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# **An Update on the Tercentennial Meeting of the SAHS at New Bern Saturday, December 11, 2010**

**A**t this time the Swiss American Historical Society would like to express its deep appreciation to several SAHS Swiss Chapter members who are members of the Board of the 'Association 300 Years New Bern'. They are: Christine de Graffenried, President of the Association; Prof. Dr. Aloys de Graffenried, Vice President; Ambassador (ret.) André de Graffenried; Fred Jenny, Vice President of the Swiss American Historical Society, Europe.

These individuals have spent a great deal of time in planning events surrounding the Tercentenary of New Bern. We are deeply grateful for the events which they have organized in order to commemorate this historic event. Their efforts in this regard are much appreciated.

The readership should be aware that the idea to celebrate the Tercentenary of New Bern in this manner, both in the Mother-and-Daughter Cities Bern and New Bern, originated in Bern. The Exhibition '300 Years New Bern' was created in Bern.

Finally, the readership should know that the Swiss American Historical Society participates substantially in this endeavor in a number of ways:

- A financial contribution
- The creation and writing of the SAHS Special Review November 2010 '300 years New Bern' by Professor Emeritus Dr. Leo Schelbert
- Dr. Schelbert's lecture at the vernissage of the Exhibition in Bern in December 2009

The readership should also be aware of certain details which have come to light in recent months concerning our meeting of Saturday,

December 11, 2010 at the North Carolina History Center, adjacent to Tryon's Palace in New Bern, North Carolina.

First, it will not be necessary to purchase tickets in advance for the viewing of the exhibition '300 Years New Bern', which will be open to the public the day of our meeting. This exhibition will be open daily for several months in New Bern, and you may pay admission at the door. We shall offer those who attend our meeting the opportunity to visit the exhibition immediately after our symposium. You may of course visit it the next day, if you prefer; it will be open daily during regular business hours. The exhibition is directly next door to the room where we shall have our meeting, in the North Carolina History Museum. Therefore, visiting the exhibition will be extremely convenient for those who attend our special December meeting. Please be aware that this is a very extensive exhibition on life in colonial New Bern and America; it therefore has superb educational value for your children and grandchildren. In addition, New Bern and its environs is one of the historically richest regions of the United States: the archaeological artifacts at Roanoke Island, pertaining to the "Lost Colony" of Sir Walter Raleigh, go back to the year 1587. Clearly, this is the best opportunity you will ever have to introduce your family and friends to early American history, the history of the early colonial Swiss and Germans, and the history of the British Empire in America. New Bern is a most convenient center for the exploration of all these fascinating historical sites.

Secondly, several officers of the Swiss American Historical Society attended the Tercentennial meeting of the de Graffenried Association, USA, on April 17th, 2010 at the Hilton Convention Hotel on the Trent River in downtown New Bern. We shall provide accommodations at this same Hilton Hotel for our December 11th meeting. We therefore had the opportunity to personally view the hotel and its staff, and to dine in the hotel restaurant. I can assure you that this is a very fine hotel with excellent cuisine and a very capable and attentive staff which is always available for the hotel guest. I am positive that you will greatly enjoy your stay at this fine hotel.

Thirdly, the Hilton Convention Hotel has an extremely convenient location, facing the Trent and Neuse Rivers with breathtaking maritime views and within easy walking distance of both the downtown New Bern shops and the historic district. It will therefore be extremely easy to walk from the hotel to the North Carolina History Center and to near-

by Tryon's Palace. Both buildings are only a couple of blocks from the Hilton. We shall provide free transportation for those who request it.

Dr. Heinz Bachmann will send you all an official invitation to this Tercentennial event at the end of the summer. All pertinent details concerning the meeting will be sent to you all at that time.

Below I have provided you with information concerning a number of popular places of historic interest and of interest to visitors to the Outer Banks region of North Carolina. All sites and museums listed below are within an easy two hour drive of New Bern. Please note that the Bellair Plantation House and the Foscue Plantation House can be seen only by appointment. The staff at the Foscue Plantation House say that they will do their best to accommodate SAHS members on Friday, December 10th, but they ask that you call in advance. Finally be aware that the Christmas Shops and Island Gallery at Manteo, two hours from New Bern, has a vast assortment of beautiful Christmas ornaments and many other items to brighten the Holiday Season. There is also an excellent snack shop adjacent to the shops. All Roanoke Island and Manteo historic sites are within a couple of miles of the Island Gallery.

I look forward to seeing you all on December 11, 2010 in New Bern, North Carolina for what promises to be a most interesting international meeting of the Swiss American Historical Society.

Dwight Page  
Editor, *Swiss American Historical Society Review*

Bern Bear Gifts  
301 Pollock Street  
New Bern, North Carolina  
(Specialty Items from Switzerland)  
(252) 637-2300

Foscue Plantation House  
7509 US Highway 17  
Pollocksville, North Carolina  
(252) 224-1803

Bellair Plantation House  
1100 Washington Post Road  
New Bern, North Carolina  
(252) 637-3913

Hope Plantation House  
132 Hope House Road  
Windsor, North Carolina  
(252) 794-3140

Poplar Grove Plantation House  
10200 US Highway 17  
Wilmington, North Carolina  
(910) 686-9518

Ava Gardner Museum  
325 East Market Street  
Smithfield, North Carolina  
(919) 934-5830

Fort Raleigh National Historic Site  
Manteo, North Carolina  
(252) 473-5772

Christmas Shops and Island Gallery  
Manteo, North Carolina  
(252) 473-2838