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Preface

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Preface

With this issue, we present a small sample of the rich but largely untold history of the Swiss in Utah and southern Idaho. This has been a labor of love for all of us involved; it has brought us much satisfaction and joy. As readers will readily note, all of us are descendants of Nineteenth-Century Swiss immigrants. We have all had the pleasure of living in or visiting Switzerland, tramping the same hills, valleys, streets, and towns where "our people" came from. We have, therefore, welcomed this opportunity to pay some small tribute to our Swiss ancestors and express some of the gratitude and affection we owe them, for what they accomplished and for our own rich heritage. Many of them were true pioneers, in many senses. They left a beautiful homeland and families, both of which most never saw again, for something they believed in. They literally made this Western desert "blossom as the rose." They were church and community builders and they made it possible for their descendants to get an education, be part of caring families and communities, and "live the American dream."

For all of these reasons, we feel a great debt to Professor Leo Schelbert, the long-serving and faithful editor of the *Swiss-American Historical Society Review*, who honored us by allowing us to present part of our story to fellow friends of Switzerland. Whatever shortcomings there are in this issue are our responsibility. He has given us encouragement and a free hand to determine the contents.

I also wish to express appreciation to the authors: All are admired and respected friends, bound together by our common faith and a common Swiss heritage; all stand in awe of our forbears and wonder if we would have had the character and fortitude to do what they did.

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