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Preface

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Preface

The present issue of the *Swiss American Historical Society Review* contains many items of great interest to our readers. We present first the republication with commentary of excerpts of the letters of the nineteenth century Swiss immigrant Johann Caspar Lohbauer, the great-great uncle of the authoress Elizabeth Siber. This gentleman was well known for his healthy, practical mind as well as for his warm heart, and his enthusiastic descriptions of everything American are truly a joy to read. Mr. Lohbauer was killed during the Civil War in the massacre by the rebel leader Quantrill on October 6, 1863 near Baxter Springs, Kansas, where he is buried in the second oldest military cemetery of the United States.

Secondly we present a review of a book dealing with the life of a leader of Anabaptists in the area around Zurich, Switzerland, Hans Landis, who was executed in 1614. The author of this book review, Dr. Morris Sider, is Professor Emeritus of History and English Literature at Messiah College in Pennsylvania. He is the editor of the journal *Brethren in Christ History and Life* and is the author or editor of 25 books, mainly in church history. Upon his retirement in 2000, the Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist, and Wesleyan Studies at Messiah College was named in his honor, thus the Sider Institute.

The February issue as always includes the agenda of the Society's annual national meeting, this year in New York City. The Editorial Board of the *Review* would like to take this opportunity to say a special word of thanks to Ambassador Raymond Loretan and his wife, of the Swiss Consulate General in New York, who offered us such gracious hospitality at the reception following the meeting at their beautiful residence in midtown Manhattan.

We conclude the issue with a tribute to Dr. Lukas F. Burckhardt who passed away on March 3, 2003. Dr. Burckhardt's passing is much deplored by the Swiss American Historical Society, for in 1963 he was the main promoter of the Society's reactivation. In addition, he served as the Society's Secretary and Newsletter Editor from 1964 to 1970.

Finally, we would like to wish all our readers around the globe a very happy and profitable New Year 2004.

Dwight Page, Editor, *SAHS Review*
Madisonville, Tennessee, January, 2004