



2-2017

Minutes and Reports

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/sahs_review

 Part of the [European History Commons](#), and the [European Languages and Societies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

(2017) "Minutes and Reports," *Swiss American Historical Society Review*. Vol. 53 : No. 1 , Article 7.
Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/sahs_review/vol53/iss1/7

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Swiss American Historical Society Review* by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

FIFTY-THIRD SAHS ANNUAL MEETING

1. Invitation and Agenda

SWISS-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Washington, D.C.

You are cordially invited to attend the

FIFTY-THIRD SAHS ANNUAL MEETING

at the

Embassy of Switzerland

Cathedral Avenue

Washington, D.C.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8TH, 2016

PROGRAM

8:30 a. m.	Arrival and informal gathering, Coffee, Rolls
9:00 a. m.	Business Meeting
Noon	Luncheon
1:00 p. m.	Professor Jonathan Steinberg: “The End of the Swiss Model of the Economy”
2:30 p. m.	Bio break with light refreshments
3:00 p. m.	Albert Gallatin (aka Ron Duquette): “Immigrant Experience in the Early American Republic”
4:30-5:00 p. m.	Departure

FIFTY-THIRD SAHS ANNUAL MEETING

October 8th, 2016

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Call to Order
2. Approval of the Minutes of the 52nd Annual Meeting of Oct. 2015
3. President's Report: Fred Gillespie
4. Elections: Board of Advisors: Heinz Bachmann
5. Membership Report: Ernest Thurston
6. Treasurer's Report: Heinz Bachmann
7. Swiss Vice-President's Report: Barbara Mueller
8. *SAHS Review* Report: Dwight Page
9. Book Editor Report: Albert Winkler
10. Publicity Report: Brian Wages
11. New Business: Rosa Schupbach
12. Adjournment

2. Reports

Minutes of the Fifty-Third Business Meeting of the Swiss American Historical Society

Embassy of Switzerland, Washington, D. C., October 8th, 2016

Notes by: Albert Winkler, Recording Secretary

The Embassy of Switzerland graciously provided beverages, including water and orange juice, before the meeting was called to order.

Twenty-five people were in attendance:

These included the following officers of the Society: Fred Gillespie, President; Rosa Schupbach, Vice President; Barbara Müller, Vice President in Switzerland; Dwight Page, Editor-in-chief of the *Swiss American Historical Society Review*; Ernie Thurston, Membership Secretary; Albert Winkler, Book Editor; Heinz Bachmann, Treasurer.

President Fred Gillespie called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and gave opening remarks stating that he had an ambitious agenda for the meeting. Gillespie asked that the minutes from the meeting last year be approved. They were accordingly approved unanimously.

President Gillespie also nominated that the officers of the Society be retained in their current positions. This latter nomination was likewise approved unanimously.

Perhaps the most important issue to be decided was the selection of a new president for the Society. The only person nominated for the position was Kenneth Schelbert, the son of Leo Schelbert. The

Schelberts have for decades been leaders in the Society. The people in attendance approved his election to the position unanimously, and his three-year tenure as president started at the conclusion of this annual meeting.

The Board of Advisors for the class of 2016 to 2019 was approved unanimously. These included Marianna Burkhard, Donald Hilty, Diana Larisgoitia and Donald Tritt. The Swiss diplomat Fred Jenny was replaced by Urspeter Schelbert.

Ernie Thurston handed out copies of his report on the membership of the Society. The number of members declined by one. The report was approved unanimously.

Heinz Bachmann handed out copies of his report of the finances of the Society. They were approved unanimously.

Dwight Page gave the report on future issues of the *Swiss American Historical Society Review*. He said that he has the necessary articles available for the next three issues of the *Review*, so matters are well in hand for the next year of the *Review*. Finally, during the summer of 2020, during his trip to Europe, Dr. Page hopes to develop a closer relationship with the faculty of Franklin University in Lugano, which has promised to provide future research and scholarship for the *Review*.

A question from the floor related to the location of future meetings of the Society. It was suggested that a future annual meeting could be held in Chicago or in other areas. The proposal was not accepted, and the next annual meeting will be held in Philadelphia as scheduled.

Barbara Müller was asked about how the members of the Society in Switzerland could pay their dues in that country. She gave an explanation of the problems involved in opening a bank account in Switzerland. As an action item, she volunteered to address those issues, so that the members in Switzerland could transfer their dues to an account set up for that purpose. Details concerning her suggestions are included later in this report.

Rosa Schupbach made a number of suggestions from the floor. She reminded the members of the Society that former approved changes to the bylaws of the Society were not reflected in the most recent copy of those bylaws. It was agreed that the appropriate changes should be made.

Fred Gillespie approved a number of changes in the bylaws of the Society. These were approved.

Albert Winkler gave the report on future book publications of the Society. He stated that no agreement had been reached with authors on future book projects. He added that he has already completed 110 pages of a manuscript on the Swiss and Germans at the Battle of the little Bighorn and suggested that he could complete a book-length study on the topic as a book publication. This study would include accounts of the seven men born in Switzerland who have been awarded the Medal of Honor. His report was approved unanimously.

The public relations secretary for the Society, Brian Wages, was unable to attend. He asked Albert Winkler to read his report in *absentia* and to hand out copies of the report to those in attendance. This report was approved.

Brian Wages also asked that an additional proposal be considered. He volunteered to send out a newsletter to the membership of the Society reporting on the annual meeting. This would be done at no charge for the Society, because the institution where Brian works would foot the bill. When Donald Tritt and Kenneth Schelbert disagreed that such a newsletter be sent, the offer was withdrawn.

The Embassy of Switzerland graciously provided a free lunch and a buffet of various Swiss culinary delights throughout the day, including a variety of Swiss mineral waters, wines and coffees, and a wide selection of Swiss *petits fours* and cakes and tarts. Many attendees found the meeting to be exceptionally congenial, and many new friendships were made and many old friendships renewed. Swiss *Gemütlichkeit* was enjoyed by all.

Randall Gafner graciously provided his electronic expertise for the afternoon presentations, filming these presentations with the latest technological devices and equipment. A member of the Swiss Embassy staff greeted the attendees in the afternoon on behalf of the people of the Swiss Confederation, and an actor portraying the early nineteenth century Swiss diplomat Albert Gallatin made a delightful presentation, which whisked the audience back in time to the early days of the Republic. This particular demonstration of theatrical flamboyance and this fascinating historical re-enactment was graciously arranged by President Fred Gillespie. The annual meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.

The next meeting of the SAHS will be in Philadelphia on the second Saturday in October, which will be October 14th, 2017.

B. President's Report

By Fred Gillespie

Good Morning, everyone. I am pleased to report that our Society has been rather active this year. I will attempt to keep my remarks brief since we have much to discuss in our business meeting. Furthermore, the afternoon session deserves to have its full share of its time and your attention. This meeting will be my swansong.

This year the members received two special publications. The first publication to be mentioned, *The First Swiss in New Zealand*, was originally written in 1967 by Irene Weber-de-Candolle. Ambassador David Vogelsanger graciously had it reprinted and thanks to him members received a copy. Fred Jenny, who as diplomat has been just about everywhere in the world, found it interesting and did not realize that there were so many Swiss in New Zealand despite his recent visit. Personally, I found the description of the mountaineers in New Zealand to be fascinating.

Members also received a copy of *The Swiss Presence in the History of Tennessee* by Dr. Dwight Page, the Editor-in-chief of our *Review*. His explanation of why the Swiss migrated to the United States is illuminating. The book is full of interesting adventure stories and covers three hundred years of Swiss American history. At times I found the book difficult to put down. Dr. Page informs me that the book is circulating widely in the libraries and bookstores of Tennessee and North Carolina.

Once again all members were invited to attend the annual social event in Switzerland. Barbara Mueller maintained the standard of excellence that Fred Jenny had previously established. She organized a splendid day for the group of 14 participants. In keeping with the tradition of visiting a different canton each year, she planned the day's activities in Freiburg. After aperos, the director at the Musée d'Art et d'Histoire gave us a personally guided tour to show us the

highlights of the museum. We then had lunch in a fine restaurant. After dessert there was a trivia contest during which we learned that Barbara and Willi would celebrate their anniversary on the following morning. As if all these events were not enough, we next toured the city in a minibus. Up and down we went over several photogenic bridges. Finally the day concluded with a libation of choice amid much camaraderie and animated conversation. This was my sixth, but hopefully not last, time to participate in this event. I have always experienced something new and interesting at these events. I heartily recommend that others take advantage of this opportunity.

Sir Isaac Newton once said that, if he was able to see further than others, it was because he stood on the shoulders of giants. I do not claim to see further than others, and I cannot really claim to have contributed that much to the success of our Society in the past six years except writing a personal check once in a while. Before I became President, I observed that it was easy to write a check and let others do the real work. The actual credit for our success belongs to my collaborators, many of whom are in attendance today. This has been a team effort. I hope that our new President, Ken Schelbert, enjoys the position. I wish him well. Serving as your President has been an immense honor, probably the greatest of my life. I can only imagine how my Swiss Grandmother (born in 1898) would have reacted if I had told her, “Oma, ich han zmittag mit Botschafter von Tschärner und Doktor von Graffenried gasse. Und noch eppois—ich han am Kopf der Tisch gasse!”

C. Elections, Nominating Committee Report

by Heinz Bachmann, Chairperson, Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is made up of the following:

Franz Portmann
Donald Tritt
And myself as Chairperson

First of all, a new President needed to be elected as Fred Gillespie's term expired. The Nominating Committee proposed J. Kenneth Schelbert. Born in 1965, Kenneth has a BA in psychology and a MPA in public administration. Presently, he is an office director at the US General Services here in Washington, D.C. There were no other nominations from the floor and hence Kenneth Schelbert was elected unanimously to a three year term.

The other five elected officers were all re-elected unanimously:

Rosa Schupbach, Vice President USA
Barbara Mueller, Vice President Switzerland
Heinz Bachmann, Tresasurer
Albert Winkler, Recording Secretary
Ernest Thurston, Membership Secretary

Concerning the Board of Advisors 2016-2019, Urs peter Schelbert has resigned. Our proposal to replace him by Fred Jenny so as to keep at least one such advisor in Switzerland was accepted by the meeting. Hence, the new Board 2016-2019 consists of:

Marianne Burkhard
Donald Hilty
Fred Jenny
Diana Larisgoitia
Donald Tritt

D. Membership Report

To: Members of the Swiss American Historical Society
 From: Ernie Thurston, Membership Secretary
 Subject: Annual Membership Report

IN BRIEF: We have 222 current members, a 1% decrease from the 224 reported last year at this time. We welcome two new LIFE members this year, Carl Fehr of Charleston, South Carolina, and Bryan Bechler of Granite Falls, Washington. Mr. Bechler had been a student member back in the 1990's, and wrote in to say that he would re-join the Society as a Life member. Other members gave an additional \$2070 in donations to the SAHS.

CURRENT MEMBERS BY TYPE AND COUNTRY:

Membership Type	US/Canada	Switzerland/Other	Total
Regular (\$50/yr.)	96	24	120
Student (\$25/yr.)	0	0	0
Institution (\$75/yr.)	16	6	22
Life Members	45	6	51
Complimentary	<u>25</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>29</u>
	182	40	222

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES, 10/10/2015 TO 09/30/2016

Members as of 10/01/2015	224
Plus: New Members Enrolled	7
Plus: Former Members (not "Current" last year) who have rejoined	3
Less: Dropped by Request or Decease	- 11
Less: Dropped for Non-Payment of Dues	<u>- 1</u>
Current Members, 09/30/2016	222

BREAKDOWN OF CURRENT MEMBERSHIP
BY COUNTRY AND STATE:

CA	13	NJ	6
CO	1	NV	2
CT	2	NY	20
DC	5	OH	9
DE	1	OR	1
FL	4	PA	16
GA	2	RI	1
HI	1	SC	6
IA	1	SD	2
IL	17	TN	3
IN	2	TX	4
KS	1	UT	6
KY	1	VA	5
LA	2	VT	2
MA	3	WA	2
MD	8	WI	14
MI	2	WV	1
MN	3	WY	1
MO	2	AUSTRIA	1
MS	1	BC, CANADA	1
MT	1	ON, CANADA	1
NC	5	QB, CANADA	1
		SWITZERLAND	39

E. Treasurer's Report*by Heinz Bachmann, Treasurer***1. Consolidated Account**

	<i>US Chapter</i>	<i>Swiss Chapter</i>	<i>Total</i>
Income			
Annual Dues (incl. life memberships)	9,143.25	1,555.00	10,698.25
Book Sales	210.00		210.00
Events		1,680.00	1,680.00
Capital Appreciation	7,374.80	_____	7,374.80
Total Income	16,728.05	3,235.00	19,963.05
Expenses			
Meetings/ Events		1,469.00	1,469.00
Administration/ Postage/ Fees	232.36	680 est.	912.36
SAHS Review	8,861.65		8,861.65
Publications (Books)	<u>4,474.22</u>	_____	<u>4,474.22</u>
Total Expenditures	13,568.23	2,149.00	15,717.23
Net Budget Surplus	3, 159.82	1,086.00	4,242.82
Transfer Swiss to US	+ 9,771.44	- 9,503.70	267.74
Net Changes in Cash Position	+12,931.26	- 8,417.70	4,513.56
Balances			
Opening Balance, Oct. 1, 2015	76,672.53	8,921.55	85,594.08
Closing Balance, Sept. 30, 2016	89,613.97	500 est.	90,100.00
Net Result	+ 12,941.44	- 8,420.00	+ 4,521.00

2. Balance Sheets

United States

OPENING BALANCE (as of Oct. 1, 2015)

Checking, First Bank & Trust of Evanston	8,645.74
Savings, Vanguard STAR Fund	68,026.79
Total Assets	76,672.53

CLOSING BALANCE (as of Sept. 30, 2016)

Checking, First Bank & Trust of Evanston	14,212.38
Savings, Vanguard STAR Fund	75,401.59
Total Assets	89,613.97

OVERALL NET CHANGE DURING FY. 2015/16 + 12,941.44

Switzerland

Postal Checking Account (SFr)

Opening Balance, Oct. 1, 2015	8,921.55
Closing Balance, Sept. 30, 2016	ab. 500.00
NET CHANGE during FY. 2014/15	- 8,420.00

3. Comments

The financial year 2015/16 ended well with an overall surplus of \$4,520 and the Society's total net assets increased by nearly 5% to a comfortable \$90,000. It is important to note, however, that this surplus was due mostly to the excellent performance of the Vanguard STAR Fund, the manager of the Society's endowment, the value of which has increased by nearly \$7,400 or about 8%. Experience shows that this source of revenue is very volatile, unpredictable, and unreliable. In 2014/15, for instance, the value declined by \$800 rather than increased.

As shown in the above table on the preceding page, an important event, budget wise, during 2015/16 was the large transfer of funds from the Swiss section of SAHS to the Society's main account in the US. This reflects the increasing difficulties encountered by the Swiss Section to open and maintain an account with a Swiss bank as discussed below.

F. Annual Report of the Swiss Chapter

by Barbara Müller

Dear Members of the Swiss American Historical Society,

I am pleased to be able to attend this meeting as the new Vice President of the Swiss Chapter. Fred Jenny asked me if I had any interest in taking over the SAHS Swiss Chapter sometime last year after our annual Social Event. Sometime in November of 2015 and January of 2016 I met up with Fred Jenny to start making the formal changes in accepting the position as the new vice President in Switzerland. Unfortunately this caused some problems with the Post Finance as we have American by-laws deposited with them for the Society's Account. Due to this, the entire account was then reviewed by the compliance department of the Post Finance. The Post Finance then gave us some time to either have Swiss by-laws or close the account. Hence as the new vice President in Switzerland I have to report that the Swiss Postal account had to be closed and the money has been transferred to the United States. My main objective now is to be able to open a new account that our members in Switzerland can easily pay into and that we can continue to be part of the society. I will do my best to keep up the work that Fred Jenny has put into the society and try to help maintain the members in Switzerland.

As for the financial matter, the decision for the desired solution lies with the board and members of the Society. I do hope we can together find a good way to resolve this matter soon.

The Society continued on with Fred Jenny's tradition of an annual outing which this year took us to Fribourg on September 2nd. We had 15 members sign up for the event. Through a member of the Society we had a tour of the museum of Art and History by the curator of the museum herself, Mrs. Villiger Steinauer. After a lovely lunch at the Restaurant Hotel-de-Ville our guide came to collect us for the tour of the city of Fribourg. We walked to the Cathedral and

then via bus into the bas-Ville of Fribourg. Sometime around 17:00 after drinks at the train station we all parted ways. I was very pleased to host Fred Gillespie President of SAHS at our house and have him take part on the outing. I was also pleased that Fred Bodmann from the US could join us and hope to see others join us from the States should they be in Switzerland at the time. Next year our outing will be somewhere between the end of August and early September. I am in the process of looking into going to the museum in Appenzell. I would be happy for any other suggestions.

During the year 2015/2016 several members have dropped out due to age. But I am also pleased to say that we have new members: Dr. Marcus Pyka of Franklin University in Switzerland has joined in 2015. Mr. Konrad Schott joined in January 2016.

Also joining as of the coming year is Mrs. Regina Lanford, a former Arts History teacher at the American school in Zurich.

I am very pleased to have new members join and am open to ideas and help from all members.

Shortly to the finances which is very special this year:

June 23rd 2015 the Postal Finance closed our account and transferred SFr. 9'503.70 to the bank account in the United States. Since we are still in the process of opening an account, there are some outstanding dues which will be collected with the 2016/2017 year as soon as I can get an active account. I am pleased that this should be able to be done by the end of 2016. I pledge to do all that is possible to get the finances in order and to continue with the Society in Switzerland hoping that in time, I will be able to meet all our members.

Yours sincerely,
Barbara Müller
SAHS Vice President (Switzerland)
Email: wbmuller@bluewin.ch
Phone: +41 79 5899581

G. SAHS *Review* Report

by Dwight Page

The present year continues to provide promise for the future of the publications of the Swiss American Historical Society. We have received a number of interesting and well written articles and book reviews for the next three issues of the *Review*, which should provide the readership with many hours of pleasurable and profitable reading. Readers are encouraged to submit their own research and genealogical materials for publication in the *Review*. This journal is your forum.

H. SAHS Book Series Report

by Albert Winkler

At the present time, no agreements have been made and no contracts have been signed with authors concerning future book projects. These matters are still under negotiation. I would like the audience to know that I have personally completed 110 pages of a manuscript on the Swiss and Germans at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876. I could complete a book-length study on this topic as a book publication. This study would include accounts of the seven men born in Switzerland who have been awarded the Medal of Honor.

I. Publicity Report

by Brian Wages

Good afternoon. Since I am unable to attend today, I have asked my colleague Dr. Albert Winkler to read this report for me in *absentia*. From my report, which has just been distributed to you, you can clearly see that my office has been quite active this year in the dissemination of publicity concerning the activities of the Swiss American Historical Society. We also now place each issue of the *SAHS Review* on EBSCO, and this enables scholars and readers around the globe to easily access our research.

In addition, I would like to make an additional suggestion, which to my mind would increase interest in our organization. I would like to volunteer to send out a newsletter each year to the membership of the Society, reporting on the annual meeting. This would be done at no charge to the Society, because the institution where I work would foot the bill. Please let me know if you have interest in this project.

J. New Business

by Rosa Schubbach

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Below please find the changes to the current by-laws which we have recently made and which I trust will meet with your approval:

Section 1. The elected Officers shall consist of a President, a Vice-President residing in the United States, a Vice-President residing in Switzerland, a Treasurer, a Recording Secretary and a Membership Secretary.

Officers shall be elected to (3) three-year terms. Any officer, except the President and Vice Presidents, may hold another office. Former Presidents may be elected and reelected without restriction on the number of terms, so long as they do not service more than two (2) terms consecutively in the same office. There is no such restriction on the office of the Vice-Presidents, they can serve consecutively in the same office. Elections shall be held only during Annual Meetings.

Addition to Article VI - Officers.

Section 7.

One (1) or several Publications Editors may be appointed by the President in consultation with other officers. Each Publications Editor shall be responsible for the various SAHS publications, including but not limited to the SAHS *Review*, the Annual Report and other books, handouts and other related publications, whether in paper or electronic form. All books and other special publication projects must be approved at an Annual Meeting. The Editor(s) shall also present a report at Annual Meetings. The Editor(s) shall at all times ensure that publications conform to applicable law, including any and all copyrights of authors and of the Society.

The Editor-in Chief takes responsibility for three annual issues, receives or solicits manuscript articles, reviews them in consultation with authors, if needed, and shapes each issue as appropriate. The editor of SAHS books will receive manuscripts from potential authors, submit the ones deemed appropriate for publication to the SAHS president who will then consult others, especially also the Treasurer.

Section 8.

Any Officer or member may be removed from his or her position for any misconduct or other actions of the Officer or member that is deemed inconsistent with the goals and functions of the Society. The Officer or member may be removed by the following means: a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Advisory Board. Such removal proceedings may be initiated by calling for a special meeting or, under the exceptional circumstances, a binding ballot vote.

Section 9.

The publicity manager may be appointed by the President in consultation with other officers. He shall maintain and update the content and functionality of the SAHS web site.

