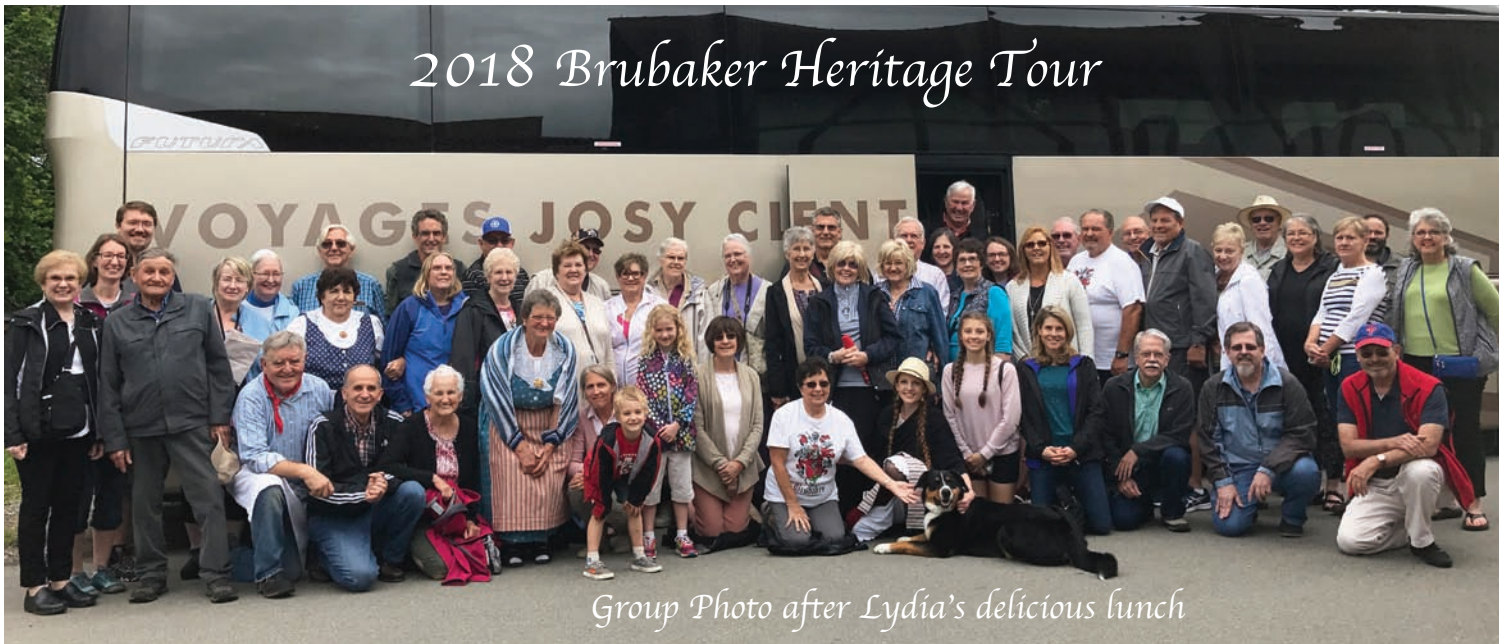




Walking to Dürsrüti on the
2018 Brubaker Heritage Tour
to Switzerland, France, and Germany

2018 Brubaker Heritage Tour



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Thank You to each person on this Tour who helped to make beautiful connections and memories!

Thanks too for contributing your photos to this Journal!



After landing in Germany, our first stop was at Schriesheim, Germany, and we walked the old part of town in the rain—actually one of the very few days it rained during our whole trip! Schriesheim was the birthplace of Alexander Mack—founder of the Church of the Brethren.

Monday-Tuesday, June 11-12, 2018

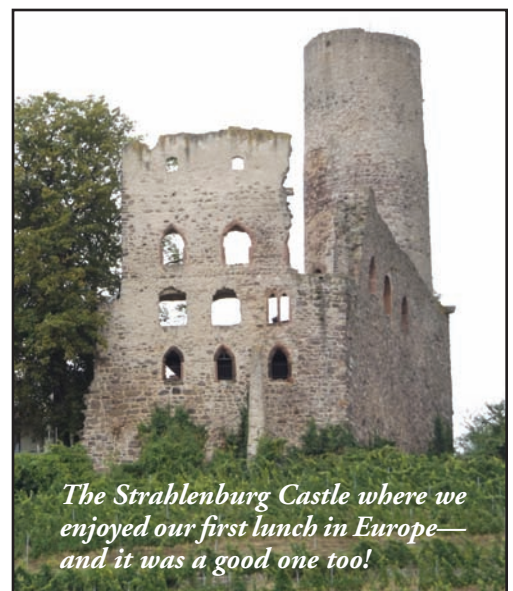
Today finally arrived and the anticipation was high as 36 of the 46 persons registered for the “Brubaker Heritage Tour” gathered in Morgantown to begin our journey! It is always rewarding to meet on this first day with few persons knowing each other but soon become a close family as we travel together the next two weeks.

Following a light lunch with some explanations made by Lois Ann, we were soon boarding our Elite Bus and headed up the Turnpike for the Newark Airport. There we met six more of our group and were eager to meet the final four in Germany!

Most of us only caught an hour or two of sleep due to dinner being served so long after talk-off on our Lufthansa Airline, so the 7.5-hour flight seemed short and before we knew it, we were awakened for breakfast before landing in Frankfurt. Upon arriving on German soil, we met Stefan who led us to our Clement Bus—home for the next two weeks.

Everyone cooperated so well and we were soon on our new bus and headed down the autobahn for Schriesheim—our first stop for the morning. This town is where Alexander Mack (1679-1735) was born—Mack was the founder of the Church of the Brethren. His parents were millers, the son of Johann Phillip and Christina (Fillbrun)

Mack who were one of the few survivors of the Thirty Years War in this town. Only one male from each of the 23 families in this town survived the War, but two adult Macks survived—one of which was Alexander’s father.



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



Some of our group walking back to our hotel (a view from an upstairs hotel window) from either shopping or walking up to the Triberg waterfalls.

We enjoyed stretching our legs and walking through the old part of town seeing old buildings before going up to the Strahlenburg Castle overlooking the town of Schriesheim. Here was enjoyed a delicious lunch of either sausage or soup. The castle is still 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 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 early—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



Willi Bächtold and Chrigi Eckhardt welcomed us to the Täuferzimmer in the Schleithem Museum in Schleithem, Switzerland. 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 they and their families were forced to leave for their faith.

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

We woke up at the hotel in Triberg, Germany—for most of the group, the prior night had been our first “real night’s sleep” in Europe, but this morning many were still feeling jet lag! We enjoyed our first European breakfast at the hotel—complete with endless rolls, cheeses, teas, coffees, juices, and even scrambled eggs. But time was a-wasting, and Lois Ann had a big day planned for us. We packed up the bus and headed off to Schleithem, Switzerland.

In Schleithem, we visited the church and the museum. The museum had a room dedicated to Anabaptism, and the museum guide enjoyed telling us how the name Bruppacher is pronounced in different regions of Switzerland and Germany. A copy of the Schleithem Confession which outlined the original Anabaptist beliefs was on display.





write a story about our family history tour for a local newspaper.

The lunch itself was a big hit—we enjoyed delicious Elderflower tea, barley soup, bratwurst, and homemade bread. For dessert, we enjoyed fruit salad and homemade Brezli cookies. All of this was served to us by Lydia, her daughter, and an assortment of family members and friends. Afterwards, we were invited to tour Lydia's home while she entertained many of us with assorted stories and quips about her life and friendships.

As we drove away in our bus, feeling full and blessed—until the

shocking realization came about that we had forgotten to pay Lydia for our lunch! Lest that become the local headline news story, we immediately turned around to make good on our bill.

After clearing our names with Lydia (who said Lois Ann could have waited until next May when she returns), we then continued on to Kappel am Albis, where we would stay for the next three nights. I was especially pleased with this shot I got of the grounds at Kloster Kappel (photo below), where we stayed.

~ Joy Kraybill



Next, we made a short stop at the Rheinfall near Schaffhausen, Switzerland, to see the waterfalls.

And then we drove on to Ossingen, for what would be a trip highlight for many: Lunch at Lydia and Hans' home near Ossingen!

We were immersed in more nativity scenes than we had ever seen. We also had the opportunity to view crafts being made on-site by local craftswomen, and some of us made purchases. There was even a news reporter at the lunch, who planned to



In search of the Baptist roots

A tour group from the USA visited in the region places of their Anabaptist ancestors. The "Brubaker clan" made a stop on Wednesday in Ossingen, in the courtyard of Lydia Flachsmann.



In the footsteps of their ancestors: The "Brubaker clan" from the USA visited the farm of Lydia Flachsmann near Ossingen on his journey. Image: Johanna Bossart

The huge travel car looks out of place in the narrow streets of the hamlet Burghof, a collection of farmhouses outside of Ossingen. The car maneuvers effortlessly around the tight bends and then stops. Around fifty people of all ages get out and occupy the narrow village street, equipped with rain jacket and camera. For example, Demas Brubacher, pensioner, tanned, shorts, a white T-shirt, on the pseudo-medieval font the reason for the trip emblazoned: "Brubaker Heritage Tour 2018". The tour group from the United States belongs to the clan of Bruppacher, the Zurich region have emigrated to the USA. Descendants of these emigrants - some write to Bruppacher, others Brubacher or Brubaker - have registered for this two-week trip to Switzerland and Alsace,

New beginning as Amish (Mennonite)

Like many Anabaptist families in the 17th century, the Bruppachers fled from persecution and oppression and emigrated via Alsace to the USA, where as Mennonite people, some still retain their own, very traditional way of life and their own language, a kind of Old High German.

In strict faith, the tour group, who in Burghof admired the beautiful timber-framed houses, no one, but all come from a traditional religious environment. Some grew up in Amish communities, such as Lydia King. As a teenager, she decided to live a more (mundane) life. "That's quite unusual, especially because I still have a good relationship with my parents," she says. She had made the trip to Switzerland at the request of her parents. "They absolutely wanted me to see where our family came from." This is how many people feel: "Here are our roots."

Claudia Peter. 06/15/2018

Barley soup and folklore

Ossingen is a short stop between the Täufermuseum in Schleithem and the Täuflhöhlen on the Bachtel. On the courtyard, the group is welcomed by Lydia Flachsmann. Flachsmann herself has Anabaptist roots. With pastors, she traveled to a so-called Reconciliation tour in the U.S., to discuss the persecution of the Anabaptists in order for reconciliation. There, Flachsmann met Mennonite Lois Ann Mast who has been organizing travel groups to Switzerland for 29 years.

The lunch on the castle courtyard is a fixed program every year: "The Hospitality that we experience from Lydia is wonderful," says Mast. Flachsmann, who also runs a bed and breakfast and a nativity museum in the yard is hostess in her element. Barley soup, sausages, and Elderberry tea picks them up, as well as some folklore. Lydia and her daughter and some friends all wear traditional costumes. The guests are thrilled, use their cameras and buy the straw handicrafts offered in the farm shop. Stan Brubaker says, "It's nice to be so welcome in the land of my ancestors!"

"The interest in getting to know Switzerland and the places where our ancestors lived is huge in the U.S.," says Mast. "The Brubaker Tour was long-booked in advance, and next year, she plans to stop by in Ossingen with two more groups."





Thursday, June 14, 2018

After two days of clouds and some light rain, we awoke to a day of sunshine and mild, lovely weather. We enjoyed a Swiss breakfast of cereals, yogurt, juice, cheese, meat, breads and coffee in the “cellar” of the Kloster Kappel. This monastery hosted debates between Zwingli, Conrad Grebel, Felix Manz, and George Blaurock in the beginning of the Anabaptist movement ca1525.

Our daily devotions was held today in the Kloster church by Jim Brubaker of Lewisburg, Pa., and the singing and speaking resonated naturally within the ancient stone walls of this building. Then we boarded our luxury bus driven by Stefan who was not only a skilled driver but very accommodating and a friend to all of us. We learned that fuel was about 1.75 Swiss francs a liter which exchanges to between 7-8 USD. Everything costs more in Europe.

Our first stop was at the hamlet of Brubacher in the area of Horgen/Hirzel. We walked half a mile up the Brubacherstrasse—a narrow, scenic road to the hamlet consisting of a few buildings where we took photos of the signs with the name Brubacherstrasse on the building. This was exciting as it is one of the homeland places of origin of the Brubakers in the U.S. (and other Anabaptist genealogy family lines such as Hans Landis).

Comments Presented by Christian Bruppacher:

“Biblical Instruction” in January 1525 in the house of Arnold Maurer assisting Felix Manz and Blaurock, Hans Bruggbach from Zumikon being baptized by Felix Manz with a dipper. Two days later and two houses further down, in the house of Hans Murar, Ueli/ Ulrich Bruppacher (with others) is baptized by parson (minister) Johannes Brötli. These two Bruppachers seem to be brothers and both were imprisone (together with other Anabaptists) in Zurich. Hans was freed only months later in May 1530, after having “resigned.”

In Herrliberg today, there is a Hasenackerstrasse, and we know that Bruppachers were originally from the hamlet of Hasenacker (formerly called Berghof). Bruppachers received their name from the word Bruggbach—a small creek with a bridge near their home, meaning “creek with a bridge.”

In the 14th Century, this family names was known only in Erlenbach (and the surrounding area). It then expanded to other communities in the Meilen district and from 1550 on, we find the name alson on the left side of Zurich Lake in an around Wädenswil (spelled Brupbacher).

Today, there are Brupbachers living at Herrliberg, Hirzel, Meilen, Schönenberg, Üetikon am See, and

(since 1509 from Wädenswil). Swiss residents who spell their name as Bruppacher live today in Hirzel, Horgen, Küsnacht, Richterswil, “ëtikon am See, Uster, Zollikon (my family), and Zurich (ony since 1814).

The different forms of Bruppacher are not only used as family surnames, but also found on maps dominating geographical sites (field names, hamlets, wine-yards, forests, etc.)

There is a hamlet called “Bruppacher” in Horgenberg, and another one in that neighborhood at “Stocken” in Wädenswiler-Berg. From that hamlet, Peter Bruppacher (m. Anna Pfister) was driven away by the Zurich government about 1640 for being a Mennonite. After imprisonment in the Oetenbach-Prison in Zurich (he and or his descendants) found their way to the Alsace, the Palatinate, and finally the New World. In 1633, we have the first proof of a Brupbacher as an Anabaptist in Wädenswil/Horgenberg.

The first mention of our surname on the east side of the Lake is in an early document concerned a Heinrich/Heini Brugbach living with a sister about 1333/34 in the hamlet of Breitwil (Herrliberg) and today is Kittenmühle. Two hundered years later in 1552, a Hans Bruppach is mentioned living at Wädenswil.



It is beautiful, rolling countryside like much of Pennsylvania and other areas of the German Palatinate. The current Brubaker name has come through other spellings such as Brubacher, and the older Bruppacher which is common today in Switzerland. The written language is German in Switzerland and pronounced with a Swiss dialect. The Pennsylvania Dutch dialect in the New World originated in the Palatinate area of Germany.

We were privileged to have Christian Bruppacher and his wife, Meta, join us for two days. They live in Winterthur, but their heimat is at Zollikon across the Zurich Sea (lake). While traveling, he read from a best seller book titled *Swiss Watching* by Diccon Bewes (2012) entertaining us with fascinating current Swiss culture.

Then we drove a short distance down along the Sea to Wadenswil where many of our Anabaptist forefathers dating back to ca1335 came from Zollikon across the Lake ca1560. Lake Zurich sits nestled with rolling low mountains on its east and west sides. It is absolutely beautiful and must have been hard to leave because of religious persecution. From here in Wadenswil, Anabaptists were taken to Zurich to stand

trial for their faith and were fined and even imprisoned.

We crossed the Lake on a very efficient ferry from Wadenswil (west) over to Meilin (east side) and enjoyed lunch at a Migros Store with an excellent choice of hot and cold foods plus other items resembling a mix of a department store and supermarket. All enjoyed this experience. Lake Zurich lies in a mostly north/south configuration and the Limmat River drains the lake at Zurich to the north. The west side is on the left side and the east side is on the right. We now were on the East side and at Zollikon.

Zollikon marks the official place of the beginning of the Anabaptist movement. In 1525, a farmer named Hans Bruggbacher and his brother were ones of about 30 who asked for baptism. A week earlier on January 25, 1525, George Blaurock (1491-1529) had performed baptism in Zurich and now came to Zollikon along with Felix Manz to share with believers—this became the beginning of the first Anabaptist church. Two days later, some were imprisoned in Zurich by Zwingli because of this meeting where baptisms were held.

We were guided by Christian Bruppacher up side streets to 25 Gstadtstrasse to the very spot where this first group met (see photo on the next page). Christian read the historical account. The building is under renovation,



Left: plaque in Zollikon: “The idea of a free-church movement was realized in Zollikon for the first time by the Anabaptists. In this house, one of the first meetings was realized on January 25, 1525.”—Translated by Christian Bruppacher.

but we read the plaque on the outside wall stating the beginning of the “free church movement.”

This is an important moment in history as this “beginning” finds its culmination in the religious freedoms we espouse in America today.

Next we drove the short distance up to the Kittenmühle—currently a restaurant, but the building is

the original mill along the river that marks the place where we have the first mention of a Bruggbach name dating back to 1335. It means Brugg (bridge) and Bach (person). The person’s place of origin was his place of baptism. The place was at Hasenacker (the mill creek began up in that area) and Kittenmühle is the name of the mill. It seems the first known Brubakers hailed from here.

Christian Bruppacher, who has lived here all his life, explained that a person named Bruggbach was listed on the tax roles. There is no indication he owned or worked in the mill. We had a lot of discussion about which of two locations was the actual “bridge over the stream” as we walked along the old Roman road connecting from Italy. Two bridges were identified about 200 meters apart. The second one further from the mill seems to be the one. Lots of photos were taken. Christian and others have been doing research on this location. At any rate, we were close to where we came from and enjoyed the event and went into the mill for refreshments. We want to thank Christian and Stefan for their good guidance in bringing us here.

Crossing the Lake again by ferry, we returned to Kloster Kappel for the night. The fish dinner and fellowship in the “cellar” was uniquely enjoyable.

An added privilege for me and a few others was to walk the half mile to view the battlefield and monument to Ulrich Zwingli who died in 1531 in the battle between the Reformed and Catholic forces. A struggle that has resulted today in a somewhat peaceful existence between the Reformed and Catholic churches identified with a rooster and cross respectively on their church steeples.

- Demas Brubacher





Kittenmühle Now . . . and in the Past





Our devotionals when we stayed at Kappel were given in the church—here Kathy, Caleb, Kaylee, and David were singing in Latin before Jim Brubaker (Lititz) shared a devotional.

Friday, June 15, 2018

After spending three nights at the Kloster Kappel located near where Ulrich Zwingli died while fighting against the armed Catholic Militia in 1531, we set out for one of our most memorable days of our European Heritage Tour.

Our morning devotional was led by Jim Brubaker of Lititz, Pennsylvania. He shared the passage from 1 John 3:1-2, which talks about followers of Christ who are called “children of God.” Lois Ann and Lemar’s friend, Jürg Wildermuth, a Swiss pastor accompanied us on our bus today—along with Christian and Meta Bruppacher again.

Following Jim’s morning meditation, Christian Bruppacher shared characteristics of our Swiss cousins

living in Switzerland. This included a history of the origin of muesli, the various types of cheese found throughout Switzerland, and the tasty Swiss chocolate. Christian, a retired history and linguistics teacher, gave as a lesson on the structure of the governing bodies in Switzerland today. It was interesting to note that the Swiss governing power is equivalent to the House of Representatives and Senate in the USA. However, the president of Switzerland changes annually, but has no decision-making power. All laws are created and approved by the legislative bodies.

Our morning drive took us to the east side of Lake Zurich or as the Swiss would say “to the right side of Lake Zurich.” There we hiked to the Anabaptist Cave located near the village of Bäretswil. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the cave allowed our cousins to





Our walking tour of downtown Zurich included the St. Peter Church that has the largest clock face in Europe. Until 1911, the church tower was used as a fire watch post. The outer diameter of each of the four church clocks measures 28.3 feet—the minute hand is 18.8 feet, and the hour hand is 16.6 feet.

worship in secret since their faith was considered illegal and potentially threatening to the structure of the Swiss government. Demas Brubacher's meditation at the Cave included the significance that the Anabaptist movement had upon the eventual creation of governments that were designed to maintain a clear separation between the church and state.

This was the third time I visited the cave. Each time I had to reflect on the commitment and passion that my forefathers and mothers had in living Christ-filled lives with strong unwavering faith which included putting themselves at risk for persecution by the state. What a strong and compelling faith!

After our visit to the Anabaptist Cave, we enjoyed lunch at the nearby sawmill prepared by Hans-Jakob Pfenninger—it was pleasant eating outside.

Then we traveled to the city of Zurich—the birthplace of Anabaptism in 1525. We had many opportunities to visit historical sites in the city. This included the Fraumunster Cathedral (Women's Cathedral) across the Limmat River from the Grossmunster Cathedral which is



Plaque showing the site along the Limmat River where Anabaptist Felix Manz was drowned for his faith.



the Reformed Church of Switzerland. This was the church that Ulrich Zwingli served until his untimely death in 1531. We visited the sites where the early Anabaptists, Felix Manz was drowned in 1527 and Hans Landis was beheaded in 1614. Interestingly, some school students were also waiting in line to view the Felix Manz plaque—Swiss students are now taught Anabaptist history.

We were also privileged to visit an archeological dig site (*pictured above*) under the city of Zurich that took place in the early 1930s. This site uncovered the architectural work during the Roman empire with influences between 300 BC to 400 AD. Following the Roman Empire influences, the archeological findings demonstrated the architecture of Germanic influences in the buildings of the Zurich city. The tourist guide went on to say that before



International Bruppacher/Brubaker Reunion



the influences of the Roman empire, this area was inhabited by persons from the Celtic communities, but there wasn't sufficient funding to continue the exploration of the site. The guides' comments about the Celtic influence was of special interest to me since my DNA is primarily Celtic as is many of the Swiss immigrants to the USA.

The highlight of this memorable day culminated in an evening celebration with ten of our Swiss cousins including Christian and Meta Bruppacher who had spent the last three days with us.

Our evening began with a performance by two alpine horn players and an opportunity for the tour members to blow an Alpine horn. After sharing an evening meal with our Swiss cousins, we spent time getting to know our invitees by sharing experiences and interests.

Hedi Bruppacher-Jakober, who previously attended a similar Brubaker celebration in 1985, suggested that the Swiss attendees sing several popular Swiss songs. She quickly made photocopies of the music she wanted to sing. It sounded beautiful, even though I did not understand all the words. I observed that Christian appeared to be very engaged in singing the music with much gusto. The evening ended by members of our touring group sharing a number of gifts with our Swiss cousins including Lois Ann presenting Christian and Meta Bruppacher with a homemade quilted wall hanging in appreciation for their spending three days with us here in Switzerland.

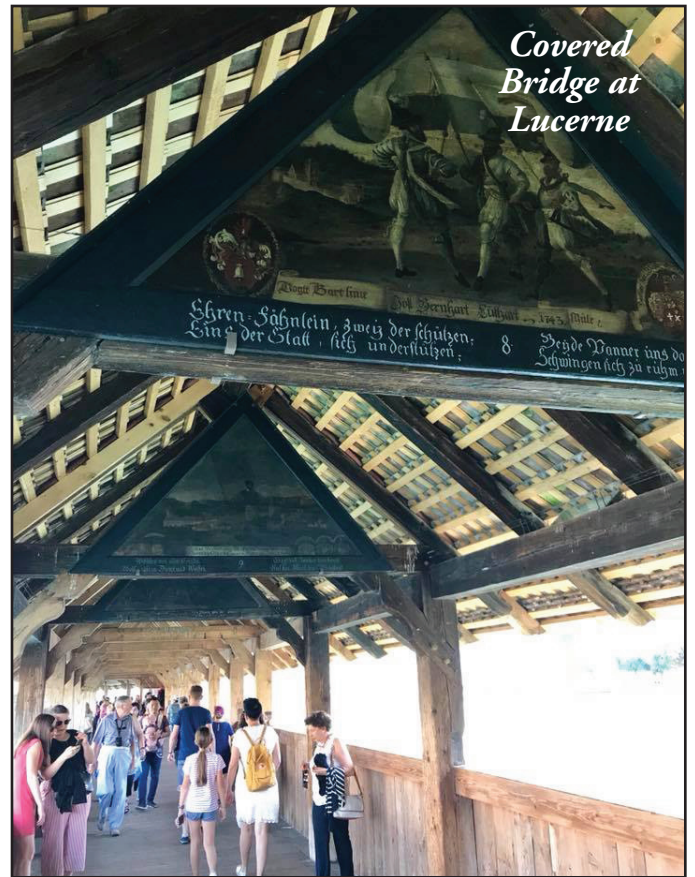
The celebration with our Swiss cousins began at 5:30 p.m. and the last Swiss cousins left at 10:30 p.m. I am sure that our Swiss cousins enjoyed the five hours together as much as our tour group did!

- Kenneth Brubaker

Saturday, June 16, 2018



Einsiedeln



Covered Bridge at Lucerne

It is another beautiful day under the clear blue sky with the snow-capped Alps rising in the distance. In contrast, an all-too-familiar McDonald's arch appeared soon after leaving Kappel. Sheep, goats, and cows navigated the steep hills. Half-timbered houses dotted the landscape.

As we traveled today, Demas led devotions from Luke 10:20 and suggested that God is in the genealogy business. Later, after a visit to a Catholic church, he would enlighten us on the symbolism in the church. In addition, as we traveled, group members shared conversations they had with the local Brubaker cousins whom we enjoyed dinner with the previous evening and the McClure family shared their favorite jokes.

Our first stop was at Hirzel. Here was the beautiful half-timbered Hans Landis house dating before 1500. His farm and many others were confiscated by the persecuting authorities in this heavily-populated Swiss Brethren area. Fortunately, they used the money to build a church for the town's people. It was appropriate that we sang "Amazing Grace" in this church. Interestingly, several persons with familiar names (Landis, Houser, and Nageli) were scheduled to be confirmed at the church on the following day. We saw the house where Johanna Spyri, author of the book *Heidi*, lived here in

Hirzel.

From Hirzel, we went on to Einsiedeln, the site of a monastery founded in 934. What a contrast the church was to the Reformed Church we had just visited. We will remember the church for its abundant gold, the black Madonna in the small chapel where a service was being held, and the two black crows high up in the front of the church. Lemar told us the story of the crows.

In 828, a priest from Zurich became a monk and came to the area to meditate. Many gifts were given to him, gifts that he gave away because his goal was to be rich in the Spirit. Apparently, though, some thieves assumed he was rich in possessions and killed him to obtain his riches. Tradition says the monk's pet crows then chased the thieves the whole way back to Zurich. When the local folks found the dead monk, they executed the thieves. They also memorialized the crows in the church when it was rebuilt in the 1700s. The small chapel was built to honor the original priest/monk. The church is a stop on St. James Way, which Catholic pilgrims travel through Spain, France, and Switzerland. Zwingli spent several years at this church.

From there we went to Lucerne along Lake Lucerne, or Vierwaldstättersee in German for a lunch break and since it was Saturday, there was a farmer's market in town. On the way to Lucerne, we passed Mt. Pilatus where

Pontius Pilate supposedly retired and died.

In Lucerne, we walked across the wooden chapel bridge with its painted gables that tell the story of the city. The destructiveness of a fire in the 1990s was visible in the gables. After shopping at the farmer's market or eating lunch at cafes along the water, we drove into the Emmental where many Swiss Brethren lived.

As we entered the Emmental, we saw a number of covered bridges as well as many familiar Mennonite names on businesses. That night we slept at Panoramahotel Lüderenalp in the Emmental.

- Mark & Beryl Brubaker

Sunday, June 17, 2018

Our morning began with breakfast at the hotel. We were delighted to find small, jelly-filled doughnuts among the buffet options. During breakfast, we looked out across the mountains, and saw cows grazing at various precarious angles on them.

Stefan: *Do you know how the cows up here are different?*

Me: *No.*

Stefan: *They have shorter legs on one side.*

And with that, we set off for what would be a fairly intense day. Our first stop was to walk the grounds at Langnau Mennonite Church, the oldest Mennonite church in the world that is still in operation. We walked across the street to look at their graveyard and saw many familiar surnames—it felt like we could have been in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

We drove up a hill to Dürsrüti where we had our morning service in the bus. Kathy shared reflections of Father's Day. I led a few songs in memory of my Uncle Mark Brubaker Kraybill who was a cousin to many of us on the trip. Dr. Ken Brubaker



Regula Fankhauser sharing at the Täuferversteck—entrance to the hidden room is in the lower right hand corner of this photo.

led us in a prayer. And Hannes Zaugg shared some words with us, as well.

Most of us got off the bus, and walked into the woods where Anabaptists had once worshipped in secret. We sang “Amazing Grace,” and prayed together.

Then we drove through Eggiwil past a church that had been purchased with funds taken from Anabaptists.

For lunch, we stopped at the Kambly Cookie Factory in Trubschachen! We may have gone overboard on the unlimited free samples of cookies! I was even accused of not being a real Brubaker, because I had the nerve to choose a number of non-chocolate cookie samples. While we were eating, we enjoyed a spontaneous choral presentation by some locals who sang after Dwayne Wrightsman struck up a conversation with them. They were from near Zurich.

Next, we drove to the Täuferversteck. Nestled in a farm along a hillside, we were greeted by Alpenhorn music, and then by our hostess, Regina Fankhauser. Regina showed us the impressive exhibit she has developed over the years, in their barn. She also shared a rousing testimony from her own life with us. After her sharing, we could tour the actual hiding place, which after much discussion, we determined was situated behind the “meat packing room” in the barn.

Our last stop of the day was at Trachselwald Castle (pictured above)





where many Anabaptists were held in prison. We returned back to the hotel for dinner. All in all, this was one of the more intense days of the trip, given the number of stops related to Anabaptist persecution.

- Joy Kraybill

Monday, June 18, 2018

We left the beautiful mountain retreat, Ludernalp, at prompt 8:00 a.m. The weather was clear, although it looked as if it might rain. Sitting in the very front seat of the bus proved to not be as harrowing as I had imagined it might be. I actually enjoyed watching Stefan, our very trusted and competent bus driver, navigate the narrow road to the bottom. Fortunately, we did not meet any oncoming vehicles to pass. Although I was distracted by the views, I do remember conversation around me about



bus drivers being prohibited from drinking on the job.

Stan Brubaker gave an inspiring talk about pilgrimage and told of his and wife Lori's trip to the Holy Land. I recorded this idea: "No one can receive anything but that which is given from heaven." I took this lovely thought with me throughout the day.

Beryl Brubaker led the singing of "In The Garden" and "Were you There?"

By 8:45 a.m., we arrived at the cowbell factory, Glockengiesserei Berger. This small shop filled with all kinds of Swiss bells is an industry that had been in the family for three generations. The small space echoed with the noise of numerous bells tested with curiosity before making decisions to purchase.

We passed the town of Zäziwil where the Kraybills/Graybills originated. I noticed many school children with helmets on bikes taking a morning ride with their class.

Then we stopped in Bern, the capital city of Switzerland, which means Bear. Many stopped to watch the famous clock announce the hour and/or tour the Neo-Gothic Cathedral. (Construction began in 1421 and was completed in 1893 with a 300-foot bell tower.) I meandered down a side street and discovered the Einstein Café, and decided to relax with a strong coffee in the sunshine and watch an array of smartly-dressed locals enjoy the wonderful Swiss coffee and animated





Rides in Ballenberg

Lake Thun with brilliant blue/green waters of glacial origins.

Our stop for the night was the lovely lakeside town of Brienz. Upon arriving we were treated in the café across the street from our hotel to a concert of two musicians dressed in traditional costumes playing accordion, spoons, sticks, and alphorn. Dinner was a fine affair with courses of split pea soup, salad, and traditional cheese fondue, and fruit salad for dessert. After dinner some walked up to the waterfall, while the rest of us headed happily and wearily off to bed!

- Dianne Brubaker

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

conversation.

After our visit to the city of Bern, the landscape slowly changed from city streets and traffic to forests and hillsides. We began to pass small towns with pretty houses that had white bottoms and brown tops, and the now familiar red geraniums in window boxes. We travelled through long tunnels with exit signs every few meters, and SOS stations with telephone symbols. We soon caught our first glimpses of the magnificent Swiss Alps.

We arrived at Ballenberg, an open-air museum, an expansive park with more than 100 historic buildings brought in from all over Switzerland. Some of our group took a horse-drawn wagon tour of the grounds while others walked. Over lunch, military jets thundered overhead and the waiter told us not to be alarmed as it was just the normal military practice done on Mondays and Thursdays!

On the road again, a sign said we were entering the Jungfrau Region. Now we were travelling beside





Our first stop was at the Steffisburg Reformed Church built in 1862. In the sanctuary, there is an impressive depiction showing 28 coat of arms representing the families in the area. The middle showed the ten commandments. This church was a Roman basilica before the Joders (Yoder) turned it into a Reformed Church. Evangelical people also attend this church on Sundays with their pastor paid by the government. The Anabaptist Joders in this town were not persecuted as early because the Joders were part of the government.

Unfortunately, there was unexpected construction, detours, and backed-up traffic in the city of Thun and we had to miss seeing the inside of this five-floor castle built in the 1200s. Anabaptists (including Melchoir Brenneman) were chained in the prison tower in 1532.

Our lunch stop (and shopping) was at Interlaken—a very cute town that had lots of Swiss watches for sale! Weather was beautiful once again!

After Interlaken, we travelled to Lauterbrunnen and on to Stechelberg to ride the cable car to the Alpenruh Hotel at Mürren. The countryside drive was again so beautiful with waterfalls, attractive houses, etc!

Mürren is an absolutely breathtakingly, beautiful, Swiss town that was only part of the way on our trip to the Schilthorn mountain top (tomorrow morning) and the weather was just beautiful! The flowers all around the town



The beautiful weather while we were in the Swiss Alps was appreciated by everyone especially Ken Brubaker (above) as he enjoyed paragliding up in Mürren. Go Ken!

were spectacular and I especially loved the Edelweiss flowers! Ken Brubaker (Linda's husband) did paragliding in the evening! What a picturesque setting Mürren was and Ken was able to experience it from a different perspective than the rest of us!
- Sharon Hines





Our last view of the Swiss Alps as we drove through Lauterbrunnen with its impressive waterfalls!

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

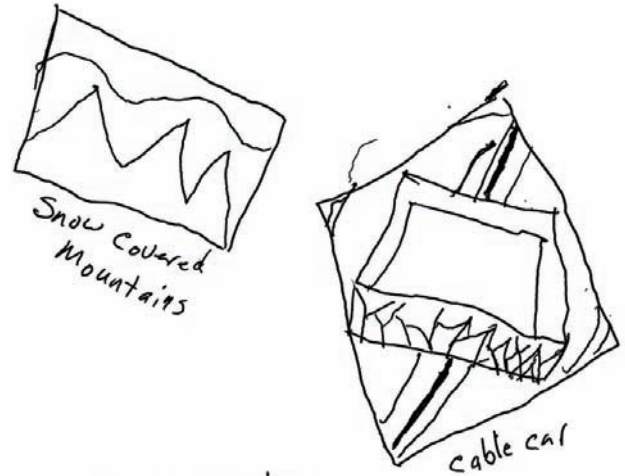
8:00 a.m. - Breakfast this morning at Schilthorn in the Revolving Restaurant—one of the most beautiful views I have ever seen! As we enjoyed the extensive breakfast buffet, we could see Mt. Blanc in Italy—restaurant servers said that this was the best view they have seen in the past three weeks! We took many beautiful photos, toured the James Bond spots and then took the cablecar down to Stechelberg!

10:46 a.m. - Lori gave our morning devotional on the bus sharing her testimony of conversion from Catholicism and she literally “let her hair down” for all of us on the bus! As we traveled through Lauterbrunnen, we saw our last views of the snow-capped Alps!

12:10 p.m. - Arrived at the Emmental Cheese Factory and learned that Emmental cheese is aged up to 30 months. Some of us bought shrink-wrapped cheese to take back home!

1:30 p.m. - Stopped at the Huttwil Migros for any last purchase of Swiss chocolate bars! Now, we are on our way to the Bienenberg Training Center (Mennonite Bible School with a hotel).

3:30 p.m. - Surprise stop at Augusta Raurica—an interesting Roman



Kaylee McClure

archaeological site, amphitheatre, aqueduct, temples to take us back in time. It is the oldest known Roman colony along the Rhine River.

- Steve McClure

Thursday, June 21, 2018

We woke this morning to a nice cool breeze on top of the hill where the Bienenberg Training Center is located near Liestal, Switzerland. Following a delicious breakfast buffet, we gathered outside the lobby to hear Dennis Kennel, one of the faculty, give a brief history of the school.

The school began shortly after WW II when various Mennonite church leaders from Germany, France, and Switzerland, recognized that as a denomination they had





Old house pictured above is in Mackenheim where the Bruppachers lived after leaving Switzerland and before moving to Ibersheim. On the right is the Catholic Church in Mackenheim.

lost their nonresistance stance. European Mennonites fought in both world wars. They believed that this was wrong and began a campaign to return the churches' teaching back to the original Anabaptist way of following the teachings of Jesus on the Sermon on the Mount as a way for their everyday life.

After boarding our bus, we headed down the extremely narrow driveway until we came to a narrow crossroad which required several back-ups in order to continue on our way. After several more sharp turns, we were back on the main highway heading for Mackenheim, France.

Crossing the Swiss border was no problem—we were waved on unlike sometimes in our past. We did notice that on the opposite side of the highway, there was a very long line of commercial vehicles (mostly trucks) almost a mile long. This was because of all the red tape required of commercial vehicles to cross into Switzerland.



About 10:30 a.m., we arrived at Machenheim—another important Bruppacher stop. Hans Heinrich Bruppacher (1627-1685)—our ancestor for those Brubakers/Brubachers who are now living in the U.S.—lived here for several years after his 1657 deportation from Switzerland. By 1661, he was living at Ibersheim, Germany.

After arriving at Mackenheim, we located the church which is usually the center of the old part of the village. There we viewed a number of old farm dwellings which easily dated back to the time that the



Why do we get all excited at seeing the storks? The Hunawihl Stork Park also includes otters and ducks and other animals.



Bruppachers lived there. At this point in time, we do not know what his address was so we took time to walk around the streets knowing that Hans certainly walked here over 300 years ago.

Then we were headed for Ribeauvillé—another Bruppacher stop—but first we stopped at the Stork Park dedicated to re-establishing the stork population in the Alsace. Every year we return to the Alsace, we see more of these storks. Thirty years ago, they were rare. Back in the 1960s and 1970s, the population was declining rapidly with only ten couples remaining in 1975 (over 150 nesting couples in 1927)! So in 1976, a number of concerned private individuals organized to learn the causes of the decline including electrocution in nesting areas, pesticides and drought in watering areas, plus also learned that in drought times in the northern African countries, storks became a food source for the poor.

With more education in these poor countries plus removing the instinct in the storks to migrate by taking their eggs from the nests and raising the storks in captivity for three years before releasing them is helping. Today there are about 400 nesting couples residing in the Alsace. The Park is also caring and researching the other endangered species of the Alsace including the European otter and the common hamster that is only found in the Alsace.

A beautiful network of paths in the Park take one to other areas dedicated to a variety of animals including goats, turtles, geese, ducks, cormorants, bees, 40 nesting storks, and educational talks on young storks—unfortunately, all in French.

Then we were off to Ribeauvillé—another Bruppacher site and lunchstop. Here Peter Bruppacher (1596-1668) lived for 13 years before moving to Ibersheim, Germany. Peter was the father of Hans Heinrich Bruppacher who lived nearby at Meckenheim. After Peter escaped from the Oetenbach Prison in Zürich, Switzerland, where he was imprisoned for his Anabaptist beliefs for 40 weeks, he moved here to Rappoltsweiler (now Ribeauvillé). We know that by 1661, he and his family had moved to the Palatinate where he and others leased the Ibersheim Hof for 12 years. Even though we do not know where Peter Bruppacher lived, it was interesting again to walk the streets.

We spent about 1.5 hours here in the beautiful French village of Ribeauvillé, eating lunch (many of us enjoyed the tort flambé or flammenküchen (in German)—sort of like a pizza. It is a very thin crust topped with cream, cheese, onion, and bacon and baked in a bake oven until crisp. Very tasty! Of course, we had to top it off with some delicious ice cream (only 1.5 Euros).

Then it was off to Obernai where we spent the night. On the way, we drove through more agricultural country and saw a lot of corn which is used to make fuel. Other produce we saw included wheat, lettuce, cabbage, sugarbeets, and spargle (white asparagus).

Upon arrival in Obernai, we found a lot of activity with people setting up for a festival that evening. The main square was unexpectedly closed to traffic making it quite difficult to get around with our long bus. One trying corner took quite a few back-ups before we could proceed. Stefen handled it with his usual expertise as if it was all in a day's work! No big deal, but we still applauded him anyway!

We arrived at A'La Cour D'Alsace Hotel in plenty of time to walk the streets of this quaint timber-frame town. Very picturesque and very ancient founded in 778 A.D. becoming an official town in 1240! I saw some datestones as early as the 1500s.

We enjoyed a formal dinner of vegetable tort on lettuce, veal with mushrooms, vegetable, and an ice cream parfait loved by some, but deplored by many. It was spiked with some kind of alcoholic beverage (possibly brandy)—Lois Ann said that this will not happen again here! The efficient well-dressed waiters served the ladies first and swept crumbs off the tablecloth before dessert



Gary Waltner had an attentive audience as we learned about his library, old Bibles, and Bruppachers living here.

was served. This actually used to be the norm on our early tours, but it is slowly fading into the past.

This is also our only hotel that most of the rooms were air-conditioned—most European hotels rely on ventilation.
- Lemar Mast

Friday, June 22, 2018

This morning we had an exquisite breakfast buffet with meats cheeses, fruits, breads and cereals. The funny thing was there was a bowl of white yogurt—or so we thought. We quickly realized it was sour cream. Several people ate it because they felt bad wasting it, and four-year-old David ate the whole bowl without saying a word! (Mom found out after he was finished that it was not yogurt!)

We left France for our 2.5 hour drive to Weierhof, Germany, this morning. At the beginning of our drive, Stan Brubaker led devotions followed by the group singing numerous favorites chosen from our *Praise Song* book.

We split up the trip by stopping at Super U Department Store to use the restrooms and do some shopping for 20 minutes. It took a little longer because there were only two bath stalls. The store was a lot like a small Walmart in the States.

Next we visited two towns where Bruppachers lived and still live today. This was after they fled Switzerland

from religious persecution to France.

At Weierhof, Gary Waltner taught us much about the region of the Pfalz/Palatinate, historical Bibles, and the Crayenbühl family. Most Kraybills in the U.S. today descend from this family, but today, there are no Kraybills in Germany. The Graybills in the U.S. today are also descendants.

Driving to Ibersheim was a little tricky because of a detour, but Stefan did a superb job at navigating tight turns and spaces on the narrow streets. In 1661, Stauffers moved to Ibersheim with many other Mennonites. Among them were Propachers and Hans Brubacher. There were 12 families living here listed in the 1743 census list.

We saw an old farmhouse with an engraving from 1787 by Christian Hiestand, whose mother was Elizabeth





Gary Waltner led us on a walking tour of Weierhof to show us where the early Crayenbühls lived.

Bruppacher. During a short tour of the town, we heard numerous stories about its' history including bandits who drove Mennonites away, secret codes travelers used to enter the town when traveling down the Rhine River since only Mennonites were allowed in Ibersheim, the town castle built in 1469 (that didn't look much like a castle at all), and how a Bruppacher designed dikes to

redirect the Rhine River after a serious flood from 1812-1824.

Our hotel tonight is in Worms, where its' famous cathedral was built in 1018 and then in 1521, Martin Luther challenged the Catholic Church by refusing to recant Protestant doctrines. In 1525, William Tyndale completed the English version of the New Testament.



Enjoying the walking tour of Ibersheim!





were “all in the same boat”! We docked at Rudesheim along the Rhine River and we spent the rest of the day sightseeing and shopping in this quaint old town. Our final night was at the Krone Hotel right along the riverfront. The Brubaker European Heritage Tour was coming to an end, and we were ready to go home.

~ Sharon Graybill

Castles along the Rhine River on this beautiful sunny day!

Tomorrow is Linda Brubaker’s (Lititz) birthday, and next week is Ken’s birthday, so tonight we sang “Happy Birthday” to both of them as they shared a special birthday cake and the rest of us ate cheese cake for dessert. The evening concluded with a game and prizes given to each person at this “Goodbye Party.”

~ Kathy McClure

Saturday, June 23, 2018

A beautiful day greeted us and after a hearty breakfast we boarded the bus for the last day of our tour. We were going on a cruise down the Rhine River! What a delightful way to enjoy the gorgeous scenery from the cruise boat. Lush, green vineyards dotted the steep slopes along the river. Stately old castles reminded us of times long ago and for a few hours the Brubaker Cousins



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.

*This legend song sung by a mermaid as the
sailors would sail around the Lorelei Rock
on the Rhine River was played for us
while we too sailed around the Rock.*



Enjoying lunch on the ship cruising up the Rhine River.

Sunday, June 24, 2018

This was a fantastic tour, but everything good needs to come to an end, and this morning was time for us to rise and shine and ride to the Frankfurt Airport. Most of us flew home on Lufthansa departing at 1:20 p.m. and arriving in Newark about 3:45 p.m. A bus was waiting to take us to Morgantown, and after we all worked together helping each other, we found our bus and were on our way home!

It was interesting as tour leader to have so many persons with the same name: 5 Lindas, 2 Dianes, 2 Davids, 2 Kens, 2 Jims, and 2 Sharons! And then there were a number of cousins, 2 brothers, 3 siblings, and two groups of three generations! Fun! Fun!

- Lois Ann Mast



Traveling on our bus for the very last time on the way to the Frankfurt Airport!

A view of Mürren taken out of our hotel window.

