



Swiss American Historical Society Review

Volume 39 | Number 2

Article 2

6-2003

Preface

H. Dwight Page

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

Page, H. Dwight (2003) "Preface," *Swiss American Historical Society Review*. Vol. 39 : No. 2 , Article 2.
Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/sahs_review/vol39/iss2/2

This Front Matter 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.

Preface

The present issue is a reprint of the lengthy Introduction to another Picton Press publication, Volume 2 of *Even More Palatine Families*. In that volume the author Lewis Bunker Rohrbach, CG, illuminates in great depth the 1710 von Graffenried settlement of New Bern, North Carolina. Although the writing of that volume was part of a general collaborative effort between Mr. Rohrbach and his colleague Hank Jones, Mr. Rohrbach wishes to stress that he alone has responsibility for the contents of the New Bern volume.

The following paragraphs provide some background about how this New Bern volume came to be published. Hank Jones and Lewis Rohrbach have been friends for some thirty years, and both have won the highest award available in American genealogical writing: the Jacobus Award given annually by The American Society of Genealogists. While Mr. Jones' prior works have all been on the German Palatines who emigrated to New York in 1710 as well as those who went to Ireland the same year, Mr. Rohrbach's work has been more broadly scattered, but always on German-speaking immigrants with a strong emphasis on Swiss origins.

About four years ago Mr. Jones and Mr. Rohrbach decided to put out a single-volume book which was designed to be a sequel to *More Palatine Families*, splitting the work 50-50. What began as a projected 50-50 single volume of 800 pages grew to the three-volume work *Even More Palatine Families*.

One of the sections which was allocated to Mr. Rohrbach was to be a short section on the 1710 von Graffenried settlement of New Bern, North Carolina. Von Graffenried was a small ancillary sideshow to the larger backdrop of the migration of 15,000 German-speaking settlers headed to England in 1710, expecting to go onward to North America to fame, fortune, and food. Mr. Rohrbach decided to summarize the settlers, say where they fit into the larger 1710 picture, and point out the major literature sources for further study.

The deeper Mr. Rohrbach got into researching the New Bern settlement, the more apparent it became that little of any significance, and even less of any accuracy, had been written about the 750 settlers in three ships, two with Swiss and Germans from London and one with Swiss from Bern, who went to North Carolina (keeping in mind that the Swiss ship was not actually part of the 1710 migration to England). The usual explanation was the lack of written records in North Carolina. The more Mr. Rohrbach researched New Bern, the more several things became apparent to him: 1) the New Bern story was primarily a Swiss story; 2) the story needed to be told; 3) enough North Carolina records survived to be able to document the surviving settlers; 4) as part of writing it, the entire 1710 migration needed to be revisited and better documentation provided as a new overview of that entire movement; and 5) the basic 1710 documents (the Rotterdam departure lists, the London arrival lists, and the New York Hunter lists) needed to be published in new verbatim form. Mr. Rohrbach succeeded in doing

everything except the Hunter Documents, which he finished but ran out of space, so these will be included in a future volume.

On a broader scale, Mr. Rohrbach is working to revolutionize Americans' access to and understanding of Swiss genealogical records and the Swiss immigrants to America. He is perhaps a third of that way so far, and he assures the readership of our journal that a great deal of work remains to be done.

Dwight Page, Editor, SAHS Review
Madisonville, Tennessee, May, 2003