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Preface

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PREFACE

This special issue is devoted to nineteenth century Swiss of Ohio, and it also commemorates the work of Dr. Adelrich Steinach who published in 1889 the book *Geschichte und Leben der Schweizer Kolonien in den Vereinigten Staaten von Nord-Amerika*. Although no edition of this work exists in English, fortunately Picton Press republished it with a "Combined Place Name Index" (pp. 393-412), an "Index of Place Names in Swiss Cantons" (412-414), an "Index of Place Names in America" (415-420), and an "Index of Personal Names" (pp. 421-525), expertly compiled by the historian Urspeter Schelbert, an archivist at the *Staatsarchiv* of the Canton Zug. These indexes make the book accessible to those who do not know German since they can easily find a name or place mentioned in the book, thus may assist people interested in Swiss in the United States. Wanting to encourage a wider use of this important work by Steinach, I privately contracted a linguist to translate sections pertaining to Ohio. The draft was sent to Leo Schelbert who found the translation in need of additional work. I was pleased when Prof. Schelbert not only offered, pro bono, to prepare a new translation but suggested that the resulting text be issued as a special issue of the *SAHS Review* on Ohio Swiss, a proposal which Editor H. Dwight Page gracefully accepted. Steinach's chapter, I hope, might inspire others to sponsor translations for other States of the Union.

This special issue contains the following items: First it offers a brief introduction to Adelrich Steinach's work which Urspeter Schelbert had prepared for the Picton Press re-edition of 1995. It then presents a translation of Steinach's autobiographical sketch and an annotated translation of the Ohio chapter, both by Leo Schelbert, followed by a random selection of some biographical sketches concerning Ohio Swiss. The sketch of Samuel Strasser Rickly [Rickli] of Columbus is taken from Alfred E. Lee, *History of the City of Columbus, Capital of Ohio*, 2 vols. (New York and Chicago: Munsell & Co., 1892), vol. 2, 833-836. The biography of Jacques Ritchie of Cincinnati L. Schelbert translated from Armin Tenner, *Cincinnati Sonst und Jetzt* (Cincinnati, Ohio: Mecklenborg & Rosenthal, 1878), 402-404, and is followed by two summaries about Johann Eduard Frey and Johann Anderegg, based on the same work. The Cleveland biographies are reprinted, by permission of The Western Reserve Historical Society, from: *Cleveland and Its Germans [Cleveland und sein*

Deutschthum] Cleveland, Ohio: German-American Publishing Co., 1897-98. Translated from the German by Steven Rowan (Cleveland, Ohio: The Western Reserve Historical Society, 1998), 118-121, 158-163. Dr. John J. Grabowski, Director of the Society's Research, reports that this title, as well as its 1907 edition, are available from the Western Reserve Historical Society; also *The Jubilee Edition of the Cleveland Wächter und Anzeiger* which also contains "extensive information about the local Swiss community." The Society, furthermore, holds "the minutes and other archival records of a number of local Swiss organizations."

I thank the Western Reserve Historical Society for its permission to reprint the biographical sketches, Picton Press for its permission to reprint the introduction to the 1995 reissue of Steinach's work, and Leo Schelbert for providing the annotated translation, the selection and, where needed, translation of the biographies. Thanks also to H. Dwight Page, Editor of the *SAHS Review*, who agreed to this special issue on the Ohio Swiss. May it be but a first step in making available a translation of the entire text of Steinach's significant work.

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