



2-2016

## Minutes and Report

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# FIFTY-SECOND SAHS ANNUAL MEETING

## 1. Invitation and Agenda

### SWISS-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Washington, D.C.

You are cordially invited to attend the

### FIFTY-SECOND SAHS ANNUAL MEETING

at the

### CONSULATE GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND

633 Third Avenue, 30<sup>th</sup> Floor

New York, New York

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2015**

#### PROGRAM

- 9:00 a.m. Arrival and informal gathering, Coffee, Rolls
- 10:00 a.m. Business Meeting
- 12:00 a.m. Catered Luncheon on the Premises
- 1:30 p.m. Albert Winkler: "The Swiss and the Development of  
Infantries in the Late Middle Ages"
- 2:30 p.m. Robert Sherwood: "From the Alps to the Peach State:  
A Brief History of Swiss Interactions with Georgia"
- 3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:30 p.m. Randall Gafner: "Exploration, the Pine Tree School  
and Zen and the Art of Making a Morris Chair"



# FIFTY-SECOND SAHS ANNUAL MEETING

October 10, 2015, New York, New York

## AGENDA

1. President's Welcome and Call to Order
2. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the Philadelphia Annual Meeting of 2014
3. Nominating Report: Rosa Schupbach
4. Membership Chair's Report: Ernie Thurston
5. Treasurer's Report: Heinz Bachmann
6. Swiss Vice President Report: Fred Jenny
7. *SAHS Review* Report: Dwight Page
8. Book Editor Report: Albert Winkler
9. Publicity Report: Brian Wages
10. Old Business
11. New Business
12. Announcements
13. Adjournment

## **2. Reports**

### **Minutes of the Fifty-Second Business Meeting of the Swiss American Historical Society, New York, New York, October 10, 2015**

President Fred Gillespie called the meeting to order at approximately 10 AM and began with opening remarks describing the exhibition of the drawings of the Swiss immigrant to America, Ferdinand Brader, in Canton, Ohio. President Fred Gillespie personally visited this exhibition in March 2015, during closing ceremonies in Canton.

President Gillespie next mentioned a Swiss Social Event, to be held on July 31. He stated that Dwight Page's book on the history of the Swiss in Tennessee would soon be published. He also described the ongoing project to reactivate ties between Louisville, Kentucky and Einsiedeln, Switzerland, the homeland of many of today's residents of Louisville. He announced the Swiss Soirée, to be held at the Embassy of Switzerland in Washington, D.C. Finally, he asked that the minutes of the 2014 national meeting in Philadelphia be approved.

At this time, Vice President Rosa Schubach presented the Nominating Committee Report. She announced that Fred Jenny would be resigning as Vice President of the Swiss Chapter. He proposed to the membership that Barbara Mueller of Murten, Switzerland, a longtime friend and colleague, be appointed to the position of Vice President of the Swiss Chapter. She was thereupon duly elected by those present in New York. She then presented the Board of Advisors for the Class of 2015-2018: Susan Keller, Dwight Page, Kenneth Schelbert, David Sutton, Franz von Arx. These candidates were approved unanimously.

Ernie Thurston presented the annual membership report. He announced that the SAHS had lost twelve members due to non-payment of dues. Thus membership is 4% down. This report was approved unanimously.

The Treasurer's Report followed. There was discussion about the cost of the Annual Meeting, donations and income. More detailed reporting was requested for the next meeting in Washington. This report was likewise approved unanimously.

President Gillespie presented the Swiss Chapter report in absentia for Fred Jenny, who was in Switzerland. Mr. Jenny is pleased to report that he has found a successor to replace him, his colleague Barbara Mueller, of Murten, Switzerland.

The *SAHS Review* report was presented. There was discussion of the need to better illustrate the cover of the *Review*. The recipient of the 2015 Leo Schelbert Award was announced: James Lindberg of Franklin College, Lugano, Switzerland.

Albert Winkler, Editor of Books, presented the annual report on the SAHS book series. No book was published in annum 2015. Dwight Page's book *The Swiss Presence in the History of Tennessee* will be published early in 2016. There was discussion about the importance of having ISBN numbers on all of our publications. There was additional discussion about the proper place to house and store SAHS books.

The annual Publicity Report was then presented. The website receives about 120 views per month, or 1,500 per year. This past year there has been major outreach to academics through personal invitations; over 1,500 professors have been contacted. It is now possible to pay membership dues online.

Old Business was next discussed. The subject of the Gonzenbach Prize arose. This prize is given on an ad hoc basis to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the understanding of Swiss-American history. Nominations must be made to the Executive Committee of the Swiss American Historical Society by August 1st of each calendar year. The nominees will be discussed among the committee members and select others, who will determine if the award should be given at the SAHS annual meeting.

Finally, New Business was discussed. The proposal to donate papers to the Balch Institute at the Philadelphia Historical Society was accepted. The creation of a special Travel Fund was proposed, to be used for the promotion of the Society. Two thousand dollars will be set aside from the Society's operating fund in order to finance such travel. Recipients of this travel award would attend meetings of the American Historical Association, local history conferences, August First activities, and various Swiss and Swiss American celebrations and meetings around the country, with the purpose of making

presentations to these organizations concerning the activities of the Swiss American Historical Society. Members at the New York meeting applauded and accepted this proposal, feeling that such marketing activity would help to sustain the Society.

Thereupon, a motion was presented to adjourn the meeting. President Gillespie announced that the next annual meeting of the Swiss American Historical Society will be held on October 8, 2016 at the Embassy of Switzerland in Washington, D.C.

## **B. President's Report**

*by Fred Gillespie, President of the Swiss American Historical Society*

The year 2015 has been busy on all three main fronts of SAHS activity, the *Review*, book publishing, and in support of events.

As to the *SAHS Review*: The three issues have been filled with valuable articles relating to Swiss and Swiss American history. The February issue, for instance, included a sketch of "The Legacy of Ferdinand A. Brader" (1833-1901?), whose work was exhibited in museums of Canton, Ohio. The June issue commemorated the closure of the American Civil War 150 years ago by presenting an English version prepared by Leo Schelbert and edited by Albert Winkler, of the booklet *Schweizer im amerikanischen Sezessionskrieg 1861-1865* by Heinrich L. Wirz and Florian A. Strahm. The November issue contained a detailed report by Susann Bosshard-Kälin on the evolution of the SAHS sponsored project "Einsiedeln – Louisville, Kentucky" and also a valuable sketch of the last fifty years of the SAHS. Of course, all three issues contained many diverse historical articles of SAHS interest, and Lois Ann Mast of Masthof Press did, as always, a most professional job in supervising the printing and, I was told, also showed much patience in accommodating authors' last minute changes.

As to **Book Publishing**: The SAHS supported the last stretch of the study *The Swiss Presence in the History of Tennessee* with a final grant to enable the author Professor H. Dwight Page to conclude research for the project that involved extensive traveling. The book will be in hand early in 2016, [https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/sahs\\_review/vol52/iss1/10](https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/sahs_review/vol52/iss1/10)

and book editor Albert Winkler is pursuing the possibility of further book publications.

As to **Support for Projects**: The SAHS supported the exhibit about the Swiss draftsman Ferdinand A. Brader that opened in Canton, Ohio, on 4 December, 2014 and closed on 15 March, 2015. On request, SAHS member Leo Schelbert provided a Foreword and an Afterword and answered, as well, occasional questions in relation to the stately book *The Legacy of Ferdinand A. Brader*, edited by Kathleen Wieschaus-Voss. The large size expertly produced volume contains diverse articles on Brader's life and works (1-128) and some 60 reproductions of his more than 900 drawings (132-202). In March 2015 several SAHS members attended a special presentation about Brader and the exhibit in Canton, Ohio, at the Canton Museum of Art. The presentation was followed by a guided tour of the Brader collection provided by Kathleen Wieschaus-Voss, on Saturday afternoon, March 14<sup>th</sup>. This marvelous and informative tour was followed by a special reception catered by the Swiss and German American ladies of Canton, Ohio. All manner of delicious culinary delights were provided during this reception, and the enjoyment of the delicious refreshments was much enhanced by conversation with fellow connoisseurs of art from around the globe. In addition, on the evening of Friday, March 13, 2015 President Fred Gillespie and Dr. Dwight Page, Editor-in-Chief of the *SAHS Review*, were guests of honor at a dinner party and reception at the beautiful home of Kathleen Wieschaus-Voss in Canton. Guests enjoyed apéritifs and conversation in the exquisitely furnished family drawing room, followed by a buffet supper served in the dining room. Thereupon guests dined with fellow connoisseurs of art in the drawing room, the sitting room, and the library, which was adorned with various masterpieces of art. The Swiss American Historical Society wishes to express the deepest gratitude to Mrs. Wieschaus-Voss for her generous hospitality during these truly splendid events in Canton.

The other project involving SAHS support and SAHS members is the ongoing "Einsiedeln, Switzerland—Louisville, Kentucky" project. To this day, I am told, some one hundred names of Louisville residents are connected with Einsiedeln origins. A SAHS seed money grant made the launching of the project possible. The initiator Susann Bosshard-Kälin, in touch with SAHS members Donald Tritt and Leo Schelbert, went in late spring with a historian, a filmmaker, and a photographer via Evanston, where they were hosted by the Schelberts, to meet with numerous Louisville people of Swiss origin. Previous to this, Professor



Donald Tritt spent many days with the historian Heinz Nauer in visiting archives and assisting as expert in Swiss American history. In late summer, Susann Bosshard-Kälin, Heinz Nauer, and Photographer Paolo Di Caro returned to Louisville where Susann Bosshard-Kälin gave the August First address, the event being attended also by SAHS members Beth Zurbuchen (President of the Swiss Center of North America), Donald Tritt and the Schelberts. At the same time the research team evolved a webpage ([www.einsiedeln-anderswo.ch/en/](http://www.einsiedeln-anderswo.ch/en/)) in German and English—translations by SAHS member L. Schelbert—that presents the story of Louisville Americans of Swiss descent.

A major achievement was due to the quiet diplomacy of Donald Tritt. Over the past several years, he has worked with Louisville Swiss concerned for the safe care and preservation of documents accounting for the history of this early Swiss American community. Visitations during the summer found a major portion of these documents were now being housed in a large safe in a modern barn. Later in the year, by action of the principal Swiss clubs of Louisville, it was decided to transfer these documents to the Archives of the Swiss Center of North America.

The Einsiedeln-Louisville project hopes to develop further in 2016. Editor H. Dwight Page informs me that the November 2016 issue of the *SAHS Review* will be mainly devoted to Swiss in Louisville and edited by Leo Schelbert.

In sum, in all three respects, the SAHS has been active in the year 2015, and 2016 looks promising. Sincere thanks to all who contributed to the success of the SAHS this past year!

*Special Note: Dr. Donald Tritt and Dr. Leo Schelbert made valuable contributions to the editing of this report. We thank them sincerely for their efforts in this regard.*

## **C. Elections, Nominating Committee Report**

*by Rosa Schupbach, Chairperson, Nominating Committee*

The Nominating Committee is made up of the following:

Heinz Bachmann

Leo Schelbert

And myself as Chairperson

Today our members have to vote for two separate elections, the first to replace Fred Jenny as Vice President of our Swiss Chapter, and the second to elect a new Class of 2015-2018.

Fred Jenny has decided to resign as Vice President of our Swiss Chapter, a post he has held since 2005 when that Chapter was in dire need to be resurrected, as we had not been able to find a competent leader for a while. Fred has done an admirable job all these years, first in re-organizing the Swiss Chapter and then in handling it with great efficiency and dedication. We are extremely grateful for everything he has done. Let's give him a hand.

He has found a replacement in Barbara Mueller, of Murten, Switzerland. Barbara was not able to come to New York, but Fred will tell us about her in the in absentia report which President Gillespie will present shortly.

I now nominate Barbara Mueller as Vice President for our Swiss Chapter. Are there any nominations from the floor? If not, the nominations are closed. I move that Barbara be elected. Seconded? All those in favor say aye, any opposed? Therefore, Barbara Mueller is duly elected.

We now proceed to the Board of Advisors.

The term of the Class of 2012-2015 of the Board of Advisors has expired and we need to elect a new Class of 2015-2018. I was able to reach four members of that class who have all agreed to be nominated again. I contacted David Sutton at an email address I found in my records, but that email was returned to me. He moved to Hawaii a few years ago. The only mailing address we have now is c/o the Public Library in Helvetia located deep in the woods of West Virginia. I shall mail him a letter at that address, and hopefully it will be forwarded to him. Let me just briefly mention his connection to Helvetia.

David is a descendant of one of the original Swiss settlers of Helvetia, and he has written a delightful book about his ancestors. I visited West Virginia in 2008. That visit was an eye opener; one could still see some evidence of the hardships these early Swiss immigrants had to go through to build a small community under very primitive conditions in the American wilderness. David has been associated with our Society for many years, and I have no doubt that he wants to remain on the Board of Advisors. If you agree, we

shall vote for him today, and I shall try to reach him again.

Therefore, the following are nominated for the Class of 2015-2018:

Susan Keller

H. Dwight Page

Kenneth Schelbert

David Sutton

Franz von Arx

Are there any nominations from the floor? If not, the nominations are closed. I move that those nominated be elected. Seconded? All those in favor say aye, any opposed? Therefore, the Class of 2015-2018 is duly elected.

I have here the names of the other two Classes, namely the Class of 2013-2016 and the Class of 2014-2017 which as a matter of record will be published in the Minutes of this Meeting in the February 2016 *Review*. So I think that we can dispense with reading them.

Class of 2013-2016

Marianne Burkhard

Donald Hilty

Diana Larisgoitia

Urspeter Schelbert

Donald Tritt

Class of 2014-2017

Randall Gafner

Karl Niederer

Franz Portmann

Elsbeth Reinmann

Paula Sherman

## D. Membership Report

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

IN BRIEF: We have 223 current members, a 5% decrease from the 234 reported last year at this time. We welcome two new LIFE members this year, Diana Larisgotia of Philadelphia, and Robert Sherwood of Milledgeville, Georgia. Miss Larisgotia also gave an extra donation of \$500, as did Rudy Nef. And other members gave over \$1000 in extra donations.

### CURRENT MEMBERS BY TYPE AND COUNTRY

<i>Membership Type</i>	<i>US/Canada</i>	<i>Switzerland/Other</i>	<i>Total</i>
Regular (\$50/yr.)	99	23	122
Student (\$25/yr.)	1	0	1
Institution (\$75/yr.)	13	6	19
Life Members	46	6	52
Complimentary	<u>25</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>29</u>
	184	39	223

### MEMBERSHIP CHANGES, 10/01/2014 TO 09/30/2015

Members as of 10/01/2014	234
Plus: New Members Enrolled	8
Plus: Former Members (not "Current" last year) who have Rejoined	0
Less: Dropped by Request or Decease	- 4
Less: Dropped for Non-Payment of Dues	<u>- 13</u>
Current Members, 09/30/2015	223

BREAKDOWN OF CURRENT MEMBERSHIP  
BY COUNTRY AND STATE

CA	13	NC	4
CO	1	NH	1
CT	3	NJ	6
DC	5	NV	2
DE	2	NY	20
FL	5	OH	9
GA	2	OR	1
HI	1	PA	16
IA	1	RI	1
IL	18	SC	5
IN	2	SD	2
KS	1	TN	3
KY	2	TX	4
LA	3	UT	4
MA	3	VA	5
MD	8	VT	2
MI	2	WA	1
MN	3	WI	13
MO	2	WV	2
MS	1	WY	1
MT	1		
BC, Canada	1		
ONT, Canada	1		
QB, Canada	1		
Switzerland	39		

## E. Treasurer's Report

by Heinz Bachmann, Treasurer of the SAHS

### 1. Consolidated Accounts

	<i>U.S. Chapter</i>	<i>Swiss Chapter<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Total</i>
<b><i>Income</i></b>			
Annual Dues	7,658.25	2,700	10,358
Donations incl. life memberships	1,000.00		1,000
Book Sales	50.00		50
Events		1,350	1,350
Capital Appreciation	<u>- 872.27</u>	<u>      </u>	<u>- 872</u>
Total Income	7,835.98	4,050	11,886
<b><i>Expenses</i></b>			
Meetings/ Events	325.00	2,910	3,235
Donations	2500.00 <sup>2</sup>	4,000 <sup>3</sup>	6,500
Administration/Postage/Fees	<u>262.60</u>	<u>142</u>	<u>405</u>
SAHS Total Expenditure	11,970.25	7,052	19,022
<i>Net Result</i>	- 4,134.27	- 3,002	- 7,136
<b>Balances</b>			
Opening Balance, Oct. 1, 2014	80,806.80	11,923.40	92,730.20
Closing Balance, Sept. 30, 2015	76,672.53	8,921.55	85,594.08
Net Result	- 4,134.27	- 3,001.85	- 7,136.12

<sup>1</sup> Details partially estimated; \$/Sfr. one to one

<sup>2</sup> Research grant Prof. Dwight Page

<sup>3</sup> Research grant Mrs. Susanna Bosshard Kaelin

**2. Balance Sheets (\$)***United States*

## OPENING BALANCE (as of Oct. 1, 2014)

Checking	First Bank & Trust of Evanston, Illinois	11,907.74
Savings	Vanguard STAR Fund	<u>68,899.06</u>
Total Assets		80,806.80

## CLOSING BALANCE (as of Sept. 30, 2015)

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

OVERALL NET CHANGE during FY. 2014/2015 - 4,134.27

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*Switzerland*

## Postal Checking Account (SFr.)

Opening Balance, Oct. 1, 2014	11,923.40
Closing Balance, Sept. 30, 2015	<u>8,921.55</u>

OVERALL NET CHANGE during FY. 2014/2015 - 3,001.85

*Treasurer's Remarks:*

As you can see, our Society ran a substantial deficit in 2014/15 with total income covering less than two-thirds of the total expenditures. This represents a major deterioration from the previous year when we had just about broken even. The main culprit was the performance of the Vanguard STAR FUND: in 2013/14 it had produced an exceptionally large benefit of close to \$6,000; this year, on the other hand, ended with a deficit of \$900. Compared with an income from annual dues averaging around \$8,000, such large swings make a huge difference in our budget.

Fortunately, expenditures also declined last year, offsetting some of the decline in revenues. Concerning expenditures, the important change last year was a marked shift from publications (declining from \$5,200 to zero) to donations (jumping from \$2,000 TO \$6,500). In 2013/14, publication expenditures had been exceptionally high due to the publication of the book, *Emigrant Paths*. Last year the Society did not publish any books. Instead, much funds were spent on the preparation of two new books by Dwight Page and Susann Bosshard-Kaelin, respectively.

For the time being, our financial situation is not serious. The deficit was financed fully by reducing the liquidity in the two SAHS checking accounts. In the U.S. there is still some limited room of maneuver; in Switzerland, however, the Society has reached rock bottom. Hence, if Wall Street continues to drag its feet or even further decline during 2015/16, while the two books presently under preparation will become ready for publishing, some drawing on our endowment might become inevitable.

~ *Heinz. B. Bachmann*  
*Treasurer, SAHS*



## **F. Annual Report of the Vice President of the Swiss Chapter, Switzerland**

*by Fred Jenny*

Dear Members of the Swiss American Historical Society:

First of all, I am pleased to personally present my last annual report to the Swiss American Historical Society, this time in New York—and even at the Consulate General of Switzerland in New York!

The Swiss Chapter has at present only 39 members. Our oldest member, Mrs. Verena Bill, passed away unexpectedly on August 2<sup>nd</sup> after having attended our annual meeting in the Capital of the Canton of Schwyz on July 31<sup>st</sup>.

As you probably know, I would like to pass on the Vice Presidency Switzerland to Mrs. Barbara Müller. She grew up in Spartanburg, South Carolina, and her parents are still living there. Her father was Honorary Consul of Switzerland in South Carolina for many years. Mrs. Müller now lives in Murten, Switzerland, where she is married.

Barbara Müller takes over as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, and I wish her satisfaction and good luck with her new assignment. As you might guess, recruiting new members is rather difficult also in Switzerland and requires resourcefulness.

After having served the Swiss American Historical Society in Switzerland for nine years, I am happy to pass on this task. I will however personally support Barbara whenever this is necessary, particularly in the beginning of her function.

I wish the SAHS all the best. I shall remain a member and shall continue to be interested in the SAHS, and I do hope that it will continue to flourish in the future.

With cordial regards,

Fred Jenny

## **G. Publications**

### **1. Book Editor's Report**

*by Professor Albert Winkler*

We are anticipating the publication of Dr. Dwight Page's book, *The Swiss Presence in the History of Tennessee*, in early January 2016. Thereafter, I would like to publish additional books in consultation with the President of the Swiss American Historical Society. Rosa Schupbach, our Society Vice President for the United States, has said that she would like to write her autobiography for publication, but she has not yet given any specific date for the completion of this project. I have been talking with Heinrich Wirz concerning the possibility of the publication of an English version of his lengthy and masterful work on Henry Wirz and his role in the American Civil War. This is still the subject of discussion. I personally would also like eventually to publish several books for the society. These would include a book on the Swiss infantries in the Middle Ages, the Black Death in Switzerland, and the creation of democracies in the Swiss cities and rural areas. As you can see, there are many projects that are pending.

### **2. SAHS Review Editor's Report**

*by Professor Dwight Page*

The upcoming year 2016 will be yet another productive year in the history of the Swiss American Historical Society *Review*. We anticipate much variety in upcoming issues. The June edition will be under the direction of Dr. Albert Winkler. The lead article will be by Megan Armknecht (Oxford University) and will deal with Louisa May Alcott in Switzerland. The November 2016 issue will be under the direction of Dr. Leo Schelbert. It will mainly be devoted to the presence of people from Einsiedeln, Switzerland, in the city of St. Louis, Missouri, with several articles that deal with the Einsiedeln background, their presence in St. Louis, and a gallery of portraits of their descendants.

In Washington, at the Embassy of Switzerland, at the national meeting of the Society on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016, I hope to meet some of you and to discuss with you future projects for publication in our *Review*.

Please introduce yourselves to me and bring to my attention any genealogical projects or scholarly projects which you might be contemplating.

The Washington meeting should be a most interesting event. First of all, it is always good to visit the nation's capital, with its wealth of national treasures. The White House, the Congress, the Supreme Court, the National Gallery of Art with its café in the sunlit atrium adorned by a spectacular cascading waterfall and its extraordinary collection of Impressionist masters, the National Air and Space Museum with its fascinating films on the huge screen, and the National Museum of Science with the fabulous Hope Diamond, are just a few of the points of interest which we all wish to visit. Remember as well that the Ford Theatre continues to perform plays even today, and the renowned Kennedy Center for the Arts constantly provides valuable cultural events.

President Fred Gillespie has engaged two spell-binding speakers for this year's Washington meeting—Albert Gallatin (aka Ron Duquette) and Professor Jonathan Steinberg, author of *Why Switzerland* and several other scholarly works. We also expect to have a few student presenters during the afternoon session, representing various universities in the greater Washington area.

We understand that the weekend of October 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2016, will be extremely busy in Washington, and therefore we advise that you book your hotel reservations early. We hope to see many of you in Washington on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **H. Annual Publicity and Public Relations Report**

*by Brian Wages*

The Society website continues to be a key gateway and introduction for potential new members. It is also a well-used resource for current members to keep in contact with the Society. With a minimal cost to the Society, it accomplishes a great deal.

The website currently receives about 120 views per month, or 1,500 views per year. There has been extensive outreach to academics through personal invitations. Over 1,500 professors and scholars have been contacted over the past year. Regular changes to the page have resulted in better communication with members and others interested in the Society.