

*The view from our hotel at
Mürren, Switzerland*

2017 Mennonite and Amish
Family Heritage Tour to Europe

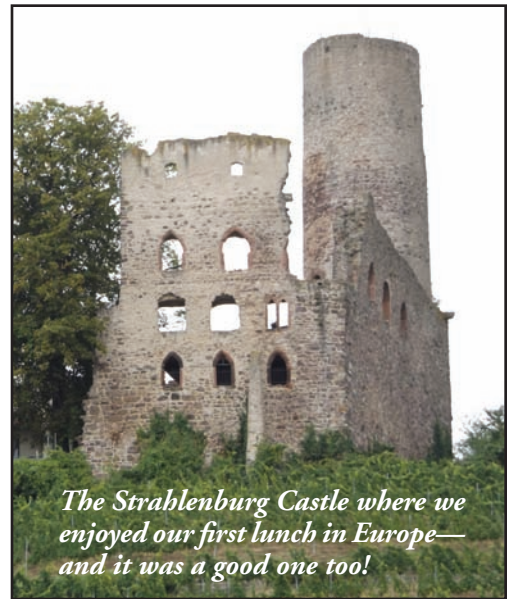
2017 European Heritage Tour



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The Thompsons at an old gate in Schriesheim, Germany, before we enjoyed lunch at the Strahlenburg Castle.



The Strahlenburg Castle where we enjoyed our first lunch in Europe—and it was a good one too!

**Thursday and Friday
September 7-8, 2017**

Wellkommen to the 2017 European Heritage Tour that began as a Zook Tour and surprisingly half of the tour participants were also Kanagy/Gnegi descendants as well (actually there were more who had Zook ancestry, but it was fun learning to know more about the Kanagy history as well.

Twenty-one eager travelers met at Masthof for lunch and introductions of each other before boarding our chartered bus to take us to the Philadelphia Airport. An hour later, we were at the airport where we met eight more of our group knowing that five more would meet us at the Frankfurt Airport. This “waiting game” is sometimes the hardest part of the beginning of a tour as we anticipate all the experiences that lay ahead of us.

It was good to again see Stefan at the Frankfurt Airport when we arrived and boarded our shuttle bus to take us to the Bus Parking Lot. Sure good to settle in to our “home” for the next two weeks!

Lois Ann again reminded us to keep our passports on us at all times, distributed another hotel list, and we were on our way! Our first stop was at Schriesheim—birthplace and home of Alexander Mack (1679-1735), the founder of the Church of the Brethren. He was the son of Schriesheim Miller Johann Phillip and Christina (Fillbrun) Mack who was one of the descendants of Schriesheim families who



survived the Thirty Years War. In fact, there were two grown Macks who survived this devastating war—only one male from the other 23 families survived.

We spent a little time walking through the old downtown and then went up to the Strahlenburg Castle Restaurant overlooking the town of Schriesheim for a delicious lunch of either sausage or soup. The castle is in ruins at some places, but the restaurant is in the restored area.

Then we boarded our bus and drove to Triberg in the Black Forest where some of us hiked up to the dazzling

Can you believe that Steve Gnegy posed with his head in the locks on the Punishment Stand outside the old town hall? And we even allowed him to hold a cup of coffee!





Willi Bächtold and Chrigi Eckhardt welcomed us to the Täuferzimmer in the Schleithem Museum. Michael Sattler met here with other German and Swiss Anabaptists in 1527 to write the Schleithem Confession of Faith—the first one for the Anabaptists. Bechtel, Hess, and Pletscher families lived here before forced to leave for their faith.

waterfalls—Europe’s longest continuous waterfalls—while others of us went shopping for cuckoo clocks.

Dinner was served at the hotel at 6:30 so that we could turn in earlier—yes, we were tired, but it was a good tiredness as we continue to anticipate what was ahead for us as a tour family! *Guten Nacht!*

~ Lois Ann Mast

Saturday

September 9, 2017

After spending a lovely evening and having a wonderful and filling breakfast in the Black Forest at the Park Hotel Wehrle in Triberg, Germany (Cuckoo Clock Capital of the World), we are on our way south to Switzerland.

A few notes about our Hotel: Ernest Hemingway stayed here in Room 208 in August 1922. A leaflet in Room 101 indicated that Napoleon stayed here in the 1800s. Today’s weather: 14° C. (57°F), Cloudy and windy.

Our morning devotions was led by Linda Stahlman who read Ephesians 4: 11-13. “All the aspects of nature along with all the skills and abilities of all individuals, form a



whole representing the wholeness and unity of God.” Paul Stahlman led us in singing the following songs out of our *Praise Songs – A Collection of Songs to Praise God in Europe*: Family of God, Trust and Obey, This is My Father’s World. Spirit of the Living God, and our final song was sung to tune of Edelweiss:

*“May the Lord, Mighty God,
Bless and keep you forever;
May His Grace and His Might
Help you in every endeavor;
Long may His grace be kind to you
May it fail you never;
May the Lord, Mighty God,
Bless and keep you forever.”*

As we travel the winding roads through the Black Forest to the plains and open fields of the highlands, we see alpaca/llamas, cows, and sheep grazing in the fields.

Then as we cross the border of Germany and Switzerland, Steffan, our bus driver, must stop to get a certificate required for our travel in Switzerland. After getting the certificate, we must turn around and return to Germany in order to get to our first stop in Switzerland.

In Switzerland, we find no large billboards, no trash along the roadways, trains are electric, and on Sundays, most stores are closed, plus no trucks are allowed on roads. Switzerland is land locked, has 26 cantons (states), no war since 1815, 8.2 million people live here of which 24% are foreigners and only 1% attend church on Sunday mornings.

Schleithem, in the canton of Schaffhausen in Switzerland, is known as the location Michael Sattler presided over a conference of Swiss Brethren and where he presented the seven articles of the “Schleithem Confession of Faith” on February 24, 1527. The articles were approved and adopted without a dissenting voice. The area was the home of many *Wiedertäufer* (Anabaptists) who over the years were driven from their homes and prosecuted for not agreeing with the church that was in power. Michael Sattler was an early *Wiedertäufer* (Anabaptist) leader in this area.

Seven Articles of the Schleithem Confession of Faith

1. Baptism – administered to those who have consciously repented and amended their lives and believe that Christ has died for their sins and who request it for themselves. Therefore infants, were not baptized.

2. Lord’s Supper - Only those who have been baptized can take part in communion. Participation in Communion is a remembrance of Christ’s body and blood; the real body and blood of Christ is not present in the sacrament



3. Shepard's (pastors) - Pastors should be men of good repute. Some of the responsibilities they must faithfully carry out are teaching, disciplining, the ban, leading in prayer, and the sacraments. They are to be supported by the church, but must also be disciplined if they sin.

4. The oath - No (oaths) should be taken because Jesus prohibited the taking of oaths and swearing. Testifying is not the same thing as swearing. When a person bears testimony, they are testifying about the present, whether it be good or evil.

5. Non-resistance - Violence must not be used in any circumstance. The way of nonviolence is patterned after the example of Christ who never exhibited violence in the face of persecution or as a punishment for sin. A Christian should not pass judgment in worldly disputes. It is not appropriate for a Christian to serve as a magistrate; a magistrate acts according to the rules of the world, not according to the rules of heaven; their weapons are worldly, but the weapons of a Christian are spiritual.

6. Excommunication - A Christian should live with discipline and walk in the way of righteousness. Those who slip and fall into sin should be admonished twice in secret, but the third offense should be openly disciplined and banned as a final recourse. This should always occur prior to the breaking of the bread.

7. Separation from the world - The community of Christians shall have no association with those who remain in disobedience and a spirit of rebellion against God. There can be no fellowship with the wicked in the world; there can be no participation in works, church services, meetings and civil affairs of those who live in contradiction to the commands of God (Catholics and Protestants). All evil must be resisted including their weapons of force such as the sword and armor.

At this Schleithem Museum (pictured above) there is a room devoted to the Anabaptist movement as well as many displays of the areas' history.

An early copy of Michael Sattler's confession of faith (known as the Schleithem Confession of Faith) is on display under glass (pictured above). This copy was printed by a 'buchdrucker" (printer) in Zurich.

Michael Sattler (b. ca1495, Staufen, Germany) was a Benedictine monk at St Peter's Abby where he most likely became a prior. Michael left St. Peter's probably in May 1525 when troops from the Black Forest were fighting in the German Peasant's War and overran the monastery. He later married Margaretha a former Bequine (nun). It is not known when Sattler arrived in Zurich, but we do know that he was expelled from Zurich on November 18, 1525, in a wave of expulsions of foreigners resulting from the disputation of the baptism on November 6-7. Some believe that Sattler is to be identified as the "Brother Michael in the white coat" mentioned in a document dated March 25, 1525, thus placing Sattler in Zurich before Snyder's estimation of when he left St. Peter's. On February 24, 1527, Sattler presented the Seven Articles of the Schleithem Confession Faith, and only three



Items of torture used during the times of persecution. These were on display in the Schleithem Museum.



Larry Stahlman playing the organ in the Shleitheim Reformed Church.

months later in May 1527, he was arrested by Count Joachim of Zollern, regent of Archduke Ferdinand of Austria, along with his wife and several other Anabaptists. He was tried and sentenced to be executed.

The sentence to execution read, “Michael Sattler shall be committed to the executioner. The latter shall take him to the square and there first cut his tongue, and then forge him fast to a wagon and there with glowing iron tongs twice tear pieces from his body, then on the way to the site of execution five times more as above and then burn his body to powder as an arch heretic.” The other men in the group were executed by sword, and the women, including Margaretha, were executed by drowning.

A Memorial Plaque at the site of his execution near Rottenburg am Neckar reads: “The Baptist Michael Sattler was executed by burning after severe torture on 20 May 1527 here on the “Gallows Hill.” He died a true witness of Jesus Christ. His wife Margaretha and other members of the congregation were drowned and burned. They acted for the baptism of those who want to follow Christ, for an independent congregation of the faithful, for the peaceful message of the Sermon on the Mount.”

On May 20, 1527, Michael Sattler was executed by burning after severe torture on “Gallows Hill”.

Interestingly, there are no records of Anabaptist movement in any of the current Swiss history books in schools. Only in the last 10-15 years has there been any interest in the Anabaptist History, especially emphasized in 2004 by the Reformed Church leaders.



The Reformed Church in Schleithem preparing for a fall festival service.

Then we visited the Rhine Falls located on the High Rhine on the border between the cantons of Schaffhausen and Zürich, between the villages of Neuhausen am Rheinfall (SH) and Laufen-Uhwiesen/Dachsen (ZH), next to the town of Schaffhausen in northern Switzerland.

Tumbling from a height of 75 feet over a 450-foot stretch of rock, the mighty Rhine Falls are the largest waterfalls in Europe. Located just outside the medieval town of Schaffhausen.

The lyrical poet Eduard Mörike wrote of the falls:

*Hold your heart, oh traveler, tightly in mighty hands!
Mine nearly collapsed, shivering with pleasure.
Restlessly thundering masses thrown upon thundering masses,
Ear and eye, whither can they save themselves in such an uproar?*

Lunch was special as we arrived at the farm of Hans and Lydia Flachsmann. Lydia became an Anabaptist at the time of the 2004 Reformation meeting in Zurich and this is where Lemar and Lois Ann met Lydia for the first. Their daughter Crystal was home to help with the farming while her father is recovering from blood poisoning. Several local ladies also helped with lunch as well as displayed and sold craft items made of straw and horsehair.

They served a lovely luncheon of barley soup, homemade farm bread, swiss bratwurst/ sausage, and creme brulee. Many of us enjoyed visiting their orchard and tasting the delicious plums which were ripe for the picking.

Lydia collects nativity sets and has sets from over 70 different countries totaling 700+ different sets. They fill buildings and rooms all over their property. Over the holidays, she was on Swiss TV talking about her nativity sets.



Our second lunch in Europe was in the home of Hans and Lydia Flaschmann in Switzerland!





This woman is using horse hair to make a bracelet on this loom. The bracelet can be seen on the wooded dowel below the flat wooden circle. The bracelet is a braided hollow cylinder fitting around the wrist with a closure attached, Very unique!

Before heading to our hotel we went up the cable car to look down over Zurich and Lake Zurich from the Felsenegg viewpoint that was hidden by a few clouds, but we are FLEXIBLE and find ways to view the scenery.

We spent the night at the Hotel Du Lac, Seestrasse 100, 8820 Wädenswil Switzerland, near Lake Zurich. For dinner we had Pork steak with tomatoes and carrots, pasta with cheese, bread barley soup and Swiss chocolate cream.

Dr Jon Eversole, PhD, joined our group for dinner tonight. He wrote the article "Anabaptist Tourism to Switzerland: Assessing the Impact of the 2004 Swiss Reconciliation Initiative and 2007 Emmental Tourism "Täuferjahr" Events," published in the July 2013 *Mennonite Family History* published by the Masts. (This article was originally published in the Proceedings of the International Conference on Tourism, Crete, 2012.)

~ Rose Ryan and Jan Fleenor

Sunday

September 10, 2017

On his rainy Sunday morning, we are leaving Hotel Du Lac overlooking Zürich Lake in Wädenswil,

Switzerland. During our first evening here, the dense fog lifted revealing our first thrilling scenic view of the snow-capped Alps in the distance.

On our way to the Täuferhöhle (Anabaptist Cave), Lois Ann shared a few of the day's highlights as well as introduced their friend, Jorg Wildermuth. Both then shared about some of the historical and emotional significances of the special Swiss Reconciliation Conference held in 2004. Its' purpose was to acknowledge with regret and apologize for Switzerland's cruel persecution of the Anabaptist, and for eliminating them not only from the country, but erasing these events from its history. As the Masts and Jorg repeatedly shared the events of the Conference and their spiritual journey, it slowly burned into my heart the considerable significance of this unique event. Since the 2004 Reconciliation, the Swiss *love* to do things for the Americans.

On the bus, Lois Ann continued to share more background on Felix Manz, one of the beginning Swiss Brethren Anabaptists in Zurich. She began by clarifying that being called an Anabaptist was not a good thing. Followers of the movement were heavily persecuted during the 1600-1700s. The Amish, Hutterites, and Mennonites are direct descendants of this early Anabaptist movement.

There was a fine mist in the air when we arrived near the Cave. The gravel trail leading up the hill to the Cave winds up through green pastures. Cow bells were heard gently ringing on cattle grazing nearby as we made our slow ascent to the top. A small waterfall cascaded over the top of the Cave. Inside there were benches and fresh coals in the fire ring. It was peaceful and beautiful as we gathered around quietly.



Walking up the gravel path to the Täuferhöhle (Anabaptist Cave) and then worshipping there on a Sunday morning was a very meaningful part of our trip!



Above: Sunday lunch was served in this old restored mill near the Cave.



Right: Bronze door on the Grossmünster Cathedral.

Steve Thompson led our morning worship telling the story behind the hymn “It Is Well With My Soul.” Horatio Stafford penned the song as a result of traumatic events in his life. Though Stafford experienced great personal loss, he still had his faith in the Lord and trusted in the midst of his sorrow. Reflecting on this hymn where our ancestors once sought refuge took on a deeper meaning to me. While there are often trials and tragedies in our lives, that doesn’t have to effect the state of our soul. Chills ran up the back of my neck and arms as we sang “Faith of Our Fathers” and “Blessed Assurance”.

Jorg, a Swiss-German, grew up in the area surrounding the Cave located near Baretswil, Canton of Zurich. His brother still lives there. Many family names have been revealed in the last 30 years of where they lived in the region. Jorg’s narration of Felix Manz and the Anabaptists makes them come to life, from how they walked in small groups to avoid being discovered by the government, to how the Bailiff’s search for them became a cat and mouse chase. The Cave was used as a hide-out and sanctuary to worship in peace.

We stopped for lunch arranged by Jorg and his friend, Hans-Jakob Pfenninger at a sawmill across the road from Hans-Jakob’s home. The caprese salad, meat and cheese slices, apple fruit salad, lemon cupcakes with a surprise plum baked inside, were topped off with Lindt chocolate balls—so delicious!

The sun was shining brightly as we arrived in the beautiful city of Zurich. There is much to see. Joining us is Jorg’s friend, Heidi, for a unique walking tour. With her special key, we go under the city to see the remains of

the Roman walls carefully built square. On top of them, the German ruler’s haphazard structure of uneven rock was created only for great height to please the king.

Highlights of Zurich included the Fraumünster Cathedral built by Louis the German in 853 to give his daughter great power; the Grossmünster Cathedral and its’ massive bronze cast doors depicting the Reformation story—its’ congregation forms part of the Evangelical Reformed Church of the Canton of Zurich; the plaque along the banks of the Limmat River where Anabaptist Felix Manz was drowned; and the place where Preacher Hans Landis was beheaded for his faith.

By far, it was a thrilling day on our tour for Ruthy Kanagy to stand along the Limmat River in the same location her father did in 2004. And for me, a printer over 30 years, it was extra special to see where the first Zurcher Bible or Zwingli Bible was printed in 1529! The Reformation encouraged others to read the Bible, instead of just listening to sermons. *- Bev Whited*







House where Hans Landis, the last Anabaptist martyr, lived near Hirzel, Switzerland.

**Monday
September 11, 2017**

We departed the Hotel Du Lac, Wädenswil, on Lake Zurich at 8:30 a.m. under sunny Monday morning skies. The temperature was 49-degrees Celsius, and the Swiss street sweepers were busy keeping their great roads and immaculate towns spotless. Everyone was light-hearted despite remembering that the day was the anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy, so thankful for the Grace of our God and the freedoms we have as Americans.

As we climbed the steep hill in our bus, we could clearly see the Zurichsee (Lake Zurich) below on our left and our first view of the majestic snow-capped Alps to the south. Our first stop was in Hirzel, the home of Hans Landis, Anabaptist martyr (d. 1614). His three remaining children were put up for adoption, and the money from the sale of his house went towards building the town's church. Hirzel was also the hometown of Johanna Spyri, author of the classic *Heidi*.

From there, our beloved bus driver Steffan took us on a beautiful cross-country route to Einsiedeln and the Catholic Church honoring the "Black Madonna." The ornate sanctuary is in stark contrast to the rather plain Anabaptist and Reformed houses of worship. The town's name means "to settle away," and the monastery there was founded in 934. Our Lady's color originally came from years of candles burning in her veneration.

Traveling down the steep road to the first city in the Swiss Confederation, Luzerne, we saw signs of the new and the old: ski jumps which use modern technology for training Olympians year-round, and hidden military bunkers built into the sides of the mountains. Concrete barriers are still in place that discouraged the Germans from invading during the Second World War. It is ironic that in a country known for its neutrality and peaceful nature, the tower at the one end of Luzerne's famous wooden bridge, originally built in 1333, once housed Anabaptist prisoners.

After our brief stop, we board the bus for a memorable ride along Lake Luzerne. We pass many waterfalls, which power Switzerland's electric generators, and the quaint town of Altdorf, where patriot William Tell, on threat from a bailif of the Hapsburgs, supposedly split an apple on his son's head with an arrow in 1307. This legend inspired the Swiss Confederacy.

If that story hasn't made my heart race over the years, the ride up and through the Susten Pass will for years to come. Begun in 1938 and barely two-lanes wide in places, this is one of



Luzerne





the highest paved roads in Europe. Through amazing long, curved tunnels and well above the tree line, we stopped atop, in the clouds, for a bathroom break, which goes without saying, was needed. There was fresh snow in the parking lot. Apparently, the Swiss would rather spend their money on steep grades and hairpin turns than on guardrails, but again, our driver Steffan came through—over and up and down too!

When we arrived at our hotel on Lake Brienz in the late afternoon, the sun was still shining. Some of us shopped the streets while others napped. A tasty cheese fondue brought the day to a close, with a delightful alphorn and accordion concert for dessert. ~ Larry Pearce



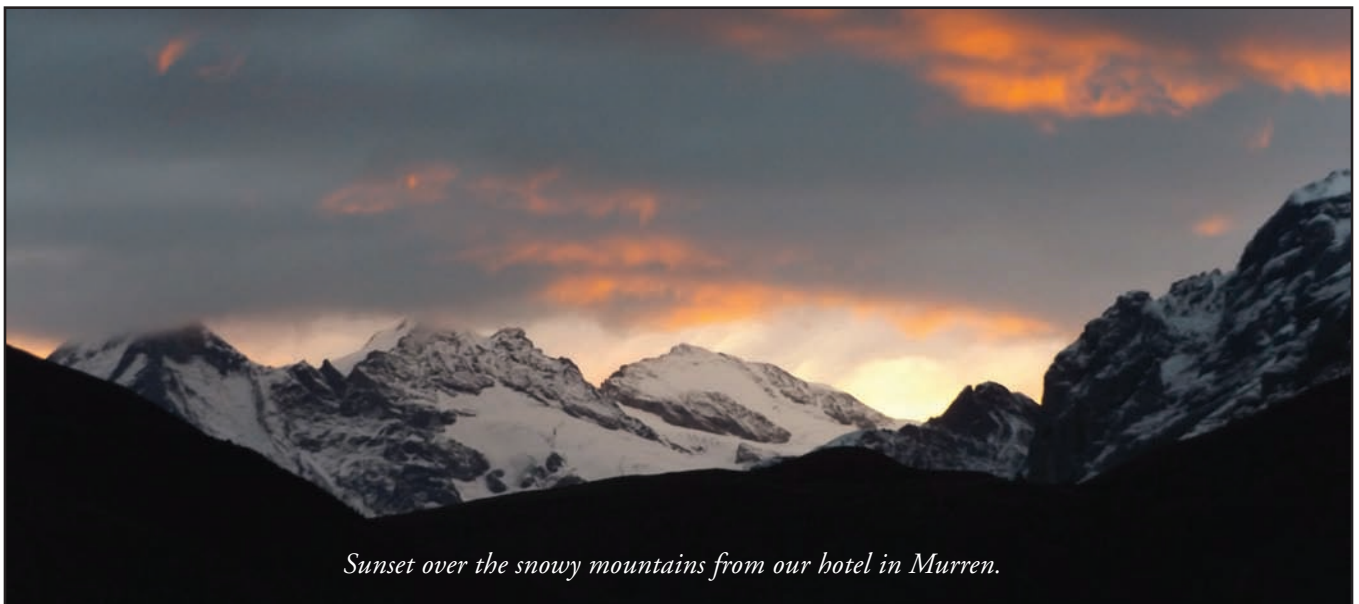


Tuesday
September 12, 2017

At 9:30 a.m., we began our day as we counted off by our assigned numbers and our bus pulled away from the Brienerburli Hotel in Brienz, Switzerland, where we had spent the night. Looking up to the surrounding mountain tops we could see freshly fallen snow from the night before. As we began our day's journey, Larry Pearce shared a reading from the devotional book *Jesus Calling*.

We were on our way to explore the Ballenberg Open Air Museum. Here we would see restored and preserved historic buildings, native plants and crops, livestock and handicrafts which were representative of early, rural Switzerland. We had three hours to look around on our own and have lunch. The weather was rainy and cool, so while a few hardy souls wandered the entire area, some got lost and others stayed cozy and warm sipping tea or coffee in the café. We were complimented for bringing smiles and good cheer into the restaurant!

We were back on the bus by 1:00 p.m. and headed on to our next stop which was Stechelberg. This was a lovely mountainous area surrounded by towering cliffs and beautiful waterfalls. From here we took a cable car up to the mountain village of Murren, high in the Alps. Again we had to peer through the drizzle and rain drops to glimpse the amazing scenery



Sunset over the snowy mountains from our hotel in Murren.



around us. We had packed our overnight bags and were ready to spend the night at the Hotel Alpenruh, right by the Schilthorn Cableway station.

We had time after arriving and before leaving in the morning to look around in awe at the majesty of the mountain peaks, glaciers, and scenery surrounding us. We were treated to glimpses of the Eiger, Monch, and Jungfrau peaks. After enjoying another delicious dinner complete with a rich chocolate dessert, we anticipated our journey even higher up in the Alps the next morning.

- June Thompson



Wednesday

September 13, 2017

We were up and out early for a great breakfast adventure. After toting our luggage to the hotel lobby by 7:00 a.m., we headed for the cable car that took us up to the top of Mt. Schilthorn (elevation 2971 meters, 9748 ft.).

The trip was made in two cable car rides as we ascended vertically up the mountain. At Murren, we had a crystal clear view of the mountains, but as we traveled up, the clouds started to roll in. We were grateful to get that first glimpse of these spectacular mountains.

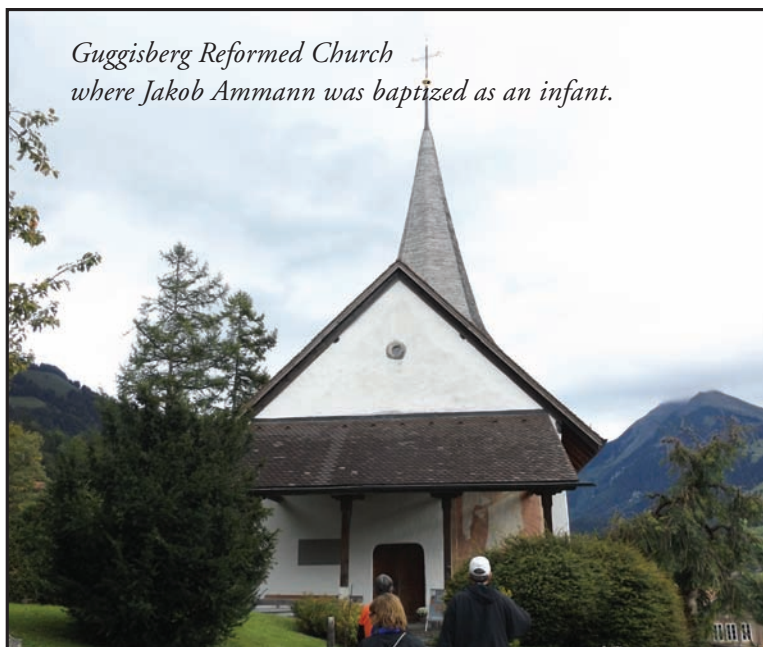
It was -2 degrees C at Murren and as we neared the top, it got colder and colder. Our heavy coats and gloves felt pretty good as we got out of the cable car. There was snow on Schilthorn and it was quite windy. Fortunately, we didn't have to be out in it long.

At the top, there is a revolving restaurant so that diners can enjoy the views in all directions. This was the site where the 007 movie "In Her Majesty's Service" was filmed in 1969 so there was a 007 theme throughout the building, including the restrooms.

We enjoyed a breakfast feast as we gazed at the views. The buffet included pancakes, waffles, fried potatoes, bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, breads, meats, cheese, pastries, fruit, yogurt, and cereal, as well as all sorts of beverages. If you went away hungry, it was your own fault. Lois Ann had us on the first car going up. We soon could see what a good plan that was, as the restaurant quickly filled with visitors. We had time to visit the gift shop and the 007 museum. It was interesting to read about the challenges of making the film in that treacherous environment.

It was 16 degrees C when we descended at 10 a.m. It took four cable cars to get us all that way down the mountain to Lauterbraun where we had started the day before. Since we were in a dead end canyon, we headed out the same way we came in yesterday. We got to enjoy the beautiful views again while Susan Pearce led in our devotions.

We arrived at Interlaken around 11:25, where we were turned loose to shop, find lunch, or just look around. This is a real tourist town and I had decided to do some



*Guggisberg Reformed Church
where Jakob Ammann was baptized as an infant.*



Frescoes in the Erlenchbach Reformed Church

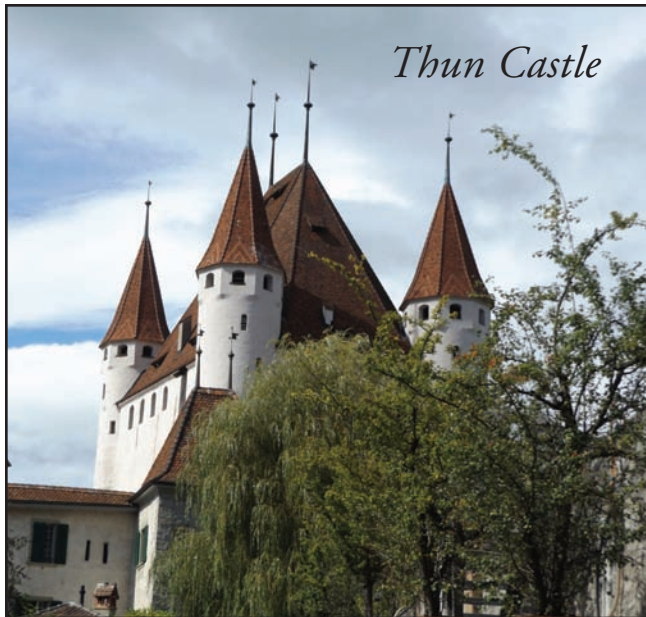
serious souvenir shopping there. We found some cute t-shirts for the grandkids and picked up some typical Swiss souvenirs for the family. We find that Switzerland is an expensive country to shop in. Because we spent so much time shopping, we grabbed a quick and familiar lunch at McDonald's. Everyone met at the bus by 12:45 and we headed up the Simmental Valley to Erlenchbach where we saw lush green valleys and hills and charming Swiss chalets everywhere.

Erlenchbach is the hometown of Jacob Ammann, the founder of the Amish sect. This was of particular interest to me because the Gnagi and Zook families were Amish when they immigrated. Jacob's family trade was tailoring. He was born and baptized in Erlenchbach but the family later moved to Oberhofen where he became an Anabaptist sometime between 1671 and 1680. He was ordained into the ministry sometime between his conversion and 1693. In 1693, he moved to Heidolsheim, Alsace, and then later on to the head of the valley at La Petite Liepvre, near Saint-Marie-aux-Mines, France.

The Beauty of Swiss Nature



Sign for ladies and men's restroom at the Mill where we ate lunch after visiting the Anabaptist Cave.



In 1712, he had to leave that area when Louis XIV made all the Anabaptists leave. His death date is unknown.

Jacob was originally part of the Swiss Brethren, but pulled away when he became involved with disputes with Hans Reist, another church leader. From what I've read, he had a stricter outlook on who was saved and how Christians should look and behave. In the course of the disputes, Ammann excommunicated Reist and then Reist excommunicated Ammann. Later, Ammon tried to reconcile with Reist, but Reist stood his ground and they never reconciled. Ammann's followers became known as the Amish and the Swiss Brethren became the Mennonites.

We had a hair-raising adventure at Erlenbach. Lois Ann had Steffan take the bus up a narrow winding road that went high up in to the hills to show us the approximate location of Jacob's birthplace. It was amazing to see the tiny villages that are located high up in those hills. Being in that actual location, I could appreciate what they had to give up for their faith. Our trip back down was just as hair-raising. Steffan was one cool-headed bus driver.

Back down in the village of Erlenbach, we visited the Reformed Church where Jacob was baptized in 1644. The interesting thing about this church were the *frescos* (paintings) on the walls that are being uncovered. All the churches were originally Catholic and their churches were very ornate with murals on the walls to teach the Bible stories. When the Reformation came along, the thinking was to take out the statues and cover the paintings to make the churches very plain. Fortunately in recent years, there has been a great interest in restoring these murals. I really enjoyed looking at them and imagining how the people



would learn from them. Before we left, we sang "How Great Thou Art" in the church and it sounded amazing.

We left the church around 2:10 p.m. and headed for Thun, where we visited a medieval castle built in the 1200s. Anabaptists were imprisoned there in the 1500-1600s, notably the Kaufmans and the Millers. The castle is quite picturesque and is used for various events, so it was in good repair. There were five floors and we had plenty of time to explore it top to bottom. Of special interest to us were the tower rooms, where the prisoners were kept in chains. The winding narrow stairs to the top were brutal, but worth the trip. The beam structure in the top floor was very impressive.

We were very fortunate with the weather today. In Interlaken, it was cloudy with some drizzly rain. But this afternoon, the sky was sunny and it got so warm we only needed sweaters at most. Quite a huge contrast from the freezing temperatures we had this morning.

When we left at 4 p.m., our hotel Stella de Lago was only 10 minutes down the road at Oberhofen am



Beautiful views out our hotel windows at Oberhofen along Lake Thun—this is where Jakob Ammann lived before moving to France.

Thunersee. Our room was small, but it had a balcony with a gorgeous view of the lake. I'm finding that the Swiss seem to live in smaller spaces than we are used to. I am also noticing that they are not wasteful. Every hotel does not have all the little shampoos, lotions, and soaps that are standard in American hotels. They have soap dispensers at their sinks and in the showers. We also noticed the lack of wash clothes and were happy that we brought our own.

After settling in, we were able to take a lovely walk along Lake Thunersee, enjoying the boats and the breathtaking scenery.

Dinner was at 6:30 p.m. in a large airy room in the hotel. The menu included a green salad, chicken breast in a mushroom sauce, mixed vegetables and pasta. For dessert, we enjoyed a vanilla custard topped with berries. A bonus for dinner was a yodeling group, who performed just for us. The group included 19 men of all ages in traditional black Swiss coats and white shirts. This group performs in competitions, which are a big event in Switzerland. I was impressed with their great harmony and yodeling skills and have gained a new respect for yodelers. They would be comparable to the barbershop groups in America.

- Linda Stahlman



Yodelers were great performing just for us after dinner!



**Thursday
September 14, 2017**

Weather: rainy, Temperature 70 F., strong wind and predicted temperature drop into the 50's. We departed from Oberhofen for the Steffisburg Reformed Church, Bern Canton Central Archives, and a destination to Sumiswald along the Emme River, and the Emmental region where the Zaugg family originated.

Agenda: continued focus on origin towns for early Anabaptists, introduction and presentation at the Bern Archives regarding resources for historical and genealogical research, and the beginning of our exploration of the

Emmental area with addition of several Swiss Zaugg relatives to our tour.

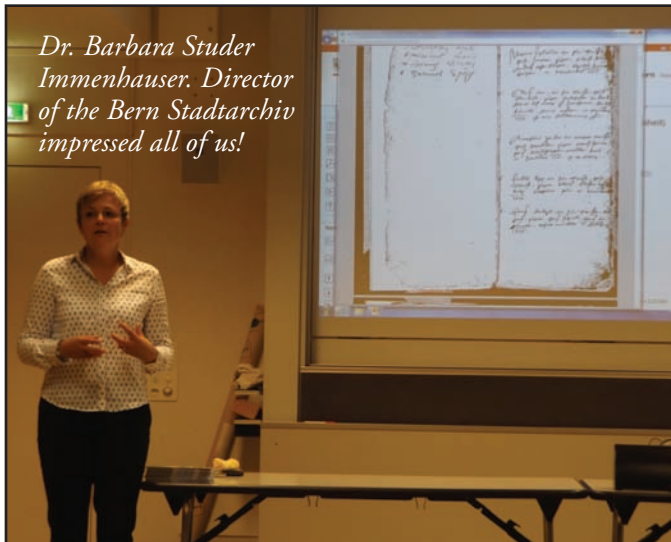
- Steffisburg Reformed Church: Records from 1500-1600 for families named Kaufman, King, Korth, Kolb, Kurtz, Lehman, Yoder, and Zaugg.
- This endearing and enduring church has continued to display founding family wooden crests on its outside walls. The Zaugg Crest was dated 1680. The church interior showed simplicity in well-used pews, continual use of a Ten Commandment wooden mural dated 1682. (Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule—life can be quite simple.) Three colored windows in the nave and



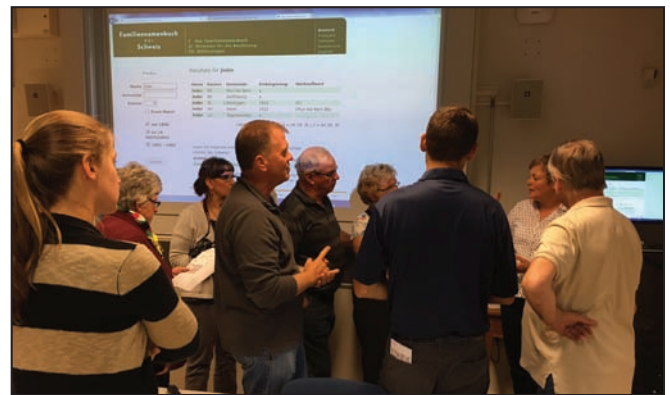
Above: 1682 artwork with leading citizen's names attending church at that time.

Right: Interior of the Steffisburg Reformed Church where our Blank, Brenneman, Kauffman, Koenig/King, Kolb, Kurtz, Lehman, Roth, Yoder, Zook, and other families attended church before becoming Anabaptist.





*Dr. Barbara Studer
Immenhauser, Director
of the Bern Stadtarchiv
impressed all of us!*



a piano were more recent additions. The simplicity and continued recognition of area founding families offered a counterpoint to the previous day's visions of chains and torture endured by our ancestors in Thun Castle.

- We sat in the pews while Paul Stahlman began playing the piano, and we finished our individual meditations singing "The Old Rugged Cross".
- Returning to the bus, we walked past an older house that belonged to the Hans Yoder family. It sits, empty now, with its green shutters.
- Personal note: my Kurtz family Swiss origins for Stephan Kurtz was Steffisburg. He was described as being a potter. The nearby Thun Castle museum showed many samples of locally made Majorca pottery. This distinctive pottery suggests that the potter's clay in this area was good and talented potters were drawn to this area.
- Morning Devotions by June Thompson was based on Ann Voskamp's book, *1000 Gifts*. She, at age four, witnessed the tragic death of her sister crushed by a truck.

The loss to family led to extreme isolation, depression, and often incomplete recovery for surviving family members. She relates her efforts for recovery journey in making a list each year of 1000 "gifts" she received. She prayed daily for strength and insight to "open her heart to receive "gifts"/positive influences, and the need to find thanks and acknowledge her own growth in overcoming daily difficulties.

As we drove north toward Bern and through several covered bridges, we were delighted with a gift of a rainbow to add to our day.

- Canton of Bern Central Archives presentation by the Director, Dr. Barbara Studer Immenhauser.
- Original material available included the original Church Registers and Baptism records in old German script dating back to 1115.
 - In 1939 with increased war fears and possible loss of records, a specific Archive was created and underground spaces were created.
 - In the 1990s, further efforts were made to digitalize this information and historian research can proceed over the internet as well.
 - She reviewed Swiss history regarding Canton power and custom as it related to Swiss use of baptism



The Zytglogge (clock) pictured on the right is a landmark medieval tower in Bern, Switzerland. Built in the early 13th century, it has served the city as guard tower, prison, and clock tower. Photo on the top right is the Aare River where many Anabaptist prisoners were placed on boats and shipped out of the country.

records for census and taxes (birth certificates are used today). Her review of church and state issues touched on the Reformation as allowing Cantons to accept a Protestant “Reformed Church along with the Catholic Church. However, control over Canton function in the 1500-1700 period was in the hands of only a few families and involved both church and state issues. She described “Taufert Issues” as a response to a rebellious segment that refused to participate in military service, taking oaths to the ruling families, and refusing to baptize babies within eight days of birth. The “crackdown” on Anabaptists was accepted as necessary and their punishment lawlessness justified expropriation of land and massive deportation. It is only in the last century that birth certificates rather than baptism became the census generator, and only members of their “official churches” are permitted certain benefits from the state. I did not grasp the extent of the differences between attendances in unofficial churches,

but today they can and do exist. Key point as I heard it is that Switzerland has never separated church from state.

- Three hours was set aside for independent exploration of the old town area of Bern for lunch, shopping, and watching the large mechanical display on the Clock tower. Bear sculptures in the street, and continued maintenance of live bears in the “Bear pit” were noted as we walked to our bus and departed from Bern.

- The Emmental region, surrounding the Emme River, was the originating area for the Zaugg family. Our destination, and home for the next four nights was the Landgasthof Bären Inn in Sumiswald, Switzerland. We all enjoyed our stay in this beautiful area.

- The addition of Hans and Amelia Zaugg as dinner guests brought us together with relatives currently living in Switzerland.

What a great day!

~ Roberta Kurtz, recorder



Werner and Christel Zaugg (left) and Hannes and Annamilly Zaugg (right) became our good friends as we enjoyed the Emmental region where our Zaugg ancestors lived and Zauggs still live today!





**Friday
September 15, 2017**

Psalm 50:10 “For every beast of the field is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.”

Today the cows come home—*Alpabfahrt* in Sumiswald, Switzerland. This is an annual descent—the time for the cows to come down from the high pastures before the snow really sets in. This age-old tradition has also become a tourist attraction. First the farmers come into town with their tractors and trailers. While waiting for their cows, there is an area with tables set up and volunteers cook and serve the farmers and town folks a piece of bread with *bratwurst* (a type of German sausage made from veal, beef, and pork) and a dab of mustard plus beer.

What an exciting festival where the whole town celebrates! Our hotel, Landgasthof Baren, Sumiswald, was right along the route where the cows came by.

Some of the gifts of this celebration today: beautiful weather, sounds of yodeling, sounds of people visiting, elderly brought in their wheelchairs, smiles, smells of country living, and finally the sound of distant cow bells getting closer and closer.

The sound reverberates around the valley, rhythmic clanging of cowbells, some bigger than the heads carrying them, almost all with flowers. Children carried signs designating which alpine pasture the cows were at: Alpweiden and Hirtenfamilien, the name of the herder families. For example: Alpweiden: Hinterarni and Hirtenfamilien: Familie Reist.

The cows are taken to a parking lot where the farmers are waiting with their tractor and trailer. What chaos in that area—the bells and flowers are taken off and the cows

are put into trailers. The cows are confused as to what they were to do.

At noon we left the town by bus to go to Trub. Mike Petersheim had the devotional and talked about the Solid Rock who is Jesus.

In a beautiful valley at Trub we visited the true Swiss Reformed Church and cemetery which was home to Herschi, Habecker, Moser, Droyer, Lehmann, Zaugg and Schwartzentruber families.

Our next stop was the organic farm of Simon and Regula Frankhauser, built by Christian Frankhauser in 1608 where we learned about the history of “The Hiding Place”—Tauferversteck—in their barn where Anabaptists were hidden from Bernese authorities.

Greeting us to the farm was a friend of the Frankhausers, Andreas/Andrew who was playing “Amazing Grace” on his alpenhorn. He has been playing the alpenhorn for 50 years, which is made of pine wood and can cost \$3,000. He also plays a pan flute.

Regula took us to the upstairs of the barn where twelve generations of Frankhausers have lived. There used to be a large smokehouse in the building and there were rooms constructed of heavy planks in which meat was hung. “The Hiding Place” was hidden among those rooms. The hidden trap door was straight ahead against the rear wall of the barn. The barn is a part of the dairy farm and house used today. The couple has made the lower part into a living farm museum and it houses displays honoring the Anabaptists of this area and their ancestors, the Frankhauser family.

Regula shared her moving testimony, knowing the Bible stories but she did not have a personal relationship

with Jesus Christ. After some tragedies in her family and asking “What kind of God are you?”, she saw the cross and what Jesus Christ did for her on the cross and she became a believer.

After walking down the lane to our coach, we stopped at the cow bell factory in Barau. The Glockengiesserei Berger at Barau is a bell foundry where every single bell is handcrafted. On request you can buy traditional Swiss bells with decorated logos as family crests and also bell straps costing from \$2.60 to \$1,125.00 Swiss francs.

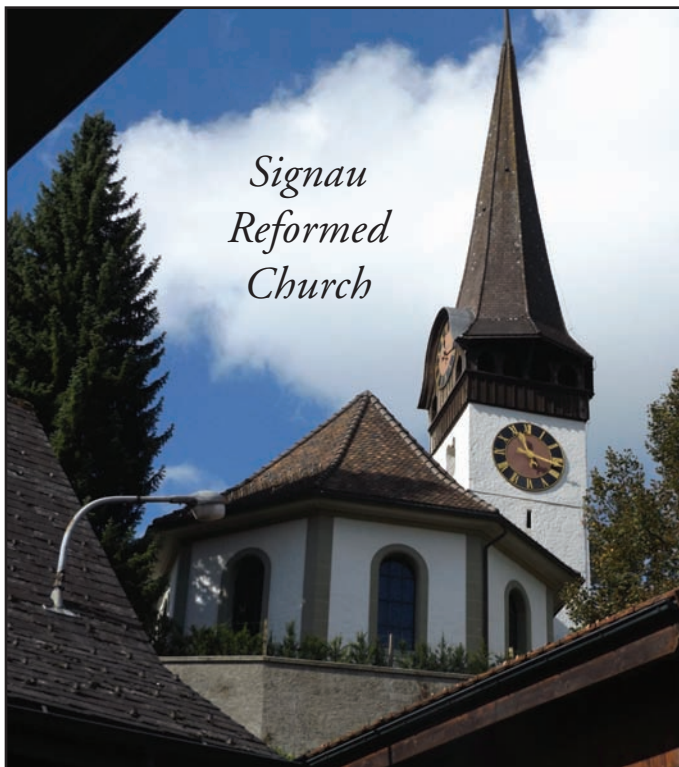
On our way back to the hotel we passed the Lehmann house.

Our Christian Swiss guests (who could speak German, French, and some English) joined us for dinner: Hannes and Annamilly Zaugg, Werner and Christel Zaugg and their son, Thomas Zaugg from Zurich and grandson Willy. It was a pleasure to meet them! Thomas was in America last year (2016) to attend the Zaugg/Zug/Zook/Zuck reunion held at Conestoga Mennonite Church in Morgantown, Pa. Thomas is a Swiss genealogist and had given a presentation about Zauggs at the reunion and shared it with us also.

Gute Nacht,

- Pearl Kurtz





**Saturday
September 16, 2017**

After a good nights rest and breakfast at our lovely hotel Landgasthof Baren in Sumiswald, we again board our bus skillfully driven by Steffan!

Today's devotional was led by Bev Whited titled "Enjoying the Journey." The message was timely and the key points were: 1) TRIALS: Habakkuk 3:17-18 2) HOPE: Jeremiah 29:11; 3) HUMILITY: Micah 6:8; 4) WISDOM: Proverbs 9:10; and 5) PEACE: John 16:33.

The message was to "PUT ON THE ARMOR"; THE GIRDLE OF TRUTH, the BREASTPLAE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, the SHOES OF PEACE, the SHIELD OF FAITH, the HELMET OF SALVATION, and take up THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT. She had wooden carved blocks engraved with this message for each of us on the tour.

We had the honor today of having Thomas Zaugg, a local genealogist ride the bus with us along with his son Willi. His commentary and conversations were insightful as we went throughout the day. Thomas works for Roush Diagnostics and has always had an interest in geneology.

Our journey today takes us on a drive through the Emmental where the Zauggs originated in Switzerland. The countryside is a vibrant green and beautiful, with electric fencing to manage the rotational grazing of the dairy herds. Noted as we travel, many of the towns' names start or end with "Emme." The picturesque Emme River

peeks at us frequently and delightful covered bridges are many.

Onward to Signau, where our bus was a bit too big and we went up to New Grat on a small bus where we saw only a foundation of where Hans Zaugg was documented as living when he was imprisoned in the 1600s as an Anabaptist minister. The trail was steep and wooded. On the homestead, there were quaint bee hives (*Honig aus*) and chickens. The hikers of the group went on about three miles over "hill and dale," which we were told was beautiful until the rain and hail came down. All were good sports and arrived safely at the end of their trek.

Now a stop at Langnau which is home to the oldest, continuous Mennonite church in the world, with its cemetery across the road. Simple beauty is seen in this place of worship.

Langnau is important in the Emmental with its production of bottled milk, yogurt, and cheese.

Well what a delight.... The KAMBLY COOKIE FACTORY. Yes we ate lunch, but then on to the endless cookie tasting and more difficulty of deciding what to buy and how to get it home! Kambly is family-owned by brothers. The factory is so important to the economy that a train station was built from Zurich to this tasty destination!

We arrived at the Trachselwald Castle which was built in 1200AD. It was amazingly intact and the prison cells where the Anabaptists were imprisoned in the 1500s and 1600s could still be seen, as was the window where the

persons were lifted up into the prison. Below the castle was the typical pastoral Swiss scene with belled cattle grazing.

Some history by Lois Ann, told us that in 1528 a bailiff was appointed and collected church taxes. Pastors reported to the bailiff. Hans Zaugg was taken to Italy and put on a galley ship but escaped and came back. “Lords” lived in castles and were responsible for the canton.

Our next stop was at the Hans Haslibacher home (a B&B). We were greeted by the owner and shown to a delightful family museum where the Haslebacher family history was nicely displayed along with artifacts of the area.

To end an amazing day, we were invited to the farm of Lottie Haslet. Paul and Bev had met her on Friday and she invited the group. The Masts had never visited here before, but I would suspect they will again. Lottie was the perfect hostess and had the gift of business promotion with a delightful smile! The farm milks 17 cows, has been in business many successful years as noted by the display of awards and bells. To her merit, they make cheese on site and market it from a delightful cellar. Tastes were consumed and business was good for Lottie this day and our heritage experience enhanced again.

On our way back to our hotel, Lemar pointed out the smallest train station in Switzerland. It appeared to be one room and when in operation one had to write their own ticket!

A FEW THIS AND THAT’S:

To build an “old style” Swiss home would cost around 1 million USD.

Transportation—All areas of Switzerland may be reached by bus or train. A 3-5 minute delay is a “big delay” says Mr. Zook. About 1 million people pass through Zurich each day.

School: K-6th grade. 7th – 9th grade. Then an apprenticeship or five years of University. University is “cheap” in the Canton.

Bears and Wolves roam freely without a passport. They are monitored and shot if become aggressive.

- Peg Schmidt



Lottie Haslet opened up her cold cellar to show us all her summer cheese that was made over the summer.



*Trachselwald
Castle*



**Sunday
September 17, 2017**

This was a special day for me as Rob was anticipating baptism in the Swiss Emme River. We first attended Sunday morning services at Langnau Mennonite Church, the oldest continuous Mennonite congregation in the world beginning in 1527/28. The congregation was persecuted through the years and could not meet in a building until 1888 when the first meetinghouse was constructed. Before that they met in the woods, homes, and barns as well as the nearby Dürsrüti where the *Taufersjagers* (Anabaptist hunters) could not find them.

Some of us walked through the cemetery and saw familiar names like Amstutz, Augsburg, Gerber, Hirschi, and Lehman.

The morning worship service was led by the youth who had spent a week at camp with other local youth, so we later learned that was why the church was so full. There were a lot of community youth and parents also in attendance, and they stepped up and helped serve a delicious lunch for everyone. Lois Ann had purchased five large fruit kuchen as well as donated several bags of Kambly cookies (including a large bag donated by Linda Stahlman as well), so there was plenty of food.

After lunch, Hans Zaugg led us in his car to a spot that he and his wife had located the day earlier where we could easily walk down to the Emme River for Rob's baptism. It was chilly, but John Zuck who along with Hans were officiating in the baptism did not seem to mind and Rob too was smiling.



Rob first gave his testimony and John baptized him with Hans leading in a powerful prayer. It was a memorable part of today!

Back on the bus, we all mediated on what was happening to each of us as a result of participating in this tour and how God had led us thus far. We felt blessed! Before returning to our hotel, we stopped at the Emmentaler Schaukäserei to see how cheese is made in an old 1741 cottage and also how it was made in a modern way today. Some of us purchased cheese to be brought back



home (as long as it is shrinkwrapped, customs permits it to come into the U.S.).

Before dinner, we gathered in a large meeting room in the hotel while Paul played the piano, we sang, and enjoyed some good old-fashioned songs including songs we sang as a child! Thanks too to Martha Glaze Zook who as a music teacher recalled many of the songs while Paul enjoyed accompanying! Lots of fun!!

For dinner tonight, we enjoyed what they called a Sunday roast with vegetables and potatoes, soup for an appetizer, and their traditional Emmental merange dessert with ice cream. Yummy!

- Bruce Peiffer



Monday September 18, 2017

Today is our last of ten days in Switzerland—now we will see what France is like here in Europe! But first at least half of the tour group is quite excited because we are headed for Aarau to see where Hans Gnägi lived before coming to America. This city is known for all its beautifully painted gables on the buildings. We enjoyed a good hour walking around the town—some got further





than others and got some amazing photos—thank you, Ruthy Kanagy!

Then it was on towards Basel where we stopped at Augusta Raurica, a Roman archaeological site where we got our group photo taken in the open-air theatre! It was a little rainy so we quickly got lunch with most of us enjoying *flammenkuchen* before boarding the bus again.

After a brief stop near the Swiss border where some of us used up the rest of our Swiss francs buying t-shirts, we were on our way again. About two hours later, we arrived at Obernai where we did some shopping, walking, exploring, and even riding a carousel. Dinner was delicious as usual before going to our rooms for the night.

- Lois Ann Mast

**Tuesday
September 19, 2017**

Two different pick-ups this morning (7:45 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.) since our group was in two different hotels last night. We left Obernai at 8:05 a.m., en route to Ringweilerhof, a bio-farm established in 1569 and owned by a Mennonite couple, Peter and Karin Schowalter—a surprise addition to our itinerary. Weather: cool and cloudy with light rain beginning about 8:12 a.m.

John Zuck gave the morning devotions with a captivating story of his travels to Barrow, Alaska, where he met an Inuit man, Roy Gayech, whom he befriended, and learned of Roy's sorrow over his son's untimely death. John's talk included verses from the Bible, I Peter 3:15, where Peter writes to persecuted Christians of the first century; then from I Thessalonians 5: 16-18, about keeping in tune with the Spirit of God, which had led John to talk with and help the Inuit man in his time of

need. John then passed out his handmade cherry wood honey spoons, to everyone's delight.

Other conversational sharings:

- Lemar described an Alsatian feast that he and Lois Ann had eaten on tour in 1990—soup, salad, a large plate of sauerkraut with sausages, topped with bacon.

- Lois Ann announced that Larry Pearce contributes to the quarterly journal, *Mennonite Family History*, which the Masts edit and publish.

- Steffan, our expert and very knowledgeable bus driver, informs us that as we head north to Germany, we go through the Bosphorus Mountains, with the Black Forest, or Schwarzwald, to the east and south.

- The white cows we see in France/Alsace are known as Charlet

- Linda Ansel provides some interesting history about English Quaker William Penn—in the mid 1600s. William Penn's father (William Sr.) was a very wealthy business man. The King of England, whose war with France had bankrupted him, borrowed money from Penn Sr. When the King could not pay it back, Penn asked for land in the New World as compensation. When William Penn Jr. came to America in 1682, having inherited this land from his father, he gave it away to families of immigrants who had come to "Penns Woods" fleeing persecution for religious beliefs. Penn also negotiated payment to the native peoples for the land the King had taken. He returned to England a pauper, unable to pay his debts, and died in prison.

- The Rittenhouse family, well-known in and around Philadelphia, were Mennonites who lived in Germantown, and became very wealthy from their papermill business.



Schowalter home at Ringweilerhof where Immigrant Nicholas Stoltzfus lived before coming to America.



We crossed over into Germany at 10 a.m., and arrived at the Schowalter farm about 10:15. We met Karin, who had prepared tasty treats for us—savory cheese and bacon biscuits and plum cake bars (excellent!). A bright red-orange batch of freshly harvested pumpkins lay neatly arranged on the terrace outside the house. Peter was unfortunately in a meeting and not free to join us. Karin explained the principles of their husbandry, then gave us time to explore her lush garden and greenhouse. Before we departed, we had a group photo taken in front of the farmhouse. We enjoyed walking back to the bus along a lovely tree-lined lane.

Before our next stop at Wilensteinerhof, we stopped briefly at the Klugschulemühle, the mill at Trippstadt where Christian Zaugg had leased a farm in 1688. The town of Trippstadt was where the three Zaugg (Zook) brothers (Johann, Christian, and Moritz) settled for a time before coming to America. We stopped at the farm Wilensteinerhof where the Zauggs took care of the





surrounding castle grounds, in addition to working at the mill. A few of us made our way down a path from the farmyard through the woods that led to Burg Wilenstein, the old castle ruins to where the Zaugg brothers escaped during times of battles or sieges.

We stopped for lunch at the roadside Bacherei Barbarossa in Kaiserslautern. Lois Ann had wisely called ahead so the staff were prepared to serve a busload of hungry travelers! They had a nice selection of soups, sandwiches, pastries and beverages.



Everyone came away satisfied and happy.

Our next stop was at Weierhof, formerly a monastery destroyed during the Thirty Years' War, and settled in 1682 by the Krehbiel/Kraybill and other Mennonite families fleeing persecution in Switzerland. It remains the oldest continuous community of Mennonite families in Europe. We were met by genealogist Gary Waltner, an American from North Dakota who had married a German woman while serving with PAX.





Massive Worms Cathedral built in 1018 with six towers and where Martin Luther was put on trial in 1521 and he responded, "Here I stand, God help me, I can do no other."

Gary oversees the Mennonite Historical Library and Archives. He shared with us information about historical publications such as *Martyrs Mirror* and other documents, including a wall map that showed migration paths of the Swiss brethren groups that left Europe for the Americas and Caribbean islands. He told us that there are approximately 70,000 Mennonites living in Germany today. Gary then took us on a tour of the local church and cemetery. The church key dated from 1837.



We boarded the bus once again to travel to Worms, our final destination for the day. On the way, Lois Ann gave us some information about the city, including the famous Worms Cathedral which dates from 1018 and the Martin Luther monument. We arrived at 4:15 p.m., and checked into the Dom Hotel. At 6:00 p.m. we gathered to have a "last supper" with our superb bus driver and friend, Steffan, and to give him a fond farewell for his 12 days with us. We also welcomed back-up driver Christian, who will complete the tour to Rudesheim and then deliver us to the Frankfurt airport for our journey home on Thursday.

After dinner, Lois Ann had us play a fun game of identifying each member of our group by a clue, and get the matching person to sign the paper below the clue. As each one of us completed the page of clues, we could claim a prize!
- Martha Glaze Zook

Wednesday September 20, 2017

The last full day of our tour ends with a relaxing journey up (but headed south) on the Rhine River. After we arrived in our departure town, St. Goar, we had about 45 minutes to walk the streets, hike up the hill to see the castle or do some shopping. It was a nice day today with the sun coming out some so it was not too cold. After we boarded the ship, we started to round the first bend when the story of Lorelei and its song started to play. The story is about a beautiful woman who sat on top of the cliff and distracted sailors who would turn the bend and run into the rocks.

On the cruise, we saw numerous castles, some restored and some in ruins. In the past when our Anabaptist ancestors traveled the Rhine River, they had to pay a fee at each castle. My thoughts have to wonder how much money they needed, where they got it all, and what happened if they ran out?

Mike and I spent some time on the top deck as there was a little playground conveniently located. Then we settled in at a table in the front for a delicious lunch of salad and brats. We enjoyed the beautiful scenery of mountains, vineyards, old towns, and castles. The vineyards stretched on both sides of the river and many appeared to be incredibly steep. There were stone walls running all along the vineyards, horizontally the whole way up the mountains. It is unfathomable how much work was required to build them all and how long it all took.

The river cruise lasted about three hours and ended in Rudesheim where we spent the night. Rudesheim is positioned right along the river with vineyards stretching



Eating dinner at Worms



Grape vineyards overlooking Rudesheim—our last night in Europe.

up behind it. The town has many shops, restaurants, and vineyards to explore. Some of us ventured up on a small cable car over the vineyards to a local monument overlooking the area. From up there we could see all around, and lucky for us, it was clear! There were also several trails to take at the top.

Dinner was fantastic (as they all were!) We finished the meal with a Happy Birthday cake for Bev—a wonderful chocolate cake with chocolate icing!

Tomorrow, we fly home!

- Liz Petersheim



Our last dinner in Europe also included a birthday cake celebration for Bev!



The Täuferhöhle (Anabaptist Cave)—site of our first Sunday morning worship service in Switzerland.