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Chronology of the Multimedia Project "Einsiedeln Elsewhere"

Presence of a Swiss Town in the American City of Louisville, Kentucky

2006

June

Susann Bosshard-Kälin visits St. Meinrad, Indiana, in 2006 on a journalistic assignment for the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* and encounters eight descendants of Einsiedeln immigrants to Louisville, Kentucky.

Susann Bosshard-Kälin plans to explore the experience of living Swiss immigrants and publishes the books westward. *Encounters with Swiss American Women* (Swiss American Historical Society, 2010), an English translation by Marianne Burkhard and Leo Schelbert of *westwärts. Begegnungen mit Amerika-Schweizerinnen* (Bern/Wettingen: efef Verlag 2009, 2nd edition 2010).

In 2013 appeared *Emigrant Paths. Encounters with 20th Century Swiss Americans* (Swiss American Historical Society) with nine interview portraits of S. Bosshard-Kälin and seven autobiographical portraits suggested and published by L. Schelbert over the years in the *SAHS Review*. A German edition followed, titled *Nach Amerika. Lebensberichte von Schweizer Auswanderern*. Zürich: Limmat Verlag, 2014.

2014

October

Return to the idea of 2006 and start of the project with the working title "Einsiedeln anderswo. Präsenz eines Schweizerdorfes in der amerikanischen Stadt Louisville, Kentucky. – Einsiedeln elsewhere.

Presence of a Swiss Town in the American City Louisville, Kentucky”, in collaboration with Leo Schelbert and Donald Tritt.

The *White Pages* of Louisville furnish more than 500 Einsiedeln names such as Bisig, Kaelin, Oechslin, Schoenbaechler, and Zehnder).

2015

February

First project paper about “Einsiedeln elsewhere” by Susann Bosshard-Kälin.

Founding of the organization “Einsiedeln elsewhere” in Einsiedeln; establishment of a team with Susann Bosshard-Kälin, chair; Ph.D. candidate Heinz Nauer, historian; Paolo de Caro, photographer; Martina di Lorenzo, camerawoman.

Seed money granted by the SAHS; financial project support from Victorinox, Switzerland, and Guetli Helvetia Society, Louisville.

March

An article about the project appears in the Louisville *Courier-Journal*, initiated by Vicky Ullrich -Birchler. It generates a great deal of interest—Vicky Ullrich-Birchler is swamped by inquiries.

April

First trip of the team “Einsiedeln elsewhere”; first contacts, research encounters with descendants and historical research. Donald Tritt, knowledgeable about American archives, assists Heinz Nauer in research and also supports the team’s other efforts.

An informational evening gathering attracts some one hundred people.

Numerous interviews were held with descendants of Einsiedeln immigrants, with added photo reportage and film clips.

May

Beginning of the establishment of the website "Einsiedeln anderswo – Einsiedeln elsewhere" with Paolo de Caro and Webmaster Ruedi Steck of Zurich. It is to serve as a virtual bridge between America and Switzerland, done in German and English (translations by Leo Schelbert). The task of creating the website turns out to be costly and work intensive as to form and content.

The website offers mainly portraits of descendants of Einsiedeln immigrants, their historical background, and some general information.

July

Website is going live in German and in English.

Second research trip to Louisville by the team at the members' own expense concerning trip, over night stay, and work.

"Swiss Picnic" is held with guests of the Gruetli Helvetia Society and meeting with Einsiedeln descendants in the German American Club; project presentation by Susann Bosshard-Kälin.

Further interviews conducted by Susann Bosshard-Kälin and picture-taking of members of the Einsiedeln community of Louisville by Paolo de Caro.

August

After return to Switzerland the face book-site "Einsiedeln elsewhere" is switched-on for inquiries and exchanges about the topic.

November

Article about the project by Susann Bosshard-Kälin appears in the 2015 November issue of the *SAHS Review*.

2016

February

Claudia Steiner, filmmaker, joins the project; Martina di Lorenzo leaves the team for professional reasons.

June

An informational meeting is held in Einsiedeln. The project is well received and some 100 people gather at Einsiedeln's museum Fram.

The proclamation of Louisville City President Greg Fischer is officially presented by Vicky Ullrich-Birchler to Franz Pirker, District Mayor of Einsiedeln.

Franz Pirker observes about the well received project: "It is valuable to rebuild and extend the bridge to the Einsiedeln emigrants of Louisville."

July

Third interview trip of Susann Bosshard-Kälin and her husband Jürg Bosshard, taking photographs, to Louisville on their own expense; team members do not join due to financial expense.

Swiss Picnic in Louisville with some 150 descendants of emigrants from Einsiedeln in the German American Club.

Additional interviews

August

The November issue of the *SAHS Review* is dedicated to the Louisville project with essays of Susann Bosshard-Kälin, Heinz Nauer, Thomas Fässler, and joint authors C. Robert Ullrich, Victoria A. Ullrich, and Jeffrey A. Wright

Heinz Nauer publishes an article on "Einsiedeln am Ohio River" in the *Geschichtsfreund*, the professional historical journal of central Switzerland.

A concept for a cultural exchange between Einsiedeln and Louisville is envisaged, possibly for the Einsiedeln music festival 2018.

Filmmaker Claudia Steiner is considering a documentary about it depending on available funds.

Further portraits are being added to the website by Susann Bosshard-Kälin in German and in English.

~ Susann Bosshard-Kälin

