



2023

Report of the Editor-in-Chief of the SAHS Review

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Recommended Citation

Winkler, Albert (2023) "Report of the Editor-in-Chief of the SAHS Review," *Swiss American Historical Society Review*. Vol. 59: No. 1, Article 11.

Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/sahs_review/vol59/iss1/11

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Report of the Editor-in-Chief of the *SAHS Review*

by Albert Winkler

A Good Year for Articles

I wish to state that the quality and variety of publications in the *SAHS Review* for 2022 remain strong. The February 2022 issue included four good articles including the “Battle of Dornach in 1499,” the “History of the Swiss Consulate in New York,” “Swiss Heritage Preserved at New Glarus Museum,” and “Glarus and Scranton: Benefits and Costs of Industrialization.” The article on the Swiss Consulate was first published in 1926, so it is now in the public domain. The Swiss Consulate in New York asked us to publish it, so I had to type it into an acceptable format, and I also had to find the portraits to go with it. Duane H. Freitag’s article on the New Glarus Museum was interesting, well-researched and well-written as was Jürg K. Siegenthaler’s work on Glarus and Scranton.

The June 2022 issue was very challenging because I had absolutely no submissions from anyone, and I had to scramble to find anything. Luckily, I was able to locate an article that had a small Swiss connection, but I only placed it in the *Review* out of desperation. I was much more fortunate in the November issue because I received submissions from Richard Hacken, Jan Sparkman, Maria Ott, and C. Naseer Ahmad. Dr. Hacken’s contribution was an edited interview of a Swiss immigrant. It was very interesting, and Jan Sparkman’s history of Bernstadt was well-researched and very well-written. Maria Ott is a college student, and her article on Swiss Neutrality in the Second World War won the Schelbert Prize. Ms. Ott is an impressive student with a bright future. C. Naseer Ahmad has been a frequent contributor to the *SAHS Review*. All his articles are excellent, and he has made many valuable contributions to our understanding of the Swiss Embassy and the many activities associated with it.

Difficulty in Finding Articles

I am doing my very best to find interesting, relevant, and well-researched articles for the *Review*, but I face many challenges. For many years, I was one of the editors of the *SAHS Review*. Dwight Page and I would often alternate. I would take an issue of the *Review*, while Dwight,

as the editor-in-chief, took the next one. Dwight handed off complete responsibility to me and quit looking for articles long before he died last year, so I have had to do everything for a long time. I often got a good number of submissions, but I also had to go hat-in-hand to everyone I knew. That can be pretty tough. One time, eight authors—I'm not exaggerating!—promised me articles for an issue, and none of them sent me anything. Often, potential authors will contact me asking when the deadlines for submissions might be indicating that they want to submit something. Then, the deadlines come and go, and I have nothing at all, so I have to scramble, sometimes at late dates, to find materials.

I have been through the list of potential authors so many times that all my associates shun me. I have also lost all my friends, and my relatives won't talk to me. It has gotten so bad that I often stand on street corners, tin cup in hand, with a sign that reads, "Will Work for Article!" I also approach total strangers, "Got any spare articles?" I then start to shake uncontrollably, "You see. I need one real bad!" I'm doing the best I can.

Book Projects

I am also the book editor for the Society. There are no books at this time available to be published by the Society. I have been talking with others about finding worthy book projects, but nothing has come of this effort as yet. I am still hopeful that the Society will be able to find and publish appropriate books in the near future.

Outreach at the Little Bighorn Symposium Hardin, Montana, in June 2022

I would like to urge my fellow members of the Society to be actively engaged in spreading the word about our Society to attract more attention and to get new members. In an attempt to attract new members, I took copies of the November 2018 issue of the *SAHS Review* to pass out for free to interested persons at the Little Bighorn Symposium in Hardin, Montana, in June 2022. The June 2018 issue is dedicated to my article, "The Germans and Swiss at the Battle of the Little Bighorn." I am very proud of it. The article is 103 pages long and is the best study on the subject. I hoped that if the historians of the

Battle read my article, they could see some value in our organization and become interested in joining our Society.

I made the ultimate sacrifice in bringing issues of the *Review* to Hardin. Not only did I attend entirely at my own expense, but just before I arrived, the air conditioning in my car went out, and I had to swelter in the summer heat. Since the Symposium met on the anniversary of Custer's Last Stand, I knew that the few motels in the town would have many persons interested in the Battle of the Little Bighorn. I worked the breakfast crowd at the Homestead Inn and Suites Motel, and many people wanted to get a free copy of the November 2018 *Review* from me. Some were very gracious, including some Custer reenactors, and they even asked me to sign the copy I gave them. I was flattered by the attention. I also went to the Battlefield later that day where I was able to give out copies of the *Review* to interested persons there.

On the next day, they held the Little Bighorn Symposium. I had a couple of boxes with my article from the Swiss American Historical Society to hand out. I made an announcement, "Anybody who wants one gets one for free," and everyone lined up to get them. One of the gentlemen asked me how much they cost. I said they were free. He asked "three?" I answered, "No, free." He seemed shocked and replied, "There's no such thing as a free lunch!" I guess everyone is used to getting ripped off, so I assured him there was no charge. But I would like him to get some interest in the Society. He then took a copy, gratis. I handed out more than 50 free copies of the *Review* to Little Bighorn scholars during my visit to Hardin. One historian contacted me later asking for three additional copies of the *Review* to give to his colleagues. I was pleased to spread the word about our Society and show more people who we are and what we do.

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