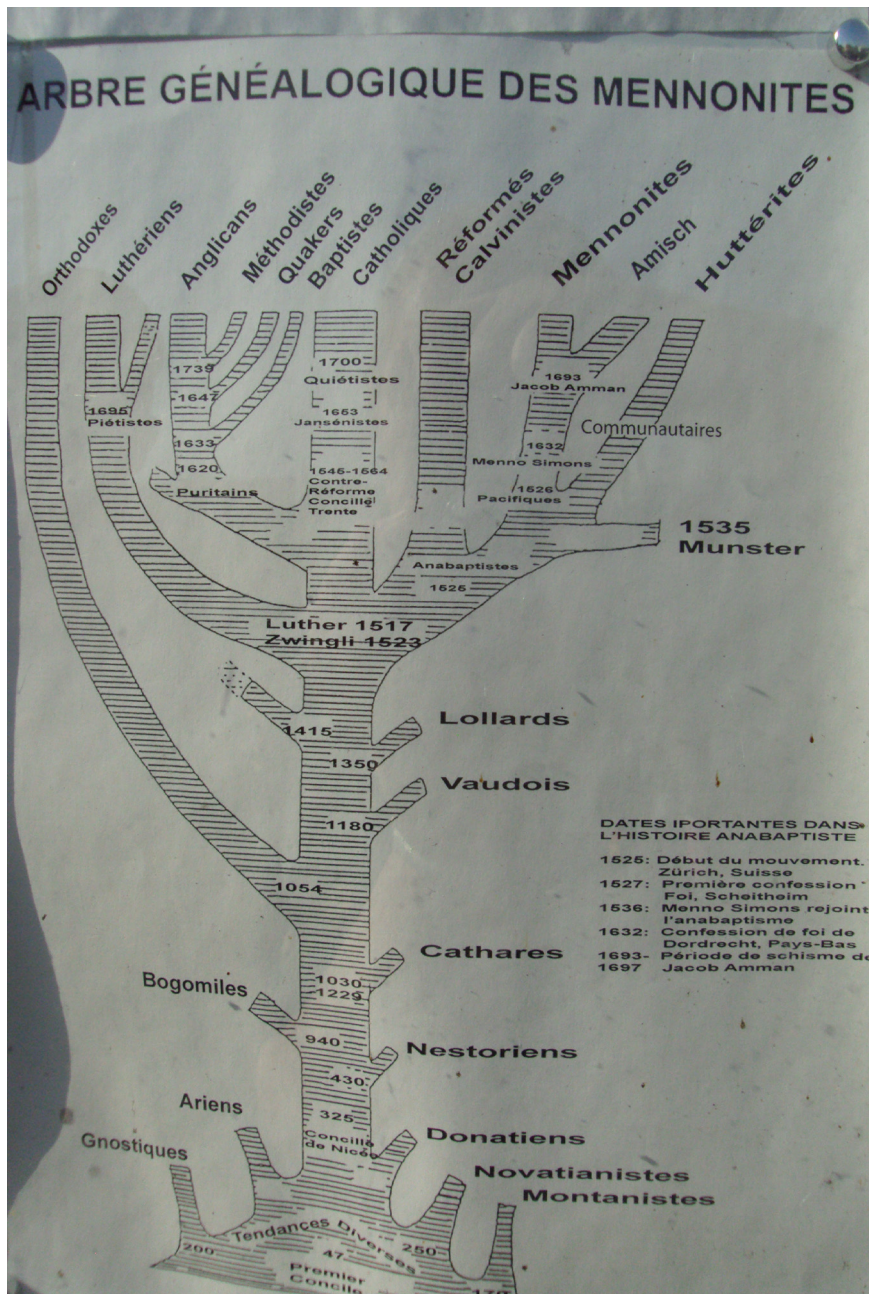


Photo Credit: J. Lemar Mast.



Views of the Assemblée Evangélique Mennonite Church and Cemetery at Delle, France. Photos by Lois Ann Mast.





Mennonite church history genealogy chart outside the Delle Church.

Photo Credit: Lois Ann Mast.

with candles and flowers around them, and I realized the strong Catholic influence this area still has.

In Colmar, we got to see the famous Issenheim Altarpiece [dedicated to St. Anthony the Hermit (251-356 A.D.), noted as a healer, and painted by Matthias Grünewald between 1512 and 1516] and visit the old city filled with lots of shops and eateries among the colorful traditional-styled buildings. After lunch we visited the Ecomusée D'Alsace, where we saw a recreated village of homes and in-home industries from communities of Alsace during the 1800s and early 1900s.

We ate dinner at the Hotel Ibis Montbéliard with special visitors, Robert, Jean-François, Marguerite, and Anne, who are local historians. Their knowledge and research were a great help to our ancestral investigating. After dinner, we also learned an important lesson about coffee. When you order coffee after dinner, you have to request “normal” sized coffee, because, if you don't, as Ron discovered, you will get an espresso-sized cup of coffee. It was another wonderful day of our journey in Europe.

~ Judy Miller

### Wednesday, July 21, 2010

Today was Marian's day as we were constantly in areas where her ancestors lived and worshipped. In fact, our hotel, Hotel Ibis Montbéliard, was built on her family's old farm! Isn't that a coincidence?

We visited three French Mennonite churches and their cemeteries, one of which is no longer in use. Two of our four visitors from last night's supper, Robert Baecher and Jean-François Lorentz (both of whom have published essays on Mennonite history and genealogy), joined us for part of the day.

The peaceful morning drive led through hillside farms within a stone's throw of the Swiss border. Our first stop was at the abandoned Mennonite church north of Faverois. The cemetery was



What an awesome privilege for Robert Baecher to show us the famed Montbéliard church book. Photos by Lois Ann Mast.



Left: Mennonites at the Montbéliard Mennonite Church treated us with delicious snacks and drinks.



Before leaving, Bernadine Mast led us in a delightful demonstration showing how a cathedral is built!



Exploring another cemetery in Montbéliard where many more Mennonite tombstones were seen.



Lemar and Lois Ann Mast standing behind the tombstone for Willy Hege (1922-1998), longtime historian in the Birkenhof, France, area.

beautifully maintained, and Marian found several potential Roth ancestors buried there.

In the afternoon, the second church we stopped at was Birkenhof. There Fons and I quickly collected our songbooks from the bus, and I led our group in song with Pauline accompanying on piano. We finished by bravely tackling “Praise, I Will Praise You, Lord” in French! The native speakers were all smiles and obviously wished we could pick up the tempo a bit. When we switched to English, they continued in French, and we all joined together—same song, different words. After we had a rather hot walk to the cemetery, they provided us with delicious home-canned fruit juice that was made from fruit picked by the church youth group.

We stopped for lunch at a mall that was anchored by a Wal-Mart type store. Always being interested in “retail therapy,” I grabbed a baguette sandwich to go and browsed the aisles to get an idea of what French people buy. I got some tea for myself and jelly from “Amish” France as a gift. I



Robert Baecher and Marguerite Nommay chatting with Neil Ann Levine in the Montbéliard Mennonite Church. Photo Credit: Lois Ann Mast.

polished my lunch off with some chocolate and a serving of Italian-style gelato.

In the afternoon we visited the church in Montbéliard. The library there has a valuable record book of interest to the genealogical among us, and some walked to the cemetery. Between the church and the Sunday school building, Bernadine constructed a living cathedral using willing tourmates, complete with arches and flying buttresses.

The church ladies, two of whom had shared supper with us the night before, served us drinks, homemade desserts and ice cream. On top of my gelato (mmmm....twice in one day!).

This area recently experienced a major hail-storm with stones the size of golf balls. Lots of roof and car damage visible in the city.

At one church I met a young man who was visiting his parents here in France and heard there were people from Pennsylvania coming to see his parents' church. He had spent a year in an exchange program at Penn State and wanted to meet us. It



While in Montbéliard, we enjoyed an informative walking tour by Evelyne Boileaux, a local guide.



Downtown Montbéliard on our walking tour as we saw centuries-old buildings.



Here we listen to more stories about Montbéliard as we rest in the Protestant Church in Montbéliard.



was fun to find commonality with him and hear how his year in Pennsylvania changed his life path. He is currently employed by the French embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, to teach French as a second language to Lebanese interested in learning the language. We shared a wry chuckle when we realized that I have seen Lebanon from Israel and he has seen Israel from Lebanon.

Back at the hotel, shared a bottle of wine tonight with Jim and Karon. Always fun! Celebrated an anniversary tonight, Bernadine and Jim's, with a cake. Clinked glasses to make them kiss. They happily obliged!

Joke of the day: Today we saw "Mennonite Cows" (brought from Switzerland by Amish). Karon asked how you know they're Menno. I said, "They wear coverings." She said, "I don't see any." I said, "They're liberal Mennos, they don't wear the covering anymore." LOL.....We are bad together!

- Sue Steffy

#### **Thursday, July 22, 2010**

We started our travels with a very inspirational devotion by Judy. Then . . . we were met by a guide who was very informed in church history. She explained how the Mennonite community in Montbéliard was more knowledgeable than their surrounding neighbors, in farming, clock-making and other trades.

The old town of Montbéliard was our next stop, where we saw the original market building and seat of government.

In the Lutheran church, our voices united as Sue led us in "How Great Thou Art."

At the Peugeot Auto Museum we were shown the earliest cars made. A woman from America introduced the first windshield wipers in 1903.

The next point of interest was the Japy Museum where clocks, typewriters and other household items were once made. Because of no electricity for lighting, the clockmakers worked in front of



Famous "Mennonite cows" at Montbéliard bred by a Mennonite Gerber family. Photo Credit: Fannie Frey.

windows. [The firm of Japy Frères was founded by George Frédéric Japy (1749-1812).]

The last event was climbing around the site of the ruins of the outdoor Gallo-Roman theatre near Mandeure.

We then had our last evening meal back at Hotel Ibis Montbéliard before leaving France. I was served a beautiful dessert for my birthday. Everyone was so friendly and warm. I will never forget this birthday.

~ Pauline Stitt

#### **Friday, July 23, 2010**

Our last day in France greeted us with cool temperatures, grey skies and the threat of rain. After breakfast at the hotel, we boarded the bus and headed for Switzerland.

We were all impressed with the profusion of flowers in the towns we passed through in France. Bernadine reported that there is a competition called "Towns in Bloom" (*Villes Fleuries*), and 3,500 communities participate. Each town is judged and awarded a one- to four-flower rating, based on bio-diversity and eco-friendly installation. It was no surprise that Alsace had the most four-flower towns.

Today's route avoided the main highways



Above: A surprise visit to the Peugeot Museum at Montbéliard was a delight to everyone—especially since it was pouring rain outside! Photo Credit: J. Lemar Mast.

Left: We even enjoyed lunch right down amidst the cars! What fun! Photo Credit: J. Lemar Mast.



Left: Of course, we celebrate birthdays—today it was Pauline Stitt’s birthday, and we “surprised” her at dinner! Happy Birthday, Pauline! Photo Credit: J. Lemar Mast.



and wound along small roads dotted with small farms, fields of wheat, rapeseed, corn, and pastures with grazing cattle. The terrain became more hilly as we approached the Swiss border. We entered Switzerland around 8:45 a.m., but encountered a problem when Fons realized there was no one manning the crossing and he could not pay the toll. He stopped in the first town, Fahy, but could not find anyone, and we pressed onward. (We later learned that Amorim—our next bus driver—would pay the bill.)

As we made our way toward Bern, we could see fog hanging on the Jura Mountains in the distance. The towns all showed distinctive elements of Swiss architecture. Nearly all buildings had the red tile roofs and many had half-timbered exteriors, sloped gable ends, decorative paintings, and often words or verses painted above the doors. Gardens, although often small, were filled with flowers and vegetables.

Soon we encountered the first of many tunnels—16 today alone! The longest was estimated to be nearly two miles in length.

As the morning wore on, we entered the Emme River Valley, the German-speaking section of Switzerland where many of our ancestors lived. Town and business names, as well as street names, often were very familiar. The rain continued, and by the time we reached Bern it was raining very hard. Making a difficult executive decision, Lois Ann and Lemar opted for a short bus tour of the city rather than the hoped-for walking tour. Still, we were able to see Embassy Row, the Aare River and the place where Anabaptists were loaded onto boats and exiled from the country, the Bern cathedral, and the bear pits where bears, the symbol of Bern, had been kept from the 1400s until recently.

We left Bern and headed toward Burgdorf, stopping at a COOP for lunch and a break for our driver. This was also an opportunity to get Swiss francs. In what could have resulted in an international incident, Terry inserted his bank card into a malfunctioning ATM machine which “ate” it. Al-



Cheese-making the old-fashioned way over a wood fire.  
Photo Credit: J. Lemar Mast.

though reportedly using a Swiss Army knife to try to extract it, he had to wait for an authorized repair person to liberate his card. From this point on, it was rumored that Lois Ann had Hillary Clinton on speed dial.

In the afternoon, we stopped to watch cheese-making both in a modern factory and in a small traditional setting over a wood fire. The buildings and views were wonderful here. Our journey continued over narrow roads, through covered bridges, and up and down cloud-shrouded hills to the picturesque town of Huttwil. Here the Shorts, Schad descendants, had their picture taken at the train station. Another important stop for our group was at Sumiswald, the home of the Beck ancestors.

As the travel day grew to a close, we passed the smallest train station in Switzerland. Lemar told us that it was unmanned and the traveler had to write his/her own ticket.

Then a spectacular finish to the day as we drove up a steep, narrow and very twisty road to



Alphorn players at our Lüdernalp Hotel.

Photo Credit: J. Lemar Mast.

our hotel, Hotel Lüdernalp, high in the mountains in Wasen. As we emerged from the bus, we heard cow bells—everywhere cow bells, an alpine symphony!!

Later, we were joined by a wedding party that arrived by a bus decorated with flowers—not surprising in a country so blessed with colorful gardens.

After a wonderful dinner, we were treated to a short alpine horn (Alphorn) performance and an awesome mountain sunset! This was truly a magical place.

- John Gindlesberger

### Saturday, July 24, 2010

Good morning to the 30 Americans on the Heritage Tour in Europe.

There was rain most of the night, so that means lots of fog in the mountains. Sometimes it is hard to see the tops of the mountains.

As we are leaving Hotel Lüdernalp and approaching the valley below, it's quite clear for our sightseeing and picture-taking.

Our first stop today is the Hans Haslibacher (ca1500-1571) farm. Hans was the last martyr to be beheaded in Bern. The family living there is now the 12<sup>th</sup> generation. We could not visit the cowbell factory as planned because there was an illness in the family of the owners. Nevertheless, Jim Schwartz struck up a conversation at the farm and made his bell purchase at the Haslibacher farm.

We next went to Trachselwald Castle built in 1200 A.D. This is one of the castles where Anabaptists were imprisoned. I overheard a conversation that Omar Lapp was the unfortunate visitor that was placed in the stocks because he was wearing a beard.

Our next stop was Langnau—there also seemed to be some hefty purchases here. Some of the folks visited the cemetery to check the names on the stones and take pictures. The church has been serving the town since 1530.

We did lunch in Langnau, but, when we arrived at the Kambly Cookie Factory, there was a lovely café and a new facility which was very exciting. I heard some comments from travelers. They ate too many samples at this location. We have had a busy morning, and the afternoon will be no different!

We visited the Fankhauser farm to see the Täuferversteck (Anabaptist hiding place) and enjoyed the history of the farm and area as narrated



Omar Lapp in the stocks at Trachselwald Prison where many Anabaptists were imprisoned for their faith. Photo

Credit: J. Lemar Mast.



Regula Fankhauser showing us the model of the hidden *Täuferversteck* in her farmhouse. Photo Credit: J. Lemar Mast.

by Regula, the current owner. We stopped for Jennie and Judy to take pictures of a Schwarzenrüber homestead. We also stopped in Trub and saw the inside of the church there. Eggiwil was our next stop after which we drove up a hill to the Würzbrunnen church where the most marriages happen in a year in Switzerland.

Now, it is on to Bowil where Jacob Ammann (?1644-bef.1730) and Hans Reist had a major dispute. Fons had to back down the road quite a way as there was no place to turn around. Lemar did help him with hand signals and directions for a safe turn-around. We stopped at Signau for the Zooks to take pictures. We have another wonderful meal waiting for us at Hotel Lüderalp. This is my place of special memories and the enjoyment of the cowbell orchestra! Good Night!

~ Fannie Frey

### Sunday, July 25, 2010

We left Hotel Lüderalp at 8:00 a.m. The rain had stopped, and the skies were blue. Ahead were the Jura Mountains and Alps on the left as we drove down the mountain.

Devotions were led by Russ Smucker. He used *Prayer Book for Earnest Christians*, an Amish and Mennonite prayer book used in early Anabaptist times. Singing was led by Sue Steffy.



Inside the Reformed Church at Trub. Photo Credit: Lois Ann Mast.

We took the autobahn around Bern. The color of the river was said to be green from minerals in the water.

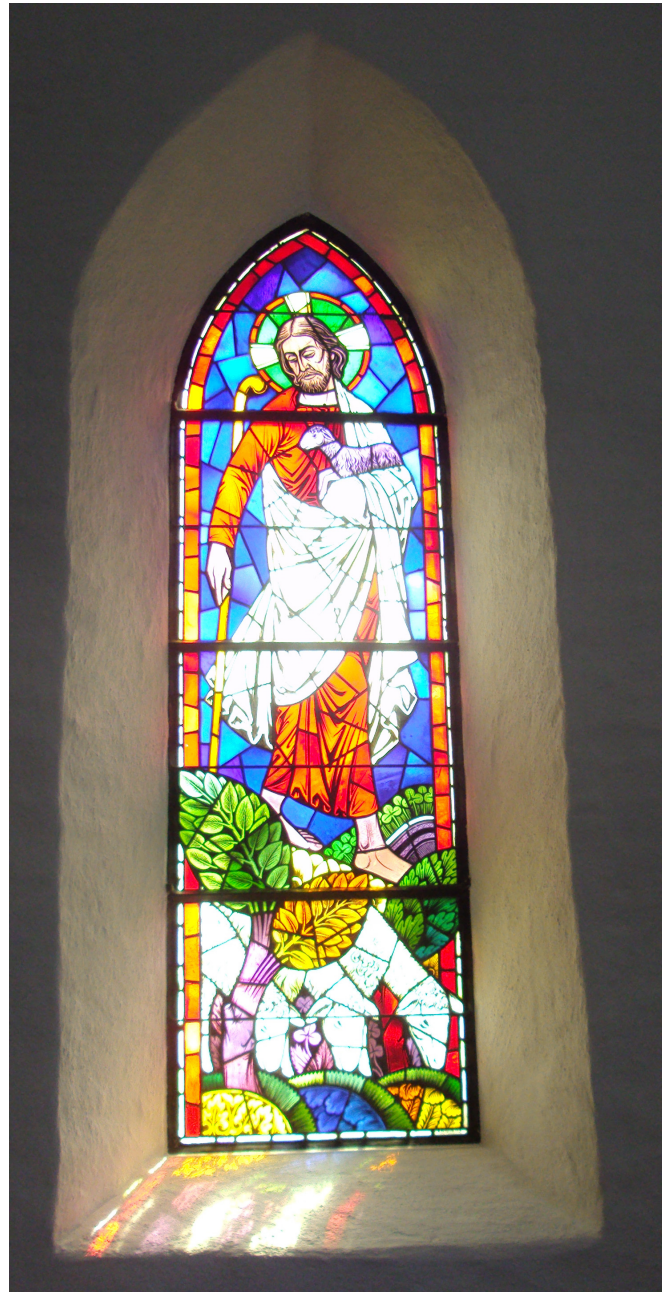
We drove through the town of Schwarzenburg to the Guggisberg Reformed Church. Here is a fountain donated by Mrs. B. Hochstetter in appreciation of help given to family members 75 years ago when the mother was widowed and raised small children herself.

The noted Guggishorn rock is a 30-minute walk to the top of the trail. Scott Steffy climbed to the top and several others went part way.

We attended a morning church service at Guggisberg Reformed Church. First there was beautiful organ music followed by the reading of Ephesians 5:8 by the minister, Paul Ulrich Aebischer. We sang "Morning Has Broken." Rev. Aebischer's sermon centered on "Jesus sends us to be light of the world." A story of a candle and



The pastor and his wife at the Guggisberg Reformed Church standing at the baptismal font after he shared a Sunday morning worship service with us. Photos by J. Lemar Mast.



Stained-glass window in the Guggisberg Reformed Church.



Swiss house in Guggisberg, Switzerland.



Anita Bucher (left), niece of historian Lydia Bucher.



Hochstetlers lived at this farm in Winterkraut before coming to America in 1736. We met the current owners named Brennemann. Frau Brennemann is shown moving hay in the barn to expose the entrance to the secret space where Anabaptists were hidden. Marolyn Armstrong (right) descends to view the hiding place. Photo Credits: Fannie Frey (left) and Sue Steffy (right).

a village about a lonely man on top of the mountain who brought light to the village was told. The service ended with singing “Kumbaya.”

Rev. Aebischer introduced his wife, Doris, and then told us the history of the church. The organ was constructed in 1784 and has the coat of arms of the person in charge of finances. Also, lightning struck the baptismal font and cracked the base. He showed us where the original entrance to the church was along with a baptismal font with baby skulls under the floor. Lydia Bucher and her niece were introduced.

Lunch was served at the Gemeindeverwaltung building. Excellent pasta with cheese sauce and red meat sauce along with salad. Best lunch yet!

We visited the Hochstetler farm in Winterkraut. Brennemanns are the present owners. The big surprise was that they invited us to see the Anabaptist hiding area in their barn floor.



Hochstetler descendants standing in front of the house at Winterkraut where their ancestor lived. Photo Credit: J. Lemar Mast.



Yoder descendants standing in front of the Joder House in Steffisberg, Switzerland. Photo Credit: Judy Miller.

Hochstetler relatives moved to Berks County, Pennsylvania, in 1736. They also are the family in the infamous Indian massacre in Berks County.

Then we went to Steffisburg—considered Amish territory. The Joders (Yoders) were part of the government authority and were tolerated for Anabaptist views in 1600. The Joders date back to 1300 here. Koenigs (Kings), Bylers and Kurtzes were also in the Steffisburg area.

Lemar pointed out where the Kings (Koenigs) lived on the hillside beyond the Yoder church. There are Ober- and Unter-Heimberg. Koenigs were at Ober-. We took a quick picture of the Joder church and then a photo of Yoder relatives in front of the Yoder house. There are quite a few of us with Yoder background.

Then we went to the town of Reutigen and took pictures in front of the Beachy/Bitchi/Peachey house. This house has been renovated with new wood.

Next we went through the city of Thun and had a chance to get a picture of the castle from 1532. Brennemanns and Yoders were imprisoned here. Thun is a beautiful city. Pronounced “Tun.”

Next, we went to the birthplace of Jacob Ammann (?1644-bef. 1730). On the way, we entered the valley called Simmental and passed a bridge from Roman times. John Hüppi spent many years researching Jacob Ammann. Both Jacob and his father were tailors. Jacob wanted a uniform look in an old-style design. He was baptized in 1656.

The bus took a long scary ride to the village of Thal where we got off the bus and walked back to see where Jacob Ammann was born. Great driving by Fons! We sang “Faith of Our Fathers” in the meadow in front of the Ammann house. It was a beautiful day of sunshine.

Next, we stopped at Erlenbach im Simmental and visited a Reformed church dating





Returning from seeing the Jacob Ammann birthplace, we walked through the field on a footpath. Photo Credit: J. Lemar Mast.



Frescoes can be seen inside the Erlenbach Reformed Church. Photo Credit: Sue Steffy.

to the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries when it was a Catholic church. Huldrych/Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531) had the beautiful frescos telling Bible stories painted, and just in this generation have they been uncovered. This was the church where a Jacob Ammann was baptized as an infant.

We spent the night at Hotel Schützen in Lauterbrunnen, first built in 1671. There was a beautiful view of mountains and waterfalls!

*~ Marcie Kerstetter*

### **Monday, July 26, 2010**

On Monday morning at 7:00 a.m., most of us grabbed a bag breakfast and walked to the train station in Lauterbrunnen for our trip on the cog railway to Jungfrauoch, high up at 3,454 meters or 11,332 feet. The trip up showed us stunning vistas of the Alps, alpine villages and alpine meadows. Near the



The Jungfrau in all its glory! Photo Credit: Sue Steffy.

top we began to see snow and then glaciers, and even alluvial outflows. Near the top we traveled through several tunnels and emerged into fog. For two hours we saw nothing outside. But inside we saw ice sculpture.

At that height, one of us developed a migraine headache, one of us slipped on the ice, and one of us got sick. About a half an hour before our scheduled return down the mountain, the clouds



We enjoyed the snow at Jungfrau even though it was cloudy most of the time. What beautiful scenery! Photo Credit: Sue Steffy.

cleared away, the sun broke through, and we had spectacular views of glaciers, Jungfrau (still enclouded) and high mountain terrain.

We went back down the mountain on the cog railroad and detrained in Grindelwald, the ancestral home of Schmuckers. There we joined the remainder of our party, who had lunched in a leisurely manner and taken the train via Kleine Scheidegg to join us. We then drove through Interlaken, along the shore of the Briener See to Brienz and Hotel Brienerburli. This hotel features some beautiful wooden carvings, made locally. In the lobby is an old woodworker's table with a wood vice having a wooden screw.

What is the meaning of those two poles with bells on them at the end of the runway at the airport in Interlaken?

We saw a whole flock of paragliders coming in for a landing at a small park in Interlaken, having launched from the top of one of the high mountains surrounding the city.

Our dinner was cheese fondue. We were entertained by a group of sixteen men, singing and yodeling.

The yodeling we heard was quite different from the yodeling you hear in cowboy songs in the U.S. The main feature was a cappella singing with male voices in four-part harmony. The harmony



Yodelers at our Brienz hotel during dinner! Photo Credit: Lois Ann Mast.

was fairly simple: major chords with an occasional seventh, nothing like the tight harmony you hear in barbershop singing. The meter was fairly slow, almost like a hymn. Often there was a short solo or a duet before the refrain. The refrain featured slow yodeling by the higher voices above a rich tapestry of harmony by the lower voices. The yodeling consisted of falsetto slowly alternating with natural voice, usually a major third. This men's choir of sixteen voices gave us some really beautiful music.

The hotel produced a large, rich cake topped with a cream frosting full of raspberries. On the top was written: "47<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary, Omar and Sara Lapp!" We cheered the lovely couple and made them kiss.

Here is a list of common plants that I have observed growing along the roads of Germany,

France and Switzerland. This list is not comprehensive, but it shows that the climates of these areas and the American Midwest are similar. Goldenrod, Queen Anne's lace, yarrow, ferns, Canada thistle, plantain, fleabane, teasel, swamp grass, burdock, curly dock, hedge bindweed, dandelion, vetch. I also saw numerous Russian olive trees, a noxious invader in the American Midwest.



What fun to celebrate a 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Switzerland—and then to be surprised with a special cake to share with everyone! Photo Credit: Lois Ann Mast.



Covered bridge and tower in Luzerne with beautiful swans swimming in the river. Photo Credit: Sue Steffy.

Later in the evening we opened our windows in our rooms, letting in cool air but not mosquitoes. We snuggled under goosedown ticks and went to sleep hearing the ringing of bells.

~ Russ Smucker

## Tuesday, July 27, 2010

We left Hotel Brienzerburli at 9:00 a.m. following our 8:00 breakfast on the patio, overlooking the Brienzer See. There was a light rain falling, but we were looking forward to stopping at a woodshop in Brienz to see the wonderful wood carvings from this area of Switzerland.

Although a bit pricey, they were indeed beautiful. Lois Ann waited until this morning to share the following story. In 1996, the coffee machine caught fire while her group was staying in last night's hotel. They were roused from their beds

at 2:00 in the morning. The hotel has a fire alarm system connected to a command center in Bern, so the response was prompt, and they were only out of their rooms for an hour. Nonetheless, she thought it best not to share until after we had a good night's sleep.

Today we travelled northeast toward the city of Luzerne, and Bernadine had devotions on the bus.

On the way, we passed a Swiss air base but could see little. Lemar shared that it was mostly underground and tunneled under the mountain. We passed through a tunnel that carried us up the mountain. It began to get foggy, and we found ourselves above the clouds in the Brünigpass.

Like our first day in Switzerland, this was a day of many tunnels!

By mid-morning we had arrived in Luzerne. This is a beautiful city built on a hill with the river below. We enjoyed free time until 1:00 p.m., when we boarded the bus and headed northeast toward Zurich. Along the way, we passed through Canton Aargau where Ulrich Müller (fl. 1693) and Jacob Ammann (?1644-bef. 1730) worked closely together. Some historians believe that Müller was more influential with the Amish than Ammann.

Entering the Canton of Zurich, we found ourselves climbing to Hirzel, the hometown of Johanna Spyri (1827-1901), the author of *Heidi*, first published in 1880. Many of the people in this area were Anabaptists in the 1600s, and it was the home of the Landis family. While here, we visited the Reformed church which some say was built with money confiscated from the Anabaptists.

We also visited the farm of Fritz and Annette Habecker and enjoyed talking with them and seeing their barn and cattle. We then drove down below their house to the home where Hans Landis (1543-1614) lived when he was preaching in this area. He was martyred in Zurich. Russ Smucker had his picture taken here.

Traveling along the Zürich See with the city of Zurich behind it and to the right of our bus, we



Our evening dinners were always a lot of fun as we shared about life's experiences. Here we are at the Kloster Kappel.

Photo Credit: Lois Ann Mast.

stopped and took a cable car ride to the top of the hill to look down on the city. The sun was shining brightly now, making this unexpected side trip possible. We spent a very enjoyable hour in the outdoor cafe overlooking the city.

Fons and Lemar found a scenic route to our hotel that took us up and down the mountain to a lake at the bottom. Although we continue to see many half-timbered houses, they were a little different here with more timbers at the peak in a cross-hatching design.

Tonight we stayed in Kappel am Albis, at Kloster Kappel, now owned by the Reformed Church. Today it is a retreat center with beautiful



and relaxing gardens and orchards to walk. The cathedral has services at 6:00 p.m. each evening. Huldrych/Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531), Conrad Grebel (1489-1526) and other priests came to this former monastery for retreat. On our walks around the area we could visit a monument to Ulrich Zwingli who was killed across the hill at Albis.

Lois Ann and Lemar told us they stayed here for the first time in 1990 when the main meal was served at noon with only soup, bread, and fruit served at night. Today we were served a full meal in the evening with most ingredients coming from the extensive gardens and orchards on the grounds. Our meals here were served in the former root cellar below the old convent.

Tonight we said good-bye to Fons, who returned to Luxembourg for a required furlough following eleven days with us. His replacement, Amorim, has also driven for Lois Ann and Lemar before, and he joined us for dinner.

We went to sleep tonight to the sound of cowbells and church bells through our open windows. It was indeed a restful, relaxing setting.

*~ John Gindlesberger*

### **Wednesday, July 28, 2010**

Devotions were given by Merle, who spoke from 1 Chronicles, chapter four, about Jabez and how even everyday common people are still blessed by God. As we go on with our day, we need to be



Peter Dettwiler leading our walking tour of Zurich. Photo

Credit: J. Lemar Mast.



Site where the Landis plaque was placed on the stone wall.  
Photo Credit: J. Lemar Mast.

mindful of our actions and through them continue living through Christ and show others how great God is.

This morning we visited the city of Zurich and were privileged to be given a walking tour by Peter Dettwiler, who is a pastor with the Reformed Church. He showed us how the history of Zurich has been shaped greatly based on the religious beliefs of the times. The history of Zurich goes back to the Romans, and we were taken to Lindenhof which served as a Roman fortress, built so that all of Zurich could be surveyed from that point.

Mr. Dettwiler pointed out that in Zurich there are four main churches.

- St. Peter's is the oldest of the churches and has the biggest clock face in Europe
- The Preacher's Church or the Dominican Church
- The Church of Our Lady or the Fraumünster, which served as a women's monastery before the Reformation
- The Two-Tower Cathedral or Grossmünster, which served as a men's monastery before the Reformation.

For hundreds of years, religion in Zurich (like most other places) was determined by whoever was in power. One state, one religion was expected and accepted, and those of different religions were not even allowed to live in each others' cities. In Zurich, the religion was Catholic until the 16<sup>th</sup> century, when the Protestant (Reformed) Church took over. It was not until the 18<sup>th</sup> century, when the state was becoming more organized, that once again Catholic and Protestant religions started to mix.

One of the most noted people in the Reformation movement was Zwingli. In the beginning, many Anabaptists supported Zwingli, including Felix Manz (ca1498-1526). However, Anabaptists wanted the church to go further and have believers separate themselves from the state. The state, of course, did not like this and believed that Anabaptists were a threat. Thus began the split between the Reformed Church and the Anabaptists and the persecution and execution of many.

Mr. Dettwiler showed us the site where Anabaptist Felix Manz was drowned and the bridge where he stood while his sentence was being read. A memorial plaque that marks this site was first asked to be placed there in 1952 but was rejected by officials who stated that no memorial would be given for "former enemies of the state." The memorial was finally accepted and inaugurated on June 26, 2004. Mr. Dettwiler expressed to us the importance of that day and how it was the start of a new chapter in Swiss Anabaptist history and another step forward in the reconciliation between Mennonites and the Reformed Church.

Our next stop was the Water Church, named because it was built on an island. With first construction around 1480, the site is said to be the place where Christianity began because in 300 A.D. martyrs Felix and Regula refused to bow to the Roman emperor and were beheaded. The Catholic Church considered them saints, and the Water Church was built on the site to honor them. However, the church was closed during the Reformation because of its acknowledgement of the saints. Underneath the



Left: The highlight of our walking tour of Zurich, Switzerland, was the reenactment of Felix Manz and Conrad Grebel's decision to be baptized as adults. Thank you, Bernadine Mast, for organizing this dramatic presentation accompanied by garb as worn in the 1500s. Photo Credit: Fannie Frey.

Below: Bernadine Mast and Russ Smucker played some music at the end of the drama. Photo Credit: J. Lemar Mast.

Water Church lie the ruins of the many phases of churches that have been built on the site through the centuries. The ruins were discovered in 1940 along with some remains believed to be from the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> century.

We then stopped at the statue of Zwingli erected in 1882. He is depicted holding the Bible in one hand and a sword in the other. This was done by the state as a reminder to all that Zurich was still Reformed and that Zwingli was the translator of the Bible. Mr. Dettwiler explained, however, that many Anabaptists would explain the portrayal quite differently as many see Zwingli as a representation of their persecution.

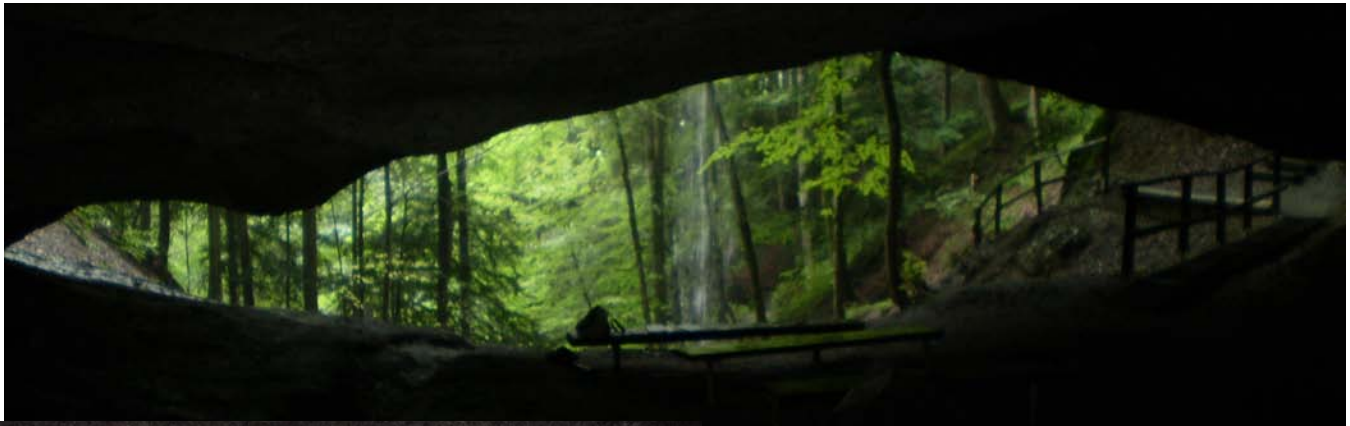
Next we headed to the Grossmünster Cathedral. Built in the 1200s, it is the location where the patron saints Felix and Regula are buried. The outside doors of the cathedral are beautifully crafted as a memorial to Zwingli and also include the coat of arms for the state and the church and a depiction of the beheading of Felix and Regula. Mr. Dettwiler pointed out that there is no mention of anything Anabaptist—almost as though the church and state wanted to erase any memory of them from the minds of people in Zurich. Inside the Grossmünster, there are amazing stained glass



windows all around, and in the crypt below old columns dating back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century.

Our last stop on this tour of Zurich was to the street and possible home where Felix Manz may have lived. At this stop, members of our group (led by Bernadine) performed a wonderful skit about the meeting that took place in 1525 between Anabaptists Felix Manz, Conrad Grebel and Georg Blaurock (1492-1529). It is believed that this was the meeting where decisions were made to go against the rules of the Reformed Church. It was a superb job by all (Susan, Merle, Terry, Jim, Lois Ann) with the finale being “Come and See” played on the recorder by Russ and Bernadine.

After lunch, the rain began as we headed to a church outside of Zurich in the village of Zol-



Views of the Anabaptist Cave. Photo Credits: Sue Steffy (top photo) and J. Lemar Mast (bottom photos).

likon. This was the church where Georg Blaurock was a priest and also was the place he told the congregation that he could no longer follow the rules of the state. While many left, others stayed. And since Anabaptists were not allowed to have a church within Zurich, they were able to form a new congregation in Zollikon.

Our final stop of the day was the Anabaptist Cave (Täuferhöhle) near Bäretswil where Anabaptists would gather to worship in secret. At this point in the day, the rain was steadily coming down so several people decided not to make the trek. As we walked down the road, that turned into a gravel path, and then into a slippery trail up a hill and through the woods, you began to realize and understand the dedication and determination of Anabaptists in those days.

As we rounded the last corner and looked up, we saw this fantastic waterfall falling in front of the cave. It was breathtaking and sobering. The

cave was damp and dark, and, as we sat on the benches and worshiped through song and prayer, the sacrifice of those before us became so clear. Sue gave a beautiful solo and a footwashing was also performed for several members of the group.

After dinner that evening, Pauline brought some life into the monastery and entertained us with exceptional piano playing.

*~ Jennifer Glover*

### **Thursday, July 29, 2010**

We ate another wonderful breakfast in the basement of Kloster Kappel (web site: klosterkappel.ch) before boarding our bus, now driven by our new driver, Amorim. The main task for this day was the drive to Innsbruck, Austria.

We stopped at the Benedictine Abbey of Einsiedeln. It is built on the site of the cell of St. Meinrad. He was a hermit who was born about 800 A.D. He



was killed by two robbers in 861, and his pair of pet ravens pursued the killers until the birds were recognized and the killers caught and executed. In this magnificent church building two things especially are worth seeing: the ravens and the black Madonna. This building, in my opinion, has the most ornate interior of any building we have seen on our trip. I have to keep reminding myself that I must not confuse beauty and the presence of God. The Anabaptist cave is damp, dull and ugly, but I sensed God's presence there when I observed the ordinance of footwashing with Brother Omar.

We stopped for lunch and a bit of walking around in downtown Vaduz, the capital of Liechtenstein. It drizzled.

The road from Vaduz to Innsbruck passes through a broad canyon with high mountains on either side. For the first time I saw scree (loose rocks covering the slopes) on the sides of some mountains. Although I have seen only a small portion of the Alps, I think some generalizations might be in order. The mountains are sheer and clean, and the valleys between them are often flat, probably old lake beds. The lower mountains contain many open meadows, and many waterfalls come down

the sides of the steeper mountains. The Alps are densely populated with people: large villages are found high up. The dominant wood by far is pine. It is the only firewood I saw, and the only wood I saw in buildings.

Between Zurich and Innsbruck we passed through 35 tunnels, the longest one being 15 km. or nine miles long. Upon entering Austria, I played "Edelweiss" on my recorder.

Our hotel in Innsbruck, Goldene Krone, was located downtown, right next to a big old stone arch. About a block from our hotel we saw an old tower, where Hans Hut (1490-1527) was imprisoned. We spent the late afternoon wandering around the area. It is nice to get more bang for your buck, compared with Switzerland. For example, in Innsbruck two ice cream cones, two beers and two cups of coffee cost only 12.20 euros.

*~ Russ Smucker*

### **Friday, July 30, 2010**

Oberammergau. We left Innsbruck (Hotel Goldene Krone) in a light drizzle. Lois Ann led us in devotions.



Waiting for the Passion Play to begin at Oberammergau, Germany. Photo Credit: J. Lemar Mast.

We climbed a steep hill behind a beer truck which caused the bus to stall, worrying us more than it did our expert driver. We saw many meadows with wooden buildings in which to store hay, a few cows, sheep, and goats.

We drove past Oberammergau about 10:30 a.m. but headed to our hotel in Bad Kohlgrub, Johannesbad, at 10:45. It is a very modern and beautifully decorated hotel in the Ammergau Alps.

We enjoyed a spectacular buffet lunch with a large variety of salads, tomato soup, fish, chicken, scalloped potatoes with kohlrabi and mixed berries with vanilla cream for dessert.

In our rooms we found complimentary copies of the text of the 2010 Passion Play, in German and English.

Oberammergau is marked by a cross at the top of a mountain. Many houses we passed had religious paintings on the front. The village is full of shops and restaurants. We got there around 12:45 p.m. We walked and shopped in rain and drizzle, and by 2:00 p.m., as we lined up to go to the play, the sky began to clear. We had excellent seats toward the front in about three different rows. The play started promptly at 2:30 p.m. with a few children and a donkey crossing the stage. The theater holds 4,720 persons. The first half begins with the Palm Sunday story. Living tableaus show scenes beginning with Adam and Eve leaving the garden, Moses leading the Israelites through the Red Sea, the dance around the golden calf, the Passover meal before leaving Egypt, the betrayal at the Rock of Gibeon and the calling of Moses before the burning bush. The first act concludes with Judas' betrayal of Jesus.

Dinner was at the Zum Bems Restaurant with the first course consisting of melon, bread and ham; the second course was a choice of veal, fish, noodles, crepes with mozzarella and spinach, or deer goulash; and then dessert—a choice of apple strudel with ice cream or lime yogurt with apricot sauce.

After dinner, shopping was much more pleasant under clear but cool skies.

In the second act, the living images included



Enjoying dinner at a restaurant in Oberammergau. Photo Credit: Lois Ann Mast.

Daniel in the lion's den, the mocking of Job, Cain and Abel, Moses expelled by Pharaoh, Joseph as Egypt's savior, the sacrifice of Isaac, and salvation by looking up at the bronze serpent. The second half included Herod arriving on horseback and with camels.

To me, there are too many important images in the second act to recall, but the image of Christ as the light of the world to close the play was very memorable.

All made it quickly and safely to the bus. We returned to the hotel before midnight.

~ Susan Short

[Dick wanted to know about the initials INRI visibly attached to the top of Jesus' cross at the crucifixion. The letters form the frequently found abbreviation for the Latin phrase *Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum*, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." In Latin the same letter— I—serves for both i and j, depending upon whether it functions as a consonant or vowel. And in the earliest writing only capitals were used. So in the words "Jesus" (*Iesus*) and "of the Jews" (*Iudaeorum*), genitive or possessive case, j is a consonant. Neil Ann.]

## Saturday, July 31, 2010

Our stay last night at the four-star Hotel Johannesbad in Bad Kohlgrub was a winner. Some of the rooms were spacious and the meals

delicious. The menu included good choices for everyone.

This morning, the bus left the hotel at 8:50 a.m. under a clear sky and bright sunshine. As we traveled toward our first stop at the concentration camp at Dachau, Lois Ann had devotions. Using the given names of persons in our group, she gave the meaning and origin of each name followed by an appropriate Bible verse. Before we reached Dachau, Dick Levine gave the group an overview of the Nazis' concept of concentration/death camps.

Dachau was opened in 1933 as a camp for German political prisoners. It was the first such camp built and became the model for the other camps that spread during the war years. The population in the camps changed to include Jews, handicapped persons, conscientious objectors, and others. Deaths in the camps were from illness, starvation, medical experimentation and outright murder. Tens of thousands died in these camps before the war ended in 1945. Dachau was liberated in April 1945 by the 42<sup>nd</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> divisions of the U.S. 7<sup>th</sup> Army.

We arrived at Dachau about 10:30 a.m., walked the grounds, visited the museum and finished our visit by watching a 20-minute movie about Dachau. Neil Ann Levine shared her happy meeting at Dachau with a German genealogist named Holly who had corresponded with her earlier (because he was familiar with her essays in *Mennonite Family History*) and had made arrangements to meet her at Dachau today. We left Dachau at noon in a sober and subdued mood.

Before lunch Jim Mast gave an interesting story about camels. Russ Smucker did his guessing game of having persons guess the number of tunnels our bus traveled through on Thursday from Kappel am Albis, Switzerland, to Innsbruck, Austria. The three-way tie of 37 (Scott Steffy, Garnet Naslund and Marian Stoltzfus) was closest to the actual count of 35 tunnels. To settle the tie, these three had to guess the number of roundabouts (9) on the same journey. Marian won with a count of

13. Sue Steffy sang a spoof of the Julie Andrews song "My Favorite Things". Ms. Andrews sang this version of the song on her 69<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Lunch was at the Serway Burger King in the Augsburg Rest Stop on the autobahn. When we boarded the bus, Scott and Sue Steffy treated us with "Magnum" ice cream bars for dessert.

After lunch Bernadine Mast introduced us to the history of the old singing school. She was helped by Sue Steffy and Russ Smucker.

Interesting things observed along the way to our evening stop at Triberg, Germany: a rare golf course near Munich, horse stables and riding schools, U-pick flower markets, wind farms, community gardens and a Fräulein and Herr made from hay bales. We arrived in the Black Forest town of Triberg in time to shop before dinner. Some of our group are staying at Hotel Garni Central and the rest at Hotel Ketterer. We all ate together in the dining area of Hotel Ketterer for dinner.

~ Linda Smucker

## Sunday, August 1, 2010

Early risers saw a beautiful sunrise. Dark shadows were slow to retreat from the sharp north-facing slopes.

Our northerly route takes us into the Palatinate with its beautiful farm land and fields of raspberries, tomatoes, apple trees, asparagus, and multiple varieties of grapes in the vineyards. The Vosges Mountains of France are visible to our left.

We stop for a walk, WC and short worship service in Emmendingen, which was once home to:

Michael Grieser and Magdalena Müller  
Jacob Müller and Maria Eymann,  
married in 1832  
Christian Rupp (1772-1832) at Sexau  
Michael Zimmerman (b. 1779) and  
Barbara Roggy  
Jacob Zimmerman (b. 1810) and  
Magdalena Roth

Katharina Müller married to Christian Lauber  
of Bourgfelden, Haut-Rhin

Also here: König, Gautsche, Grieser, Eyer, Litwiller,  
Reidiger, Wagner. Hochburg had Anabaptist  
leaseholders 1713-1846 (information from Neil  
Ann Levine).



Photo Credit: J. Lemar Mast.

In a circle in front of the music school, Omar  
shared some scripture with us:

Matthew 7:3: “Enter the narrow gate . . .”

Matthew 10:37-39: “. . . take up His cross.”

Matthew 6:12-15: “Forgive so that we can be  
forgiven.”

He also gave a two-verse summary of both the  
Old and New Testaments: Micah 6:8 and Matthew  
22:34-40.

On board the bus once again, Sara Lapp told  
of the Weinsberg, Germany/Winesburg, Ohio,  
connection and stories of women carrying their  
husbands on their backs when they were deported  
with the restriction that they take only their one  
most valuable thing.

In Weinsberg, Germany, we were able to get  
a photo of Sara carrying Omar on her back out of  
the city.

[Dick Levine asked about any possible connection be-  
tween Weinsberg, Germany, and the novel *Winesburg,  
Ohio*, published by Sherwood Anderson (1876-1941)  
in 1919. Apparently, there is no connection. Winesburg,

Ohio, the birthplace of Sara Lapp, is a tiny town in Paint  
Twp., Holmes Co., in north central Ohio. Sherwood  
Anderson based “Winesburg, Ohio” on his home town  
of Clyde, Ohio, in Green Creek Twp., Sandusky Co.,  
in the north central part of the state, just south of Lake  
Erie. Neil Ann.]

Fanny Frey is without her sling for the first  
time today.

Susan Short gave us a great review of the  
biography of Martin Luther (1483-1546). During  
complex times of the Reformation these factors



Sara Lapp was  
born in Winesburg,  
Ohio—a sister city  
to Weinsberg, Ger-  
many. Their history  
of the women carry-  
ing the men out of  
the city on their  
backs continues to  
be played today in  
both cities. Thanks,  
Sara, for role play-  
ing this tradition  
in Weinsberg, Ger-  
many! Photo Credits:

J. Lemar Mast (left) and  
Fannie Frey (below).



## Brief History of the City of Worms

The city of Worms in today's German state of Rhineland-Palatinate was originally established by the Celts and then fortified in 14 B.C. by the Roman Emperor Nero Claudius **Drusus** Germanicus (38-9 B.C.) The Latin name was originally Borbetomagus, meaning "settlement in a watery area." By the sixth century, the name Borbetomagus had been transformed into Vormatia, the obvious source for today's name Worms. The city is noted for the sweetish white wine called Liebfraumilch—think "Blue Nun" label—and for some events in the *Nibelungenlied*, a source for the legendary four-opera cycle called *Der Ring des Nibelungen* or simply *The Ring* by Richard Wagner (1813-1883), based on Teutonic folklore.

Worms became a Roman Catholic bishopric in 614, and continued to be an important location during the Holy Roman Empire which most historians would date between the coronation of the first emperor in 962 and 1806 with the rise of Napoleon (1769-1821). The famous Worms Cathedral of Saint Peter which we visited was constructed on the site of a former temple dedicated to the Roman goddess Minerva (Athena in Greek myth) who presided over wisdom, peace, war, and needlework – perhaps because the latter three attributes required application of the first.

In Worms in 1526 William Tyndale (?1494-1536) published his German translation of the New Testament based on the original Greek text rather than the Latin vulgate. Martin Luther (1483-1546) was declared an outlaw by the Edict of Worms in 1521 in an attempt blunt the sweeping effects of the Protestant Reformation. There have been Jews in Worms since the tenth century, but the ancient Jewish quarter of the city was all but destroyed in 1938 during the infamous Kristallnacht in World War II.

Worms was occupied by the French between 1789 and 1815 and incorporated into greater France as expanded through the conquests of Napoleon. But after the Congress of Vienna redrew the map of Europe in 1815 following the ultimate defeat of Napoleon, Worms fell temporarily to the short-lived Grand Duchy of Hesse. British Royal Air Force bombers strafed Worms in 1945. And today the city boasts nearly 90,000 inhabitants.

~ Neil Ann Stuckey Levine



Horst Gerlach (left) and Gary Waltner (not pictured) joined us for our last dinner in Europe before flying home. Photo Credit: J. Lemar Mast.

played a role: Luther's personality, the politics of the day and the availability of "new technology," the printing press.

She discussed his 1508 "thunder storm experience" and his 1514 "tower experience." At the conclusion, we sang Luther's hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God."

We shadowed the Neckar River for a time.

In Worms, we looked at the Luther monument and the large cathedral. After much searching (due to a party on the premises), some of us were able to find and photograph the stone monument depicting Luther's "Here I Stand," response to magistrates in 1521.

Dinner was a catered affair in the Dom-Hotel with guests Gary Waltner of Weierhof and German genealogist Horst Gerlach joining us. After a game to match tour participants with short biographical descriptions, complete with prizes, we left for sleep before our 4:30 a.m. departure for Frankfurt and our flights home the next day, Monday, Aug. 2.

Here are the responses from the group regarding personal highlights of this European adventure:

**Scott Steffy:** I liked seeing the styles of farming and equipment; also the cattle with their cow bells.

I noticed how clean everything is and appreciated the beautiful countryside and flowers by the houses. The Rhine River cruise was memorable.

**Sue Steffy:** I loved introducing Scott to my three favorite Swiss things: (1) Brienz and the lake there, (2) the Anabaptist Cave, (3) the Jungfrau and Alps.

**Lois Ann Mast:** I was blessed with the many affirmations from God as He led us and opened and closed doors for our “Tour Family” to learn more about Europe. It happened yet again this morning (Aug. 1) when we had hoped to stop in downtown Emmendingen in hopes of finding a public toilet. We ended up about three blocks from the center of town, BUT right at a public toilet! God directed us yet again. Another lesson learned: God is in control! What a privilege to acknowledge His desires for us, and especially His protection on this journey! Thank you, God.

**Marlene Beck:** Blessing that we didn’t miss the flight to Frankfurt by three minutes. Visiting “The Hiding Place of Anabaptists,” Regula Fankhauser’s testimony.

**Merle Beck:** Making connection from Indianapolis to Newark. Connecting family with Huttwil, Sumiswald.

**Jim and Karon Schwartz:** Enjoyed the time at the St. Hippolyte stop—time with friends and family. Making new friends. The visit to Dachau was a learning experience. Really enjoyed the singing on the bus.

**Fannie Frey:** I was so happy to be back to Hotel Lüdernalp because of all the memories of being there with my late husband, Jim, and celebrating my 60th birthday there. I just love the orchestra of cowbells from down in the valleys. Thank you, God, for allowing this to happen.

**Garnet Naslund:** I think the highlight of my trip

was the presentation on Martin Luther by Susan Short. The whole trip was a “highlight.”

**Marian A. Stoltzfus:** The most interesting and awesome event for me was the beginning of a new look into worshipping God through faith in Jesus our Saviour. The stand that Martin Luther took and the fact that he even died for that stand are awesome and sobering. Could I do that?! What a step of courage.

**Dick Levine:** (1) Rhine River Trip—relaxing, beautiful and helpful to understand the river as military defensive line; (2) Monastery Stay—unique lodging in a lifetime of travel; (3) Trub—Hinter Hütten Farm—provided contemporary insight into Mennonite history of persecution and faith.

**Neil Ann S. Levine:** (1) Visit to Montbéliard, a first for me, after years of studying Joe Springer’s work on the church books—excellent guide there. (2) Gutenberg Museum in Mainz with a knowledgeable guide. (3) Mediaeval hotel in Riquewihr, in the heart of Alsace, a beautifully restored half-timbered building.

**John Gindlesberger:** Throughout the trip, I have been quite impressed with the European approach to conservation, sustainability and energy. Wind is utilized so much more, and the number of buildings with solar panels is striking. Europe seems to be conscious of energy usage and the finite nature of resources. An interesting paradox in the United States is that you see far more solar panels on Amish houses and barns than you do on English houses.

**Sandy Gindlesberger:** On this trip I knew I would see half-timbered houses, but what I did not realize was the vast number of them I would see. With their red tile roofs, colored shutters, and window boxes with profusions of flowers, they were lovely. I particularly liked driving through the villages and

seeing the streets lined with them amid a backdrop of mountains.

**Judy Miller:** I have three highlights from this trip that I think most of. The first was walking the mountain trails at Kleine Scheidegg—it was so awesome being so high up in God’s creation. Second, visiting the Anabaptist Cave to see the place where our ancestors worshiped in person was very special to me. The third was watching the Passion Play. I think it’s a good thing to be reminded of what Christ did for us (no matter what language it is in), and knowing that this play only happens every ten years made it all the more special.

**Jennifer Glover:** Highlights on this trip were: (1) Hiking up the mountain at Kleine Scheidegg and seeing the beautiful Swiss Alps. (2) Seeing the Passion Play.

**Susan Short:** My favorite part was walking the streets of Montbéliard with the guide who personalized the journey of the family in the area.

**Terry Short:** My favorite was the Montbéliard Mennonite Church and viewing the book (church register).

**Omar Lapp:** (1) A highlight for me was to see so many places associated with Jacob Ammann: birthplace, meeting place with Hans Reist, acceptance of the Dordrecht Confession, the area in which he lived in Alsace, etc., (2) Elder Augspurger’s home at Salm, (3) Weinsberg, Germany, (4) Boat ride on the Rhine River, (5) Haslibacher home, (6) Anabaptist Cave, (7) Zurich drama by our tour people.

**Ron Stitt:** Being raised in a Methodist background, I am aware that the Moravians influenced John Wesley, founder of Methodism. While I have no Mennonite or Amish background, I am pleasantly surprised that the Anabaptists through the Moravians influenced my beliefs.

**Pauline Stitt:** Germany’s hilly countryside with well-manicured lawns and beautiful flowers—everywhere—will provide material for many oil paintings.

**Marcie Kerstetter:** It isn’t possible to pick my most favorite part of this Heritage Trip but “these are a few of my favorite things,” (1) Viewing Nicholas Augspurger’s *Hof*, (2) seeking the Ohnenheim mill where Jacob Ammann met with others, (3) traveling back roads to locate ancestral homes, and (4) excellent tour guides. Thanks!

**David Kerstetter:** The highlight of the trip for me was to see the satisfaction and fulfillment of my wife Marcie as she retraced some of her ancestral roots. This had been a longtime wish of hers.

**James S. Mast:** To visit the Guggisberg area, believed to be the ancestral home of the Masts, and to worship on a Sunday morning in the church where my Mast ancestors worshiped prior to the Reformation.

**Bernadine Mast:** (1) The Montbéliard church book and listings of marriages, births, and baptisms of many of my ancestors, (2) the generosity and hospitality of the guides and host churches.

**Marolyn Armstrong:** I enjoyed the visit to Montbéliard with Marguerite as she showed us the register of births, marriages, and deaths of our ancestors from the 1700s. Hospitality was special as we were served delicious food and drink in the church parking lot.

**Sara (Miller) Lapp:** One of the great moments of this Heritage Tour for me happened at Weinsberg, Germany. It is hard to express the feelings of this dream becoming reality and connecting this beautiful historical place with my childhood hometown of Winesburg, Ohio, U.S.A. I am deeply grateful to our tour leaders and others who helped make this an unforgettable experience.



Photo Credit:Lois Ann Mast.

## Goodbye from the Trub Reformed Church