

*The Swiss Colony at Gruetli --
Bridge to a New Land*



From 1869 to the early years of the 20th century, over fifty families of Swiss immigrants came to Grundy County, Tennessee with the express purpose of creating a Swiss Colony, a community composed almost entirely of German-speaking Swiss that would preserve their culture in a new land. They gave to the area the inspiring name of Gruetli, the meadow where legend says representatives of three cantons met in 1291 and formed the league which grew, over centuries, into the Swiss confederation. They came with high hopes, definite support of their home government, and fervent loyalty to their native land. This book tells their story.

Today, most physical evidence of the Colony has vanished. Fortunately, this bridge, built with community labor in the earliest days of the settlement survives to symbolize the Colony, itself a bridge for those Swiss families into mainstream America.

The Swiss Colony at Gruetli - Frances Helen Jackson



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Edited with translations, comments, updates, maps and
index by Clopper Almon

Grundy County Swiss Historical Society
2010 Edition



The Gruetli or Ruetli meadow in Switzerland, looking north. Painting by Johann Heinrich Bleuler, 1834 or 1835.



Location of the Rütli meadow (arrow) on Lake Lucerne



Peter Staub is depicted in the early records of Gruetli as the benefactor, indeed, as the savior of the colony. A Swiss immigrant, he became mayor of Knoxville, and the above portrait hangs in the city hall there. He was somewhat maligned in the original text reprinted here, but further research, now included in the book, has fully justified the high regard in which the Gruetli settlers held him.

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Frances Helen Jackson

With contributions by Dola Schild Tylor and LaDora Mayes
Rose.

Edited with translations, comments, updates, maps, and
index by Clopper Almon



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The picture on the front cover is the Stocker-Stampfli House,
now home of the Swiss Historical Society

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Preface

From 1869 to the early years of the 20th century, a number of Swiss immigrants came to a remote site on the Cumberland Plateau with the idea of creating a Swiss Colony, a community composed almost entirely of German-speaking Swiss. They gave to the area the inspiring name of Gruetli, the meadow where, in the legend used by Friedrich Schiller in his *Wilhelm Tell*, representatives of three cantons met in 1307 and formed the league which grew, over centuries, into the Swiss confederation. This Tennessee settlement was to be explicitly Swiss; the community was to be called Switzerland, and the city which they hoped would rise within it was to be Bern. They expected to have their own schools, taught in both German and English. They came with high hopes, definite support of their home government, and fervent loyalty to their native land.

This book tells their story. It recounts the founding of the colony in 1869-70, describes some of the prominent families, chronicles the discussions of the Agricultural Society, and, to some extent, follows the settlers and their descendants as they moved away and assimilated into American society. Its core is the master's thesis of Frances Helen Jackson, *The German Swiss Settlement at Gruetli, Tennessee*, accepted in June of 1933 by the German Department of Vanderbilt University. Jackson visited Gruetli and was evidently taken by these remarkable people who still, after more than sixty years in the Tennessee mountains, preserved striking evidence of the European Swiss culture of their ancestors. Her principal sources were the stories of the people themselves. Had she not recorded them, they would be largely lost to us today. Some families, however, still remember stories she did not include. And there is the story of what has happened to these families in the 70 years since she wrote. I have added material from these other sources in footnotes and sections labeled "Update" or "Addendum."

Inevitably, one asks, “Was the Colony a success?” Today, when one visits Gruetli and finds as the only traces of the Swiss community, a cemetery, four or five Swiss-built houses, some foundations of long-gone homes, and a few people of Swiss descent, it is easy to conclude that the Colony was a failure. This judgment, would, I believe, be inappropriate.

The immigrants came seeking economic prosperity and dignity for themselves and their children. If the Colony had immediately wilted and disbanded, one would be justified in calling it a failure. On the day of the initial allocation of lots in 1869, there were 41 purchasers present. The minutes of community meetings report lots allocated to 81 persons by the end of 1869. However, at the community elections on December 31, 1869, only 31 votes were cast, presumably one per family. The map of June 1, 1872 shows 80 landowners, 48 of them the same as in the minutes. Apparently, 33 of the original assignees had indeed left more or less immediately. Presumably, they foresaw the sore trial of the 1869-70 winter, for which they would not have time to build adequate shelter or provide themselves with food. But after that winter, the inflow began again, and by the time the map was made, these 33 owners had been replaced by 32 new owners. An owner, however, was not necessarily a settler; on the map, only about 36 lots had houses on them. Between these two dates, the 1870 Census showed 137 people of Swiss origin living in Grundy County in 43 households, a few outside the Colony area. A decade later, the 1880 Census showed 321 people of Swiss origin (or born to Swiss parents) living in 68 households in Grundy County, mostly in the Gruetli area. Of these households, 32 were new between 1872 and 1880. Evidently, the word going back to Switzerland was encouraging more families to come.

Twenty-five years after establishment of the Colony, we read:

There is a Swiss Colony in Grundy County, Tennessee, which seems like a part of a foreign country, so perfectly have they kept their native habits and customs, and style of architecture in the building of their little cottages. There are carvers there whose quaint work finds ready sale.

Market gardening is a feature of the colony, and those who can talk English take the produce to town and sell it. Their wines have taken several premiums, and it is a rare treat to go through their well-kept vineyards. One of the remarkable phases of life there is the great age to which they attain, there being several centenarians among them and nonagenarians not being at all uncommon. The mountains surrounding them, while not so high or grand as their native Alps, are sufficiently steep to keep them from being lonely for the sight of their native hills, and none of them has ever returned to Switzerland, although a number of them have grown quite wealthy and could go if they wished.¹

These words probably provide the best assessment we have of the success of the Colony. Another source tells us “Many farmers owned twenty to thirty head of cattle and two horses. Almost everyone had his own wine cellar.”² In 1891, they were considering sending products to the World’s Fair in Chicago to show the world what Gruetli could produce. While the dreams of a Swiss city, to be called Bern, had not materialized, the hopes for agricultural prosperity had largely come true. Moreover, the younger generation had been educated in both German and English. When the mechanization of agriculture began to induce massive, nationwide out-migration of farm labor, the young Swiss were in a position to move into the American mainstream. They found the hoped-for prosperity not by maintaining a narrow, ethnic enclave, but by assimilating into the American mainstream. *The Colony, however, enabled these Swiss farmers to achieve this assimilation without going through the demeaning experience suffered by immigrants to big cities.* In this sense, the Colony was a definite success. To document this success, we shall follow a few families down to the present. I hope that other families not so covered will send me material about their stories for future printings of this book.

The Swiss were good record keepers, and Jackson made use of all the written sources she could find. Perhaps because the

¹ *The Coming Nation*. No. 52. April 28, 1894, p. 3. Cited by Grace Stone, “Tennessee: Social and Economic Laboratory,” *Sewanee Review* vol 46, 1938, pp. 43-44.

² Grace Stone, p. 42.

thesis was written for the German Department, extensive quotations from German primary sources were left untranslated. Translations have been made for this volume and put in the main text, while the German originals have gone into appendices. Jackson's photographs have been reproduced along with some new ones. The text has been very lightly edited for smoother reading or factual correction at a few points. The "brochure" was translated for this edition by Jennifer Baggenstoss Boyd; other translations are by the editor. I have added a few footnotes and comments; they appear within square brackets. Where these added passages express opinions not necessarily shared by Jackson, I have signed them *Ed.* An index, maps, and the music for "Das Grütli" have been added.

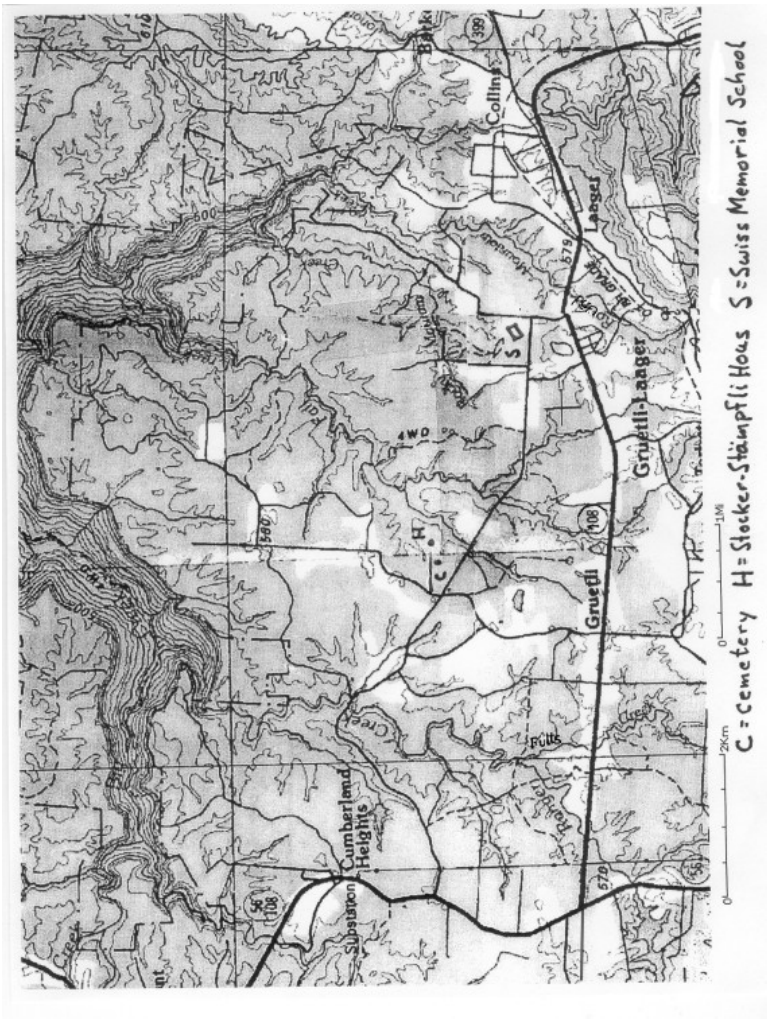
Perhaps I should say a word about how I came to be interested in Gruetli. Since 1887, my mother's family has owned one of the summer cottages in Beersheba Springs. I grew up spending summers there and remember Swiss Colony cheese as a special treat. My wife, Joan, and I try to spend a few weeks every summer in the cottage. In 2000, we saw at the Dutch Maid bakery in Tracy City an announcement of a Swiss Reunion to which all were invited. We went and were surprised to find ourselves the only German speakers present. We were asked to look at several old documents and became interested in knowing more. I obtained a copy of the Jackson thesis and realized that, with its long quotations in untranslated German, it was not accessible to many who would be most interested. So arose the idea for this publication.

Pamela Parker Helms and Susan Parker Martin, daughters of Frances Helen Jackson Parker, kindly gave permission to reprint this material and added a most interesting page, "About the Author," with a brief account of the life of their remarkable mother. We are also indebted to the staff of the Special Collections section of the Vanderbilt Library for their help in copying the thesis, putting us in touch with the author's daughters, and finally lending the thesis to the University of Maryland so that the photographs could be scanned at no cost. Dola Schild Tylor has contributed a fascinating account of the reminiscences of her grandmother, Barbara Marugg, of her teenage years in Gruetli in the 1870's. LaDora Mayes Rose, a Wichser descendant, offers

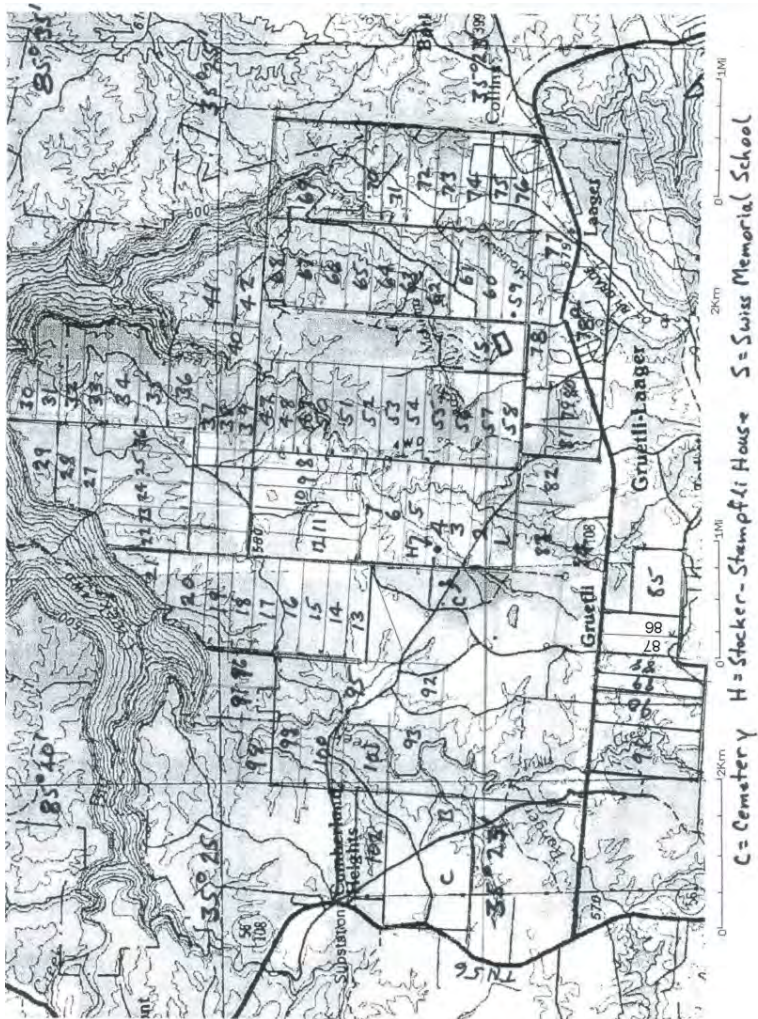
vivid memories of childhood visits to Gruetli and a fascinating account of the discovery of her family's history back the the 1300s in Schwanden, Switzerland. Jacob and Clara Suter, Oliver Jervis, William Ray Turner, Gayle VanHooser, John W. Greeter, Albert J. Thoni, Lycinda Thoni Allen, Joseph Schild, Stephen, Margaret, and Henry Stampfli, Dola Schild Tylor and Herschel Gower have generously guided my efforts. Russ Buchan of the Tracy City Business Council scanned the original copy and put in all the German umlaut letters by hand. Birgit Meade carefully proofread the text, including the German. Jackie Suter Lawley also proofread the English part of the text at a late stage, and corrected some of the material on the Suter family. John Baggenstoss handled printing. To all these contributors, the Grundy County Swiss Historical Society and the editor are most grateful. To them, as the Swiss of Gruetli would have said, *Hoch! Hoch! Hoch!*

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Modern (1988) map of the Colony area, from www.usgs.gov. Shaded areas are forested; white areas are cleared. The same source offers excellent, even more recent, aerial photographic maps. The sharp point of the plateau on the north side of Big Creek Gulf is Stone Door.



Modern map overlain with the lots and streets shown on the 1872 map of the Colony. Longitude and latitude are shown for use in locating lots with GPS devices. J.U.Baur's 1872 work used magnetic north rather than true north. Otherwise, it appears quite accurate in the area of the lots, except that the creeks were not carefully drawn.

Introduction

“Schild’s Store, 2 miles” said the sign where I turned off the beautiful new highway about halfway between Beersheba Springs and Monteagle on my first trip to Gruetli³. This little road, which is practically impassable in wet weather, winds around and finally comes to a group of about five or six houses, in the center of which is Schild's Store. After talking to Mr. Schild for a few minutes, I learned that this was the center of the once-thriving Swiss Colony of Gruetli, and that the other inhabitants of the village lived in homes which were scattered over an area of approximately 20 square miles. I drove around to see several of the families; and, had not Mr. Schild's daughter been with me, I should never have found the way on those little roads whose only objective seemed to be to get around the next tree. But we did get somewhere and met the most unusual people who were entirely different from the typical mountaineer. My interest was immediately aroused to learn more about these people and how they happened to come to such an isolated spot. It was then that I decided it would be worth the time and effort to find the explanation of this ethnic phenomenon.

It is this explanation, -- the story of the founding, the trend, and the present [1933] condition of this German-Swiss colony in Grundy County, Tennessee -- which I shall attempt on the following pages.

My method of getting this information has been largely through personal interviews with the Swiss who are still living in the colony and also those who are at present living in Nashville and elsewhere. However, another source, without which this work would have been impossible, is the record book which contains the minutes of the Landwirtschaftsverein from 1873 up

³ [The sign now (2002) says “Colony Road” and turns off to the east of Tennessee 56 1.4 miles north of its intersection with Tennessee 108 or about 3.2 miles south of the intersection in Altamont. Schild’s store stood just east of “the stagecoach inn,” which is still standing.]

until 1917 when it finally disbanded, and which was generously loaned me by its last secretary, Mr. Ernst Stämpfli, in Gruetli. [This manuscript is now in the Tennessee State Library and Archives in Nashville.] Another work which has assisted me greatly is the record book of the Swiss reformed church of Gruetli in which the first twenty-five pages are devoted entirely to the founding of the colony. Both of these manuscripts are written entirely in German script and are the only extant official documents of the colony. The latter is in the possession of Mr. Chris Schild in Gruetli. [This document was carefully treasured by Katie Wichser and passed on to her nephew Delbert Hargis of Palmer, who preserves it with equal care. In 2003, he generously lent it briefly to the Tennessee State Library and Archives, where it was microfilmed.]

Chapter 1. Captain Plumacher and the Days before the Colony

[Interest in establishing Swiss colonies in Tennessee goes back to the 1840's. In 1844, the Swiss government, aware of the problems of over population and pressure on the land, established a commission to facilitate emigration of those who wished to leave the country. The Commission gave cordial welcome to the representatives of the Tennessee Colonization Company which was "occupied with the founding of a colony in the North American State of Tennessee." The plan was to send a small number of families in the fall of 1845 to try out the climate and look over the prospects. Announcement of the possibility of emigration led to the application of 51 families. By giving priority to those with agricultural experience who could buy land with their own means and to large families, the commission chose five, namely those of:

Andreas Kron, Jr. 9 members
Joseph Vollmer, 6 members
Simon Schmidt, 3 members
Christian Brei, 3 members
Ciprian Fischer (a dyer), 3 members.

The decision of the commission was dated August 19, 1845.⁴ Grace Stone, who discovered this source, believed that they were bound for Gruetli in Grundy County. The 1850 Census finds the Kron family in Morgan county, which lies about half way between I-40 and the Kentucky line north of Crab Orchard. I did not find any of the others in Tennessee at that time. None of them appear in any land transaction in Grundy County

⁴ Faust, Albert B. *Guide to the Materials for American History in Swiss and Austrian Archives*. Published in 1916 by the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Cited in Grace Stone, "Tennessee: Social and Economic Laboratory, *Sewanee Review*, vol 46, 1938, pp 40-41.

prior to 1904. Though the incident is an interesting antecedent of the Gruetli project, it seems safe to say that these settlers played no role in the founding of Gruetli.]

The leading spirit in the undertaking which resulted in the colony at Gruetli, was Captain E. H. Plumacher⁵ a German by birth but evidently Swiss in sympathies. In 1867, he was sent by the Swiss government as Commissioner of Emigration to the United States with the purpose of finding a spot for a colony. Many have doubted the existence of this office by saying that it was not natural for a government to send out representatives to take away her own people, but in refutation to that I shall quote from Albert B. Faust:

Especially severe measures were taken to arrest and punish persons suspected to be emigrant agents, or to be in any way stirring up a desire in the rural population to emigrate. The Swiss archives throw much new light on the methods by which such men proceeded, the manner in which they evaded detection, and the skill with which they defended themselves when caught. (Approximately 1710-1750.) . . . The embargo placed upon emigration was removed in the 19th century, when conditions of overpopulation, famine, failure of crops, hard times, etc., periodically recurred in many districts. Paternal authority began to see some advantage in emigration, provided the emigrants prospered in their new abode. The complaints from the governments of France, the Netherlands, and Prussia, in the second decade of the 19th century, concerning the congregating of large numbers of Swiss paupers at the seaports, hopelessly waiting for an opportunity to embark for America, brought about the beginnings of the regulation of emigration from Switzerland. The money for the trip had to be vouched for before an emigrant was furnished with a pass. The policy was adopted, neither to encourage nor to dis-

⁵ The information about Captain Plumacher has been given me mainly by his daughter, Mrs. Dagmar Bohr of Beersheba Springs. A few notes were given me by Mr. Martin Marugg of Tracy City.

courage emigration, but to let it take its course, and to protect the emigrant as far as possible against the selfishness of speculators.

The business of transporting emigrants was left in the hands of agencies, who were soon required to secure a license and obey the laws protecting the emigrant. In 1880, the Federal Emigration Bureau was established at Bern, to watch the licensed emigration bureaus, to distribute literature furnishing all needed information, to advise emigrants personally, and to keep statistics of emigration.⁶

Just how official Plumacher's position was, is hard to determine, but we can tell approximately what he did after his arrival in the United States. I quote from his *Memoirs*⁷

We [Plumacher and J. B. Killebrew, whom Plumacher describes as Commissioner of Agriculture, Statistics, and Mines, but whose title was probably Secretary of the Bureau of Agriculture] conversed for some time in regard to the best methods of attracting immigration to the South, and I expressed the opinion that the best and cheapest mode would be to recommend to the national government the appointment of some citizen of our state as Consul in a European port where he would be able to prosecute the good work and devote himself to the propaganda, explaining by word and letter the great advantages of Tennessee as regards soil, climate, geographical position, mineral wealth, etc. etc. In this manner, the attention of European emigrants would be called to our state, and a steady current of a good class of settlers would be the result. At the conclu-

⁶ Faust, Albert B. *Guide to the Materials for American History in Swiss and Austrian Archives*. Published in 1916 by the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

⁷ An unpublished manuscript. It covers his life for ten years when he was American Consul in Maracaibo. This manuscript is in the possession of his grandson now. This excerpt is taken out of the first ten pages of the book and is the only mention of his interest in emigration.

sion of our discussion the Governor suggested that should such a course be adopted, I myself would be the most available person for this important mission, as during the presidency of Andrew Johnson, I was sent to Tennessee as Commissioner of Emigration from Switzerland and had founded colonies⁸ of Swiss citizens in our state; that I was well posted as to emigration matters in Europe and also knew thoroughly the State of Tennessee and could explain the advantages there offered to intending settlers. Here I will permit myself to diverge from the main line of my story in order to explain how I came to Tennessee.

On the very day of the impeachment [May 16] of President Johnson in 1868, when Washington was in a blaze of excitement and wildest rumors were floating about, I, accompanied by Mr. John Hitz, Political Agent and Consul General of the Swiss Republic, went to the White House to pay my respects to the president as I was about to return to Europe, and wished to thank him for the kindness and assistance with which he had favored me in my official labors. On the same day we had previously paid a parting visit to the great Secretary of State, Mr. Seward, to whom I was indebted for the interest he had kindly taken in me, so from Mr. Seward's we went direct to the presidential mansion. The Department of State in those days was located in a most humble edifice, surrounded by ill kept, muddy streets which were next to impassible in bad weather. Upon arrival at the White House we were at once ushered in and that day will never be forgotten. In the president's room was sitting on the left General Arthur, at that time Collector of the port of New York, and a most beautiful lady, so perfectly handsome that I can sincerely say that in the course of almost a world wide experience, I have seen but few such. The president was enjoying a little lunch, standing, and not withstanding the great issues of the day, was as serene and unconcerned as though nothing in particular was in progress. He listened to all we had to say with great in-

⁸ I have not been able to find any records or authority for his being connected with any other colony than Gruetli.

terest. Mr. Hitz told him that I had visited most of the States and had now concluded my labors, after having found many suitable points for colonization.



Illustration 1: Eugen H. Plumacher

When Mr. Johnson learned that I had come to say good bye, he asked me if I had seen his adopted state, Tennessee, and I replied no.

He expressed much regret that I had not visited "one of the finest states in the Union -- the pearl of the United States in climate, richness of soil and mineral wealth." He further asked if it was absolutely necessary that I return immediately to Europe and Mr. Hitz replied in the negative.

"Well then," said the president, "I will consider it a personal favor if Captain Plumacher will go to Tennessee before he definitely concludes his investigations and I will give him recommendations to my friends. Nothing could give me greater pleasure than to learn that Mr. Plumacher has finally the same opinion of Tennessee as myself."

I could not resist the persuasions of the president, and shortly afterwards started south well provided with excellent letters of introduction to the best people of Tennessee. How I adopted the views of President Johnson has been amply proven. I am a citizen of Tennessee by my own choice and free will, and am proud to be called a Tennessean.

I love the state and its noble people and do not regret my choice of a new country, although I left behind me in Europe a comfortable home, fine position, and a promising public career. What I have done, I would do again and am honestly proud to be a citizen of the great beautiful Tennessee. For President Andrew Johnson I have always preserved a great admiration. A man, who, like him, amid the hardest trials and struggles of public life, can still find time to devote his mind to the welfare of his State, is really a great man."⁹

On this visit to Tennessee he made the acquaintance of Colonel John Armfield, and was invited to his summer home at Beersheba Springs. Colonel Armfield had purchased the land at Beersheba Springs in 1854 and had built the hotel and residences, promoting it as a summer resort.¹⁰

⁹ Plumacher, *Memoirs*

¹⁰ Bentley, Blanche Spurlock, *A History of Beersheba Springs*.

Captain Plumacher was so impressed with the location that he thought it would be a fine site for the new colony, and so set about making the necessary arrangements.

He aroused the interest of Mr. John Hitz, the Political Agent and Consul General of the Swiss Republic, and Mr. Peter Staub, Swiss but living in Knoxville at that time, and the three formed sort of a silent partnership to buy up the land and have it surveyed and ready for the settlers as they came over. Mr. Hitz and Captain Plumacher were not able to take any part in the actual buying of the land because of their governmental positions, but the general opinion seems to be that they were the ones who arranged all the deals. In the meantime, Captain Plumacher bought some land near Beersheba for his own future home and built the residence which was known as "Dan" until it burned and was replaced by the present house in which his daughter resides.¹¹

After making these arrangements, Captain Plumacher seems to have lost all interest in the colony and was not concerned with its growth at all.¹² The present members of the colony do not have any remembrance of him. He returned to Switzerland to get his wife and son and daughter and bring them to their new home. They arrived in America and were nicely settled before the colony was ready for the settlers to start coming. Captain Plumacher spent his time between Nashville and Beersheba Springs, teaching German in the public schools of Nashville and for one winter, that of 1870 and 1871, was professor of German, French, and other Modern Languages in Cumberland University. At this time he was seeking an American consular position in one of the European countries. Unsuccessful in realizing this ambition, he accepted the position as United States Consul to

¹¹ [Dan is now, 2002, occupied by Plumacher's great grandson, John Bohr and his wife Frances. *Ed.*]

¹² [The reason he "lost all interest" appears below. He had been unable to deliver on time in his contract with the landowners. When it lapsed, they declared the contract with him void and arranged a new contract with Staub, not Plumacher, acting as Trustee for the colonists. I have found no evidence that Plumacher involved Staub. Rather, the colonists turned to their consul general, Hitz in Washington, and Hitz sought Staub's help. *Ed.*]

Maracaibo in Venezuela. He held this post for thirty-three years until he was forced to give it up because of increasing blindness and deafness.

His family spent part of the period of his consularship in Europe, where his two children were educated, and the rest of the time they resided at Beersheba Springs in the family home. In about 1880, they moved to Beersheba permanently because of the son's bad health. The son died of consumption shortly after, and Mr. Plumacher returned home from South America for a few months at that time, but was forced to go back to his duties.¹³

Returning to Mr. Staub, who was getting control of all the land, we find that he was succeeding and acquiring title to all the property within an area of about twenty square miles.¹⁴ I shall give a short history of the land and of the early titles.

[This often quoted allegation against Staub is absolutely without support in the Colony's records or the deed books of

¹³ [Plumacher's daughter, Dagmar Bohr, perpetuated her father's memory but said not a word about her far more remarkable mother, Olga Hünerwadel Plümacher. Not even her own son knew that his grandmother had written two substantial and significant books on philosophy and published a number of articles in German. She also had a philosophical correspondence with Franz Wedekind (1864-1918), son of one of her classmates and a major German poet and playwright of his time. As a young man, Wedekind discovered in his "philosophical aunt" a soul with whom he could communicate. Rolf Kieser, a professor of German at the State University of New York, was working on Wedekind and found Olga's letters to Franz in the Wedekind Archiv in Switzerland. He came to Beersheba, where they were written, hoping to find the letters from Wedekind. He found no letters but became fascinated with this extraordinary woman scholar, who from Grundy County could participate in German philosophical debate. The result of his interest is a book *Olga Plümacher-Hünerwadel, eine gelehrte Frau des neunzehnten Jahrhunderts* (Lenzburg, 1990). Olga's nephew Arnold Hünerwadel came from Switzerland to visit his aunt, stayed, married, and brought up a large family in Beersheba. Frances Jackson would no doubt have been fascinated to know Olga's story, so we may safely assume that nothing was said to her about Olga's books and philosophy. *Ed.*]

¹⁴

164 Grundy County. Both sources show that Staub bought the land as the settlers' agent *after* they had arrived. He was called to the rescue of the settlers. Moreover, he sold the land at what he paid for it, but since he could not sell it all, he lost money on the transaction. Please see Appendix D on Peter Staub's land transactions. – *Ed.*]

In the year 1835, the State of Tennessee made grants in 5000 acre tracts to Dr. Samuel Edmondson of McMinnville, Samuel B. Barrell of Boston, Edmond Monroe of Massachusetts and Joseph McEwen.¹⁵ In 1849, 2000 acres were granted to George and Gideon Gilley by the State. These grants were located on the Cumberland Plateau in East Tennessee and were granted by Newton Cannon, then Governor of the State. The descriptions of these areas are all similar and to the lay mind rather meaningless, but I shall give one of them, from Book W in the State Files of Land Grants in Warren County, by way of explanation.

State of Tennessee No. 4934

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting.
Know ye that by virtue of Entry No. 4041 made in the office of the entry taker of Warren County and entered on the

¹⁵ [These were Mountain District purchase grants. A legislative act of 1827 had authorized the sale of grants of surplus land in the Cumberland mountains in 5000 acre tracts. The sale, at prices ranging from 1 cent to 12.5 cents per acre, yielded a little revenue and got the land on the tax rolls. Samuel M. Barrell of Boston bought hundreds of thousands of acres of these lands, apparently purely as a speculator. See *Tennessee Land Grants*, Barbara, Byron, and Samuel Sistler, (Byron Sistler & Associates, Nashville, 1998). Some of this he sold to Edmund Monroe of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Other Barrell land was sold for taxes in 1861 and bought by Wm. C. Hill of McMinnville. Monroe died intestate, and in 1866 his eight children appointed Massey Hill of Coffee County their agent for the sale of a total of 552,812 acres in Warren (including Grundy), Marion, Coffee, Franklin, Lincoln and Cannon Counties. (Deed Record Book F of Grundy County.) As authority for the certificates he issued to the Gruetli settlers, Peter Staub cited his deeds from M. Hill (presumably Massey Hill) and Wm. C. Hill. It was the messy title to the lands of the Monroe heirs that later caused Staub trouble. *Ed.*]

10th day of October 1835 pursuant to the provisions of an act of the General Assembly of said State of Tennessee unto Samuel Edmondson assignee of Stephen M. Griswold a certain tract or parcel of land containing five thousand acres by survey bearing date the 30th day of September 1836 lying in said County on Cumberland Mountain on the head waters of the Collins River. Beginning on the beginning corner of his one thousand acre survey, a pine on the turpentine branch (No. of his Entry 3165) running south crossing Rains Creek at 560 Poles in all 980 Poles to a hickory. Thence east 908 poles to a hickory, then north crossing Eastleys Road at 260 poles. Rockhouse fork of Fall Creek at 580 poles in all, 980 poles to a hickory. Then west passing said Griswold's corner of his 720 acre survey by virtue of said entry No. 3165 and on with his line 980 poles, to the beginning. With the hereditaments and appurtenances, to have and to hold said tract or parcel of land with its appurtenances to the said Samuel Edmondson and his heirs for-ever, In witness whereof Newton Cannon, Governor of the State of Tennessee has hereunto set his hand and caused the great seal of the State to be affixed at Nashville on the 6th day of January 1837.

Luke Lea, Secretary

This property was neglected by the owners and finally was sold for taxes and came into the hands of Wm. C. Hill, James H. Hughes, and F. M. Moffett of McMinnville and J. M. Bouldin¹⁶ of Altamont. These were the men with whom Peter Staub dealt. He paid different prices for the land, and bought it in both large and small quantities, in as little as 100 acre lots to 6000 acre lots. From a study of the deeds in the Grundy County

¹⁶ [Following the spelling of the text reproduced in Appendix B, Jackson writes "a Mr. Boulin." The deed books show no one by the name of Boulin or Boulen as either grantor or grantee of a deed. On the other hand, J. M. Bouldin is involved in many transactions. I have therefore replaced both *Boulin* and *Boulen* by *Bouldin* in the English but let the original stand in the German. *Ed.*]

Courthouse, I have been able to deduce that the prices ranged from \$.40 an acre to \$.90 an acre. A copy of one of the deeds is interesting in its wording and in the restrictions which are included.

... Containing 1551 acres part of a 5000 acre tract entered in the name of Greenwood Paine by entry No. ___ and granted to Sam. B. Barrell by grant No. ___ which two tracts of land he the said Peter Staub is to have and to hold to him his heirs and assigns in fee simple forever, but in trust for the purposes of settlement and by him to be disposed of to actual settlers in tracts of not more than 100 acres each, designating and reserving 200 acres for church and school purposes, and we the foregoing named persons by our attorney in fact and otherwise bind ourselves, our heirs and representatives to forever warrant and defend the right and title in and to the foregoing described tracts of land. . . .¹⁷

After the land had been bought there was nothing else to do but to get the settlers to come over¹⁸, so they resorted to the usual means of making projects known, that of the printed broadsides (Broschüren). There is no record as to who was the author of the broadsides which were to advertise the Cumberland Mountain project, but in all probability they were made by Mr. Staub and sent to Switzerland, to other European countries,

¹⁷ From book F of records in the County Courthouse of Grundy County.

¹⁸ [Jackson no doubt accurately captures the “general opinion” around the colony in 1933. The minutes of the early meetings of the colony, presented in the next chapter, and the deed books in the Court House at Altamont tell a very different story. The deed books show no purchase of land by Staub before August, 1869. The minutes show that the problem was that the land had *not* been bought and *not* surveyed before the arrival of the colonists. The colonists complain in desperation to Consul Hitz in Washington, who then calls in Staub to rescue the colonists. Staub was negotiating with landowners in midsummer of 1869 in the presence of the colonists. Moreover, they recognized that he had saved the whole operation. The question of whether he made money on the colony is examined in Appedix D at the end of the book, but the brief answer is definitely not. *Ed.*]

and to the Northern States where they were posted on the street corners, in public buildings, and anywhere else they might catch the eye. Through the courtesy of Martin Marugg, I obtained one of these old *Broschuren*. (See picture below.) The exaggerations and gross misrepresentations are evident on first glance. The following are excerpts which will show, better than I could possibly tell, the "ballyhoo" -- typical of much emigrant propaganda -- which induced these Swiss peasants to leave their homes and come to the Cumberland Mountains.

East Tennessee
The American Switzerland
To the Farmer!
The state where you should settle!
Great Facilities for Manufactures of every Kind in East
Tennessee.

Below you will find a circular, which contains an exact statement of the advantages which the iron and steel industry must bring to East Tennessee. This large region of land, the future home of a numerous, affluent population will soon be crisscrossed in all directions by railroads, and iron manufacturer will multiply the routes commerce. Iron, which costs eight dollars per ton to produce in Pennsylvania, can be produced in East Tennessee for one dollar and sixty cents. The coal and iron mines are hardly a mile away from each other in an area of more than forty miles. The time will come when this narrow valley and region of land will be full of blast furnaces.¹⁹ Coal, iron, lime, sandstone,

¹⁹ [No author of the brochure is indicated. Jackson presumed that Staub had written it, but I think both internal and external evidence points elsewhere. The first part of the brochure has a decidedly muddled quality. Ostensibly a call to farmers, it begins with talk of the iron and steel industry, which, in itself, was of no direct interest to farmers. Notice that the "large region of land" quickly becomes a "narrow valley," which hardly describes the Cumberland plateau. There is virtually no organization in the writing. Plumacher, as we will see in the next chapter, had been unable to acquire land, have it surveyed, and ready to sell to the colonists when they arrived. I see a link between this ineffectual

Ost = Tennessee,

die Amerikanische Schweiz.

An Ackerbauer!

Der Staat, wo man sich niederlassen sollte.

Große Facilitäten für Fabrikanten jeder Art in Ost-Tennessee.

[The following text is a reproduction of a German-language brochure or newspaper page, containing multiple columns of dense text. The text is largely illegible due to the low resolution of the scan. However, several section headers are clearly visible:]

Die Stadt Chattanooga

An Ackerbauer

Die Americanische Schweiz

handling of practical affairs and the disordered thinking of this opening of the brochure. The external evidence is that Plumacher's account, colony minutes and county deed books all agree that Staub was not involved before summer 1869. Moreover, it was Plumacher, not Staub, who had gone back to Switzerland and whose job it was to write such material. The second part of the brochure, probably the "circular" referred to in the first sentence, is from a different mind. *Ed.*]

clay, different types of the best timber, excellent water power, all of this lies unused and awaits capital and the enterprising spirit. The best market for the sale of all possible products, iron and steel included, are now at hand. Iron and steel from this region have been described as better than the products of Pennsylvania by qualified iron experts and businessmen. Still more railroads are under construction, among them the Cincinnati and Chattanooga Line, which cuts through this region. All of these railroads will contribute substantially to extracting the mineral wealth of this part of the country.

The example of Pennsylvania shows how prosperous a population can become through iron production. If Tennessee so wills, it can become a second Pennsylvania.

Your attention is respectfully requested to the benefits of capital investment.

The massive riches, which are available from the mines in east Tennessee, are of great significance. The modest amounts of capital and labor required to develop the agricultural and mineral riches of the state and the fertility of the earth are certainly a considerable stimulus for the emigrants. These same factors must bring considerable wealth to those who settle here, for this region is among to the richest in the land. The numerous railroads, which stretch out their gigantic arms in all directions, as well as the various steamship lines, establish an unbroken connection between the overpopulated old world and the still sparsely populated regions of East Tennessee, where every immigrant will find himself richly rewarded for his troubles of coming here, through the exploitation of agricultural and mineral riches.

The climate and the soil of east Tennessee are exceptionally favorable for tea cultivation, and Tennessee tea is already very often drunk. Many grow their entire household requirement without much effort or cost. In a single season three crops of tea ripen. In general, the introduction of a successful tea cultivation will richly compensate those who dedicate themselves to it. The tea plant is an evergreen

bush with many roots, about 5 feet high, which thrives in the mountains as well as the valleys and never needs protection from frost.

Along the East Tennessee and Virginia railroad stretches a vein of splendid marble in eleven varieties, two of them are equal to the famous antique Rosso and the rough antique Italian marble in quality. The quantity is inexhaustible, the density is compact and the stone is totally free from pores. Prof. Dickinson recently discovered an entirely new type of marble, which he named Zebra, because of the peculiar division of the white and chocolate-colored stripes. This marble can take the finest polish; it is pure calcium carbonate. Blocks of whatever size can be cut in these marble veins.

The wild grape grows rampant in rich abundance, just as the peaches and pears grow to the best quality. People here have grown peaches of 9 inches in circumference and 9 ounces in weight; Peanuts²⁰ grow in rich abundance. The forests are full of game and wild turkeys.

This region is especially suited for northerners and immigrants. It is a firm stronghold of loyalty; and if I have something to regret, it is only that it is so sparsely populated and so much valuable land lies waste.

The first impression, which the visitor of east Tennessee gets is that the state has made good progress in the reconstruction of the businesses, the train connections are perfect, but are being further expanded and multiplied daily with superhuman effort. All of these advantages, coupled with the extraordinarily low land prices, (from 5 to 20 and 30 dollars per acre) are big attractions for the immigrants, especially since property can be sold in parcels of from 1 to 100 acres, as the settler desires²¹. . . .

²⁰ The normal German word for "peanut" is "Erdnuss." The word used here is "Pfaunuss." "Pfau" is "peacock," and I suspect "Pfaunuss" of being Plumacher's creative translation of "peanut." *Ed.*

²¹ [At this point, the format changes and the tone shifts from real estate hyperbole to a more informative account, which I take to be "the circular". It plainly says that the soil on the plateau is "stony, partly sandy,

The Soil

The soil in the valleys is in general dark black clay of the first class and where it is wooded, or shortly after it is made arable, it is very rich and fruitful and is inferior only to the western prairie lands. Land which has now been cultivated for half a century is partly very rich, but also partly exhausted, because the cultivators never sowed grass and they economized by using the most exhausting systems on the land. Nevertheless, the property was very quickly made productive again, by mixing a strong clay layer of primitive clay and marl stone. It is not of importance towards which direction the land lies, it is warm everywhere, the soil is productive everywhere and rewards the farmer liberally for his work. The soil quality of the high plateau and the mountain ranges is stony, partly sandy, consisting mostly of sandy loam underlain by clay.

The Climate

No part of the Union is so very favored by a beautiful and healthy climate as this one. The biggest snow that fell last winter was not deeper than 1½ inches in the valley and on the plateau and mountains not deeper than 6 inches. The big rivers have frozen over only once in 25 years, nevertheless the morning hours are cool, sometimes frosty, and during the winters always rather fresh. The spring begins quite early, the summers are long; however, owing to the special lay of the land, they are not excessively hot. Nowhere can

consisting mostly of sandy loam underlain by a layer of clay.” That is pretty accurate. But did the colonists know that they were coming to the plateau? In the lower right corner of the photograph of the brochure are two passages not transcribed by Jackson. The first is called “The City of Chattanooga”; the second begins with “To Farmers” in large letters followed on the next line by “The Cumberland Plateau.” Unfortunately, the following text is too small and indistinct to be read from the picture; but it seems likely that it made clear that the farmland being offered was on the plateau.

I presume that the text down to this point is from Plümacher, while the Circular is, as it later says, by someone who had moved in from Pennsylvania. *Ed.*]

the summer be more pleasant than on the mountain ranges and the high plateau. The autumns are long and last until late in December.

The inhabitants normally plow throughout the entire winter. Here we have neither the cold, numbing winter of the north, nor the paralyzing, exhausting heat of the south.

Vegetable Products

As for the products of the land, we are as favored as any stretch of land in the Union. We can raise anything that is grown in either the north or the south. The plateau bears corn, oats and all vegetables of the best sort. Last summer, within five miles of the place where I live, white turnips were grown, whose circumference came to twenty inches; the potatoes here are very big and of excellent quality. The valley produces wheat, corn, oats, rye and clover in abundance.

Cattle Raising

This is a cattle-breeding land of the first class; our mild climate requires little use of stables. While the plateau offers plentiful free pasture, which stays green from the first of April until the first of December, the valley more or less yields grass pastures throughout the whole winter. As a land for cattle raising, East Tennessee is in some respects preferred over the prairies, and is not inferior to the best. Before the war, a man here had 600 cattle.

Fruit Cultivating

We are richly blessed with fruit. Apples, pears, peaches, plums, cherries and all sorts of small fruit grow in abundance. We grow splendid winter apples; our summer apples ripen already in June. On the plateau and in the mountains, the apples grow the best, in the valleys excellent peaches are grown; these grow by the roads and in the corners of the fences. It is seldom that we have a bad fruit harvest. The last shipment of winter apples to the state of Georgia was sold for \$10 per barrel.

Minerals

We have an abundance of splendid coal. The plateau and the mountain ranges are interwoven with various productive veins. There is an inexhaustible supply of iron ore here; limestone is found as well; sandstone and clay are easily obtained; we also have different sorts of salt here.

The Water

The water is clear, clean and resembles crystal; it does not form stagnating swamps, but flows off rapidly, where it springs from the ground. In the valleys the riverbeds are of loamy mud; on the mountains, they are mostly sandstone mixed with some limestone. Water from the limestone is very valued for healing purposes.

The Health Situation

I regard this area as one of the healthiest parts of the entire country; and this view appears to be universal; for when one travels through the land, he will find much that grows only here out of health considerations. We have no local causes of sickness of any sort. Health is generally the rule and sickness is the exception.

Emigration

Currently, East Tennessee and the bordering parts of Middle Tennessee continue to claim a large share of the emigrants; and the demand from the North, East and West for land indicates that in the not too distant future a significant increase in population is to be expected. The programs of the state, the various societies promoting immigration, and the railroads continually circulate information across the country and give real help to people who would like to settle in Tennessee.

Public Opinion

I would like to say here that I moved here from Washington County, Pennsylvania and that the local people have treated me friendly and kindly. And, so far as I know, other northerners were treated with the same kindness and

thoughtfulness as soon as they make arrangements to settle here. The local people are not merely glad to see immigrants; they ardently wish that immigrants come here to settle down. Every northerner, who conducts himself properly, will be welcomed by the people; he will be just as safe and secure as in the states of Pennsylvania or New York. To northerners with capital or with firm will and strong arms I would like to call: " Come over here! Tennessee invites you and there is room enough here for thousands!"

Land Prices

Land costs from 5 to 35 dollars per acre, the average price is usually \$20 at a fair price. We have beautiful forests in abundance. Currently, the land prices are climbing and all expectations are that in the future they will continue to increase and at a faster rate. I don't want to draw comparisons with other regions, but I want to say to those who wish to emigrate to a land where there are no long, harsh winters to ruin your comfort and waste the earnings of summer, where an early spring envelops nature in its green cloak, where a long summer gives the farmer enough time to see his work rewarded: Come, see, and judge for yourself.

No one can form for himself an idea of the grandeur and richness of the natural advantages which East Tennessee possesses. That is something one must see for himself to believe. A population, good-hearted and friendly, with a well-known sense of honesty and integrity, known for their neighborly friendliness invites you to take up your residence among them and to help develop the resources of the state, to profit from the rich mineral and agricultural treasures, with which a good and gracious Providence has so richly blessed this eastern²² part of Tennessee.

For those who have chosen to come from Europe and make Tennessee your destination, the best way is to travel on a steamboat or sailing vessel to Norfolk, V A.,; then ride the Virginia-East Tennessee train directly to Chattanooga,

²² The text says "western."

which is about 300 miles away and takes 10 hours by train. From Liverpool, London, Bremen or Hamburg, one can make the trip in 12 to 18 days.

As a result of this propaganda, we find them "biting" and "falling for" this prospect of quick affluence. The lands seemed cheap and the idea of one hundred acres must have seemed like a great estate to some of the poor peasants who came over. They had absolute faith in their own ability and felt that if they could just get this land with so much promise, their troubles would be ended. They came, and they came blindly, trusting in their fellow man. They arrived, and found that all was not as it had been pictured in the *Broschüren*. They were disappointed but could not turn back, so they stuck it out. Though many died in the struggle, their descendants who are left are happy and, although not exactly prospering, are making a living.

* * *

[Editor's Comment: The 25 percent of the American labor force unemployed in 1933 was *not* making a living. Were the first colonists in fact bitterly disappointed or was that a sentiment attributed to them sixty years later by descendants living at the depths of the Great Depression and caught up in the massive, nationwide out-migration of farm labor? The only recorded complaint, as we shall see in the next chapter, was that when they arrived in April, no one could tell them where their land was to be. They had come in time to clear land, build shelter, and plant at least a kitchen garden; but, because of administrative hold ups, they could not get started until mid August. Consequently, they suffered intensely during the following winter. This suffering can justly be laid at Plümacher's door, but only because he was inept in getting business arrangements made.

Had he deliberately deceived the colonists in the brochure? To be sure, it spoke of an iron industry that never developed, but that was peripheral to the interests of the farmer colonists. I believe that he firmly believed that it would develop. Staub had done well in the iron business around Knoxville and had no doubt excited Plümacher's imagination. The brochure spoke in a vague and exaggerated way about railroads; but in fact, the rail

line running from Tracy City to the coal mines near Palmer came close to Gruetli. The stagecoach route from McMinnville to Whitwell ran right through it. The soil was not worse than much that I have seen in cultivation in Switzerland to this day. It is sometimes said that the colonists were surprised to find the land forested. But the brochure spoke of “beautiful forests in abundance” and did not suggest that the land was cleared and ready to plant. In short, while the tone of the brochure may have been excessively sanguine, the actual facts relevant to farming were not grossly wrong. Hence, I do not believe that there was any intent to deceive. I can fault Plumacher for being ineffectual or for being excessively sanguine himself, but not for intentional deception. In evaluating his role, it should also be noted that the receipts he gave were acceptable to Staub in payment for the land; hence he must have dutifully passed on any monies he had received. And there is no evidence that either he or Staub made money inappropriately on the operation. *Ed.*]



Log cabins built by the Schild family in 1869 and 1871

Chapter 2. The Founding of the Colony

Only two places in the world have the name Grütli.²³ The original is on the west bank of Lake Lucerne in Switzerland and its namesake lies on the Cumberland plateau in Grundy County, Tennessee. Grütli or Rütli is a diminutive in the usual Swiss form, a word which is related to the High German form Gereutelein or Reutelein, and is derived from the verb "reuten" or 'aus-reuten' meaning "to root out" or "to clear." A small clearing or meadow is all there was to the first Grütli; and it was that which gave to it the name which has clung for over six centuries.

The mythical emergence of the Swiss Grütli is told best in *Wilhelm Tell* by Schiller,²⁴ and a short summary of his treatment of the matter will help to clarify the rather confused legend. The scene is described as follows: A meadow surrounded by high rocks and wooded ground. On the rocks are tracks, with rails and ladders, by which the peasants are afterwards seen descending. In the background the lake is observed, and over it a moon rainbow in the early part of the scene. The prospect is closed by lofty mountains, with glaciers rising behind them. The stage is dark but the lake and glaciers glisten in the moonlight.²⁵ This tallies, I think, with the actual description of Gruetliwiese. Schiller spent a great deal of time studying about the country and the people²⁶ and his descriptions are looked on as fairly accurate.

²³ This spelling is used in Schiller's *Wilhelm Tell* and is also used by many of the Swiss. I have not been able to find any preference for one or the other, but I shall use the first spelling since that was the one taken to America. [By 2002, however, virtually only the *Rütli* spelling was found in Swiss sources. *Ed.*]

²⁴ Schiller's *Wilhelm Tell* - edited by Karl Breul - Cambridge University Press, 1890. This legend was taken by Schiller, as far as possible from Swiss historians.

²⁵ Act II, Scene II, *ibid.*

²⁶ He never saw Switzerland, however.

The Rütli scene, in the Schiller version, takes place on a moonlight night in the year 1307 when three men with their followers met on this picturesque spot to discuss the tyrannies of the Austrian House of Hapsburg and to unite for common protection against the cruelties that were being perpetrated. These men, Arnold von Melchtal, Werner Stauffacher, and Walter Fürst from the cantons of Unterwalden, Schwyz, and Uri respectively, signed a pact to protect each other and revolt against the Austrians, forming a republic of their own. This is as far as Schiller carries the story of the Swiss federation. Historically, this legend is not at all true,²⁷ but it is the story which gives us the significance of the name Grütli, and that is all that is necessary to this immediate work. As a myth, it lives in the hearts of the Swiss and to them means, the place where their own land was first brought into rightful being. And so, when these few Swiss families first gathered in the land where they were to form a “new Switzerland” it seems no more than natural that they should take the name which to them was a symbol of their union and future growth. The song, “Das Grütli” or “Das Rütli”, well expresses those feelings; they must have been sung it often their meetings, so I give the text [and music] below.²⁸

In the Protokoll der Gemeinde Switzerland,²⁹ we find the first meeting of the people expressing this same feeling of union. The following is the record of the first part of the meeting; the German text is in appendix B:

²⁷ In the introduction to his edition of *Wilhelm Tell*, Mr. Breull gives a short summary of the historical founding of the Swiss Republic.

²⁸ [The name *Laager*, which is now also connected with the area, has a more earthy origin. It is an adaptation to English spelling of the German *Lager*, meaning *deposit*, and appears on the 1872 map in the expression *Kohlen Lager*, coal deposit, over the area now called Laager. *Ed.*]

²⁹ This manuscript I obtained from Mr. Chris Schild. It contains the records of the Gruetli church including births, deaths, confirmations, marriages, etc. The first 23 pages are the story of the founding of the colony. There is no signature, so the writer of the Protokoll is unknown. It is all written in German script. [Any information on its whereabouts now, 2003, would be much appreciated. *Ed.*]

Founding of the Community

For the dedication of Gruetli, the Swiss who had settled in this area came together on the afternoon of Sunday, April 11, [1869]. The speaker took this name from a place so significant for Swiss history. He drew attention to how small was the number of those sworn comrades who gathered more than 550 years ago on this quiet mountain meadow and yet how great were the blessing and happiness that sprang from that meeting. Austria's power had to fall sacrifice to their true holding together. Life and property have we risked through centuries for the noble cause of the Freedom our brothers in our fatherland now enjoy.

Now it is our turn to found a Swiss colony and to assure its prosperity. Not with powder and shot shall we attain the goal; rather before the peaceful weapon of the farmer will fall the giants of the forest. Yet are unity, courage, and endurance necessary; a genuine social and democratic sense must inspire us; unselfish perception and action must pervade us in order to reach our goal, to advance and preserve the colony. Unity and good faith must prevail in our meetings. Then will the almighty Ruler not refuse success to our efforts; blessings and health will grow also from *this* Gruetli, and we will become useful citizens of our adoptive fatherland.

The meeting was finished *mit einem Hoch* for the General Consul Hitz, who had helped them with the founding of the Colony, and with the singing of the song *Das Grüetli*. This pep-meeting (as we might now call it) seems almost pitiful. All of these poor, homesick people were so horribly disappointed in the land that they had found, that they hardly knew which way to turn. They had been taken into a wilderness where they had expected a "land flowing with milk and honey." The *Broschüren* had misled them, for no place in the world could have had the many attractions that had been claimed for East Tennessee. But they were here and had no money with which to return so the best was made of the predicament.

1. Das Rüttli.

Mäßig bewegt.

J. Greith.

mf *poco cresc.*

1. Bon fer: ne sei herz: lich ge: grü: ßet, du stil: les Ge:
 2. Ge: prie: sen sei fried: li: che Stät: te, ge: prie: sen du
 3. Da blic: ten in nächt: li: cher Stil: le sie jammernd auf
 4. Nur trauernd hin glänz: ten die Ster: ne auf Ber: ge und

mf *poco cresc.*

län: de am See, wo spie: lend die Wel: le zer:
 heil: li: ges Land, wo spreng: ten der Ska: ve: rei
 Da: ter: lands Noth, und sa: hen, wie Jam: mer die
 sum: pfi: ges Ried, ver: stum: met war na: he und

sie: ßet, ge: näh: ret vom e: wi: gen Schnee, ge: näh: ret vom
 Ket: te die Vä: ter mit mäch: ti: ger Hand, die Vä: ter mit
 Fül: le voll: brin: ge der Will: für Ge: bot, voll: brin: ge der
 fer: ne des Rük: hers er: freu: li: ches Lieb, des Rük: hers er:

e = wi = gen Schnee.
 mäch = ti = ger Hand.
 Will = für Ge = bot.
 freu = li = ches Lied.

5.
 Dort stöhnte des Tapferen Stimme
 Tief unten im grausen Verließ,
 Der büßisch in lüsterne Grimme
 ;:Der Zwingherr der Gattin entriß.::

6.
 Da weinten und seufzten die Waisen,
 Sie hatten die Mutter nicht mehr;
 Sie lag beim Tyrannen in Eisen,
 ;:Den Vater durchbohrte der Speer.::

7.
 Hier standen die Väter zusammen
 Für Freiheit und heimisches Gut,
 Und schwuren beim heiligsten Namen
 ;:Zu stürzen die Zwingherrenbrut.::

8.
 Der Schimmer der Sterne erhellte
 Nur düster die schimmernde Flur,
 Als rächend zum Himmelsgezelle
 ;:Entschwebte der heilige Schwur.::

9.
 Und Gott, der Allgütige, nickte
 Gebeihen zum heiligen Schwur,
 Sein Arm die Tyrannen erdrückte,
 ;:Und frei war die heimische Flur.::

10.
 D'rum Rütli, sei herzlich begrüßet,
 Dein Name wird nimmer vergeh'n,
 So lange der Rhein uns noch fließet,
 ;:So lange die Alpen besteb'n.::

“Das Rütli,” the complete words and music arranged for male chorus. From *Das Rütli, ein Liederbuch für Männergesang*, 26th unchanged printing, J.J. Sonderegger, St. Gallen, 1888, In the possession of the University of Maryland library. The two upper voices are written an octave above where they should sound.

Das Grütli

Von ferne sei herzlich gegrüset,
Du stilles Gelende am See,
Wo spielend die Welle zerfliesset,
Genähret von ewigem Schnee,

Gepriessen sei, friedliche Stätte,
Gegrüset, du heiliges Land,
Wo sprengten der Sklaverei Kette
Die Väter mit mächtiger Hand.

Da blickten, in nächtlicher Stille,
Sie klagend auf Vaterlands Noth,
Und sahen, wie Jammer die Fülle
Vollbringe der Wilkür Gebot.

Hier standen die Väter zusammen,
Für Freiheit und heimisches Gut
Und schwuren beim heiligsten Namen,
Zu stürzen die Zwingherrenbrut.

Und Gott der Allgutige genickte
Gedeihen zum heiligen Schwur;
Sein Arm die Tyrannen erdrückte,
Und frei war die heimische Flur.

Drum, Grütli, sei freundlich gegrüset;
Dein Name wird nimmer vergeh'n,
So lange der Rhein uns noch fliesset,
So lange die Alpen besteh'n.

J. Krauer

The Gruetli Song

Our hearts greet thee from far away,
Thou quiet seaside meadow
Where the lapping waves that gently play
Are fed by eternal snow.

Be treasured, thou quiet and peaceful plain,
Be greeted, holy land
Where fathers slavery's heavy chain
Broke with mighty hand.

There, in the silent still of night,
They saw the Fatherland
Lie in pain and distressful plight
Under a ruthless hand.

For freedom and for home of yore
Together our fathers stood
By the holiest names in secret they swore
To topple the tyrant's brood.

And God the all good in his mercy did grant
Success to the holy band.
It crushed with its arm the cruel tyrant
And freed the Swiss homeland.

So Grütli, thy fame forever grows,
Your name will never die
So long as the Rhein to the sea still flows,
So long as the Alps stand high.

I shall go back a little to trace the first settlers on their trip over and their arrival. I have not been able to find the exact date on which the first party came nor who was in this first party, but it was probably in the very early spring of 1869. According to the Protokol records the first meeting was on April 11, 1869, and from the contents this seems to be right after their arrival. All records of those who made up this group seem to have been lost and there is no one living who knows. On September 11, 1869, a group of three families sailed from Havre on the *Cembria* and after 10 days and 21 hours, they landed in New York. The three families were the Amachers, the Reufs, and the Schilds. One of the sons, Peter, in the Schild family was then only 14 years old, and at present is the only one of the original settlers who is living. I have talked with him, and he has been very helpful and kind in giving me any information that he could obtain. He says that their group was the first of the settlers, but this is impossible since the records date back five months before that. Mr. Emil Rychen, a son of one of the settlers, told me that the settlers came over in sailing vessels, but this seems to be contradicted by Mr. Peter Schild and also by Mr. Martin Marugg, who both came over in steamboats and claim that very few sailing vessels were in use at that time. This little group landed in New York (as did many emigrant family groups) and traveled from there to Chattanooga by train. They arrived in Chattanooga in the evening and spent the night there, leaving early the next morning by train for McMinnville. There they hired teams and wagons and set out immediately for Cumberland Mountain. They came up the valley to Collins River in Warren County and there met Consul Hitz who went with them up the mountain. When they arrived at the site of their future homes there was nothing to be seen except timberland and one crude cabin which was to house all three families until they could build their own homes. Their disappointment was, of course, keen.

The immediate task of providing shelter was solved by cutting timber and building log cabins. Only two of these remain today and they are the ones built by the family of Peter Schild.

They are now used as tool houses and the family lives in a frame house.

The early life in the colony, and the trials which they endured are told in the written records of the church, a book now [1933] in the hands of Mr. Chris Schild. I believe the best way to present these facts is to reproduce this historically valuable document in full. I have given the first page above, where I told of how the settlement came to be called Grütli. [The original text appears in Appendix B. A translation by the editor follows here. His comments are in square brackets.]

On the 2nd of May (1869), the draft of the statutes was accepted and the following officers elected:

Heinrich Schwarz of Gruetli, President

Rudolf Wegelin of Beersheba Springs, Vice President

Jakob Schneider of Long's Mill, Secretary.

This meeting was attended by Eugen [the text reads "Emil"] Plümacher, whom the Swiss emigration office had selected as director of the colony, since the project began from him. He reported on difficulties his project still faced. He indicated that still no share certificates were available; on the other hand, however, we would soon have help. He asked the colonists for patience and promised to do his utmost for the quick resolution of the colony's organization (*Colonieangelegenheiten*).

[Plümacher seems to have made virtually no preparation for the arrival of the colonists. In particular, the land had not been acquired by an organization prepared to convey it to the colonists, much less surveyed and divided into lots. Consequently, the colonists were unable to get to work at once clearing land, building homes, and planting, because they did not know where their land would eventually be. *Ed.*]

On May 31, the term of the contract between Col. Hughes and Mr. Plümacher came to an end. According to this contract, by this date there should have been 30 families settled on the colony's land. The Gruetli Union took notice that Col. Hughes was no longer willing to abide by the contract, since Plümacher had in no way fulfilled his obligations. This news moved the Union, in its meeting of June 6, to send a request for help to our Consulate General. The request had the desired result: to our meeting on July 4 came two officials of our Consulate General, Mr. Wermuth and Mr. Peter Staub, accompanied by Col. Hughes, to investigate this situation. In order to make a conscientious report to the Swiss State Council, Mr. Wermuth, First Secretary of the Consulate, wished to hear feelings and wishes from the mouth of each and everyone.

All declared that the climate and situation (*Lage*) suited them well and that they believed it would be possible to establish here their own free existence. Everyone wished that the Colony should be formally organized (*zu Stande Kommen*) quickly, so as to be able to start work.

Col. Hughes declared himself ready to conclude a new contract with the colonists; and, thanks to the diligent efforts of the two officials, it was possible to achieve a contract very favorable for the colonists.

According to this contract, all 50-acre lots [adjacent] to the street would be restored and each colonist would get the right to purchase off-street lots for 1 dollar per acre. [Precisely what this sentence means is not totally clear to the translator. Most lots in the 1873 map had 100 acres, but there are a few 50-acre lots in the neighborhood marked "Gruetli" on this map. Probably, the only functioning street was in this neighborhood and is "the street" referred to. Perhaps on the basis of previous payments to Plümacher, some colonists had been assigned land in this area and had gone to work clearing ground or building a house. If so, the sentence would mean that, although Hughes considered his contract with Plümacher null and void, he was willing to recognize the rights of these colonists to stay on these lots.

Ed.] This change caused a new delay because the land in question belonged to different owners, not all of whom were happy with the reduced price. After many-sided efforts, it was finally possible to set the date for the first allotting of land for August 16. On this day, Mr. Bouldin and Mr. Hill, the most significant providers of land, were present.

Minutes of the Community meeting of 16 August (1869) in Gruetli. The meeting began at 10 o'clock in the morning. The minutes of the meeting of the Gruetli union of 6 June, 4 and 18 July were read and unanimously approved. The president reported on the course of affairs of the colony. The board of the Union proposed that the community should constitute itself today, and elect officers who, henceforth, would execute the decisions.

As today's agenda, the board proposed:

1. Decision relative to taking possession of the land and its allocation today.
2. Recognition of those entitled to participate in the allocation.
3. Choice of a board from among those so recognized.
4. Conclusion of a contract for surveying with Engineer Baur.
5. Payment of the survey costs.
6. Drawing of the lots
7. Decision relative to catching up on the mandatory labor [*Frohndienst*-- unpaid labor required by the community for public works. *Ed.*]
8. Unforeseen matters.

The agenda were declared appropriate. Relative to taking possession of the land, there was read the copy of the message of July 10, from Mr. Wermuth [then] in Knoxville to the Consulate General. According to this message, no lands other than those provided by Mr. Bouldin

were available. However, agreement with the contract on the one hand and expressions of satisfaction from both Hill and Bouldin (who were present) on the other led to the decision to proceed with the definitive taking possession of the land and – to the satisfaction of the citizens -- to its allocation today.

The allocation plan showed that, after subtraction of the school land and the streets, 48 lots were available, and it was immediately decided that everyone should come to the allocation. There were 52 who wanted to participate [including 11 absentees], so 4 who were absent had to be refused participation. There were therefore 48 citizens entitled to participate in the drawing, whose names will appear with their lot numbers below. On the recommendation of Mr. Baur, the selection of the board was delayed awaiting the arrival of the representative of the Consulate General.

The contract between Mr. Baur³⁰ and the board in the name of the Community for measurement and division [of the land] was read and approved. Relative to covering the costs of this survey, it was decided: (a) to accept the receipts made out by Plümacher in place of payment, unless they were declared invalid by the Consulate, and (b) anyone not having such a receipt who wished to participate in today's allocation should immediately pay 4 dollars towards the survey costs. The remaining sum of 11 dollars [per lot], should be paid to Mr. Baur within a month of completion of the survey, which should be finished before the end of November. In case of non-payment, ownership of the lot in question would revert to the Community.

³⁰ [The 1872 map is signed “J. U. Baur, Ing.” There can thus be little doubt that the surveyor is the same as the settler, Johannes Ulrich Bauer from Zurich, who got lot 26 in the original drawing but had traded it for lot 94 by 1872 when the map was made. Lot 94 is where the store was, so we may safely deduce that the engineer is the same man as the J. U. Bauer, storekeeper, who was murdered, as we find in chapter 4, on November 30, 1874. He seems to have spelled his name indifferently “Baur” and “Bauer”; I have used Baur consistently in the English and kept whatever spelling the original uses in the German. *Ed.*]



The bridge of Colony Road over Ranger Creek, built in the earliest days of the Colony, presumably by mandatory labor. This picture is from the Jackson thesis. The upstream side of the bridge, visible from the new bridge, has been modified, but the downstream side shows the Swiss original, as shown in the modern picture on the back cover.

Relative to catching up on mandatory labor, it was decided that anyone who took possession of his lot by 1 November (1869) and declared himself ready as of that moment to make up the labor should be allowed to do so. Those coming later, however, will have to pay 1 dollar per day [of labor] to have the work done for daily wages or on a piecework basis.

Those absent, to whom it had not been possible to give notice of today's allocation, were to be informed in writing and allowed to draw lots. They would then be allowed one month to make the first payment on the survey costs and to declare whether they would perform or pay for the mandatory labor.

On general demand, there was then a break until 2 o'clock.

The meeting came together in the afternoon with the depositing of the receipts from Plümacher and the payment of the \$4 towards survey costs, as decided in the morning. 17 citizens deposited receipts, 24 paid \$4, and to 7 absentees, the above conditions applied.

The drawing took place with all order and decorum and gave the following result:

- 6 Leonhard von Rohr, exchanged with Carl Ruodin for No. 7
- 4 Caspar Fuchs – withdrawn from the community – now Anton Rockers
- 3 Jakob Lanz
- 14 Leon Stocker
- 16 Heinrich Lanz
- 12 Benedikt Studer
- 1 Jakob Fehr
- 24 Anton Heuggeller, sold to John Bahnholzer
- 5 Joseph Stocker, the elder
- 13 Caspar Schild
- 2 Rudolph Wegelin
- 30 John Stauffer, exchanged for No. 54
- 9 Conrad Bolli
- 38 Joseph Burri
- 39 Anton Stocker
- 19 Ulrich Weiss
- 18 Heinrich Schwarz of Long's Mill
- 8 Georg Schwarz of Long's Mill
- 21 Samuel Müller – now Mischen
- 10 Melchior Thöny
- 36 Hch. Bertschinger
- 31 August Werdmüller
- 34 Peter Kissling
- 23 Jakob Schneider
- 17 Carl Zehnter, now J. Heller
- 11 Joh. Rychen
- 28 Joseph Stocker
- 22 Jakob Bollinger
- 20 Heinrich Egli
- 32 Heinrich Wagner

- 33 Joh. Kissling
- 25 Caspar Holzhauser, now Joh. Bahnholzer
- 26 J.U. Baur -- now Joh. Bahnholzer
- 15 Christian Hofstetter
 - 7 Carl Stuedin [Ruodin?], exchanged with
Leonhard von Rohr for 6
- 35 Joh. Baumgartner
- 27 Jakob Fruttiger
- 37 Friedrich Seidel, sold to Hch. Bertschinger
- 29 Hch. Schwarz, the elder
- 50 Friedrich Born
- 46 Jakob Zurcher
- 42 Albert Gräuicher
- 41 Jakob Seier
- 43 Jakob Külling
- 45 Peter Schild
- 40 Jakob Schwarz
- 44 Zimmerli Concurati

[The list mentions 47, not 48, lots. *Ed.*] After the drawing for the lots, there was a happy festivity with “Hoch!” resounding for our esteemed Consul General Hitz and for Consuls Staub and Wermuth, as well as for the land providers, Bouldin and Hill in Altamont and Mr. Hughes in McMinnville. Dismissal of the community.

[Additional land seems to have become available and a further drawing conducted at a date not recorded. We have only the result. *Ed.*] Index of the owners in the second district:

- 46 Joh. Zurcher
- 51 Friedrich Fawer
- 52 Carl Fawer
- 53 Christian Häberli
- 54 Melchior Zwald
- 55 Alcide Faigoux
- 56 Carl Stucki
- 57 Caspar Zopfi
- 58 C. Hohligler
- 59 Jb. Seier

59	Christian Ruf
60	Christ. Amacher
61	Caspar Kreis
61	J. Rottach
62	Heinrich Scharrer
63	J. Vogt
64	N. Werdmüller
65	Heinrich Werdmüller
66	Fried. Müller
67	Friedrich Born
68	Joseph Fluri
69	Fried. Kneubühl
70	Melchior Jnäbnet
71	Jakob Mäder
72	Joh. Scholer
73	J. Amstutz
74	Ulrich Zimmermann
75	Eduard Berger
77	the Huggenberger brothers
77	Fritz von Gunten
81	Wermuth, Chancellor of the Consulate General
82	Consul Staub

Minutes of September 9 in Gruetli. At the wish of Consul General Hitz and Consul Staub, the community was assembled outside the regular schedule to handle the following matters:

- 1) Constituting the community
- 2) Draft of a community constitution
- 3) Election of the leadership
- 4) Report of Consul General Hitz relative to the conditions and safeguarding of the Colony's land. The Colony constituted itself as a political unit encompassing an area of 9090 acres and asked Consul Hitz to draft community rules according to the below-stated purpose, and to attend to incorporation.

Purpose: The community Switzerland, Grundy County, Tennessee, intends, within the framework of the

constitution of the United States and the state laws of Tennessee and the ordinances of Grundy County, to promote, according to its ability, religious, moral, educational and cultural purposes as well as through cooperative efforts to insure the spiritual and material welfare of those settled in its area.

On the suggestion of the Consulate, the elections were conducted in a democratic manner. Every ten lot owners (or fraction thereof) should elect a member of the Community Council. On the suggestion of the Community Council, and executive board of three members was selected.

Election of the Community Council

District 1	Lots 1-10	Georg Schwarz
District 2	Lots 11-20	Heinrich Egli
District 3	Lots 21-30	Jacob Schneider
District 4	Lots 31-40	Heinrich Bertschinger

The Community Council proposed as officers:

President Heinrich Schwarz
Secretary Rudolph Wegelin
Treasurer Jakob Schneider

Schwarz thanked the Council warmly but asked to be let off for substantive reasons.

Results of the election. With a large majority there were elected:

President Joh. Kissling
Secretary Rudolph Wegelin
Treasurer Ant. Stocker

Consul Hitz now reported separately on the state of the Colony's affairs. He declared the lands in every respect assured except in a formal aspect as well as there being some significant changes in the conditions of payment.

Of donated land there was no longer any talk, but every citizen now got a 100 acre lot for \$50. The period of payment could be extended only one year; by September 1, 1870, all lots should have been paid for, without, however,

compensation for interest. Mr. [Peter] Staub was designated Trustee and was willing to take care of this difficult business. On the other hand, it was expected that the colonists would do their utmost to ease his task. The Consul's concluding word was to recall to us, in an emotion-filled voice, the last words of the dying Attinghausen: "Be united! United!" [*Seid einig! Einig!* – from Friedrich Schiller, *Wilhelm Tell*, Act 4 Scene 2, line 2451.]

The evening had begun, and bright bonfires were lit. The chorus gave the most respected Consul a greeting in song, including in its object his elderly mother. "To the worthy representative of our dear Fatherland," began the speaker, "whose call resounds to relieve the suffering at home, whose help and material support those Swiss enjoy who seek their adoptive fatherland in America!" Only to him, emphasized the speaker, is due also the happy solution of the affairs of this colony. He has made great sacrifices of time and money for us. "We owe him the most heartfelt thanks, thanks that we cannot express. Our thankfulness must show itself in deeds. Let us unselfishly care for the seed entrusted to us. The difficulties which a new settlement must bear are not yet overcome. Unity, courage, and perseverance are necessary to reach the goal; true pulling together will lighten our burdens and advance our cause. This offering of thanks joyfully greets our Consul General. May he accept it as a token of our gratitude for his great efforts. Make known your agreement in sounding forth your *Hoch* to the worthy representative of our dear Fatherland, Consul General John Hitz." [*Hoch* literally means "high," but is used to cheer and to express strong approval of someone. "*Er lebe hoch*" means roughly "May he live well, happily, and prosperously!"]

Er lebe Hoch! Hoch! Hoch! Song: *Er lebe Hoch.*

With the voice of one deeply moved, the Consul expressed his thanks for the honor done him, but passed these honors on to the government of which he was the servant. He congratulated a people so far advanced in republican development as our dear Swiss fatherland. Though his salary

may be much lower than that of a representative of a monarchy, he considered himself fortunate to be the representative of the European republic, representative of a people whose highest power was the power of people. His “Hoch” was to the fatherland, to its free government, as well as to all true and worthy Swiss, both here and there. “Hoch! Hoch! Hoch!” [In 1869, Switzerland was indeed *the* European republic; France, formerly a republic, was an empire under Napoleon III.]

The third “Hoch” was for Consul Staub, to thank him for his many sacrifices for the colony. A heavy rain brought the happy festivity to an end and sent the participants home.

Minutes of October 25 in Gruetli. Subjects:

- 1) Decision relative to the performance of street works.
- 2) Building a schoolhouse
- 3) Community constitution
- 4) Name of the City.

1) The Community Council moved that Mr. Baur be released as road master and that the Council itself would direct the necessary works. Motion accepted. The Council was given the charge to finish the bridges in Gruetli.

2) Relative to the schoolhouse, it was decided that Council should have until the end of year to make plans and cost calculations. To get the necessary funds, it should have the City land measured out and hold an auction. The name Bern was confirmed for the City.³¹

³¹ “The City” refers to parcel of land, originally 200 acres but later enlarged to 600 or 700 acres, where it was hoped a city would develop. Ownership of this land was originally entrusted to the community with the provision that the proceeds from its sale should go towards school and church buildings. Jacob Suter believes that this area was around the Schild store and the stagecoach inn, which still stands, the area marked Gruetli on the 1872 map. For reasons seen below, I think it may have

The Community constitution sent by Mr. Wermuth was accepted and the Board asked to take care of incorporation, and the Community was given the name Switzerland. To help newly arrived settlers, it was decided to build two block houses, in so far as the credit could be raised [*erheblich sei*, here translated “could be raised,” would normally mean “was considerable” but here the more literal translation seems to make better sense.] Finally, every lot owner was allowed to cut wood in the streets, but the stumps left should not be more than one foot high. Meeting adjourned.

Community meeting 31 December 1869 in the lot of

Councilman Schneider. The president opened the meeting and proposed the following agenda:

- 1) Reading and ratification of the minutes of 9 August and 25 October in Gruetli.
- 2) Motion of the Council relative to the building of a schoolhouse in the city Bern.
- 3) Establishment of the sale price of future 100 acre lots.
- 4) Motion relative to the auction of the City lots.
- 5) Motion for the establishment of a cemetery.
- 6) Transfer of the plans of the first 5000 acres to the community. Notice relative to the end of the survey and payment of the costs.
- 7) Election of the city council and officers.
- 8) Unforeseen matters.

[1] The minutes of September 9 were read and accepted without change. Those of October 25 were emended to make clear that the Council was responsible for leadership in the matter of work on the streets.

[2] In accord with the Community decision on October 25 relative to the schoolhouse, the Council moved as follows: There should be built on the place chosen in the

been the large undivided area on which the Swiss Memorial School now stands. *Ed.*]

city a proper frame house, 30 feet long, 24 feet wide, and 1½ stories high. There should be a 14 day period for turning in sealed bids for the construction of the entire building. The management should then be given the right to award the contract to the lowest bidder without further ratification by the community

Heinrich Schwarz wished and moved that the construction competition should be open for us. He placed his trust in the citizens that, through volunteer labor the wood would be felled and hauled to the site, thereby sparing considerable expense. If that were not possible, then the authorities should have full power to execute their plan, and that without delay, since the need for the school house was pressing. Decision: The Council and officers were charged to clear a part of the land designated for the school and to open an access street with volunteer labor. For the construction of the school, they were to open a competition and without further ratification by the Community to award the contract to the lowest bidder. Should the first-named works not be done by voluntary effort, then funds are authorized for them also.

3) The president informed the community that Consul Staub had recently purchased 5000 acres of land, and he [the president] wished that the Community determine the sale price, paying attention to some compensation to Consul Staub for the trouble and sacrifices connected with these transactions. He pointed to the Consul's magnanimous treatment of us, up to this point without compensation. Jb. Hehr moved that it be left absolutely to Mr. Staub to determine the sale price. He could not find it appropriate to determine a compensation; the Consul's work could never be equated with that a laborer.

The president feared that proceeding in that way might lead to Consul Staub being regarded as a land speculator in certain quarters, something he did not want happening in the Swiss colony, since we are all convinced that such is not the case. Indeed, it was the Consul's wish that the community should determine the price. Hch. Schwarz sup-

ported the motion of Hehr because presently much dissension has arisen because surveyor and agent functioned in one person. Mr. Staub works as Consul, and it is a boon granted to the Colonists if the prices do not rise all too sharply.

Decision: Consul Staub should be warmly thanked for his magnanimous way of dealing with us, and the price for further sales should be left totally to him.

4) On the subject of the auction of the City lot, the community council moved to survey a number of lots near the schoolhouse and to bring them to auction. Mr. Bertschinger reported for the council: For the execution of the decision of the community, the council had turned to Engineer Baur and received from him a plan that divided all 200 acres into half-acre lots and laid out straight streets. An investigation had shown that this plan was too expensive. Baur wanted 20 [dollars] for the plan plus one dollar for each lot surveyed, and thus \$400 for the project. This demand had caused the Council to postpone this matter. Hch. Schwarz found the demand exaggerated, thanked the Council for the delay, and believed that this work could be done without the engineer at a low cost. He thought that to limit the division to four acre lots -- except in the most favorable places -- would to the advantage of any buyer.

Decision: The Council and Board were charged to conduct the division into lots according to this last proposal and order an auction.

5) The Council and Board moved that an appropriate place for a cemetery be prepared, and it was decided that, since lot number 21 had reverted to the community and the ground and location was appropriate, on resale about 10 acres in the back behind the street and up to brow of the mountain should be reserved. To keep down costs, only one acre would initially be cleared and fenced in.³²

³² This is not at all where the current cemetery is. The German says "*geklärt und eingefenst*," both words being Germanized English.

6) There were many complaints about the surveying of the first 5000 acres. Boundary lines were inadequately or faulty drawn and some lots were incorrectly located. It was decided as follows: Owners of 100 acre lots would be given a month to investigate their boundary lines. If, during this period, no written complaints were to be made to the Council, it would be assumed that the boundaries were satisfactory and the Board charged to pay the survey costs.

7) The new elections, carried out according to the provision of the constitution for [annual] elections, gave the following result for Community Council by district:

1. Jakob Lanz
2. J.U. Weiss
3. Jb. Schneider, who declined and in whose place Mr. Bahnhofler was chosen on January 17.
4. Heinrich Bertschinger
5. Carl Zehnter

As members of the Board there were nominated:

For President: John Kissling and Jb. Hehr
for Secretary: Rudolph Wegelin and Hch. Schwarz
for Treasurer: Anton Stocker and Joh. Baumgartner

Results of the election:

For President: votes cast, 31; absolute majority, 16; Mr. Kissling, 29; Hehr, 1; invalid 1. Mr. Kissling thanked the community for its trust, and accepted with the wish that the Community may have a happy and peaceful development.

Treasurer: votes cast, 28; absolute majority 15; votes received: Stocker 17, Baumgartner 9, Bertschinger 2. Mr. Stocker elected.

Secretary: votes cast, 31; absolute majority 16; votes received: Wegelin 3, Bertschinger 2, Hch. Schwarz 26.

Under article 8 of the day's agenda [Unforeseen matters], Jb. Hehr informed the citizens that he had been appointed road master by the Court in Altamont, and he asked

that all citizens between the ages of 20 and 65 appear for mandatory labor [*Frohndienst*] on the first Thursday in January. Anyone refusing he would immediately turn over to the Court.

Hch. Schwarz protested against such a procedure. The construction of the streets should first be presented to the citizens for approval. He earnestly emphasized that this decision of the Court was a response to the petition of only a few citizens; he believed that if the Community sought a delay it would be gladly granted. Improvement of the streets is necessary, but one must not overburden the colonists. Without prior knowledge of the citizens, one should definitely not build roads. Schwarz from Long's Mill also complained of so much mandatory labor; during 1869, he and his brother had done 36 days of mandatory labor. He earnestly emphasized that if such harsh measures were taken, he would again leave the mountain. The community asked the Board to request a postponement from the Court in Altamont; and, if it is received, to then prepare a street plan and to present it to the community for approval.

Finally, the president read a letter from Consul Staub about the sad condition of the family Lager from Glarus, and the citizens were advised that they could make voluntary contributions, payable to the Treasurer, to help the consulate alleviate the suffering of this family. Meeting adjourned.

Special meeting of the Community, February 7, 1870. In consequence of the disputes that had arisen between the owners in the first and those in the second complexes, especially those of the two city complexes and the adjoining street systems, Consul Staub called together a commission to work out a peaceful solution. This commission consisted of Engineer Baur, Jakob Hehr, and Edward Berger on the one side and President Kissling, Bertschinger, and Schwarz on the other. Consul Staub was named chairman. The following were the principal issues:

1. Should the constitution drafted by Consul Staub and accepted by the citizens last October 25 remain in effect or be declared invalid?

2. In what way can a peaceful solution of the affairs of the City be achieved?

3. Is it not in the interest of the population to divide the settlement into two school and street districts, each enjoying equal rights in the use of the City complexes?

After long and vehement discussion, the Commission came to a unanimous proposal as follows:

I. The constitution should be changed only as necessary to allow incorporation, and Consul Staub was asked to take over that task.

II. a) The two previous City complexes should be united, abutting on that [already] laid out in the second complex, with annexation of the parallel 100 acre lots designated No. 45, 46, 43, and 44, so that the whole complex would total 600 acres.³³

b) 25 to 30 acres in the center of this complex should, for the time being, be reserved for public buildings. The sale of City lots should begin on either side of this area.

c) The street system inside the City is to be left to the inhabitants thereof.

d) Proceeds from the sale of the City lot can, according to the stipulations of the donor, be used only for church and school purposes.

e) The name *Bern*, attached to the first complex, is reaffirmed.

³³ [These lot numbers are missing from the 1872 plan; the general sequence of the numbers, however, suggests that they may have been in the large, undivided rectangle on which the Swiss Memorial School now stands. This area, then, rather than the area around the stagecoach inn, may be where the City was to be.]

III In view of its wide area and rapid development, the Community should divide itself into two school districts which should share equally in the proceeds from the [sale] of the City lot for school and church. For the construction of the first school houses, a credit of 200 dollars should be granted to each district.

IV Each school community should assume the construction and maintenance of the streets and bridges necessary in its area, as well as that of county roads that run through it.

V A contract is to be concluded with Engineer Baur for the survey of the City lands.

VI The survey of the first 5000 acres is to be accepted.

VII A meeting should be called for February 7 to ratify or reject this proposal.

Minutes of the meeting of February 7, 1870.

Agenda:

1) Reading and approval of the minutes of the community meeting of December 31, 1869.

2) Approval or rejection of the above-described Commission proposal.

3) Ratification of the agreement with Mr. Zürcher concerning his 100 acre lot No. 46, on which he has already built.

4) Ratification of the contract with Engineer Baur.

The president opened the meeting with a brief but earnest introduction. He pointed to the disputes and mutual misunderstandings which had arisen, and he urged the citizens to give the utmost attention to the important matters before the meeting today. With the noble wife of Werner Stauffacher, he called to the citizens especially today, "Oh Werner, look not back, but to the future." [Schiller, *Wilhelm Tell*, Act 1, Scene 2, line 525.] He hoped that the parting words of our most esteemed Consul General were

engraved in most hearts: Be united! United! “Only unity assures our continued existence, only unity advances our prosperity, only a pure democratic sense leads us to the goal. With these few words, I declare this meeting open.”

The minutes of the meeting of December 31 were read and unanimously approved.

The above Commission proposal was read and the reasons behind it explained by Mr. Schwarz on behalf of the commission. The report was supported by Mr. Eduard Berger.

Messrs. Schneider and Bollinger believe the owners of the 100 acre lots in the first complex to be disadvantaged. They wished especially that the so-called Poplar Spring be kept free and open.

This wish also Consul Staub, in a way most gracious way, was able to fulfill. He would sell the 200 acres in question for 130 dollars, his cost of purchase plus survey, to the first school community for subdivision in small complexes. The two concerned members declared themselves satisfied and recommended approval of the commission’s proposal, which, without further discussion was unanimously approved.

Until incorporation of the constitution, it was further decided to choose a commission of five members, composed of the president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, and one owner with the charge to advance the welfare of the community according to its means in every connection through the sale of the City lot as soon as possible and also seek means to get the school construction underway.

With a majority approaching unanimity, the following members of the commission were chosen: President, Mr. Kissling; vice president, Eduard Berger; treasurer, Anton Stocker; secretary, Hch. Schwarz; fifth member, Ulrich Zimmermann.

A discussion with Engineer Baur yielded the following result. With the exception of the part reserved for public

buildings (where, for the time being, he would just indicate the roads), he would undertake to lay out the whole complex in one acre lots, mark each with four corner stakes and two middle stakes, post the number on each lot, and lay out the streets. He only asked that upon completion of the work, it should be examined, and, if satisfactory, be declared accepted. He also presented a plan to the Community. For the conduct of this work he asked \$250, \$100 after the first auction of lots and \$150 after a year. In this amount are included all survey costs already due in both City complexes.

This contract was agreed upon and Mr. Baur asked to survey a number of lots as quickly as possible.

Mr. Zürcher [owner of Lot 46 which the Community wanted to include in the City] asked to keep the 20 acres that lie along the western side of his 100 acre lot and on which he had already built a house in consideration of the 15 dollars he had already paid for survey cost. The remaining 80 acres he was prepared to sell to the Community for \$50, the amount he had originally paid for the whole lot.

The citizens found this offer cheap and accepted the deal unanimously. The 200 acres by which the City would be expanded would be shared equally between the two sides, and the Board was asked to present to the community on July 4 a proposal for covering the questionable deficit. The first community designated four acres as school land on the north of the City; and the second community, four acres on the south.

When the president asked if anyone had anything to add, Heinrich Schwarz asked for the floor, and in a few words, mentioned the many sacrifices which Consul Staub had already made for the colony and which, as Trustee, he would still have to make, the zeal with which he had again this time striven to bring about peaceful relations. Moreover, up to this point, he had made all these sacrifices without compensation, so that the colonists owed him many thanks. Also he would take as a true sign of gratitude that unity through which alone the colony may bloom and pros-

per. "Show him your recognition by joining in a mighty *Hoch. Herr Consul Staub lebe Hoch! Hoch! Hoch!*"

The Consul said that he enjoyed the days he was granted to spend with us. Though we lack the noble wine by which spirits are made high on such festive occasions in our motherland, he finds that here our souls are equally lifted and made happy with spring water. "I would bring to mind again today the words of our representative and friend Consul General Hitz, now in Switzerland: 'Dear fellow citizens: Be united! United! United!'" He has once saved this project, and you may count on his continued care. To him I bring my *Hoch!*"

"Most of you still remember how, here on this spot, he passed on the *Hoch* that you brought to him to the government of which he was the representative. I also am convinced that your government at home has not forgotten you, that it has not withdrawn its protection from you. The prejudices I have often heard expressed are unfounded. The fact is that a man without means but ready for hard work can rise better here than in the dear motherland. But one should not suppose that your government, which has helped you to emigrate, would, once emigrated, [not] assure you its protection in case of need. It has, dear fellow citizens, already done so and will continue to do so. Trusting in your Swiss government, may you say, when danger threatens, then here on this Tennessee mountain, you brothers stand, one for all and all for one.

Also to you, dear fellow citizens, belongs recognition for the firm will and perseverance which you have shown in the colony project. I thank you further for the good fame which your industry and character have brought to our fatherland among the local people here. Keeping trust together, feed here upon the true Swiss fodder, that is, on pure freedom, education, song, and above all, community life that advances spiritual development. As for the colony, I must express my fullest satisfaction. Just remain united, active, and persevering and you will harvest the fruits which you are sewing. I, for my part, give you my firm as-

surance to protect the colony as far as lies within my power. Finally, I bring my *Hoch* first to the Swiss government, without which your colony would no longer exist, secondly to those dear lands and to the people living in them, and thirdly to all true Swiss hearts, wherever they may be. To the Swiss government, to the lands and peoples, and to all worthy Swiss hearts wherever they may live! *Hoch! Hoch! Hoch!*"

And so, with beautiful love for the fatherland, brothers reached out their hands to one another; and the president, with thanks to all, closed the meeting.

From the foregoing records and from a little reading between the lines, it is not hard to see that the settlers in Gruetli were very largely disillusioned. This disillusionment was met, on the part of the leaders, by repeated reminders that the hardships of the Swiss on Cumberland Mountain were nothing more than natural, that it was indeed comparable to the hardships encountered by their forefathers in the founding of their own Swiss federation. And it would be hard to say what might have become of the colony if it had not been for the cohesive influence of the idealists who urged its continued unity.

Of their subsequent hardships and pleasures and their adaptation to American customs and to the language of their new fatherland, I shall speak presently. But before going further into the story of the colony as a whole, I shall give a short summary of several of its outstanding families.

Addendum: Church Crises

In the church records, the passage quoted above is followed by lists of community members, baptisms, confirmations, communicants, marriages, and deaths. Then, starting on page 210, come minutes of meetings beginning in 1886 that record two serious problems in the church. Curiously, Jackson makes no mention of them.

The trouble began with a pastor, D. Neunschwander, alleged to have made “certain utterances against the community at Gruetli” not further specified. Neunschwander seems to have lived in Belvidere and traveled to Gruetli for his pastoral duties. In his absence, deacons Angst and Jenni and elder Jacob Rutschmann called a meeting of the members on June 13, 1886. After a lengthy discussion, it was unanimously decided to relieve the pastor of his duties. Since his contract had not yet expired, he was to be paid the rest of the contract whether or not he came to Gruetli. This news was to be conveyed to the pastor by Rutschmann.

Neunschwander did not accept this decision graciously. He declared the meeting invalid, because only the pastor was allowed to call meetings under the rules of the Indiana Classis of which the Gruetli church was a member. (A *classis* is a governing board composed of ministers and lay representatives in the Dutch, German, and Swiss Reformed Churches.) The congregation drew up a letter of withdrawal from the classis, but before it was sent, a pastor, B. Warren, was found, who agreed to serve for one year and persuaded the congregation to stay in the classis. The altercation with Neunschwander dragged on through 1887, with neither side admitting any impropriety. The Neunschwander affair was not the cause of any split within the community.

Warren seems to have been satisfactory except that his German left something to be desired. In September 1890, following the loss of the teacher, Rudolf Marugg, it was decided to look for someone “equally adroit in both languages,” able to fill the role of both pastor and teacher. Carl Nussbaum of New York

was such a person and it was suggested that he be offered the pastorship provided he would “familiarize himself with the Heidelberg Catechism and all other necessary matters” to be ordained in the Indiana Classis. (Nussbaum’s given name appears variously as C. H., Carl, Charles August, and Christian August. In 1892, he bought lot 54, formerly owned by Melchior Zwald, at a tax sale for \$10. He used the name Charles August for this transaction.)

Now it seems that Nussbaum had been ordained in the New York Synod but not in the Indiana Classis and that it was strongly suspected that he would be unwilling to join the Indiana York Classis and was unlikely to take kindly to the suggestion that he be ordained in the Indiana Classis. John Kissling accurately foresaw the results of the offer to Nussbaum and proposed that it might be better to vote on whether to have a war between two factions or to live in peaceful community of citizens. His advice was not heeded, and on the vote to invite Nussbaum, 23 members voted yes and 11 voted no.

Nussbaum preached his first sermon on Sunday, September 26, 1890, and Kissling’s prophecy began to unfold. Pastor Warren declared that he had nothing against the sermon, but that Nussbaum must be ordained in the Reformed Church to serve the congregation. Nussbaum replied that conscience would not allow him to do so, since the canons of the Reformed Church were not in conformity with the Heidelberg Catechism. He declared the choice of the community more important than the authority of a church, and that, to quote a certain Dr. Ellis, “Ordination ... does not make one a learned, wise, or good man any more than it makes him a Christian, nor does it endow one with the virtues of humility, moderation, chastity, or even honesty.”

The battle was joined. The majority hired Nussbaum and withdrew from the Reformed Church. A minority of 12 families stayed with the Reformed Church and had occasional services with visiting pastors. They were refused the use of the schoolhouse, as well as the use of the hymnals and communion equipment. In 1893, this minority group took the majority group to court and won its case. They were given the hymnals and communion ware by the judge and the school authorities let both

groups use the school. Which families were in which group is not recorded. But the admonition of Consul Hitz “*Seid einig! Einig!*” had been forgotten. Several not very authoritative sources suggest that Nussbaum was influenced by Swedenborg.

On the morning of May 8, 1898, Alfred Rüttschmann, a young man in his early 20’s, was shot while sitting in the kitchen of the Anton Stocker house (then owned by the Nussbaums) preparing a Sunday school lesson. The murder was never solved, but local suspicion thought it not unconnected with the fact that Alfred’s father had delivered to Neunschwander the news of his ouster.³⁴ *Ed*

³⁴ David E. Clayton, *The Forgotten Colony*, 1971, unpublished. Clayton cites a conversation in 1969 with Rosemarie Stampfli for this story.

Chapter 3. Some Prominent Families

The name **Schild** is likely to be the first one heard today on the mountain in connection with the colony. This is probably because the family has remained there, whereas most others have taken the first opportunity to move elsewhere. As I have mentioned before, the forebears of this family came over in September, 1869. In that original group was John Schild (b. ca. 1802 and his sons Peter (1830 – 1912) and Kaspar (1833-1905). Peter was accompanied by his wife, Margarita Ruef, and seven children. The oldest of the children was Peter Jr. (1854-1937) who today (1933) has the distinction of being the only surviving "original settler" of the colony still living in Gruetli. He is now known on the mountain as "Uncle Pete." Young Peter's brothers and sisters were Margaretha (b. 1856), John (1858 – 1921), John Henry (1862- 1943), Elizabeth (1864 – 1946), Rudolph (1866- 1928), and Willie (1868 – 1903). Peter was fourteen years old when his family came over, so he remembers the trip and arrival quite well. When grown, he married Rosa Leuzinger, and they had two daughters, Fannie and Margaret. Fannie is now living in Gruetli with her parents and helping them manage the farm. Uncle Pete, although now nearly eighty years of age, is still active and works out on the farm every day. He says he doesn't want to stop working because he is afraid if he misses a day, he won't be able to go out the next day. He speaks Swiss (Schwyzerdeutsch), High German, and English, but seems to prefer English when speaking to Americans. He is always eager to talk about the colony in its early days, and the accuracy with which he remembers details is remarkable.

Elizabeth (1864 – 1926), sister of Uncle Pete, married Martin Marugg of Tracy City who will be mentioned under the Marugg family. Another brother, John (1858 – 1921), married Barbara Marugg, sister of Martin,, and they brought up a large family which has figured prominently in Gruetli life. Their children are John (1886-1954), Chris (1887-1934), George Willie (1889-1948), Anna Margaretha (1891-1974), Rudolph (1893-1948), and Elsie Christina (1895-1916). Their second son,

Chris, is now owner and manager of the little general store which is the only place of business in Gruetli proper.

[Chris's daughter, mentioned at the beginning of this narrative as Jackson's guide, was Dola, who was 17 at the time. Seventy-three years later, she remembers "Miss Jackson's" visit vividly. She was then a student at the Grundy County High School in Tracy City. She recalls that the School Board had found it too costly if not impossible to run a school bus for the Gruetli children and had instead provided them with an old car to get themselves from the Swiss Colongy out to a highway where they could catch a bus from Palmer or Beersheba. Every trip over the Gruetli roads and fields was an adventure! Since she was the only girl, Dola drove and the four boys pushed when they got stuck. In the summer of 1933, immediately after high school graduation, she went to Middle Tennessee State Teachers' College in Murfreesboro. The next summer, her father became ill and she stayed home with him. He died in in November of 1934; and, following his wishes, she married Louie Berry of Tracy City. They ran the store and the little farm. The marriage was unhappy, and after her mother remarried, she took a job with the Lone Star Gas company in Dallas, and from Texas got a divorce. In 1944, she came back to Tennessee to work for TVA in Chattanooga as a statistical draftsman. When the man whose job she had filled came home from the war, she took a civil service job in Okinawa, working for the Army Corps of Engineers as a draftsman. There she met Richard Tylor, and they were married in 1949. In 1956, they came back to finish college at the University of Tennessee, where they both graduated in 1958. In 1962, back they went to Okinawa, but Dola was now a budget officer for the Signal Corps, while Richard continued with the Corps of Engineers. They were joined there by Dola's younger brother, Roy, who married an Okinawan girl. In 1977, the Corps transferred Richard to Winchester, Virginia. They are now (2005) living in Winchester in a home filled with Okinawan art, and both are in remarkably good health. Roy and his wife are in Berryville, Virginia. Though life has taken Dola about as far from Gruetli as one can get, she remembers her childhood with deep gratitude and affection. She has made a detailed inventory of the old markers in the cemetery at Gruetli that is

available at the Tracy City library. Her lively rendition of her conversations with her grandmother, Barbara Marugg Scild, is included as an addendum to this chapter. Her genealogical work has provided accurate data for the Schild and Marugg families. Her life is a beautiful example of how the children of Gruetli entered mainstream American culture without forgetting the virtues of their upbringing. Or, if you will, of how the Colony succeeded as it disappeared.

A different and seemingly unrelated Peter Schild (1835 – 1915) and his family settled nearby in Beersheba Springs. This Peter and his wife, Anna Fuchs (1838-1907), and several children came from Canton Bern to New York in January of 1871 and went straight to Beersheba. He seems to have found employment as a manager and caretaker of the properties of Martha Armfield, widow of John Armfield. The family lived in the Otey cottage, now known as Mountain Home, and was also given the cottage known as Ten Pin in payment for services to Mrs. Armfield. There were a total of eleven children: Peter, Jr., Elisabeth, Melchior, Alfred, (all born in Switzerland) and Mary, John Albert, Lucy, Annie, Daniel, Mattie, and Betty Margaret. The parents are buried in a small cemetery in Beersheba about 100 yards west of Tenn. 56 and 0.1 miles north of Big Don's Market. The story of this Schild family is being prepared by Joeseph Schild, who may be reached at Joesfamily@mindspring.com. The oldest son is known to have moved to Nashville and to have worked at some time as a boilermaker for the N.C.&St.L railroad. I believe that it is he, not "Uncle Pete" from Gruetli, who was a cousin of Melchior Thoni and with him, as we shall see below, carved the evangelists and the angels on the reredos of the altar in Christ Church Episcopal in downtown Nashville. *Ed.]*

The **Marugg** family represents perhaps the most influential group of settlers in the colony. In 1869, Christian Marugg (1829 – 1904) came to America seeking a place for a future home. He traveled through twenty-eight states but did not find a place that suited him until he met Consul Hitz and went with him, on the recommendation of Captain Plumacher, to Cumberland Mountain. There he seemed to be satisfied and gave up further search, returning immediately to Switzerland. There is

no record that I have been able to find of his having bought, before returning to Switzerland, any property in Gruetli or of his having made any arrangements to return to the colony. But in 1873 he arrived in Gruetli from Switzerland, bringing his family with him. His family consisted of his wife, Anna Brosi³⁵, and five children: Barbara (1857-1946), Rudolph (1859 – 1896), Martin (1861 – 1941), George (1864 – 1943), and Christina (1867 – 1894). Two of the sons have been particularly outstanding in the life of Gruetli. Rudolph married Anna Heer and was the teacher in the school and a leader in the civic life of the village. Martin married Elizabeth Schild, younger sister of “Uncle Pete,” and was a member of the Agricultural Society (*Landwirtschaftsverein*) and its secretary for many years. Shortly after the family's arrival in America, Martin established the Marugg Company in Tracy City, a firm which still imports German and Swiss farming implements. This business has been unusually successful, and marks Mr. Marugg as one of the few financially successful men who have come from the colony. The firm has an attractive catalogue, written in both English and German, describing and illustrating all of the foreign tools. Many of the settlers in Gruetli use these tools as they prefer the implements which have always been used by their forebears. Mr. Marugg also has a large American clientele with whom these Swiss cast bells (*Schweizer Gussglocken*), German scythes (*deutsche Sensen*), etc., are very popular. The daughter, Barbara, married John Schild, younger brother of “Uncle Pete.” I shall have more to say about this family in the course of this study.

[Probably no one mentioned to Frances Jackson that Christian and Anna Marugg returned to Klosters, Switzerland about 1890, taking with them their two youngest children, George and Christina. They intended to return to America, but only George ever came back. Christina married in 1892 and had a son, Simon Nett, in 1893 and a daughter, Anna in August of 1894. Christina died two months later; and little Anna died at age five months. The father died a year later in January 1896. Simon

³⁵ Anna brought with her a notebook now in the possession of her great, great granddaughter Sylvia Bryant. A page is shown in the addendum to this chapter.

was then brought up by his grandparents, until his grandmother's death in 1907 when he was 14. He seems to have done well, however, and lived to age 80. Dola Schild Tylor has a picture of him skiing.]

The **Thoni** and **Rychen** families are inseparably joined, both by marriage and, in the early days, by business. In the month of October, in the year 1869, Melchior Thoni and his wife, Elizabeth Schild,³⁶ came from the canton of Bern in Switzerland to settle in Gruetli. With them were two of their children, Melchior and John. Two other children, Margaret and Peter, had died. The father bought a lot of one hundred acres and the two sons, Melchior and John, joined to buy another lot adjoining. In the allotment the two lots No. 9 and 10 fell to the two sons and father respectively. In the same year John Rychen, also of Bern, married Elizabeth Thoni, another child of Melchior, and the two came to America and to Gruetli on their honeymoon and to make their future home there. They bought lot No.11 next to that of Elizabeth's father. Either late in the year 1869 or early in the year 1870, John Rychen's mother came over from Switzerland, bringing his sisters and settling with John. His father had died a number of years before and left his wife and children without any money; the wife being very active had started a laundry business on a small scale and it had prospered until she had earned enough to bring her small family to America. Thus the two families arrived here and started out together.

The following illustrations are carvings by Melchior Thoni. The wall sconces are in the possession of John E. Baggenstoss

³⁶ [Jackson gives his wife's name as Anna, but according to Lycinda Thoni Allen, who has thoroughly researched Thoni geneology, this Melchior's wife was Elisabeth Schild, an identification which could account for references to a Peter Schild (probably of the Beersheba Schild family, which, like the Thoni family, came from Breinz) as the cousin of Melchior the younger. *Ed.*]



In 1871, Melchior Thoni, son, married Elizabeth Rychen, and in 1874 they moved to Sewanee where Melchior had the job of building fires for the University. He spent his evenings carv-



ing, a trade which he had learned in Switzerland, and made many very beautiful things. One of the most beautiful of these is a table about three feet high which is elaborately carved, including the legs, and a very intricate design and picture in relief on the top. This table is now in the possession of his son Frank in Nashville. [In 2002, the table is in the possession of Delores Krech Carter in Nashville. *Ed.*] Many small articles, such as picture frames, candlesticks, trinket boxes and little sets of shelves were carved by young Melchior and sold in the summer at Monteagle to the tourists. Melchior's children still have a few of them which were not sold. In 1880, Mr. Tom Karl of Nashville got in touch with Mr. Thoni and hired him to come to Nashville to carve a "flyin' jinny." And so the family moved to Nashville where they have made their home ever since.

I now return to the Rychen family and trace them to the present time. John and his bride Elizabeth Thoni were trying to



make a living in Gruetli. To supplement what they made on the farm, John spent his time in the winter carving the same kind of little trinkets that Melchior Thoni was making in Sewanee. He was very gifted and quick and in the summer there was always a big supply ready to take to Beersheba to sell to the tourists. His wife often helped him but the things which she carved were simpler, as she was not as talented as her husband. It was six miles to Beersheba³⁷ and Elizabeth with her son Emil always walked over and back, leaving early in the morning and returning late at night. The husband was not able to go with her because summer was the time when it was most necessary to work on the farm. Mr. Emil Rychen told me the little tale that his mother always took him along and never any of the other children, so that after a while he was called her pet, but she answered this with the remark that she always took him with her because she was afraid the house wouldn't be there when she returned if she left him

³⁷ [She must have gone down into the Big Creek Gulf and up through Stone Door; on top of the mountain, it would have been much further. *Ed.*]

there. The little family lived there until 1880 and in the meantime five children were born: John, Emil, Emma, Lena and Anna.

When Melchior Thoni came to Nashville to carve the "flyin' jinny," he sent for John Rychen to come down and help him. John was not financially able to bring his family so he came alone and left them in Gruetli. This little merry-go-round was so successful that the two men decided to make one for themselves which they promptly did. John Thoni then came down from Gruetli and the three men took the "flyin' jinny" or *Rösslispiel*, as it is called in Swiss German, and traveled with it. They followed circuses and were very popular with their merry-go-round drawn by a little spotted pony. In 1881, while they made on the farm, they were in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, John Rychen caught typhoid pneumonia and died after a few days. They were too poor to take him back to Gruetli or to have his wife come there, so he was buried by his friends in the shade of a large tree. After this misfortune, the two Thoni brothers became discouraged with the "flyin' jinny" business and returned to Nashville. Upon his return, Melchior Thoni got employment as foreman of the Edgefield and Nashville (furniture) Manufacturing Company, which position he held for thirty years until his death in 1926. While working as woodcarver for this concern he is said to have also instructed at least two hundred other men in his artistic handicraft. Thus he did all that was in his power to carry on in this art which has always been so widely followed among the Swiss.

[Update 2002. In 1947, Bill Holder, a reporter for the *Nashville Tennessean Magazine*, after repeatedly encountering the name of Melchior Thoni, made some investigation and found Rosa Krech, his daughter, and H.J. Kleiser, who had learned the woodcarving trade from him. He writes:

In the Swiss Alps, the boy Melchior Thoni tended his father's goats and cattle, herding them higher into the mountains as the warm season approached. By the time summer arrived, Thoni and the others had reached the cottages where they camped till fall, when they would begin

the descent. To pass the long hours in the mountains, the men who tended the cattle made simple carvings -- forks, pen staffs, jewel caskets -- which they usually decorated with a little edelweiss, the national flower of Switzerland. They called it "one-handed" carving, because they held the wood in one hand and the knife in the other. During certain times of the year, buyers came through the mountains and these hand-carved trinkets were taken away to the big tourist cities, where they were sold in the *magazins*. Melchior Thoni's father noticed his son's talent for carving these trinkets and decided to apprentice him to a master woodcarver, one Bauman. Melchior Thoni [had] mastered his art when he came to America and Gruetli, from Breinz, Canton Bern, in 1869 with his parents and brothers and sisters. He was 20 years old. In 1871, Thoni took a wife, a Swiss maiden who had come over on the same boat, and in January, 1873 Rosa was born; her mother used to tell her that snow blew through the cabin wall onto the natal bed. ... [After moving to Sewanee], in one corner of the kitchen of their little two-room flat, Melchior found room to set up his treadle lathe and saw. He was also accomplished on the clarinet and accordion, and sometimes he and his brother John picked up a little extra money making music at student dances.

In 1880 or '81, Melchior Thoni moved his family to Nashville. Soon afterward, it came to the mind of Melchior and his brother John to build a flying jenny, or carousel, that would have horses and roosters and ostriches and chamois and deer and even chariots. The men set to work, and Melchior's sensitive eye and hand soon brought life to the wood under his chisel. But when the carousel was done, a jealous rival woodcarver who had also made a merry-go-round claimed that Melchior had copied his animals and brought suit in the federal court here for infringement of patent. "Why, this man could not even *draw* these animals, much less carve them," said the [accusing] woodcarver. "If I had a piece of chalk, I could show you," replied Melchior, and so the judge sent out for some chalk. When it was brought, Melchior took a piece and drew a graceful

leaping deer on the floor in front of the judge's bench. When the judge saw it, he dismissed the case.

.... [When he joined the Edgefield and Nashville company], Melchior was placed over all the wood carvers – there were sometimes six or eight of them. Under his quiet guidance, they were turning out woodcarvings that went all over the Union. He was not only a supervisor but a worker as well, and in all his 25 years there no job was too difficult for him, and they say he could work as fast as fury when it was his wish. Foreman Thoni went to work at 7 o'clock in morning, and at 7:30 he hooked over the work of Kleiser and the other woodcarvers, sometimes taking the tools in his own hands to show them what he wanted. Thoni was not a harsh overseer, but nothing fretted him so much as botched work. When he had finished his round of the work benches, he returned to his own bench and worked as the rest. You could tell the wood on which Thoni worked, for it was always covered with sketches of flowers, or birds, or a bit of scrollwork, anything that came to his mind as he carved. At noon, he ate lunch at his bench, and sometimes he and his cousin Peter Schild conversed in their native Swiss dialect. A half-hour later, he made another round of benches.

No two pieces of work were alike in those days. Thoni and his woodcarvers turned out mantles, newel posts, and fancy stairways. In hardwood, he created the fine interiors of such houses as the Druillard home on Demonbreun Street, the B. F. Wilson home on Sixth avenue and the old governor's mansion on Seventh Avenue. Some of their finest work went into fancy bar fixtures for saloons. Most of these are no longer with us, but Thoni's masterly hand can still be seen in the altar at Christ Church [on the corner of Broadway and 8th Avenue.], for it was he and his workmen who carved that splendid appurtenance of worship. After the contract for this had been awarded to the E. and N., Silas McBee, the architect for the church, who had designed the altar, walked into the carving room. He and Thoni regarded each other with the look of those who think they might have known one another in other times, and

Thoni was seen to be in deep thought. Finally recognition sprang to his face; the architect McBee had been a student at the University in Sewanee when Thoni was there, almost 20 years before. The two clasped hands and had a great time talking over university days.

.... The project also included the canopied bishop's chair, credence, pulpit, and choir rail, and many of finials, moldings, and angelic heads and wings came from his expert hands. The principal figures – those of the evangelists and cherubim and seraphim in the side panels of the reredos – are mainly work of Thoni's cousin, Peter Schild, and he and Thoni brought them home with them after work and carved into the night.³⁸

Melchior retired after 25 years, and carved only a few pieces thereafter. He died in 1926.

After the “flyin’ jinny” venture, Melchior's brother John first had a dairy business in Nashville, Star Dairy, then acquired a truck farm in the bend of Mill Creek just downstream from where it is crossed by the Murfreesboro Road (U.S. 41) in the southeast outskirts of Nashville. He and his wife Mary Magdalena had eight children who reached maturity: John, Jr., Anna, Emil, Madeline, William, Edward, Walter, and Louis. The farm was eventually taken over by his son John Jr. and worked with his son John William; an adjacent farm was at one time owned by John Jr.'s brother William, then by another family, and then by John William's brother, Carl. Herschel Gower, who grew up some 200 yards away, remembers the luxuriant produce they grew on this very fertile piece of bottom land. They had installed a hydraulic ram in the creek, so the current lifted a portion of the water up to irrigate the farm, which produced all manner of vegetables in great abundance. The water splashed out into a trough where Mrs. Thoni washed bushel after bushel of vegetables, especially turnip greens, until her hands were swollen. Herschel remembers the Thonis as the most industrious people he ever knew. These great-grandsons had indeed realized the dream of their immigrant great-grandfather. When, in 1970, John William was ready to retire and the farm had become

³⁸ *The Nashville Tennessean Magazine*, November 14, 1947.

surrounded by commercial developments, it was sold to developers so that the estate could be divided. John William and his son John Pete, who was still working the farm, moved to the Franklin area.

In all, John Thoni had 26 grandchildren: from John Jr.: John William, Margaret, Olga, Henry, Carl, Madeline and Virginia; from Emil: Harold, Richard (who founded the Thoni Oil Company) and Elmore; from Madeline, Emil Spiechs; from William: Elizabeth, William, and Amelia; from Edward: Edward Jr., Phillip, Charles, and Horace; from Walter: Anne, Walter Jr., John, Albert J. (one source of this information), and Herman; from Louis: Caroline, Mary Martha, Helen, and Ruby.

Lycinda Thoni Allen, daughter of John Pete Thoni, son of John William, has brought her professional computer skills to bear on organizing the Thoni genealogy. She hopes to soon have a website devoted to the family; until then, she can be reached at ltallen@attglobal.net. Curiously, one thing she has not been able to establish is how long the original Melchior Thoni remained in Gruetli. He was, however, still there in 1880, for he shows up in the census. One trait she notices among John Thoni's descendents is that they tend to own their own businesses, whether it be a farm, an oil company, a medical practice, a computer consulting practice, or something else. A bit of Swiss self-reliance? *Ed.*]

After the death of John Rychen, his family stayed in Gruetli until about 1889, existing on what they could make on the farm, and that was certainly very poor fare. A year or so before, John Jr. had come to Nashville at the age of fifteen to learn the harness trade, and if possible to earn some money to send home for food. This case was typical in the Gruetli families. The children left as soon as they were old enough to earn money that their parents might have enough to eat. Through the influence of his uncle, Melchior Thoni, John was persuaded to change from the not very profitable harness trade to the dairy business. He started out with only a few cows bought from his uncle and gradually increased the number as his means permitted. Before the family left to take up their home in Nashville, they sold their one hundred acre lot with all the tools and house for \$400, so

that there was a little to start out on in their new home. The two brothers joined in the dairy business and are still in the same location which they bought shortly after their arrival. Their business, the Rychen Brother's Dairy, is located on the Couchville Pike where each brother has his own home. The three daughters are married and living in Nashville in their own homes. One of them married a member of the colony, George Marugg, and the other two married Swiss from other places.

Of the other families who were outstanding, I have been able to find very little information, so I shall let them pass with only slight mention. The **Jenni** and **Kissling** families were prominent in the musical life of the colony and were united in marriage probably because of this common interest. From the map and the church records I have found that a Johannes and a Peter Kissling came over from the Canton of Bern about 1870 and settled in Gruetli. Johannes bought four 100 acre lots and Peter bought one next to these. Peter, who was probably a brother of Johannes, brought a wife, Rosina, and two children, Alfred and Rudolph. After arriving they had two more children, Robert and Verena Ida. Johannes' family consisted, before their arrival in America, of his wife, Margaretha, and two children, Anna and John. Three more children, Albert, Heinrich, and Andreas were born after their arrival. In the list of members of the church, the name of Samuel Jenni and wife Maria appears, but there is no record of his having bought any land in Gruetli before 1873 when the map of the colony was made, so the most likely conclusion is that he came to the colony after that date. Mr. Martin Marugg said that Jenni came from Boston where he had been leader of an orchestra. The two families were united by the marriage of John Kissling, son of Johannes, to Margaretha Jenni, daughter of Samuel, on March 1, 1884, in Gruetli. John Kissling is now dead but his wife is living in Nashville with her children. More will be said of these families under the discussion of the musical life in the colony.

One of the later arrivals at the colony was the **Suter** family. In 1883, in the month of February, Leonard Suter³⁹ came to America with five children. They settled in Pennsylvania where they lived for two and a half years. In the *Amerikanische Schweizer Zeitung*, they read of the Swiss settlement in Gruetli and decided to move there. They bought a 100 acre lot [Number 59] with a barn from Mr. Ruef, and paid the price of \$85 for it. They lived in this barn for six years, since the entire colony was poverty-stricken. When the son, Gotthard⁴⁰, came to Nashville as a young man to earn some money, he first worked for \$15 a month. He kept \$2.50 for himself and sent the rest home for food. Since then, he has built up a prospering bakery business in Nashville in which he is assisted by his two sons. He has been very helpful in giving me information about the colony.

I have written to the *Amerikanische Schweizer Zeitung* to get copies of any articles which appeared in it on the subject of this colony, but I have not been able to get an answer.

Update 2002. The Suter farm was actually purchased in the name of Jacob Suter, Leonard's brother, for \$80, and tax records

³⁹ [Leonhard Suter's "Homeland Certificate" (*Heimatschein*) is in the possession of his great, great granddaughter Jackie Suter Lawley. In it, the president and members of the town council of Stallikon (District Affoltern, Canton Zurich) certify that Leonhard Suter and his wife, Barbara Widmer Suter, together with all their children "begotten in lawful marriage" are citizens of Stallikon and will always be accepted there. The *Heimatschein* does not necessarily mean that Leonhard was living in Stallikon when it was issued. It means only that he or some ancestor lived there. It shows that Leonhard was born in 1843 and seems to say that he was a son of Rudolf Suter of Gamlikon. Stallikon is a village about 4 ½ miles southwest of downtown Zurich; Gamlikon is a mile or so south of Stallikon. In 2002, there were five telephone listings for Widmer in Stallikon but none for Suter in either Stallikon or Gamlikon. There are, however, dozens of Rudolf Suter listing in Canton Zurich, but only one Leonhard Suter.].

⁴⁰ [Gotthard was the second son. He married Lena Thoni and had three children, Albert, Carl and Elizabeth. His second wife was Pauline Angst; and his third wife, Lena Friedl.]

show the Suter brothers sharing tax payments for several years. Leonard later bought the property from Jacob.

Leonard had preceded his family to America. His wife, Barbara Widmer, brought the five children, John, Gothard, Barbara, Leonhard, and Ida, to America but came only as far as Pennsylvania. When Leonard came to Gruetli, she remained with the oldest son, John, in Pennsylvania, where she seems to have contracted tuberculosis and died a few years later. John then went to Wisconsin. The four children who came to Gruetli were raised by Barbara Vollenweider. Her position in the Suter household may have begun as a sort of *au pair*, but at some point, presumably after the death of Barbara Widmer, her position moved up to wife, for her tombstone in the Gruetli cemetery reads, "Barbara Vollenweider, wife of Leonard Suter." She seems to have written to relatives in Zurich telling them both of her happiness in America and of her realization that they would not meet again in this world. The reply has come down to us in the old German "Sütterlin" script. The relatives wrote "Your last letter first rejoiced us and then at the end brought us to tears. For there we felt again the separation on this earth where you wrote, 'Farewell, until we meet again in heaven.'" This pain of separation from loved ones must have been a constant presence for the first generation of immigrants.

The daughters, Barbara and Ida, married Gruetli boys, Heinrich Zopfi and Emil Rychen, respectively. Barbara and Heinrich had a daughter, Katie; Ida and Emil, six children.

Leonard Jr., the youngest son of the immigrant, remained on the farm in Gruetli. He had six children. The oldest, Joseph was at Pearl Harbor when it was attacked in 1941. He survived and worked as a consultant in Orlando, Florida and Memphis, Tennessee rescuing ailing hotels. He is survived by his wife, Anna Mae and two children, Joseph Jr. and Carol Anne .

The second son, Jacob (Jake), worked for a year in Cleveland, was then in the Army Air Corps for three years, spent three years with Ryan Aircraft in San Diego, and then returned to Gruetli where he took over the family farm. He bought and operated a sawmill for ten years, and worked 27 years in life insurance. He married Helen Lucille Bond of West Virginia and had

two children, Mary Jacqueline and JohnVincent. This daughter, now Jackie Lawley of Fairfax Station, Virginia, is currently president of the Grundy County Swiss Historical Society. John is an electrician with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Watts Barr. He has one son, John Jr. After Helen's death in 1991, Jacob married Clara Stampfli Brock, widow of Harold Morgan Brock of Cowan, Tennessee. More about Clara follows under the Stampfli family in the Addendum to this chapter. In the summer of 2002, Jake and Clara were living in the house where he was born on lot #59 in Gruetli, now with all the modern comforts. Rows of Cynthiana grape vines extend away from the house, producing the raw material for the excellent wine for which Jake was well known locally. Jake and his daughter Jackie are my sources for this information on the Suter family. He died October 31, 2002 while this book was being edited.

The third child of Leonard Jr., Carl, worked in the coal mines, was then in the service in Alaska, and is now retired from a mastics firm in Cleveland, Ohio where he worked many years. He lives in Conyers, Georgia and has a son, Carl Jr. and had a daughter Anna Lee (d). The fourth child, Anna Marie, died young of appendicitis. The fifth child, Leonard Lee, was a surveyor for state highway department and later for the Hensley-Schmidt Engineering Co. in Chattanooga. He died in the early 1990's and is survived by two daughters, Patricia and Linda. The sixth child, John Allen, a mechanical engineer, worked for Combustion Engineering Co. in Chattanooga. He is survived by a daughter, Rhonda Lynn.

Addendum: Barbara Marugg Comes to Gruetli

By Dola Schild Tylor

In the late 1930's, my grandmother, Barbara Marugg Schild, and I decided that I would write down some of her memories of coming from Switzerland to the Swiss Colony then being settled at Gruetli in Grundy County, Tennessee. At that time, Grandma was about eighty and living with her son Rudolph and his wife Virginia in the valley of the Collins River near McMinnville, but her heart and the rest of her family were in Gruetli, where she spent every summer. So, when we had the time, we would sit in the old wooden swing on the screened-in front porch, and Grandma would reminisce, in no particular order, while I scribbled as fast as I could on an old lined tablet. Now it is 1999, more than sixty years later, and I am 84 when I decide to straighten out my messy notes and write so others can read what Grandma told me that summer. I regret very much that I didn't continue this project during Grandma's other summer visits to the mountain. I'll put the story in the first person with Grandma as the speaker, though only occasionally have I been able to preserve her exact words.

I was born 1 October 1857 in Klosters, Canton Graubunden, Switzerland, the first child of Christian and Anna Brosi Marugg. My younger brothers and sister were Rudolf (born 27 June 1859), Martin (born 14 April 1861), George (born 19 February 1864), and Christina (born 21 April 1867).

When I was fifteen, we all came to America on the ship Silesia, from the port of Hamburg, Germany through Le Harve, France to New York, where we arrived on 27 February 1873. The crossing from Le Harve to New York took eleven days. Then we came on by boat to Norfolk, Virginia. We arrived hungry but in the late afternoon. In the only eating place we could find, meal time was over and everything had been eaten; but mother found a plate with some cracker crumbs and something that looked like thin jelly. She poured it over the crumbs and gave it to us children. Later we learned that the thin jelly was

called molasses. It was our first taste of what later became a staple food for us.

We came to Cowan by train, and then sat on tow sacks in a freight car coming up the mountain to Tracy City. A man with a wagon met us there and took us to old man Bauer's place in Gruetli. It was a log house; one room was the general store, and in a smaller room they sold shoes. He let us use an abandoned old, one-room building that had once been a store. Our only piece of furniture was a stove. Our meal that first night in Gruetli was potatoes, black coffee, soup and cornbread. The potatoes were an old-fashioned red, oblong kind that takes a long time to cook. We didn't understand the kinds of wood growing in the area, so the kind we gathered for the fire would not burn. Later we learned that it was green chestnut. At midnight, the potatoes were still not cooked, but we could not wait any longer, so we ate them half-done. The soup was made from vegetables we bought from a farmer. The bread was made of cornmeal and water.

Since we had no furniture except the stove, we had to sleep on the floor. We sewed together potato sacks and filled them with leaves raked in the forest. Father and each child had such a bed. Each child was responsible for making and keeping up his own bed, but as oldest daughter, I was responsible for fixing Father's bed. The first night he said his bed was too thin. The next day, we carried his potato sack into the forest and filled it as full as we could. That night, Father complained that his bed was too hard and lumpy in places. We children laughed and told him he would have to shape it up to suit himself.

Mother was a cripple and in rather delicate health, so for her we made a special bed. We cut a large tree in the forest and from it made four stumps. The rest of the tree we sawed into planks with a cross-cut saw. The four stumps were placed in one corner of the room as bedposts. Two planks were placed as bedrails and other planks placed crosswise as we now do with the slats of our beds. On this platform was placed Mother's mattress – a potato sack filled with leaves and what wild hay we could find. Over that was a blanket. Blankets were the only bed coverings we had brought from Switzerland. Some of the neigh-

bors wondered that Father would sleep on the floor like this – Father, who in Switzerland had been president of the city!

Next, we made “chairs,” really just plain stumps, one for each person. At first, we ate from the top of a trunk; but it was very inconvenient because we couldn’t put our feet under it. Then Father made a table using the same idea as Mother’s bed: four stumps covered with planks. Some of the planks were round on the edges so tin cups of coffee sometimes spilled. We could not afford such waste, so Father whittled off the tops of the planks until they were smooth.

The men of the Community Committee had decided to name the Colony after a place in Switzerland called Ruetli, but thought that it would sound better to start the word with the letter *G*, so it became Gruetli. Ruetli was the place where William Tell shot the apple from his son’s head. [On this point, Grandma was a little confused; Ruetli plays a prominent but different role in Schiller’s *Wilhelm Tell*. – *Ed.*]

One day in the summer of 1874, the whole family went to Altamont to shop. Mother was riding, and she and Father were quite a ways ahead of us children. Several miles from home, we children met several men on horses. They were dressed in long, black coats with short capes over their shoulders and lots of shining buttons on the front. They wore queer looking hats which caused us children to laugh and say gleefully to each other, “Here comes Napoleon. Here comes Napoleon.” We were speaking German, of course. The men frowned and looked at us meanly. One asked gruffly several times what we had said. We pretended we could not understand, so after some short words that sounded mean, they kicked their horses and rode on.

A few days later, four of these men rode into Gruetli just after dark. Two of them stayed a little back behind some bushes while the other two rode up to the house next to Bauer’s store and asked for old man Bauer. Agnes, the girl to whom they were speaking, said Mr. Bauer lived in the next house and she would go call him. As Mr. Bauer passed Agnes, he quickly handed her a small box. As she slipped it under the bed, she heard a pistol shot. She ran into the store and stumbled over the body of Mr. Bauer sprawled out on the floor. One of the men

jumped over the counter and pulled out the money drawer and found only 15 cents. This made him very angry, and he threw open many drawers and plundered all over the store but found no more money. They had killed a man for 15 cents! One of the killers was a wild bandit who later shot a mail carrier from his horse to get what money he had in the mail pouch.

In Switzerland, children started to school when they seven going on eight years old. The younger children had only little reading books, and the older children studied subjects that would be used in everyday living, such as arithmetic, reading, geography, spelling and writing. We had eight-month school terms.

In 1875, two years after settling in Gruetli, the family was able to send the four younger children to school in Altamont. As the oldest, I was to stay home and help Mother. The children boarded with a family named Logan. [I can find no one named Logan in Altamont in the 1870 or 1880 censuses, but in 1870 there was an Eli Logue, aged 62, shoe and boot maker, and his wife, Nancy, aged 57. In 1880, Nancy was a widow. – D.S.T.] Cristina, the youngest, however, would not stay away from home unless I would go with her. So that is how I got my American schooling – all two months of it, just long enough to learn my ABC's in English. While the others were in school, I had to mend and care for their clothing, and every week I brought a basket from home full of darning and patching. When all my work was done, there was little time for school or play or getting acquainted with the neighborhood children. Moreover, the other children laughed and made fun of my efforts to converse with them in my broken English, so being a bit shy by nature, I stopped trying to play or talk with them. After two months, Mother became ill, and Father took me home to care for her. At home, only Swiss German was spoken, as it was in the whole community, so I had no further chance to learn English for several years.

The school in Altamont had rough stump and plank benches and two tables made the same way as our table at home. There were about 24 pupils. They had a reader, a blue-backed speller, and a slate and slate pencil for writing. Sometimes in class they

would write on the schoolroom floor with soft chalk; we had no blackboards in those days. The younger children in the family, especially Martin, played with the neighboring children and soon picked up many English words and expressions. The teacher in Altamont could not speak or understand German, so Martin was our interpreter.

I delivered milk for Mrs. Logan to a house about a quarter mile away. Along the road, I saw such beautiful wildflowers! Nothing like those in Switzerland, but just as beautiful. One day, I put down the milk by the roadside and picked flowers and more flowers until my arms were so full they could hold no more. Standing there in the warmth of the setting sun, I realized that I was happy here, very happy in spite of the hard work and hard times we were having.

One day while I was with the children in Altamont, Martin said that I should cut the hair of our youngest brother, George. George was 10 years old, and his hair was in what we now call a long bob; it hung down to his shoulders. Martin gave me some scissors and showed me a motion to cut the hair upwards, making the top hair shorter. I set to work, and soon George's head looked like an abandoned rat's nest! I didn't know what to do. The more I trimmed, the worse it looked, and it looked horrible. Poor George! Mrs. Logan told me about a Mr. Wes Brown, who was a good barber. I took George and the scissors and went in search of Mr. Brown. I found him in the village store and took George to him and made a cutting motion around George's head, and said "Please" in my best English. Mr. Brown laughed and said, "What?" "Please," I said, and added "do for me." And he did. Soon George's hair looked fairly good.

Mother wanted a big house like the one we had had in Switzerland, so in 1878 Father built a sawmill on the creek near



The Marugg house in on Colony Road 1.8 miles east of TN 56. Picture from 2005.

the house. He made a dam across the creek and used the water to power two mills, a sawmill upstairs and a grist mill downstairs. There was one big stone for corn and another for rye. Father went to Louisville, Kentucky to get the stone for rye. We cut trees from our own land and sawed the lumber for the house.

Under the house, Father dug a small cellar for milk and vegetables. This was an inexpensive way of preserving. Apples, pears, peaches, huckleberries and beans we dried. We learned about canning in America. We made jellies and figured out how much we could have each day and still have enough for a year. If we had a visitor, we got reduced rations for the next few days. Each year, we had a 45-gallon barrel of molasses. Dried blackberries were very popular and did not last long. Huckleberries were a delicacy we used in muffins or just ate them plain. Sometimes there was meat only for Father and not for us children. One hog would give us enough lard for a year.

About 1875-76, the community built a church and used it also for a school house. It was a log building with a ceiling and weather boarding to make it good and warm. The community donated two parcels of land, totaling 600 acres, for the benefit of the school. Later, another 400 acres was given for the upkeep and improvements of the school. This building was still in use as the school until it burned in 1934. Grundy County had never built a school house for the community, even though it had been given 1000 acres of land for the support of a school. The County was also given a fund of money for the school. With all that, the County would not put up a school for the community. After the fire, school was taught in a private home and then in a garage, while the people pleaded with the County for a school-house. When it was finally built, my son Rudolph taught the first county-school in Gruetli.

In Switzerland, flax and hemp were grown and made into thread and cloth. Flax was used for dresses and hemp for aprons and leaf sheets. Flax was also used for underwear, but it was rough. Sometimes we could swap flax and hemp for cotton. In America, the Sunday dress for girls was calico in summer and linsey in winter. The dresses came just below the knees. We had low-neck blouses and button shoes. Black shoes had red buttons, and brown shoes had gold buttons. It was Christina's job to clean and shine the buttons every Friday. She had a little box of polish in the shoe box. We brought all our shoes from Switzerland and bought some in Nashville, but the new ones were too narrow and made corns on the toes. One day, I fainted in the field from tight shoes. Sometimes girls fainted at dances because of the tight corsets.

I remember the day in 1874 that little Lizzie Schild decided to run away from home because her mother wanted to pull her loose tooth. Lizzie was the daughter of Peter and Margarita Ruef Schild, and was later to marry my brother Martin. But then Lizzie was 10 years old. She put on one hat, and wrapped up another, some shoes and clothes in a red cloth. When she told her mother that she was going to leave, her mother just said, "Go ahead." Lizzie went about a mile to a neighbor's house, felt tired, lay down under a shade tree and went to sleep. That day, her father and brother just happened to be helping this neighbor

with farming chores, so at the end of the day they brought a sleepy Lizzie back home.

When it was time to do the laundry, we soaked the clothes for a day in barrel-sized tubs made of hickory staves held together with metal bands. If the tubs got dry, they would fall apart, so we had to keep them damp at all times. We washed once every four weeks. Back in Switzerland, we had washed only twice a year. There we had had a maid who helped with the housework, cared for the children, cooked, and helped with the field work.

Once people in Gruetli started a business making hats from rye straw. The straw was cut at a certain stage and pressed flat. Then it was soaked in water until it was soft, maybe overnight, and then plaited. We used three straws in making a small plait and five to make an average, wide plait. Then they were sewn together on the hat form. The hats sold well at first in nearby towns and even in Louisville, Kentucky. But they were so well made and lasted so well that there was little demand the second year. People began to undersell one another, and soon the hat business became unprofitable and was abandoned.

Sometimes I think about childhood back in Switzerland. Only in May would the snow begin to melt. You could rake the snow off the ground and find pretty flowers blooming. About the second day after the snow had melted, the teacher would declare a holiday and take us children up into the mountains to see the flowers and the pretty rocks. The flowers grew very thick and blanketed the mountain sides. They were mostly crocus and daisies of rainbow colors. They were already blooming under the snow and so were in full bloom when the snow melted. When we were on the mountain in the midst of all the flowers, the teacher had us line up in formation and sing songs. The teacher or one of the older pupils would play a trumpet. The music and singing could be heard in the village below and would resound throughout the valley.

Father once told me that when he was a young man, his father had given him a filly to care for. Instead, he sold the young horse. His father demanded the money and gave him a thrashing to make him give it over. Father then ran away from home, over

St. Moritz and into Italy. There he found a job as a school teacher and had to learn Italian as he taught his pupils.

One evening, a girl friend and I went to a dance at the Stocker house. There we saw John Schild and a friend all broken out with pimples or a rash. I said to my friend, "There are two of the ugliest boys!" Well, wouldn't you know, we married those two boys! That night, John danced with me and walked me home. I was 23 then. When John came to the house to see me, Mother asked, "What's up?" I replied, "The right one comes."

For my wedding, I wore a black dress with the white lace trimmings always used for weddings. I got the dress from New York. I had a short white veil, white flowers, black shoes and stockings, oodles of petticoats, a false back, and a hoop in the skirt. After the wedding there was a big party with food and music. We had made an arbor in the yard and covered it with brush and trimmed it with flowers. WELCOME was written on it. Here we served the food and drinks. There were doughnuts and cake made from rye flour and beer we had brought from Tracy City. That day was 29 November 1884.

John, my husband, was born 6 July 1858 in Brienz, Switzerland, son of Peter and Margarita Ruef Schild. He had gone to Nashville when he was 14 and worked in a butcher shop. Two weeks after the wedding, we moved to Nashville, but after a few months I got malaria and was very sick. We moved back to Gruetli, but I was sick until after John Jr. was born in March 1886.

In 1888, Father, Mother, George and Christina went back to Switzerland on a visit. They were to stay a year or two. George came back in 1891, but Christina married and she and our parents never returned to America.

Grandma left me with the impression that her mother never returned to America, but I found a tombstone for her in the Tracy City cemetery with a death date of 2 March 1907. Did she return? The question remains a mystery for me. A brief account of Grandma's children has been given under the Schild family elsewhere in this book.

Addendum: Greeter, Baggenstoss, and Stampfli Families

Three families – Greeter, Baggenstoss, and Stampfli – are strongly associated with the Swiss tradition in Grundy County but were not covered in this chapter, perhaps because they were relatively late comers. Here are their stories, in order of their arrival.

The **Greeter** immigrants from Switzerland were John J. (1830 - 1896) and his wife Christine (1843 – 1932). They appear in the 1870 Census under the name Gruter and in the 1880 Census with the name Greider. According to family tradition, they took a lease on the Lovers' Leap property in Beersheba Springs, where they stayed for about a year. On August 6, 1880, they bought for \$1 plus the lease on “the Beersheba Place” a 620 acre tract known as the “the Long Mill Farm” according to the deed of that date. John Greeter seems to have been the first of the Swiss to be primarily a sawmill owner and operator and to have used his land principally for timber. From this business came the Greeter Lumber Company in Altamont, a firm prospering under the management of John's great granddaughter, Joyce Greeter Henley. The acreage also included the superb swimming hole in Firescauld Creek traditionally known as Long's Mill, as it is called in the minutes of the Swiss colony. The Greeters shared it with grateful swimmers and carefully preserved its environment until it was acquired by the State and blandly renamed “Blue Hole.” Fortunately, the state showed better judgment in naming the falls below the swimming place “Greeter Falls” and providing good access to the pool below the falls.

John and Christine Greeter had three sons, John George (1868 – 1960), Fred, and Willie. Fred and Willie together bought a nearby farm but never married. John George married Anna Stocker (1871-1935), daughter of Leon (1832 –1887) and Philomena Myers Stocker (1843- 1906), original settlers in Gruetli. They had three sons, Harvey (1885 – 1989), Leo (1901 -), and Werner (1903-1987). They stayed in the family business. Most of these early Greeters are buried in the Altamont ceme-

tery on Northcut's Cove Road, about .2 miles from where it branches off Tennessee 56 just north of Piney Creek.

Harvey married Grace Dykes (1890 – 1920) and had a daughter, Harvey Grace Greeter (1920), who married Eugene McGovern and had two children, Phillip and Donnie. After Grace's early death, Harvey married Ethel Robertson (1906). Their son, John William Greeter (1932), graduated from the University of Tennessee and returned to the family business. After a few years, he formed his own company, Greeter Building Center and Ready-Mix Concrete in Monteagle. He and his wife, Lois, live in Manchester and have two children, John Alan (1962 – 2002) and Patricia Ann (1969). John William is the source for this information on the Greeters.

Harvey's brother Leo married Louise Schultz (1903 –1989) and had a daughter, Mary Ann who married Robert Dalton and had a daughter, Eveyonne. Harvey's youngest brother, Werner, and his wife Margarete had a daughter, Joyce, who married Claude Henley. They are the current owners of Greeter Lumber in Altamont as well as the related Henley Millwork in Decherd. The Henleys have three children, Claudia, Joy, and Sam.

* * *

In the early 1890's, Johann **Baggenstoss** left his home in Rafz, Switzerland and with his cousin, Emil Segrist, sailed for America. The family has been unable to locate the ship manifests or Ellis Island records that would document his arrival. Since he was a baker by trade, it is assumed that he worked aboard the ship as a cook or baker and therefore was not listed as a passenger. Once in America, he worked in hotels from New York to Louisville, Kentucky. Sometime between 1890 and 1895, he became ill. He knew of the Swiss Colony at Gruetli, and went there to recuperate. There he met Louise Angst, daughter of Jakob and Anna Demuth Angst, and they were married in 1895. The Angst family, also from Rafz, had come to Gruetli in the 1870's. Johann, by now John, later worked at the Beersheba Springs Hotel as head chef. From there, he went on to work in several hotels until he and Louise opened a bakery and grocery store in Tracy City in 1902.

John and Louise had six sons: John Jacob, Robert, Herman, Fritz, Charles William, and Albert. All of them worked in the bakery. John died in 1920, and the eldest son, John Jacob, became head baker at age 19. In the 1930's, on the occasion of the birth of the first girl in the family, the Baggenstoss Bakery took the name of Dutch Maid Bakery, both in her honor and in the local tradition of referring to the Swiss as "Deutsch" or "Dutch."

Originally, the bakery served primarily the coal miners. The bread was sent out, unwrapped and unsliced, by train all along the lines that were hauling coal out of the mountain. The demand was for white sandwich bread, and that is what was made. During World War II, German and Italian prisoners of war were kept at Camp Forrest near Tullahoma on land that is now the Air Force installation. The bakery at Tracy supplied 10,000 to 15,000 loaves of bread a day to feed the prisoners. To meet that demand, the bakery had to operate at full capacity, 24 hours a day and press into service any truck that could be found to haul the bread to the camp.

After the war, the bakery expanded. The water then available on the mountain for a major expansion was not of adequate quality, so in 1950 the new facility was built at Decherd, where there was good limestone water. Younger brothers Albert and Herman kept the bakery at Tracy operating by making specialty products – salt-rising and sour-dough breads and fruit cakes. By 1965, however, the bread business was completely changed by new, very large-scale technologies that blew air into a spongy dough and produced a very light, soft, cheap loaf, sold in wrappers perfumed to smell like fresh bread. Sadly, American consumers fell for this deception and bought this new product as if it were comparable to the old. The Decherd plant was sold, John Jacob retired, and the bakery retreated to the Tracy City location under Herman and Albert. Other brothers moved away and the grandchildren went into other lines of work. By 1992, when Albert was ready to retire, there was no one in the family who wanted to take over the bakery, and a controlling interest was sold to Lynn Craig. He had been in candy business and added a line of candies to the products sold. After his death in 2001, the business was taken over by his widow, Nelda, who is now, 2002,

sprucing up the bakery to celebrate its centenary year. Otherwise, it operates today much as it did in the 1930's.

John Jacob Baggenstoss had two children, John Eastman and Mary Jean. After a career as a printing consultant, John returned to the mountain and bought the Marugg Company in Tracy City where he continued its traditional business of selling scythes with blades imported from Austria and handles made on the premises. John is the source of this information on the Baggenstoss family. His daughter, Jennifer Hope Baggenstoss Boyd, has lived in Holland; she traveled in Germany, perfected her German, and translated the *Broschure* for this publication. John's sister, Mary Jean Caldwell, lives in Loudon, Tennessee.

Robert Baggenstoss, second of the six sons, had two children: Martha now living in Chattanooga, and James is now in Conway, Arkansas. Herman Baggenstoss married another Swiss descendant, Elizabeth Bonholzer. Fritz married Sidney Kennedy of Sewanee. Neither Herman nor Fritz had children. Charles William Baggenstoss married Edwene Curtis of Tracy City and they had three daughters: (1) Louise, who married Jerome Bouldin – doubtless a descendant of the provider of land to the colonists – and now lives in Tracy City, (2) Margaret, who married Henry Beaumont and lives in Sewanee, and (3) Ann, who lives in Tracy City. Albert Baggenstoss, youngest of the six sons, married Pauline Brawley and had two sons, Ronald (who was the first helicopter pilot for the Tennessee Highway Patrol and now runs a filling station in Monteagle) and Frederick, (a pharmacist in Monteagle.)

* * *

As late as 1910, we find (in the next chapter) the colonists running advertisements in Swiss newspapers to attract new immigrants. Perhaps in response to these ads, two **Stämpfli** brothers, Ernst and Christian, arrived in 1913 with their wives. Ernst and his wife Elise Stebler Stämpfli brought their eldest child, Ernest. They bought from F.R. and Rosina Nussbaum for \$575 lots 4 and 5 and the house on them built by Anton Stocker. Josephine Stocker had sold the place in 1893 to the "Trustees of the New Church" Peter Schresser, Jacob Hunziker, and Christian Hofstetter. Presumably, the house came from the Church to the

family of the pastor, Charles August Nussbaum. This house still stands close by the cemetery and is now the home of the Swiss Historical Society.

The Stampflis planted in front of the house the horse chestnut trees now there from seed they had brought with them from Switzerland. Ernst and Elise threw themselves into farming with great energy and ability. Ernst, an avid hunter, also followed good agricultural practices with crop rotation and composted manuring.

Stampfli's agricultural practice was the subject of a story by Herman Kunz in *The Yellow Jacket*, the Gurndy County High School paper of April 22, 1932. The farm, it seems, had run down by the time the Stampflis got it.

Mr. Stampfli, a man of small stature but very strong and capable of hard work, started clearing off the land which had grown up in small jack pines. He fertilized heavily and planted leguminous plants to bring the soil back up. He bought several cows and two mules with which to get started. Then he very wisely rotated his crops so as not to weaken the soil. . . . The farm is divided into four parts. In one part, grass is planted; in another, Irish potatoes; in another, corn; and in the rest, miscellaneous crops. The next year, Irish potatoes are planted where grass was, corn where potatoes were, miscellaneous crops where corn was, and grass where miscellaneous crops were.

....

Mr. Stampfli has eight cows, nine calves, two mules and forty chickens. From the milk, he makes very good Swiss cheese which he has no trouble selling in the neighboring towns, where everybody likes it. He spreads fifty loads of manure, along with two tons of commercial fertilizer, over his land each year. . . .

He grows sufficient hay and corn to feed his cattle and mules through the winter. He grow mixed clover, red top, timothy, tall meadow oats, and orchard grass for hay.

His potatoes, some of the finest grown in this country, form his biggest money crop. Very many farmers in this

county buy their seed potatoes from him. The leguminous crops that he grows to build up his land are cow peas, soybeans, and crimson clover, which he turns under in the spring. In his home garden, about one-fourth acre in size, he grows enough vegetables for his family in the summer. In his orchard of one and one-half acres, he grows apples and some other fruits.

He keeps the land well cultivated through the summer in order to retain the moisture in the ground.

He is now well fixed. He has a new Ford and is able to educate his children. His oldest son, who is in his last year of high school, has been a great help to his father on the farm.

The masthead of the paper lists Earnest Stampfli as the Joke Editor, so he is no doubt responsible for the following:

Sammy Flurry: How fast will your car go?

Mr. Tallent: It always stays about six months ahead of my income.

Elise Stampfli, besides being mother to five children, made the cheese for which the family became well known. They also made wine – “for the professors at Sewanee,” says their daughter Clara. Clara remembers a childhood with lots of work for all the family. Swiss German was the language of the household.

A student at Sewanee in the 1940’s, remembers a visit to Ernst Stampfli in hopes of buying some of the wine. Mr. Stampfli gladly sold them cheese but denied having any wine, though it was evident that he enjoyed a private stock.

The eldest son, Ernest, worked at the Agricultural Experiment Station near Columbia, Tennessee, where he had been sought because of the excellent practices of the farm in Gruetli. He later worked with the Nashville Bridge Company. Now aged 90, he and his wife Letha live with his son Robert in Brentwood. Jacob, the second son, was seriously wounded in the Normandy invasion. He had a nursery in south Florida, where he died in

2001. He is survived by two daughters. The third son, Fritz, graduated from the University of Tennessee, joined the Marine Corps, served in the Pacific, and had a career in the military. He died in 2001.

The fourth child, the vivacious Clara, the source of this information, married Harold Morgan Brock, a prominent, public-spirited citizen of Cowan, Tennessee. They had four children. Judith, the eldest, went to the University of Tennessee, then worked at the Arnold Engineering Development Center in Tullahoma, married James Mitchell and had four children. She presently lives in Estill Springs, Tennessee. The second child, Irwin, graduated from the University of Tennessee, earned a doctorate in engineering, and now works in Orlando, Florida. Kay, the third child, is a school teacher. She married Larry Carpenter and has one child. The Brocks' fourth child, Susan, married Nick Cammarona, had two children, and lives in Rye, New York.

The fifth child of Ernst and Elise was Minnie, who married Earl Connell.

Elise died in 1932. A few years later, Ernst married Cleo Leitzinger, who is remembered as the last cheese maker in the Colony. She and Ernst had one child, Rose Marie, 17 years younger than Minnie. Rose Marie became a teacher at the Swiss Memorial School in Gruetli-Laager and lived in the family home until her untimely death in 2000. She willed the family farm to the Grundy County Swiss Historical Society, which is now taking steps to preserve it properly and make it a living memorial of the Colony.

Christian (Chris) Stampfli, brother of Ernst, also arrived in 1913 with his wife Rosina (or Rose) Bracher. They bought from Hermine Nussbaum lot 15 and the house on it. The deed for this purchase, however, was not registered. Local legend has it that the original owner, Christian Hofstetter, had worked one day clearing ground for the present Swiss Cemetery, then went home, hung himself in the barn, and became the first person to be buried in the cemetery. His widow stayed on for a year, then, in 1898, sold to Jacob Orth for \$450 and left the colony. How it came into the hands of Hermine Nussbaum is not clear from the

record. Years later, after the Stampfli's had improved the property, a descendant of the Hofstetters tried to assert ownership of it, but the statute of limitations had invalidated his otherwise good claim. Christian and Rosina had four children: Hans, Emil, Henry, and Martha. The first two boys moved to Florida and played no further role in the Colony. Martha married Maynard Long and is living in Winchester.

Chris and Rose were divorced in 1926. On April 5, 1938, Chris and his son Henry were married in a double wedding ceremony, Chris to Ethel Tate and Henry to Margaret Smith of White county. Chris and Ethel were killed in an auto accident in 1962.

Henry, born in 1917, has spent most of his life farming the family place on lot 15 in Gruetli and producing cheese, wine, potatoes, corn and vegetables. He remembers that as a child he had spoken only German at home and was completely lost on his first day of school, which by then was all in English. When military service took him to Germany in World War II, he visited relatives in Switzerland and remembered enough German to communicate with them. He and Margaret had four children, Stephen, Carolyn, Jeanetta, and Paul. After their divorce in 1965, he married Viola Lockhart, with whom he lives on the farm where he has spent his life.

Stephen Stampfli, son of Henry and Margaret, left the mountain at age 16 for Chattanooga, worked in restaurants and factories, then became a trucker and "saw all 48 states, at least through the windshield." He has five children: Tina, Deirdre, Christopher, Quentin, and Stephanie. In 1998, he and his third wife, Linda Rippy, returned to the mountain and now live on Highway 56, just north of the intersection with 108. His mother, Margaret, lives with them and is the source of much of this information on the Christian Stampfli family. She recalls Rosina Stampfli with particular affection; in her view, "No woman ever had a better mother-in-law." Stephen, a trucker turned farmer, has been looking after the Stocker-Stampfli house, doing the haying on the property, and giving the hayrides at the reunions.

His sister Carolyn married Barry Higgenbotham, lived in Chattanooga, and had two daughters, Theresa and Cindy. Jeanetta is married to Bobby Layne and lives in Gruetli. They have two daughters, Vanessa and Loretta. Paul has two daughters, Heather and Hope, and lives in Seattle, Washington. (See Note)

* * *

Anna Brosi was born 1828, married Christian Marugg, and came with him to Gruetli in the early 1870's. With her, she brought a notebook she had written in 1840 when she was 12. The book, from which this page is taken, is now in the possession of her great, great granddaughter, Sylvia Bryant of Dalton, Georgia. My serious interest in Gruetli began when Sylvia asked me to read it for her. We hoped that it might be a diary, or sketches of Anna's own life. Instead, it appears to be a series of "edifying" stories probably told, week-by-week, by a pastor to a confirmation class. If one supposes the classes to have begun in September, then the stories about Christmas and New Year come at the right time. It is probably summaries of the stories in Anna's own words. Though it is not as personal as a diary would have been, the fact that Anna brought the notebook with her when she came to America in her 40's indicates how important it must have been to her. I expect that it fairly reflects an important aspect of the soul life of those immigrants. The first page is shown in a computer-enhanced facsimile on the following page. The script is a beautiful chancery style but is barely readable by most Germans today. A key is given below.

Note: Hans Stampfi has advised that Paul had one daughter, Heather, and one son. (2012)

u	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
Œ	Ł	Ł	Œ	Ł	Ł	Œ	Ł	Œ	Ł	Œ	Ł	Œ
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Key to the letters used in many Gruetli manuscripts. It is often called Sütterlinschrift for Ludwig Sütterlin (1865-1917) a graphic artist who produced a special version of it, but the basic forms go much further back. The chart above is from www.peter-doerling.de/Englisch/Sutterlin.htm.

No. 1. Der Fluss

Sinnend stand ein Greiss am Ufer des Flusses und sah wie die Wellen in ihrem Bett vorüberflossen. Der Greiss sagte, "Fliesset nur zu, so ... so sind auch die Tagen und Jahren meines Lebens dahin geflossen in das Meer der Ewigkeit und kommen nicht mehr zurück, so dachte er bei sich selbst. Dann noch sagte er: ist auf der Erde nichts Unwandelbares. Indem sah er einen Felsen in dem Fluss hervorragen. Ha sagte er: Dieser steht noch fest und ist wohl viel älter als ich. Dieses ist mir ein Bild des ewigens unverwandelbaren Glaubens an dem Sohn des lebendigen Gottes. Dieser bleibe mir und wenn auch der Tod mich aus dieser Welt hinwegrafft

No.2. Belehrung

Wenn jeder Mensch seine Lebenszeit so betrachtete und benutzte wie dieser fromme Greiss, so wurde manchen anderen Menschen auf dem Sterbett wenig schwer sein; leider sind aber... weniger Menschen dass jetzt mehr so sind ...

No. 1. The River

In contemplation, an old man stood on shore of a river and saw how the waves flowed by in their bed. The old man said, "Flow on, ye waves, for so also have flowed the days and years of my life into the sea of eternity and come not back," so he thought to himself. Then he added, "Nothing on earth is unchangeable." Just then he saw a rock in the river that stood out over the waves. "Ah," he said, "yet is this rock much older than I. It is for me a picture of the immutable faith in the Son of the living God. May this remain with me though death snatch me from this world."

No. 2. Teaching

If everyone observed and used his lifetime as did this pious old man, then to many it would be less difficult on their deathbed; unfortunately, however, there are now fewer such people ...

Der Herr Christ.

Verrath und Stand im Geis. und Wes. des Christen
paf mir die Wellen in ihrem Luth. am lieblichsten
Der Geis pafte: Fließet mir zu, so wünsch ich, so
paf mir die Toga und Jupon mir ins Luth. und
für gabelt dar; in des Manns im Feigheit, im Mann
nicht mehr zu rüh, so wünsch ich bei sich selbst: Die
nicht pafte er: ist nicht der Feigheit. Die man nicht
beis. In dem paf er immer Falten in dem Feigheit
für wünsch ich. In pafte er: Die pafte nicht mehr selbst, und
ist nicht viel älter als ich. - Das ist mir ein
Bild des unwirgen unvernünftigen Glaubens
an den Jesu des labarwigen Gottes. Die pafte blieben
mir, und immer einig der Tod nicht und die pafte Welt
für wünsch ich.

No. 2. Labarwigen.

Manne jeder Mensch seine Labarzeit so gut
sich und bewirkt, wie die pafte für wünsch ich Geis, pafte
in manchem unwirgen Menschen einig und die pafte
Luth. miriger pafte pafte; laiden pafte
wünsch ich Menschen einig pafte pafte pafte.

First page of the notebook of Anna Brosi, written in 1840 when she was 12 years old.

Addendum: Wichser Memories and Discovering Ancestors in Switzerland

LaDora Mayes Rose

In 2010, to celebrate our thirtieth wedding anniversary, Jim and I traveled to Switzerland, the native land of my great-grandparents, Fridolin and Barbara Wild Wichser of Gruetli. We wanted to explore Switzerland, but also hoped to discover some trace of my Swiss roots. With the exception of names, birth dates and places of birth, I knew very little about the Wichser and Wild family history before their immigration to America.

Although the Wichsers were not among the first settlers in Gruetli in 1869, community records indicate that David Wichser purchased a 100-acre parcel of land within the Swiss colony settlement in the early 1870's. During this time, David Wichser cleared a portion of the 100-acre lot, built a home, and planted a vineyard. It is documented in the Gruetli Community Church records that in 1874 a son, Johann Jacob, was christened; and in 1875 also a daughter, Barbara, was also christened. The 1880 U.S. Census record lists David Wischser of Gruetli (born 1845 Schwanden, Switzerland) as the head of a household of six. Today, the old house is gone but the property and a new house remains in the family with the current address of 186 Wichser Rd.

Like David Wichser, his older brother Fridolin Wichser also sought opportunities in America. He left Schwanden, Switzerland with his eldest child, Jakob (aged 8), who was able to help him with work and ensure that Barbara would join them in America with the other children. Fridolin seems to have come to Gruetli about 1877, for his daughter Katie told a reporter for the *Nashville Banner* (June 9, 1972) that he walked 6 miles each day to work in a sawmill near Tracy City for 40 cents a day. After two years, he he sent for his family. Barbara Wild Wichser arrived in New York on October 8, 1879 along with children Tobias, Fridolin, and baby Anna. Tobe was an active six-year-old and had much fun exploring the ship. Barbara recalled with gratitude the kindness the captain of the *Canada* had shown to Tobe. Barbara had been seasick for most of the voyage. While she was sick, her jewelry was stolen from their steamer trunk,

which held all of their clothing and possessions. Upon arrival in America, she and the children traveled by train to Knoxville, where they were united as a family. The 1880 U.S. Census records Fridolin "Fred" Wichser (born 1844 Schwanden, Switzerland) and family residing in Knox County, where he worked as a dairy hand. While there, another child, Barbara, was born in 1882.

In 1881, the wife of David Wichser (also named Barbara) became ill. They decided to relocate to Knoxville so that they could be closer to relatives and medical care. David Wichser gave or sold his 100-acre farmland to his brother, Fridolin. Fridolin Wichser and his family moved to the Swiss settlement in Gruetli. During the next few years, two more children were born to them: Katrina (Kate) in 1887 and Rosina (Rosa) in 1889. Tobias (Tobe), Barbara, and Kate lived their entire lives at this homestead built by their uncle David Wichser.

Jakob, the oldest son, moved to Davidson County but is buried in Gruetli. Fridolin Jr. married Elizabeth Flury, a Gruetli girl, and moved to California. Anna married Roman Lee Olgiate, also of Gruetli, and their oldest child, Peter Rudolf (Rudy), became the mayor of Chattanooga for whom the Olgiate Bridge there is named.

The youngest child of Fridolin and Barbara, Rosina (Rosa), married Robert Andrew Hargis. They had five children; two died in infancy; three survived. Delbert Hargis, the keeper of the invaluable Church Records book of the Swiss Colony, married Carlene Givens of Laager. They have two sons, Jack and Dwight. Dwight Hargis lives on the land once worked by his great-grand father Fridolin Wichser. Hilda Hargis married Paul Henderson of Tracy City and moved to Los Angeles, California. Dorothy Hargis married Roy Wince Mayes of Tracy City, and moved to Cleveland, Ohio in 1949. Teresa and I are their daughters. Teresa and her husband Charles Robert Mingle Jr. reside in Willoughby Hills, Ohio. Jim and I live in North Easton, Massachusetts, on the south shore of Boston.

As a little girl, I had visited during the summers with my great-aunts Barbara and Kate Wichser at their farmhouse in Gruetli. There, on the back of a wooden door, hung calendars

with pictures of Switzerland, the majestic Alps, wooden houses with colorful flowers cascading from window boxes, green pastures with goats and cows on the mountainside, clear blue skies and lakes, smiling rosy-cheeked children, farmer markets selling cheeses and fresh produce, and churches with high steeples and bells ringing and resounding among the mountains.

The calendar photographs had been gifts from friends who had visited the Swiss “homeland”. Often my aunts would share stories about their parents and other Swiss neighbors in the Gruetli-Laager area. So that I would not forget our time together, they would often give me one of their Swiss calendars to take back home to Ohio. There, I often recalled my aunts Kate and Barbara and dreamed of Switzerland as I turned the calendar pages. I remembered their laughter, their smiles, their sense of humor. They always called the candy dish the “salt-block” in reference to the block the animals loved to lick. I would recall bringing in the cows, gathering eggs, filling buckets with well water, grinding corn, picking huckleberries along the creek, reading the comics from the *Nashville Banner*. I could see the grape vines, the flowers along the walkway to the screened-in porch, chicks behind the stove, the picnic-style kitchen table covered with printed oilcloth, visitors driving down the lane to buy cheese and eggs, a lamp with dangling crystals that made rainbows on the wall when the sunshine from the window caught the dangle just right, an old-fashion radio, a delicate Swiss house music box that played a cheerful tune, an enormous family Bible, rocking chairs, the fresh air of the mountain and the goodness of the people who lived there. It was a simple way of life and a good life. Without knowing it, they instilled in the heart of a child the desire to discover her heritage.

With these memories we set out to explore Switzerland and my ancestry there. Imagine how thrilled I was to see, after all these years, that the Swiss calendar photographs I remembered were vividly accurate! Special memories filled my heart with great joy. In search of ancestors, we went first to the Land Archives for the canton of Glarus. The archivist gave us a phone number for Ernst and Trudi Güttinger in Schwanden, a town about five kilometers south of Glarus, which itself is about 70 kilometers by rail southeast of Zurich. We understood that this

couple was responsible for a small museum housed in a Pulverturm. When we called them to inquire if they could help us in our search, Trudi, speaking in English with a German accent, offered to meet us at the Schwanden train station. She was excited. Before ending our conversation, I shared with her the names and birth dates of my great grandparents.

Jim and I arrived at the train station in Schwanden surrounded by breath-taking green-forested mountains, pasture land, and a glacier on a distant mountain. There stood the church steeple where, I now know, my great-great grandfather Johann Jakob Wichser had the responsibility to ring the bell. Along a swift winding river, there were mill factory buildings where my great grandfather, Fridolin Wichser, had once worked in the textile industry.

Ernst and Trudi met us at the station. Trudi popped out of the car, greeted me with a kiss and stated: “My husband has found your family! Now, come with us. We must show you!” We also greeted Ernst, who spoke only German and the universal language of a smile, hug, and handshake. Both Ernst and Trudi were radiant and could not wait to share with us “the discovery”.

The ride was short, but on the way, Trudi explained that the Dorfmuseum, housed in a Pulverturm (Powder Tower) built in 1756, is Ernst’s retirement project. There he and Trudi maintain records, collect artifacts, memorabilia, photographs, and the like that depict Schwanden’s history.

On entering the museum, we were in a square, block-style room filled with history – my history! On the walls, I saw painted our family crests, Wichser and Wild, which I did not know we had until that moment. I saw other crests of family names that I recognized from Gruetli, such as Laager, Fluri, Luchsinger, Boniger, and Streiff.

Ernst quickly opened a book of Wichser and a book of the Wild family history for us to view. In the Wichser book, he showed me who my great, great, great, ..., great, grandparents were dating back to the 1300’s. Then, he showed me the Wild family. He explained as Trudi interpreted that my great great

grandfather Tobias Wild was the engineer responsible for building, between 1823 and 1838, 80 fountains to supply water to Schwanden. Tools he had used to bore through logs were hanging on the wall of the museum. To build the fountains, 70 men and 30 horses were needed to move, meter by meter, the stone cut from the face of the Glärnisch mountain several kilometers away. Tobias Wild was the engineer and foreman for these projects. Within the last few years, a fountain honoring influential families in Schwanden history was erected. Ernst wanted to take us to the fountain to show us that the Wild crest was included on this honorary fountain. My feelings of pride and respect for my family's accomplishments were overwhelming.

The museum has a display highlighting the important role of the textile factories. Carved wooden models with intricate designs, hand tools, and printed fabrics were tangible evidence of my great grandfather's trade. With the arrival of industrialization, there was less demand for handcrafted textiles because machines could produce the textiles faster and cheaper. Another contributing factor to the poverty of the mid 1800's was a potato famine. The famine adversely affected one of the primary sources of sustainability for family farms. It was during this time that Fridolin and Barbara Wild Wichser sought a change for their lives and a better life for their children.

Ernst and Trudi had no knowledge of the Swiss Colony in Gruetli. They did have displays about New Glarus, Wisconsin and New Bern, North Carolina. They were very interested in hearing more about Gruetli. I could recall many of the family names in Gruetli, but of course many they did not recognize because they came from other parts of Switzerland. A common bond of Swiss heritage drew the settlers together.

Our visit with Ernst and Trudi lasted only four hours. The knowledge and insight into our family history was priceless. Perhaps our experiences will inspire other Gruetli decedents to pursue their Swiss heritage. As this vibrant, yet unassuming couple walked us down the platform toward the express train to Zurich, we promised to return. We embraced each other. We too, had a common bond. We had discovered our ancestry, our fatherland. As the train slowly pulled away from the platform,

tears filled our eyes and we blew good-bye kisses. We will not forget the beauty of discovery and how our lives are interconnected and blessed by those who came before us, those who we presently know, and those whom we have yet to meet.

Addendum: The Stocker Family

At the original, 1869, drawing for lots, four 100-acre parcels went to men named Stocker⁴¹. One was Anton Stocker, who built the house that is now the home of the Swiss Historical Society. The Agricultural Society met in this house. Anton had no descendants. A second Stocker was Leon. The third was Joseph Stocker; and the fourth was described as Joseph Stocker the Elder, presumably the father of the second. The younger Joseph Stocker and his wife, Maria Akermann Stocker, were newly weds. Their son, Joseph Jacob Stocker went to Illinois to learn the trades of blacksmith and wheelwright. He returned and set up shop in Tracy City and married Katie Katherine Anderegg, whose family, also Swiss, ran a meat market in Tracy. Joseph Jacob's main work was blacksmithing, but any spare time was devoted to building wagons. He was so busy as a smith that he could build only about one wagon a year. In mid life, his health was deteriorating because of the heat and fumes in the smithy, so he gave up his shop and in 1908 bought the old Sterling Savage homestead on the headwaters of the creek which, farther downstream, forms Savage Gulf. (When going north on TN 399, Stoker Road turns off to the right a mile past the Savage Gulf Ranger Station road. The house is at the end of the road.) He built a blacksmith shop, but mainly farmed.

This farm passed to his three sons, Joseph, Edward, and Alfred. When Edward moved to Whitwell and Joseph to Chattanooga, Alfred (1906 – 1998) bought their interest and worked the farm his whole life. The main cash crop was potatoes, but they also kept cows. Once, one of the dairy cows fell in a hole, broke a leg, and had to be killed and butchered. Alfred was taking potatoes over to the work crews on the railroad being built to

⁴¹The name is pronounced “Stoker” and some have adopted this spelling.

Palmer, so he took along some meat as well. The next time he went, the cook saw him coming and called out, “You got any more of that old cow? She was so tough you had to step on the gravy to spread it.”



Katie Katherine A. Stocker



Joseph Jacob Stocker

Alfred married Norma Mae Sitz, who, at 95 in 2010, is still living alone on the farm; she is the source of most of the information on the Stockers. She and Alfred had three sons who reached maturity, Donald, James and Russell. Donald ran a sawmill on the property. James graduated from the University of Tennessee and has worked in Chattanooga. Russel lives nearby and works for Bowater. In 2010, Donald's youngest child, Joe Davis Stoker, accepted the presidency of the Grundy County Historical Society. Joe had found that he had his great grandfather's ability as a smith transformed into the ability to work with computers. He is in the information technology support service at the University of the South in Sewanee.

Norma Sitz Stocker has been the subject of an oral history account by Jackie Layne Partin available on the Internet.

Addendum: Families from the Map, Deeds and Censuses

The narrative story given above may be usefully supplemented by a more systematic account of the families in the Gruetli settlement. The five most important sources for such a study are (1) the 1869 land allocations reported in detail in Chapter 2, (2) the 1872 map by J. U. Baur, (3) the Grundy County Deed books, (4) the 1870, and (5) the 1880 Censuses. This appendix compares all five sources to see who came and who left – and when.

The Census identifies the place of birth of each person, so it is easy to identify the Swiss immigrant families. Appearance of a family in the Census is good proof that it was really there, but omission does not mean that it was not there. For example, we know that Ulrich Zimmermann was allocated a lot and received a deed in 1869 and had a son baptized in 1874. But the family is not in the 1870 Census. Moreover, the matching of names in the 1870 Census with the real names of the family is not always certain. For example, “Melchior Thony” appears as “Mellico Damy” and “Peter Kissling” as “Batey Kepling.” I was startled to find “Crosser Almon” in the list, a metamorphosis of Caspar von Almen. In 1870, the census taker complained that he could not converse with the people. By 1880, the colonists could speak English well enough to get their names spelled fairly well.

Table 1 below lists in alphabetical order, in the third column, everyone (except Peter Staub) who appears on the June 30, 1872 map. An asterisk (*) in the column labeled “69” indicates that the person was allocated a lot in 1869. A double asterisk (**) in this column indicates that that lot was among those the person held at the time of the map. The “Deed” column indicates that a deed from Staub to the landowner is recorded. The “Lot” column indicates the lot or lots held by the person according to the map. The “size” columns indicate the size of the family by that name in the 1870 and 1880 Censuses.

Of the 78 names on the map, there were 30 families present with a total of 104 persons in the 1870 Census. These were the ones who went through the terrible winter of '69-70 for which

they had only the scantiest preparation. Only 9 of these families had recorded deeds to their place. There was not, in fact, much correlation between having a deed and being present. Two families were in the 1869 allocations and present in the 1870 Census but had left by the time the map was made. They were Carl Zehnter (2 persons, in the Census under the name Senter) and Friedrich Seidel (8 persons, in the Census under the name Sidell). They are counted in the total of 104 given above.

By 1880, there were 29 families left from those on the map. 17 of these were the same as those in the 1870 Census, 13 families present in the 1870 Census had left and 12 had arrived – or "appeared," that is, they may have actually been there in 1870 but had been missed by the Census taker. Still only 10 of these 29 families had recorded deeds to their place. Of the 26 assignees who had recorded deeds, 13 appear in one census or the other.

Table I. Families on the 1872 Map

69	Deed	Map	Lot	Size 1870	Size 1880
		Almen, Caspar v.	20	1	4
**	*	Amacher, Christian	60		
**		Amstutz, Joseph	73		
			24, 25,		
**	*	Banholzer, Andreas	26	8	7
*		Bauer, Joh. Ulrich	42, 94	1	
**	*	Baumgartner, Joh.	35		4
**	*	Bergen, Eduard von Bertschinger, Hein- rich	75		3
**		Bess, Sam	36, 37	1	
		Bess, Sam	76		
		Big, Wilhelm	58b		4
		Bill	99	4	
		Blauenstein, Samuel	1	1	1
**		Bollinger, Jakob	22	4	
	*	Bühler, Heinrich	67	2	
		Bur, Joseph	78		
		Bürli, Joseph	101	4	

		Dietrich, Johs.	96		
**		Faigaan, Alcide	55		
		Fanner, Ulrich	31		
**	*	Fawer, Carl	52		
**		Fawer, Fritz	51		
*		Fehr, Jacob	93	1	4
**		Flury, Joseph	68	2	10
**		Früttiger, Jakob	27	1	
	*	Fruttiger, Johs.	B		
	*	Hitz, Johs.	81		
**		Haeberlin, Christian	53		
		Hauser, A. E.	84		1
	*	Hess, Jacob	61		
**		Hofstetter, Christian	15	5	8
**	*	Holliger, Caspar	58a		
		Hölscher	100		
*	*	Holzhauser, Caspar	92, 95	2	
		Huggenberger, Johs.	77		
**		Hunsinger, Grofs- man v.	62		1
		Hunziker brothers	78a	1	8
**	*	Jnäbnet, Melchior	70		
			33,		
**		Kissling, Johs.	47,48,49	7	11
**		Kissling, Peter	34	3	
		Kneubuehler, Joseph	8		
*		Kneubuhl, Friedrich	69		
		Lahmann, Jb.	40a		
**		Lanz, Heinrich	16		
**	*	Lanz, Jacob	3	2	
**	*	Mäder, Jakob	71	9	9
		Michel, Jakob	18	7	
**		Müller, Friedrich	66		
**		Müscher, Jos.	21		
*		Niolegger (Hydeg- ger?), widow	32		
		Oertli, Leonhard	87		
	*	Ott, Charles	A		
**		Richen, Johannes	11	3	7

*		Rohr, Leonhard v.	7	1	8
		Roth, J	C		
*		Ruch, Jakob	86	4	6
**	*	Ruf, Christian	59		
**		Schild, Caspar	13	2	5
		Schild, Johs.	41		
*		Schild, Peter	79, 80		5
**		Schneider, Jakob	23		
**		Scholer, Johs.	72		6
**		Schwarz, Jakob	40		
		Spiess, Johs.	88		
		Springer, Carl	97, 98		
**	*	Stocker, Anton	4,5,38,3 9	8	8
**		Stocker, Jakob	14	2	7
		Stocker, Jakob	17	2	1
**	*	Stucky, Carl	56		
**		Studer, Benedikt	12	3	7
		Thony, Melchior			
		Johs.	9		5
**	*	Thony, Melchior, Fa- ther	10	5	3
**	*	Werdmiller, Hein- rich	65		
**	*	Werdmiller, Niklaus	63, 64		2
	*	Wermuth, John			
**		Wigelin, Rudolf	2		
**		Wyss, Ulrich	19		
**	*	Zimmermann, Ul- rich	74		
**	*	Zopfy, Caspar	57		4
**		Zwald, Melchior	54		4

In addition to these families shown on the 1872 map, the 1870 Census shows the following families or persons of Swiss origin in Grundy County. My guess of the standard spelling of the name is given in parenthesis.

Table II. Swiss Present in 1870 but not on the 1872 Map

Name	Family Size
Bernard, Sophia	1
Brown, John (Baur)	2
Egly, Christian	4
Grancer, Joseph (Grenzer)	6
Gruter, John & Christine (Greeter)	3
Isaccs, Joseph	1
Josi, Ulrich	3
Luther, Barbery	1
Nichols, Jacob (Michel)	1
Petenger, Ferdiner	1
Ploomingstine, Rudolph (Blu- menstein)	1
Reace, Barbera	4
Senter, Henry (Zehnter)	1
Shearer, Henry	1
Sterker, John	2
Wetmeuller, Nicholas (Werd- mueller)	1

The “Gruter” family were later known as “Greeter” and are described above in this book. Christian Egly may well be a relative of Heinrich Egli, who received lot 20 in the original drawing, but he did not move onto that lot since it was occupied by 1870 by Caspar von Almen. The Ulrich Josi family was still present in 1880. The large Joseph Grancer family does not appear again in the 1880 census and seems to have moved on.

The new arrivals by the 1880 Census make an impressive list of 31 families with many names already familiar to readers of this book such as Jenni, Angst, Marugg, and Wichser. Attendees at the 2003 Swiss Celebration included also descendents of the Boon, Siegrist, and Werner families, who appear here. Some of the names on the list are young men boarding with families. The von Rohr family, for example, had five boarders. Two of them, John Schweizer and William Wentz, are on this list; the

other boarders were two young Studders and John Kissling, Jr. The large Peter and Anna Schild family in this list settled in Beersheba. Most of the others were connected with the colony. Speaking with Selmer Neskaug in the 1930's, "Uncle Pete" Schild recalled the arrival dates of some of these settlers. These dates are shown in the third column of Table III. Unlce Pete also recalled arrivals during the decade of the 1870's of families with the names of Ackerman, Duobman, Hodel, Jiegen, Burtich, Hitz, Margidant, Dribb, and Furrer, names I do not otherwise as- sociate with the colony.

Table III. New Arrivals between 1872 and 1880

Name	Family Size	Arrival
Angst, Jacob	7	1875
Baur, Reinhard&Anna	7	
Boon, Adam	4	
Bosh, Wendelin	2	
Brandli, Albert	3	
Budduker, Ferd.	5	
Grossmann, Peter	2	
Heer, Henry	6	
Hineinger, Max	8	
Genni (Jenni) Samuel	3	
Laager, Burk &Regula	2	
Leizinger, Henry	3	
Leudzinger (Leutzinger) R.	4	
Marugg, Chr.	7	1873
Marugg, Martin	1	1873
Moritz, Carl	4	
Reed, Christian	7	
Reeder, Henry	8	
Roast, Alexander	4	
Rohner, Herbert	1	
Ruch, Fried.	1	
Schaffler, Albert	5	
Schlageter, Ignatz	7	
Schmidle, U. & Verina	7	1875
Schonemann, Jacob	3	

Schweizer, John	1	
Sereeting, Chr.	1	
Shilz (Schild), Peter&Anna	2	
Siegrist, Henry	6	
Siegrist, Solomon	4	
Speis, John	4	
Stocker, Leo	8	
Uheishaufet, Henry	2	
Weidemann, John	5	
Wemp, Wm	1	
Werner, Samuel	1	
Wichser, David	6	late '70's
Wirtz, Joachim	1	
Woda, John	6	

It is particularly the strength of this list that convinces me that the news going back to Switzerland after 1872 was quite favorable to Gruetli. The people who stayed after the substantial initial exodus were happy with what they had found and encouraged others to join them. These people must have known fairly well what they would find, and they seem to have stayed and become pillars of the Colony.

Chapter 4. Agricultural Life

In studying the life of the colony, it will be advisable to divide the subject into its several phases. The agricultural aspect⁴² of the colony will be considered first, since that is the most vital part of life, to a people who are essentially agrarian. I shall, in the following chapter, discuss the educational, religious, artistic, and social interests of the colonists.

My main source of information as to their agricultural activity is the record book containing the "Protokolls" of the Landwirtschaftsverein.⁴³ This society dates back to practically the beginning of the colony but the first few pages of the record book have been lost, the first extant Protokoll being dated September 8, 1873. The regular form for the minutes of a meeting is used fairly uniformly throughout; minor variations being due to changing secretaries. The book is written in German script and, since some of the secretaries did not have a mastery of written High German, there are frequent mistakes in spelling and grammatical usage. Many combinations of English and German words appear, as they did in the church records. However, in spite of these mistakes and the mixture of languages and the probable advent of American-born secretaries, the German script form was adhered to for almost fifty years after their arrival, a fact which seems remarkable to me by way of illustrating the persistence of their Old-World culture.

Probably the most coherent method of making this material known is to take it chronologically, rather than to try to group it under headings as to subject matter. I shall mention only the

⁴² [The subject of this chapter was treated in greater detail three years later in a master's thesis at the University of Tennessee, *Agricultural and Social Aspects of the Swiss Settlement in Grundy County*, Selmer R. Neskaug, 1936. This thesis contains a complete translation of the records of the Agricultural Society. *Ed.*]

⁴³ [The original manuscript of these Protokolls is now in the Tennessee State Library and Archives. *Ed.*]

meetings which are outstanding and omit the many perfunctory meetings.

September 8, 1873 -- The club decided to spend from \$35 to \$40 for a Putzmühle⁴⁴ to be the property of the club. Mr. Werner and Mr. Baur were appointed to investigate the prices.

November 3, 1873 -- Evidently plans for a fair (Ausstellung) had been made in the meetings of which the minutes were lost because in this meeting it was announced that a fair had been held on October 11. It did not say what kind of a fair it was but I presume that it was agricultural. The admission brought in \$3.50 but the costs were \$13.50 so the affair was rather discouraging. They decided not to buy a Putzmühle because of the cost.

January 5, 1874 -- Thirty-six of the children in the school had sent letters about the colony to Consul Hitz. He returned these so that the parents might see them and file them in the library.

February 1, 1874 -- Seed was received from the government in Washington for distribution among the farmers and was distributed in the meeting. This occurred practically every year and sometimes oftener so I shall not mention it again.

April 4, 1874 -- The financial report of the year is given, -showing a handling of about \$50 during the year. Mr. Baur was again appointed to investigate the Putzmühle matter.

July 5, 1874 -- Plans were made for a Cattle and Produce Fair to be held on September 4 and 5. [English translation is here combined with the German]

1) Die Ausstellung soll 1 Uhr N. M. den 4ten Sept. eröffnet und 4 Uhr N. M. den 5ten Sept. geschlossen werden.[The Fair should open at 1 p.m. on September 4 and close at 4 p.m. on September 5]

⁴⁴ I have asked several members of the Colony the meaning of this word and no one was able to explain it. It seems to be some kind of a small mill, possibly one used to clean wheat.

2) Alle Ausstellungs Gegenstände müssen bis 11 Uhr V. M. auf dem Ausstellungsplatze an die betreffenden Comiteen abgeliefert werden. [All objects to be exhibited must be delivered to the appropriate committee on the fairgrounds by 11 a.m..]

3) Aussteller von Vieh haben die Zahl und Varietät derselben, bis zum 1ten Sept.an den Berechtigter der Gesellschaft anzumelden. [Exhibitors of cattle must inform the qualifying judge of Society of the number and variety of the same by September 1.]

4) Aussteller welche sich nicht durch freiwillige Beiträge betheiligen und auf Preise rechnen, haben eine Gebühr von 50 cts. per Artikel zu entrüsten. [Exhibitors who do not make a voluntary contribution towards the prize money must pay 50 cents per article exhibited.]

5) Nur im County gezogene Produkte und gehaltene Zucht oder Nutz Vieh, sind zu Preisen berechtigt. [Only products raised in this county or breeding or use animals kept here are entitled to receive prizes.]

6) Preise werden ertheilt: [There will be prizes for the best:]

für die 2 vorzüglichsten Hengste	[2 stallions]
" den " " Esel	[2 asses]
" die 2 " Zuchtstuten	[2 mares]
für die 2 vorzüglichsten Bullen	[2 bulls]
" " 2 " Kühe und Kälber	[2 cows with calf]
" " 2 " Rinder	[2 cows]
für die 2 vorzüglichsten Eber	[2 boars]
" " 2 " Mutterschweine	[2 sows]
" " 2 " Ferkel	[2 piglets]
für das beste Paar Hühner	[pair of chickens]
" " " " Truthühner	[pair of turkeys]
" " " " Gänse oder Enten	[pair of geese or ducks]

für das beste Pack Weizen	[bag of wheat]
“ “ “ “ Rogen	[bag of barley]
“ “ “ “ Hafer	[bag of oats]
“ “ “ ½ bushel Corn in Aehron	[corn on the cob]
“ “ “ “ Kartoffeln	[potatoes]
“ “ “ “ Süsskartoffeln	[sweet potatoes]
“ “ “ ½ bushel Rüben	[beets]
“ den besten Bündel Tabak	[tobacco]
“ “ “ “ Hanf oder Flachs	[hemp or flax]

für die 3 besten Display von Garten Früchten
 [3 best displays of garden fruit]

für das beste Asortment von Aepfeln	[apples]
“ “ “ “ “ Birnen	[pears]
“ “ “ “ “ Steinfrüchten	[plums or cherries]
“ “ “ “ “ Trauben	[grapes]

7) Als Preisrichter für Produkte sind ernannt die Herren:
 [Judges of products will be]

P. H. Roberts, Pelham

Hegi, Beersheba

Adam Goelz von hier [from here]

für den Viehstock, die Herren: [for livestock]

Alex Kinderd, 5th District

Capt. W. W. Henry, 11th District

Chr. Marugg, 2nd District

und sollen dieselben ihre Arbeit Zwischen 11 V. M. und 1 N. M. des ersten Tages vollenden; auch sind sie ermächtigt Preise für untergeordnete Artikel zurück zu halten und solche für Artikel von besonderem Werth, welche nicht auf der Liste vorgemerkt sind, zu ertheilen.

[The judges should complete their work between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. of the first day. They are authorized to withhold prizes in announced categories and to award prizes for articles of special value not in categories on the list.]

8) Von 5 Uhr N. M. des ersten Tages bis 9 Uhr V. M. des zweiten Tages wird die Ausstellung vertagt.

[The exhibit will be adjourned from 5 p.m. of the first day until 9 a.m. of the second.]

9) Von 11 Uhr V. M. bis 3 Uhr N. M. ist Gelegenheit zu öffentlichen Vorträgen und versammlung Landwirtschaftlicher Interessen gegeben.

[From 11 a.m to 3 p.m there will be opportunity for lectures and meeting devoted to agricultural subjects.]

10) 2 Uhr N. M. Preisvertheilung durch den Präsidenten.

[Prizes will be awarded by the President at 2 p.m.]

11) Eintrittsgebühr "ad libitum."

[Entrance fee by voluntary contibution.]

Beschlossen: Den von H. Muller angebothenen Platz mit Scheune für die Ausstellung zu benutzen und das Mitglied Zimmermann mit der Einrichtung derselben, gegen Billige Entschädigung für Zeit und Arbeit, zu beauftragen. Samstag den 18te zur gemeinschaftlichen Arbeit am Ausstellungsplatze umzusetzen.

[Resolved: to use the place with a barn offered by H. Muller and to contract with member Zimmermann for the erection of the stalls with modest compensation for time and labor. [All members] should come to the exhibit place on Saturday the 18th to work together.]

Beschlossen: Das Comittee beantragte Program unverändert anzunehmen.

[Resolved: the committee should keep the program unchanged.]

Beschlossen: Herrn Baur die Wirtschaft auf dem Ausstellungsplatze, gegen billige Vergütung in Verhältniss zur Einnahme, zu überlassen.

[Resolved: to turn over to Mr. J.U. Baur the sales (concessions) on the fairgrounds in exchange for modest compensation in relation to income.]

The Putzmühle arrived and cost \$39.50.

August 2, 1874 -- Further discussion of the fair took place. Eugen Plumacher was nominated for membership.

August 16, 1874 -- It was announced that the members of the Landwirtschaftsverein should distinguish themselves at the fair by wearing colored ribbons.

September 6, 1874 -- Financial report of the fair was given. The amount taken in was \$132.10 and \$104.15 was paid out, making the net profits \$27.95. They decided to set up the Putzmühle in Muller's barn. Christian Marugg was appointed to attend to this.

October 4, 1874 -- In this meeting, a talk by the president and discussion by the members was made in an attempt to regulate the farm products. They were trying to reach some agreement as to what each individual should plant, how much of it, where he should market it, etc.

November 1, 1874 -- The treasurer was instructed to subscribe to the *Tennessee Post* for three months and to the *Garten und Ackerbau Zeitung*, the *Wisconsin Herald*, and the *Agriculturisten* for one year. This subscription was paid by the club and the papers were for the members' use. A request for reimbursement of the Musikgesellschaft for their music during the Ausstellung was made. Nothing was decided on this point, however.

January 3, 1875 -- The murder of J. U. Baur on the night of November 30, by an unknown person⁴⁵ caused the omission of the December meeting. Election of officers.⁴⁶

⁴⁵ This murder of J. U. Baur was never explained in the Protokoll, however, Uncle Pete Schild gave me the following information on the subject. Mr. Baur owned the community store and had made a little money out of it, which they believed he kept in his store. On this night three men went to the store to rob him; he resisted, and was shot. The men were frightened and ran away without getting any money. They were never caught and prosecuted but everyone seemed to know who did it. The names, as given me by Uncle Pete and Mr. Jeff Fults, lawyer, of Tracy City, are W. H. Hampden, Web Purdam and Meyers. According to Mr. Fults, W. H. Hampden was later sent to the penitentiary for robbing the mails.

April 6, 1875 -- The advisability of trying to introduce breeding sheep was discussed.⁴⁷ Mr. Henry of Tracy City offered his Airshire Bull as a breeding bull. President Hauser was instructed to accept the offer if the price of \$3 a calf was satisfactory.

May 2, 1875 -- Upon further discussion of breeding sheep it was decided that a community pasture should be built in which each member could keep his sheep upon payment of \$10. Those not members of the club could do the same upon the same payment. Each member must take care of his own sheep after the month of October. On the last Saturday in May all members must meet to build a fence forming a pasture for the breeding bull on the property of Mr. Hauser.

October 3, 1875 -- A loan was made by the club treasury to Jakob Schönemann, who needed some money at this time. The amount was \$15 at 6 per cent.

January 2, 1876 -- Mr. Staub presented the colony with two acres of land for school and farming purposes (Schul und Landwirtschafts Zwecke).

May 7, 1876 -- Plans were made for another fair which were later given up because of the expense and the difficulty.

July 2, 1876 -- A Committee composed of John F. Hauser, John Kissling and Carl Moritz was appointed to arrange for the fourth of July festivities.

August 6, 1876 -- A description of the celebration on the fourth of July reads as follows:

⁴⁶ At the first meeting of the year, the officers were always elected, so I shall not mention it again.

⁴⁷ These discussions were always very indefinite as far as the minutes recorded. No decisions were made except in rare instances. This is by way of explanation of the rather insufficient sentences stating that "there was a discussion," etc.

The committee for the celebration of the Fourth of July reported that parents and children and all that assembled at 9 a.m. at the new schoolhouse formed a procession and marched with music to the festival square. There the Declaration of Independence was read by Henry Weishaupt, followed by music and song, then a speech by Hauser, more music and singing, and then a talk about local matters by John Kissling.

An invitation from several prominent Swiss in Washington to a convention of Swiss to be held in Philadelphia on August 26 was read before the club.

May 6, 1877 -- The monthly dues of the club were reduced from ten cents to five cents, and the entrance fee from \$2 to \$1.

February 2, 1878 -- Because of very poor attendance at the meetings the members decided to hold meetings every two months in the future instead of every month as in the past.

May 5, 1878 -- A decision was made to dispose of the Putzmühle that had been bought in 1874 and bids were made by various persons. Those listed were Caspar and Peter Schild and Jakob Schönemann.

July 7, 1878 The Putzmühle was sold to Caspar and Peter Schild for \$10.

April 3, 1881 During the previous year the membership of the club had fallen to four and they had ceased to function. On this date they had a complete reorganization with the membership as follows:

Old members: John Kissling, Caspar Schild, Peter Schild, Jacob Schönemann

New members: Jacob Ruch, Jr., Anton Stocker, Joachim Wirz, Jakob Hunziker, Joseph Wasmer, Z. Luchsinger, R. Marugg, R. Leutzinger, Rutschmann, Jacob Angst, R. Baur

The meetings were to be held every two months on the first Sunday in the month. The dues were to be ten cents a month with fifty cents entrance fee. Furthermore \$15 was to be taken out of the present treasury and with it the treasurer was to buy grape vine plants to be distributed among the members.

June 5, 1881 -- After the business meeting, beer was served to the members at the expense of the treasury. Great hilarity reigned.

March 12, 1882 -- The treasurer was instructed to subscribe to the following papers: The *Amerikanische Schweizerische Zeitung* and *Helvetia*.

December 3, 1882 -- The library⁴⁸ was to be taken from Caspar Schild's to Marugg's in Gruetli proper and R. Marugg was to be librarian. The members decided not to subscribe as a club to any magazines or papers in the future.

August 12, 1883 -- A report was made that the attendance at the meetings was very poor and discouraging.

January 13, 1884 -- In an effort to increase attendance a fee of ten cents was placed on all absentees.

July 27, 1884 -- A trip was made by the members visiting each other's vineyards. They decided that the best grapes for the district were the Martha seedlings and those not to be recommended were the Brighton, Schiller and Louisiana.

January 25, 1885 -- A cabinet was built for the books in the library by Ignatz Schlageter.

In all the meetings during 1885 and 1886 the chief topic seems to have been the cultivation of grapes. No decisions resulted from these discussions as far as the minutes record, but we real-

⁴⁸ I have not been able to find out what this library was or what ever became of it. There are no traces of it in Gruetli today so in all probability it was burned. The books which it contained were probably reference books on farming subjects.

ize that grape growing was their main interest during these years.

April 25, 1886 -- Martin Marugg and Max Hinsinger were taken into the club as members. Upon the suggestion of Mr. Marugg the club decides to have a fair in the fall.

August 27, 1886 -- The secretary reported, after asking the members of the club, that the general opinion indicated it as advisable to postpone the fair for a year.

During the winter of 1886-1887, the members were very much interested in cures for blights of all sorts on their farming produce. Many articles were read at the meetings and some of the members wrote away for advice on the subject.

February 27, 1887 -- A "Tanzkränzchen" was held in Angst's Hall.⁴⁹ This prevented the regular meeting.

November 2, 1890 -- John Kissling announced that the need for a bone-meal and saw mill (*Knochen und Sägemühle*) was felt greatly in the colony. They decided that a joint stock company was probably the best plan to satisfy this want. They elected a committee to consider this and in the meantime announced a general meeting of all the citizens to be held in Mr. Angst's house and discuss the subject.⁵⁰

⁴⁹ Angst owned the large house which is now one of the few remaining buildings in the center of Gruetli. It was built in the very early days of the colony and has been used as hotel, dance hall, town meeting place, etc. It is a large two-story frame building.

⁵⁰ No further mention is made of this. In many of these meetings discussions came up which were referred to committees and never mentioned again in the minutes. In all probability they were dropped and never thought of again. I am including them because they show the trends of thought of the colonists and their efforts, although often futile, of improving their position.

During the winter of 1890-1891, the club discussed every agricultural means of making a living which was open to the farmers of the colony. The discussion of raising hops seemed to be most important.

February 1, 1891 -- Jakob Angst suggested that a sick benefit fund (Krankenunterstützungskasse) be started among the members of the club. Mr. Kissling agreed but thought that this should be a community affair and not merely within the club. No further discussion of it appeared in the minutes so the matter was either dropped or taken out of the hands of the club.

August 3, 1891 -- Mr. Kissling suggested that the club send an exhibit to the World's Fair in Chicago as proof of what they were able to raise in the colony. This seemed to meet with the approval of the members and a committee was appointed to find out the regulations for the exhibits and to arrange the exhibit. No mention is made of this later so there is no way of knowing whether or not this plan was carried out.

September 6, 1891 -- Mr. Marugg announced that he had investigated the prices of the necessary equipment for the canning of fruit and vegetables. He believed that two or three of the members should get together and buy this equipment in order to serve the community and further their own interests. The club considered the plan very good and appointed a committee to investigate the possibilities.

March 6, 1892 -- Mr. Angst said that he believed that the formation of an immigrations committee would be advisable. He thought that this club should be the one to become interested in this. A committee was appointed for this. Mr. Angst brought up again the matter of the society for aid to the sick (Krankenverein). Mr. Kissling was requested to write to his son Paul in Nashville for a copy of the constitution of the Swiss Aid Society (Schweizer Unterstützungsverein) of Nashville.

April 3, 1892 -- The constitution of the sick aid society was received from Nashville and read before the club. A committee was appointed to revise it to the needs of the colony.⁵¹

June 5, 1892 -- Upon the death of one of the oldest and most revered members, and for many years president of the club, John Kissling, the following necrology was written into the minutes:

Obituary for John Kissling

John Kissling, born in 1827 in Schwarzenburg, Canton Bern, was for many years active as a teacher in his homeland. About 20 years ago, he came to America with his rather numerous family and became one of the founders of this Swiss colony. Mr. Kissling was a striving and enterprising man who avoided no sacrifice to create a good work. He has contributed much to the improvement of this colony. Despite his large family, through hard work he attained comfortable circumstances. He is survived by his wife and many children, grown and self-supporting. To this long-time, diligent member of this Agricultural Union, of which he was president until his death, the present members dedicate this memorial in the minutes.

In the name of Agricultural Union by its secretary,
Fritz Wirz.

December 4, 1892 A discussion of the cultivation of hops consumed the entire time of the meeting. They decided to raise them with the purpose of sending samples the following year to different breweries.

April 1, 1894 -- A letter and package had been received from Consul Hitz. This contained some Swiss pictures which he wished to present to the club. They were accepted with thanks.

⁵¹ No copy of this revision was ever recorded, so we cannot tell whether or not it was made or ever used.

September 2, 1894 -- They announced the jubilee to be held on September 22, 1894, in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the colony.

November 2, 1902 -- A discussion was held of protesting against the dropping of German in the School.

1906 - Year's report -- This report was so unusual that I am giving it in full.

The past year was normal for the Society. No member died and none withdrew. One, however, was lost by his moving away, which is not to be lamented, since this same member was the worst scalawag that ever inhabited this Colony. In less than two years he drank away one of the most beautiful farms here. We can thank our lucky stars that the Society is free of such a subject. It is this same Leonhard Oertli, son, who crowned his work when he stole the last cash from his wife and vamoosed.

February 7, 1909 -- The meeting was given over to the discussion of the recent State prohibition law. The following was put in the minutes:

The new state law prohibiting drinking was discussed. It was pointed out that such a law in no way reduced the burden of drunkenness and, moreover, the State would cause itself enormous losses in revenue. Such laws should be put to the people for approval, namely those laws that affect the livelihood of so many and are unworthy of a republic.

January 2, 1910 -- The club decided to subscribe to the *Ementhaler Blatt* and also to insert an advertisement for German settlers to come to the colony. This was considered necessary because the colony was getting into the hands of so many Americans.

1911 - Year's report -- The following excerpt seems to be the gist of the report:

It is absolutely necessary for the Germans here to hang firmly together; otherwise, in a few years the English element will displace the German. Already many of the most beautiful farms

are in American hands, farms that were created by German diligence. We absolutely need new blood from the old country; only then can we successfully compete with the English.

1914 - Year's report -- The world war earned the following paragraph in this record:

Of the world war which has broken out in Europe it is hard to get much understanding, since mainly the industries and factory employees are affected. How long this fearful murder will continue cannot be foreseen, since none of the powers at war will give in so long as resistance is possible.

The last record is that of the year 1917, showing the decline in interest until it is not surprising to see that no more meetings were held. The club had served its purpose and its day was over. In the beginning of the colony, the settlers knew little about the land and the products which might be raised on it, so it was to their mutual advantage to discuss, and compare notes on, farming problems. That was the reason for the club, but by 1917 most of the original members had either died or moved away, and their children and grandchildren, having already learned from them, no longer needed these monthly meetings to be able to run their farms profitably. Thus, we witness the disappearance of one of the most important phases of the earlier life of the colony.

* * *

Addendum: Economics of Agriculture in Gruetli

Two remarkable letters from the Agricultural Society to the U.S. Commissioner of Agriculture in the fall of 1872 give us a remarkable picture of farming at Gruetli. They are best read against a background of conditions in the rest of the state. Fortunately, we are well informed on them also. In the same year, the Tennessee Legislature created the Bureau of Agriculture; and the following year, under the leadership of its first Secretary, J. B. Killebrew, the Bureau produced *Introduction to the Re-*

sources of Tennessee, an amazing 1193-page survey of Tennessee climate, geology, soils, forests, agriculture, mining, transportation, public schools, population, and manufacturing. State-wide surveys are followed by individual county accounts. Near the end of the state-wide chapters appears “Chapter XXI. A Word to Immigrants.”

Here Killebrew lays it on the line to would-be immigrants looking for cheap land .

Let it be understood, once for all, that the productive improved lands of this State, favorably located with respect to markets and transportation, cannot be bought for one dollar nor five dollars per acre. Good lands, upon which an industrious, hard-working man may grow rich are to be found in every direction of the State, but these lands are worth from eight to fifty dollars per acre, according to improvements and location. Good unimproved lands may be bought for half this price. Good soils are, in the end, the cheapest. An acre of land that will produce fifty bushels of corn is far cheaper at thirty dollars than an acre that will produce only twenty bushels, though the latter may have cost only ten dollars. The work required to cultivate each is just the same, which may be set down as fifteen bushels of corn. In the first instance, the farmer will make thirty-five bushels, in the latter five bushels. So that, although the higher priced lands cost three times as much, the profits are seven times as great. But the expenses do not stop here. The cost of improvements and the demands of the family, are as great on the poor soils as on rich, and this expense will, unless a rigid economy is practiced, in nine cases out of ten eat up the profits and leave nothing to the tiller of poor soils.⁵²

Killebrew goes on to give an example of a profitable farm on land costing \$30 per acre. The yield of corn is assumed to be 40 bushels per acre; of wheat, 15 bushels per acre; of oats, 30 bushels per acre. ⁵³ Average yields in the state are given as 23

⁵² *Resources of Tennessee*, page 385.

⁵³ *Resources*, page 387.

bushels per acre for corn, 7 to 9 for wheat, 16 for oats, and 9 for rye.⁵⁴

How do these yields compare with Gruetli experience?

On October 30, 1872, the secretary of the Agricultural Society in Gruetli sent a letter to the Commissioner of Agriculture in Washington.⁵⁵

I take pleasure to acquaint you of the Agricultural Society of New Switzerland, a swiss Colony in Grundy County, Tennessee, which was started on the 6th of August, 1871, counting now 20 members and enjoying a healthy and flourishing condition.

The Cumberland mountains, having here for a long time been regarded by their native inhabitants as entirely unadapted for farming purposes, except herding cattle, raising fruits, potatoes, and a few vegetables, begin now to attract the attention of immigration and will soon change a wild aspect into a lovely landscape of producing farms, aided by industrial and commercial enterprises.

The erroneous notion of former days has been sufficiently disclosed during the four years since the Colony [was] founded and first of their settlers commenced to clear the timber for farming purposes. We have now to show samples of winter wheat, Rye and Oats, of vegetables and fruits, grapes, etc. of our own raising which will compare favorably with similar products grown anywhere in the U.S. and hope in time by a more practical ... knowledge of the peculiarities of land and climate to even surpass them.

The letter goes on to request advice and appropriate seed. A reply written November 14, 1872 from Frederick Watts, Commissioner of Agriculture, was received enclosing reports of 1867- 1872, a list of Agricultural Societies and a History of the Department. It also acknowledged receipt of 8 quarts of Fultz and Silver bearded oats which had been planted.

⁵⁴ *Resources*, pages 95 -97.

⁵⁵ Copies of this hand-written report are in the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

Then on December 1, 1872, the Secretary of the Society in Gruetli sent a “report” to the Commissioner in Washington. It reports in detail on the climate, temperature and rainfall month by month. It describes the soil as

very light, mixed with a red and on some places yellow or blue clay as underground. The grain of humus reaches from 3 to 5 inches, and by a depth of from 4 to 6 feet gravel of sand and limestone is predominant. Certain is that the land in general requires regular manuring and considerable labor to be kept in good condition and raised to its full capacity.

Then the report turns to individual crops.

Wheat was of fine quality, averaging 20 bushels per acre. Only one specie of red winter wheat, the name of which I could not ascertain, has yet been tried. ... further experiments are necessary to establish [the] most profitable seed. In some localities, rust was observable.

Oats is also doing well, but was somewhat spoiled this year by want of rain in season. The same [has] been mostly raised for food of cattle, only a small quantity was threshed out, and I am therefore unable to give an average on the acre. ...

Rye grows magnificently, about 14 bushels per acre.

Buckwheat also thrives exceedingly well and reaches a height of between 3 and 4 feet.

Thus, the Gruetli wheat yield, 20 bushels per acre, was above even Killebrew’s assumed 15 bushels per acre on \$30 land, not to mention the state average of 7 to 9 bushels per acre. Gruetli rye yield at 14 bushels per acre was more than 50 percent above the state average of 9. Oats probably also outperformed state averages, though precise numbers are missing.

Only of corn was the report unenthusiastic.

Corn did tolerable well, bringing an average of about 20 bushels per acre, although the cool nights seem to make its production somewhat uncertain til a specie may be found which is more able to resist the cool droughts and is better adapted to the climate The cut worms do also considerable damage.

At 20 bushels per acre, the yield was just below the state average of 23. This tone is important, however, because it shows that the report was intended to be accurate, not just a uniform eulogy of Gruetli.

Clearly the Gruetli farmers were defying Killebrew's law that only expensive land was profitable. They knew of that "erroneous opinion" and wanted to correct it. Their land had cost them 50 cents per acre unimproved, not the \$15 which Killebrew indicated as the cost of good unimproved land. Yet their wheat yield was 30 percent above the yield on the good land and their rye yield more than 50 percent above the state average.

What was the secret of the Gruetli miracle? The secretary knew. "Certain it is," he wrote "that the land in general requires regular manuring." It seems to have been an integration of dairying and field crops, manuring and other good agricultural practices. Killebrew's model farm for an immigrant had not included any milk cattle. Cows and their manure played a key role in the Swiss approach to farming.

These comparisons throw a new light on Pluchmaher' savvy as a site selector. Did he perhaps recognize that Swiss farmers could induce superior yields out of this land they could easily afford while purchase of the good land that Killebrew would have had them buy would have put them deeply in debt or been quite impossible for them?

Killebrew and Plumacher, incidentally, later became good friends. Plumacher's memoirs begin with a visit to Killebrew, for it was he who suggested to Plumacher that he take up work as a U.S. Consul.

If Gruetli's agriculture was profitable, one may well ask why it gradually disappeared beginning in the 1920's. In the first place, as the children of the Colony realized that they had

other opportunities, they chose professions they preferred to farming. By 1911, members of the Agricultural Society complain that many of the farms created by German diligence have fallen into “English” hands. These new owners may not have kept up the labor intensive Swiss practices, and Killebrew’s law then went to work and productivity declined. In the second place, Gruetli’s demise should be seen as part of the general out-migration of farm labor. Killebrew reported that 72.6 percent of Tennessee’s population was supported by agriculture.⁵⁶ Today, that share is about three percent.

These developments could hardly have been foreseen by the founders of the Colony fifty years earlier. In the context of its own time, the Colony was remarkably successful.

⁵⁶ *Resources*, page 406.

Chapter 5. Educational, Religious, Artistic, and Social Interests

Education had one of the foremost places in the minds of the Swiss who came to America. They had hardly arrived and provided shelter for themselves when they began planning for the building of a school house; in fact that was the first community affair, after the building of roads, which occupied them. All the members of the colony worked together to put up the little white frame building which stands today as witness to their good workmanship. Each man in the colony gave several days work or money, or both, in order that the building might be finished as soon as possible. It contained one large room with plain wooden benches. Later another room, opening into the larger one, was added. Since the earliest days, the building has been used as a schoolhouse during the week and a church on Sunday. It is located about three quarters of a mile from the center of the settlement and is on the same lot that the cemetery occupies.

From the very outset, English was the spoken language of the school on three days a week, and German was spoken on the other two. This means that all class work was conducted in these languages on their respective days. The same teacher handled both and it was usually some member of the colony who was fitted for it. Who the first teacher or teachers were, I have been unable to find out, but sometime during the seventies, Mr. Rudolph Marugg took up the work which he carried on for a great many years. Mr. Suter and his wife Lena Friedli have told me some interesting tales about the punishments Mr. Marugg inflicted on the children who were all very much afraid of him and dreaded the things he could do to them. Some of them were made to stand in front of the class and hold their hands in the air until they became so tired they couldn't do it any longer. Another frequent punishment was to make them either sit on a warm stove or on a board through which nails had been driven so that the points were sticking upward. During recess the children all had to bring in wood to keep the stove-fire going and if anyone misbehaved during this period his punishment was to kneel on

the sharp edges of several pieces of wood which were laid in a row for his benefit.

As to how many pupils there were in the school, I am not able to say. Of course it must have varied, but in the early eighties Mr. Emil Rychen, who was then a pupil of Mr. Marugg's, said that there were about seventy. This partially explains the severe punishments for it must have been a real task for one man to manage seventy children.

Mr. Rychen also told me that on Wednesday afternoon Mr. Samuel Jenni came and taught singing for two hours. The children looked forward to this because they loved the German songs which were sung to the entire exclusion of English. I have tried to get hold of some of the books used in the school but have been able to locate only two. These were lent me by Mr. Martin Marugg and are called *Das Singvögelein* by P. W. Bickel, published in Cleveland, Ohio, and *Sammlung von Volksgesängen für den Männerchor, Liederbuch für Schule, Haus und Verein* collected by J. Heim and published in Zürich. These books contain the familiar German songs and also many of the beloved Swiss songs of all types.

Gradually the County Board of Education began to make complaints against that use of German in the school, to which I have just referred, so that they were finally forced to abandon the practice. None of the settlers are definite as to when German was actually dropped but it seems to have been about 1900, in the minds of those with whom I have talked. That it ever became necessary for them to drop it seems unfortunate to me. That the school authorities of the county were not farsighted enough to realize the advantage of the children's learning another tongue aside from the English which they all had to learn, is one of the misfortunes of the colony.

The church life of the colony has been rather irregular because of the fact that the settlement has never been large enough to support a regular church and pastor. In the early days church services were held once a month, according to Mr. Emil Rychen, by a preacher who would come there especially for the service. On the other Sundays they held Sunday school, led by prominent members of the colony, such as Mr. Martin Marugg or Mr.

Jakob Angst. These services were all held in the little school house, and still are, with the difference that they have only Sunday school and no church service. The preacher usually came from Belvidere, a Swiss colony in the vicinity of Winchester, Tennessee, and preached in German, which was the only language known to many of the Swiss.

This church was in the beginning, and still is, a branch of "The First Reformed Church (German) of the United States of North America," and embodies all of its beliefs. It is Protestant, and from all I can discover, differs very little from the Protestant churches of other denominations. The constitution of the Gruetli church is given on page 300 of the church records, but it contains nothing of interest except the statement of what the church is and regulations of the yearly meetings and how the officers shall be elected. The influence of the church, or I might say, the interest in the church, seems to have died out around the beginning of the 20th century, for it was then that they stopped recording births, baptisms, confirmations, and marriages. Since then there have been no entries to fill in the many empty pages of this record book.

Music played a large part in the life of the colonists. We have already seen how nearly every gathering of a business nature was either begun or concluded by a song and how important music was in the school. I shall now add material which will show even more conclusively what an important part of the social life music was.

When Mr. Staub was still connected with the colony, he presented the members with a set of brass band instruments. A band was immediately organized under the leadership of John Kissling with weekly rehearsals. Sam Jenni, who was older, and who, we might think, should have been the leader, played the cornet in the band. Mr. Martin Marugg also played cornet, but who the other twelve or fourteen players were, it is impossible now to say. Mr. Marugg told me of this organization and said that they rehearsed each week at a different house so that the fun might be shared by all families. In going to rehearsal they had to carry their instruments with them, climbing fences and walls before reaching their destination. With this treatment, it was not

long before the shiny new horns were full of dents and scratches, reminiscent of uncomfortable falls and thorns. This band, after its frequent and jolly rehearsals, would make public appearances at all community affairs.

For dancing, which was one of the chief amusements, there was another group of musicians. These were Sam Jenni, violin; Kaspar Zopfi, bass; and Martin Marugg, accordion. Mr. Marugg said that they played for all the dances in the colony and although they were not frequent, they were protracted affairs. Every year on the fourth of July and on New Year's there was a big dance and, once in a while, one was given in between these dates. The dances began at four in the afternoon, and lasted until dawn the next morning, when the poor musicians received the sum of two dollars each, for their services. Some of the individual dances lasted from thirty to forty minutes. After one of these long dances, Sam Jenni would pull a long bow and shout "Scho' wieder ein Thaler" (one more dollar), and although it did not actually mean that they would receive another dollar, it might have meant that they had earned another dollar.

Mr. Suter told me that they often had dances on the first of August, which was the anniversary of the founding of the Swiss Republic, but that this celebration gradually shifted over to the fourth of July which was so near. He said that the dances were all held in Angst's Hall, which is a large frame house in the center of the colony and next to the little general store. The four Schild brothers, Chris, Rudy, John and George Willi, ran it as a hotel for several years. The popular dances of the colonists were the mazurka and the schottisch, although in the early nineties some Americans came up from the Sequatchie Valley and introduced the quadrille which became very popular.

Another group which, according to Mr. Suter, also played for dances consisted of Kaspar Zopfi, first violin; John Kissling, second violin; Bals Luchsinger, bass fiddle and Sam Jenni, cornet. This group often went to Sewanee to play for dances for the students, walking the twenty-four miles each way.

Woodcarving stood out as another artistic interest of the colonists. The many beautiful examples of their work are scattered all over the United States by now, after their sale to the

tourists. However, a few families, who were financially able to keep some of the pieces, have them today. These have already been discussed under the Thoni and Rychen families.

On the fourth of July each year, as part of their celebration they had a big rifle-club festival (Schützenfest). Mr. Suter, as one of the boys who mended the targets, told me of the regulations of the game. The targets were placed 300 yards from the shooters. There were six targets, three of which were raised while the other three were being mended by boys hiding behind a stone wall to protect them from the shots. When a bull's eye was made, one of the boys waved a red flag. The score was kept by a man standing next to the shooters. They used Stutzer rifles which had been brought over from Switzerland. The winner of the day was named the "Schützenkönig."

Saturday night was always a "get-together" time for the colonists. Everyone met in the general store where they sat around, drank wine, sang and visited. The men played the favorite Swiss game of "Yass," which is played with regular cards and is sort of a cross between bridge and poker. If this gathering was impossible because of weather conditions, then it was held on the following day, Sunday, at the same place, in the afternoon. I imagine these gatherings took the place of our "calling," since the houses were all so far apart, and telephones, good roads, and automobiles had not yet appeared with their simplification of the visiting habit.

One year, on the first of August, instead of having the regular dance, the colonists held a big picnic to which they all wore their native costumes. This must have been a picturesque and gala affair, and my only regret is that Mr. Suter, who told me of it, was not able to give me any of the details. I have asked other living colonists but no one has been able to fill in any more information.

Wine was always the favorite drink of the colonists, who to this very day are proud of each year's vintage. In the earliest days they used the wild grapes but that plentiful supply soon diminished as the lands were cultivated, and they started growing their own grapes. In the summary of the Landwirtschaftsverein's records, we saw how interested they were in the cultivation

of various varieties. They usually made just enough for their own consumption, although the family of Tony Stocker owned the Tavern (Wirtschaft) which was in the same building that I have already described as Angst's dance hall. Who Mr. Stocker's customers were, it is hard to say, but I rather imagine that they were principally the summer visitors to the mountain, since, as I said before, the colonists made their own supply.

Gruetli in 1886

(The following passage is translated from *Geschichte und Leben der Schweizer Kolonien in den Vereinigten Staaten von Nord-Amerika*, Severin Adelrich Steinach, published by its author in New York, 1889, pp 163-164. The discussion of Gruetli begins with the story of its founding, which adds nothing to Jackson's account. The account of the situation in 1886, however, adds some details and is quite precise about dates. Ed.)

In 1886, the settlement had 400 inhabitants; 70 were native and the others Swiss. They raise corn, rye, wheat, potatoes, fruit, vegetables, and grapes. Nearly every settler has his own wine in his cellar, and farmers with 20 to 30 head of cattle and two horses are numerous. Besides agriculture, many engage in some industry. Those from the far highlands do wood carving and find for their beautiful wares profitable sales in nearby Beersheba Springs, Monteagle, Sewanee, and Tullahoma. A shop making wagons with a branch in Tracy City employs a large number of workers.

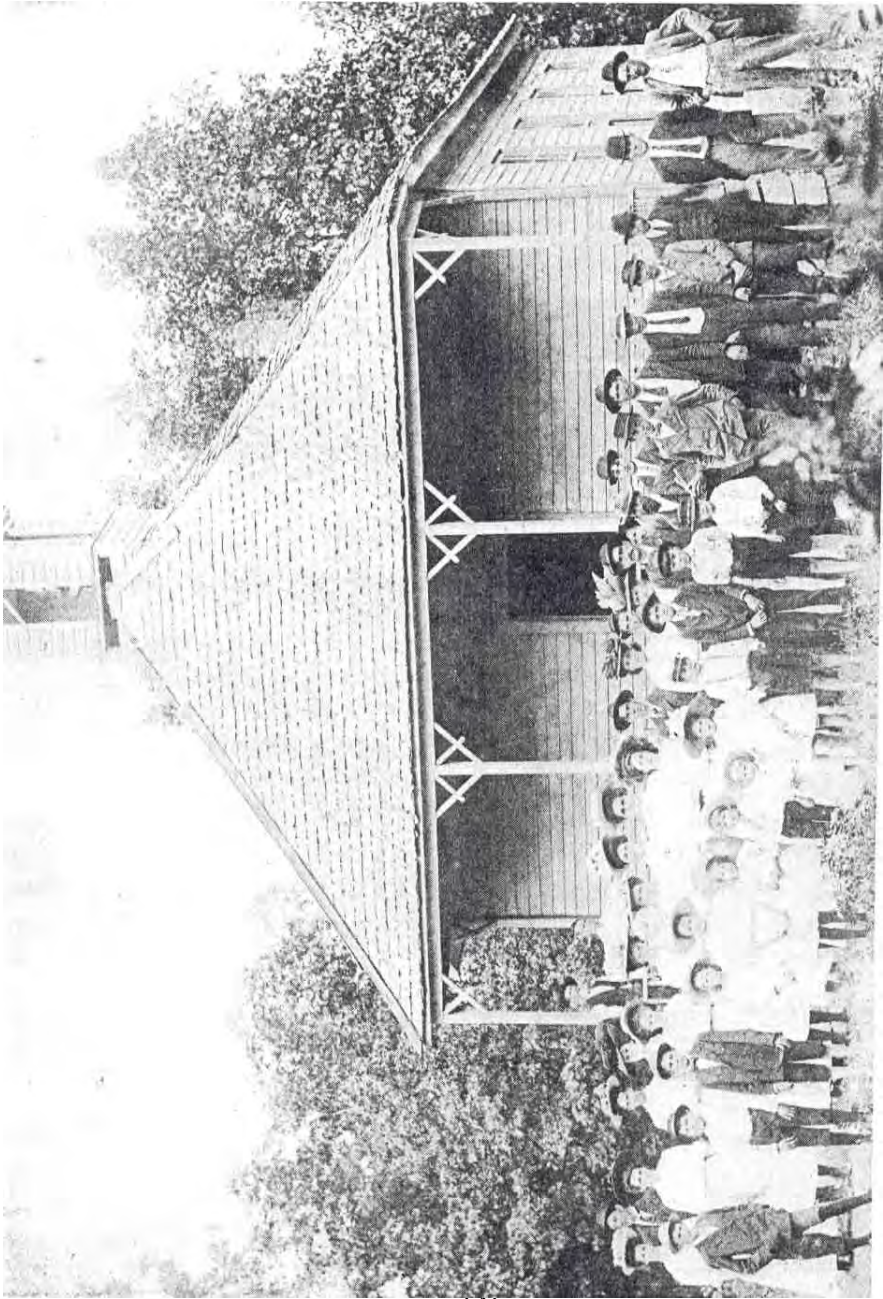
For the development of Gruetli and the cultivation of the social life, a number of societies have been founded. The earliest were for furthering of the whole community. A School Society was formed that built a beautiful school and ensured good instruction. The school directors are: John Kissling, Jacob Kuch, Jr., Jacob Angst, Joseph Stock and John Scholer. The schoolmaster is Rudolf Marugg. In a *spacious* church, Pastor Warren leads the service. A Consumers Union has built a shop where the colonists can buy the items they need but do not produce themselves at cost. At beginning of 1888, this shop was acquired by Christian Marugg and sons, who established a book-printing shop next to it.

An Agricultural Society with 20 members supports the acquisition of agricultural equipment gives advice on the promotion of agriculture.

An Immigration Commission, founded 30 March 1884 with John Kissling as president and Rudolf Marugg as secretary, stands by new arrivals with advice and help (*mit Rath und That*).

Sociability and enjoyment of life are served by a mixed chorus with John Kissling and Samuel Jenny as directors, as well as by a brass band, led by Samuel Jenny and provided with instruments by Peter Staub of Knoxville.

A Shooting Club (*Schützen Verein*) that goes back to 1871 has 31 members and brings Swiss life to the colony in a very lively way.



Opposite page: ***The Union Sunday School in front of the Gruetli School, about 1911.***

The group was studying the writings of Mary Baker Eddy, founder of Christian Science. Identifications were provided many years later by Kate Wichser. Youngsters in the front row from left: Herbert Nussbaum, Corwin Hargis, Tom Kilgore, Annie Siegrist, Elsie Siegrist, Preston Hargis, Peter Heer, Dewey Heddrick, Jap Hargis, and Albert Schlageter. Adults in the back are Lula Letney, John Schild, Daisy Heddrick, Kate Wichser, Minnie Kummer, Fannie Schild, Eda Marugg, Maude Hargis, Margaret Schlageter, Frankie Hargis, Sallie Hargis, Annie Schild, Bob Heddrick, Rose Wichser, Elsie Schild, Maggie Schiesser, Henry Schiesser, Katherine Siegrist, Emil Siegrist (the teacher, with beard), Rudolph Schild, Abe Schiesser, Jim Turner, Herman Schlageter, John Fults, Chris Schild and John McClure. Standing on the porch is Tom Morgan. The school-house stood for several years after the picture was made until two pupils made to "stay in" reportedly burned it. Another building then erected at the same site fell into disuse and has been removed. Today the site is marked by a flagpole and a stone near the Gruetli cemetery. (From a newspaper clipping given the editor by Terry McBroom.)

For help in all undertakings of the societies, where women's hands often have outstanding success, there is a Women's Club (*Frauen Verein*), and to it the colony is indebted for many beautiful services. The beneficent influence of its activity came clearly to light at the dedication of the schoolhouse in the spring of 1884 and at the Youth festival in September 1884.

A great, extraordinary event for the colony was the visit of the chief envoy (*Gesandten Oberst*) E. Frey from Washington in 1883. Mr. Frey visited the Gruetli Colony in the company of several friends, including Mr. Werner from Tracy City and Christian Ruoff from Sewanee. He visited various farms, where he found friendly reception. The Sunday school children, assembled in the school greeted him with songs, after which Mr. Frey praised them appropriately and encouraged them on to new efforts. The next day was devoted to sociability and merrymaking with music and banqueting. Mr. Frey expressed his joy that the colony had made so much progress in such a short time. Since 1881, the number of inhabitants had doubled and instead of log huts (*Blockhütter*) there now stood beautiful residences, a schoolhouse, a church, a post office, and other institutions of civilization.

The postmaster is C. Marugg, and the societies meet with him. Jacob Fehr is county treasurer. H.S. Heer and R. Marugg are justices of the peace. Farms are owned by C. Hofstetter, H. Flury, P.Schild, Caspar Zopfi, J. Kissling, J. Furrer, Jacob Fehr, and many others.

J. Kissling, besides his farm, operates a sawmill; Grossmann, a woodcarving shop; Marugg and Fehr, an inn and winery. P.C. Favel, from the Canton of Waadt, experimented in growing grapes and making wine as early as 1845. He planted European grapes but was not successful. However, Anton Stocker, Benedikt Studer and Hege in Beersheba Springs had good success with native grapes. J. Fehr and C. Marugg even received praise for their fine wine at the agricultural exhibit in New Orleans in February 1886.

The climat seems advantageous for health, for there have so far been few deaths in the colony. Among the deceased, howev-

er, should be mentioned Anton Stocker from Willisau, born in 1828, who was among the first settlers in 1869 and died in 1884.

* * *

One collection of German books that has come down to us shows that someone was an avid reader of murder mysteries in German. Someone had a subscription to *Die Welt*, a general interest quarterly for German speakers in America.

A quick inventory of the books in the Stocker-Stampfli house in the summer of 2003 showed the complete works of Goethe in six large volumes, the letters of Horace in German verse translation by Wieland from the Latin, a guide to the United States for immigrants from Germany, several Bibles, both in English and German, a phrase book and guide to French pronunciation for German speakers, a little book on arithmetic, a book on growing hops, and several books on religious instruction. The most unusual was certainly *Die Seherin von Prevost* with a title page that may be translated as:

The Seeress of Prevost

Revelations about
the Inner Life of Man
and about
the Raying in of a Spiritual World into Ours

related by Justinus Kerner
with 8 lithographs

Stuttgart and Tubingen, J.G. Cotta Bookstore

1829

Chapter 6. Conclusion

In looking back over the results of this study, the first thing which stands out in my mind is the influence which Captain E. H. Plumacher had in the starting of the colony. Without his having, discovered the spot, and without his having interested Mr. Staub and Consul Hitz in the project, there would never have been a colony on Cumberland Mountain. Whether or not his idea was a wise one, or whether or not the Swiss would have been better off in Switzerland, is a moot question. As to the part Mr. Staub played in the founding, there seems to be one general opinion among all who belong to, or are connected with the colony, and that is that he was a first class swindler, who bled the people for all he could get out of them (through the land deals) and then tried to smooth things over by presenting the settlement with a set of band instruments.⁵⁷

The hardships of the colonists in the first years are unbelievable. That they were alone in a God-forsaken spot, added to their misery and in spite of all their cries of "Seid Einig!," the reports of members of the colony, that in the earlier years, they often went hungry throughout entire winters, was eloquent evidence of their sufferings.

In every community of considerable size, there are likely to be some families that stand out in various fields. The Schild family, which is one of the largest, is noteworthy for having stayed in Gruetli when nearly everyone of the other eighty or ninety families, with the exception of perhaps fifteen, have left the mountain. The Marugg family represents one of the best educated and most influential families. The Thoni and Rychen families, inseparably bound through marriage, I have mentioned for their accomplishments in woodcarving. And finally the Kissling and Jenni families, who also being united by marriage, were the leaders in the musical life of the colony.

⁵⁷ [See the note on Staub's land operations which follows this chapter. *Ed.*]

The agricultural interests were naturally of prime importance, and the minutes of the Agricultural Society, which I have given in outline form, show the trends of thought and the efforts of the settlers to make their community a successful one. The difficulties they had in trying to raise all the crops that had been promised in the "Broschüren," their efforts at introducing new products were in most cases futile.

That which I have said in this study as to the education which they so generously fostered, their church which they support today (now only in Sunday school form), their music which has always been a necessary outlet for their spirits, and their community gatherings which have been their biggest help in feeling at home in a new fatherland, helps us to know these people more intimately, to understand their difficulties, and to realize the uniqueness of the colony of Gruetli, in the sparsely settled mountain districts of Tennessee.



.The cemetery at Gruetli, from the thesis

Appendix A. German Text of a Brochure

OST-TENNESSEE,
die Amerikanische Schweiz.

An Ackerbauer!

Der Staat, wo man sich niederlassen sollte.

Grosse Facilitäten für Fabrikanten jeder Art in Ost-Tennessee.

Anliegend findet sich ein Circular, welches eine genaue Darlegung der Vortheile enthält, welche die Eisen- und Stahlfabrikation in Ost-Tennessee bringen muss. Dieser grosse Landstrich, die zukünftige Heimath einer zahlreichen, wohlhabenden Bevölkerung, wird bald nach allen Richtungen von Bahnschienen durchzogen sein und die Eisenmanufaktur wird die Handelswege vervielfältigen. Eisen, welches acht Dollars per Tonne in Pennsylvanien zu produziren kostet, kann in Ost-Tennessee für einen Dollar und sechzig Cents produziert werden. Die Kohlen- und Eisenminen sind kaum eine Meile von einander entfernt, auf einem Areal von mehr als vierzig Meilen. Die Zeit wird kommen, in welcher dieses enge Thal und dieser Landstrich voller Hochöfen sein wird. Kohle, Eisen, Kalk, Sandstein, Thonerde, verschiedene Arten des besten Nutzholzes, vortreffliche Wasserkraft, alles liegt unbenutzt und wartet auf Kapital und Unternehmungsgeist, die besten Märkte für den Verkauf aller möglichen Fabrik-Artikel, Eisen und Stahl eingeschlossen, sind jetzt vorhanden. Eisen und Kohle dieser Gegend sind von erfahrenen, tüchtigen Eisenkennern und Fachmannern für besser erklärt worden, als die Produkte von Pennsylvanien. Mehrere Eisenbahnen sind jetzt im Bau begriffen, darunter die Cincinnati und Chattanooga Eisenbahn, welche diese Region durchschneidet. Alle diese Eisenbahnen werden wesentlich zur Hebung der Mineralschätze in diesem Theile des Staates beitragen. Das Beispiel Pennsylvanien's zeigt, wie wohlhabend eine Bevölkerung durch die Eisenproduktion werden kann. Wenn Tennessee will, so kann es ein zweites Pennsylvanien werden.

Ihre Aufmerksamkeit wird achtungsvoll auf diese Vortheile der Kapitalanlage gelenkt.

Die ungeheuren Reichtümer, welche aus den Minen Ost-Tennessee's zu haben sind, haben eine grosse Bedeutung. Die geringe Kapitalanlage und Arbeit, welche erforderlich ist, die Agricultur- und Mineral-reichtümer des Staates zu entwickeln und die Fruchtbarkeit des Bodens sind gewiss bedeutende Reizmittel für den Emigranten; dieselben müssen Denen, welche sich in jenen Regionen niederlassen, bedeutenden Wohlstand einbringen, denn die Gegend gehört zu den reichsten des Landes. Die zahlreichen Eisenbahnen, welche ihre gigantischen Arme nach allen Richtungen ausstrecken, sowie die verschiedenen Dampferlinien, stellen eine ununterbrochene Verbindung zwischen der übervölkerten alten Welt und den noch dünn bevölkerten Regionen von Ost-Tennessee her, wo jeder Einwanderer sich für die Mühe, welche er sich machte, hierher zu kommen, durch die Ausbeute der Agricultur- und Mineral-Reichtümer reich belohnt finden wird.

Das Clima und der Boden von Ost-Tennessee sind der Thee-Cultur äusserst günstig und Tennessee'r Thee wird bereits vielfach getrunken. Viele ziehen ihren ganzen Hausbedarf ohne grosse Muhe und Kosten. In einer einzigen Saison reifen drei Theeerndten. Die allgemeine Einführung einer erfolgreichen Thee-Cultur wird diejenigen reich entschädigen, welche sich derselben widmen. Die Theepflanze ist ein immergrüner, wurzelreicher Strauch, ungefähr 5 Fuss hoch, welcher auf Bergland eben so gut gedeiht als im Thale und niemals des Schutzes vor Frosten bedarf.

An der Linie der "Ost-Tennessee und Virginia- Eisenbahn" entlang, zieht sich eine Ader vortrefflichen Marmors mit elf Varietäten, zwei derselben sind dem berühmten Rosso antique und dem rauhen antique Marmor Italiens an Güte gleich. Die Quantität ist unerschöpflich, die Dichtigkeit ist compact und der Stein gänzlich frei von Poren. Prof. Dickinson hat kürzlich eine ganz neue Marmorart entdeckt, welche er Zebra nennt, wegen der eigenthümlichen Vertheilung der weissen und chokoladefarbenen Streifen. Dieser Marmor ist der feinsten Politur fähig, er ist das reine Kalk-Carbonat. Blöcke von irgend welchem Umfange können in diesen Marmorbrüchen gebrochen werden.

Die wilde Traube wuchert in reicher Fülle, ebenso wachsen Pfirsiche und Birnen der besten Qualität. Man hat hier Pfirsiche von 9 Zoll Umfang und 9 Unzen Gewicht gezogen; Pfauennüsse wachsen in reicher Fülle. Die Wälder sind voller Hochwild und wilder Truthäne.

Dieser Landstrich eignet sich besonders für Nordländer und Einwanderer. Er ist eine feste Burg der Loyalität und wenn ich Etwas zu bedauern habe, so ist es nur, dass derselbe so dünn bevölkert ist und noch so viel werthvolles Land wüst liegt.

Der erste Eindruck, welchen der Besucher von Ost-Tennessee erhält, ist, dass der Staat gute Fortschritte in der Reconstruction der Geschäfte macht, die Bahnverbindungen sind vollkommen, werden aber täglich mit übermenschlicher Anstrengung noch weiter ausgedehnt und vermehrt. Alle these Vortheile, verbunden mit den ausserordentlich niedrigen Landpreisen, (von 5 bis 20 und 30 Dollars pro Acker) sind grosse Verlockungen für den Einwanderer, zumal Ländereien von 1-100 Ackern, je nach Wunsch des Ansiedlers verkauft werden. . . .

DER BODEN

Der Boden im Thale ist im Allgemeinen dunkelschwarzer Lehmboden erster Klasse und da wo er bewaldet, oder kürzlich erst urbar gemacht wurde, ist er sehr reich und fruchtbar und steht nur dem Prairielande des Westens nach. Ländereien, welche jetzt ein halbes Jahrhundert lang bebaut werden, sind theilweise sehr reich, theilweise auch erschöpft, weil ihre Bebauer niemals Gras säen und überhaupt nach dem schlechtesten, das Land am meisten erschöpfenden Systeme wirtschaften; dennoch sind die Ländereien sehr rasch wieder ertragfithig gemacht, indem sie eine starke Thonschichte, vermischt mit primitives Thon und Mergel haben. Es ist nicht von Bedeutung, nach welcher Richtung hin das Land liegt, überall ist es warm, der Boden ist allenthalben produktiv und belohnt den Ackerbauer liberal für seine Arbeit. Die Bodenbeschaffenheit des hochplateaus und der Bergkette ist steinig, theilweise sandig, grösstentheils aber besteht sie aus Sandlehm, mit einer Thonschicht als Unterlage.

DAS CLIMA

Kein Theil der Union ist so sehr durch ein schönes und gesundes Clima begünstigt, als dieser. Der grösste Schnee, welcher im letzten Winter fiel, war im Thale nicht tiefer als 1-2 Zoll und auf dem Plateau und der Hügelkette nicht tiefer, als 6 Zoll. Die grossen Ströme frieren kaum einmal in 25 Jahren zu, dennoch sind die Morgenstunden kuhl, manchmal frostig und während des Winters immer ziemlich frisch. Der Frühling beginnt ziemlich bald, die Sommer sind lang, doch infolge der eigenthümlichen Lage des Landes nicht übermässig heiss. Nirgends kann der Sommer angenehmer sein, als auf der Hügelkette und dem Hochplateau. Die Herbste sind lang und dauern bis spät in den Dezember. Die Landleute pflügen gewöhnlich während des ganzen Winters. Wir haben hier weder den kalten erstarrenden Winter des Nordens, noch die lähmende, erschlafende Hitze des Südens.

DIE PRODUKTE

Was die Produkte des Landes betrifft, so sind wir so sehr begünstigt als irgend ein Landstrich der Union. Wir können Alles bauen was im Norden und im Süden gezogen wird. Das Plateau trägt Korn, Hafer und alle Vegetabilien der besten Art. Im letzten Sommer wurden innerhalb fünf Meilen des Ortes, wo ich wohne, Weissrüben gezogen, deren Umfang zwanzig Zoll betrug; die Kartoffeln sind hier sehr gross und von ausgezeichneter Qualität. Das Thal produziert Waizen, Mais, Hafer, Roggen und Klee in Fülle.

DIE VIEHZUCHT

Dieses ist ein Viehzüchterland erster Klasse, unser mildes Clima erfordert wenig Stallung. Während das Plateau reichlich freie Weide bietet, die vom 1. April bis zum 1. Dezember grün bleibt, gewährt das Thal mehr oder weniger drei ganzen Winter hindurch Grasweide. Als ein Land für Viehzucht ist Ost-Tennessee den Prairien in mancher Hinsicht vorzuziehen und steht selbst dem Besten nicht nach. Vor dem Kriege hielt ein Mann hier an 600 Stück Rinder.

OBSTZUCHT

Wir sind reich mit Obst gesegnet. Aepfel, Birnen, Pflirsiche, Pflaumen, Kirschen und alle Arten kleineren Obstes gedeihen in

Fülle. Wir ziehen vortreffliche Winteräpfel, unsere Sommeräpfel reifen bereits in Juni. Auf dem Plateau und den Bergen gedeihen die Aepfel an besten, im Thale werden ausgezeichnete Pfirsiche gezogen, dieselben wachsen an den Strassen und in den Ecken der Einzäunungen. Es ist selten, dass wir eine schlechte Obsterndte haben. Die letzte Sendung von Winteräpfeln nach dem Staate Georgia wurde zu \$10 per Fass vorkauft.

MINERALIEN

Wir haben Ueberfluss an vortrefflichen Kohlen. Das Plateau und die Bergkette werden von verschiedenen ergiebigen Adern durchzogen. Es finden sich hier unerschöpfliche Lager von Eisenerz, Kalk ist ebenfalls gefunden worden, Sand- und Thonstein werden mit Leichtigkeit erlangt, such haben wir hier verschiedene Arten von Salzen.

DAS WASSER

Das Wasser ist klar, rein und chryallgleich; es bildet nirgends stagnirende Sümpfe, sondern fließt rasch ab, wo es aus der Erde quillt. Im Thale sind die Flussbette lehmig, auf den Höhen steinig mit Kalk untermischt, letzteres Wasser wird zu Heilzwecken sehr geschätzt.

DER GESUNDHEITZUSTAND

Ich halte these Gegend für einen der gesundesten Theile des ganzen Landes und diese Ansicht scheint allgemein zu sein; denn wenn man das Land durchreist, wird man Viele finden, welche nur aus Gesundheitsrücksichten hierhergezogen sind. Wir haben keine lokalen Krankheitsursachen irgend einer Art. Die Gesundheit ist im Allgemeinen die Regel und die Krankheit die Ausnahme.

EMIGRATION

Gegenwärtig erhalten Ost-Tennessee und die angrenzenden Theile von Mittel-Tennessee ihren reichlichen Antheil von der Einwanderung und die Nachfragen aus dem Norden, Osten und Westen, bezüglich des Landes mehren sich und deuten an, dass von dort in nicht ferner Zeit ein bedeutender Zuwachs der Bevölkerung zu erwarten steht. Die Gesetzgebung des Staates,

die verschiedenen Einwanderungs-Gesellschaften und die Bahn-Compagnieen verbreiten beständig jede Information über Land und Leute und gewähren solchen Personen thatsächliche Hülfe, welche in Tennessee sich niederlassen wollen.

DIE OEFFENTLICHE MEINUNG

Ich will hier bemerken, dass ich von Washington County, Pa., hier eingewandert bin und dass die Bevölkerung mich dessenungeachtet sehr freundschaftlich und liebenswürdig behandelt. Und so viel ich weiss, werden andere Nordländer mit derselben Frömmlichkeit und Zuvorkommenheit behandelt, sobald sie Anstalten treffen, sich bleibend hier nieder zu lassen. Die Bevölkerung sieht Einwanderer nicht nur gern, sie wünscht sogar sehnlichst, dass Einwanderer kommen und sich hier niederlassen. Jeder Nordländer, der sich hier anständig beträgt, wird der Bevölkerung willkommen sein; er ist hier eben so sicher, als in den Staaten Pennsylvanien und New York. Nordländern und Capital oder mit Willenskraft und starken Armen möchte ich zurufen: "Kommt hierher! Tennessee ladet Euch ein und hier ist Platz genug für Tausende."

LANDPREISE

Land kostet von 5 bis 35 Dollars per Acker, der Durchschnittspreis ist gewöhnlich \$20 bei reellem Werthe. Wir haben schöne Waldungen im Ueberfluss. Gegenwärtig steigen die Landpreise und es sind alle Aussichten vorhanden, dass sie in Zukunft noch mehr und noch schneller steigen werden. Ich will keine Vergleiche mit anderen Landstrichen anstellen, aber ich will Denjenigen, welche nach einem Lande auszuwandern wünschen, wo kein langer strenger Winter den Comfort zerstört und die Einnahmen des Sommers aufzehrt, wo ein baldiger Frühling die Natur in seinen grünen Mantel hüllt, wo ein langer Sommer dem Landmanne genügend Zeit gibt, seine Arbeit belohnt - zurufen: Kommt, seht und urtheilt dann selbst.

Niemand kann sich eine Idee bilden von der Grossartigkeit und dem Reichthume der natürlichen Vorzüge, welche Ost-Tennessee besitzt; das muss man selbst gesehen haben, wenn man es glauben soll. Eine Bevölkerung gutherzig und freundlich, mit einem anerkanntem Sinn für Ehre und Rechtlichkeit, bekannt

durch ihre nachbarliche Freundschaft ladet Euch ein, unter ihr Eure Wohnsitze aufzuschlagen und ihr zu helfen die Ressourcen des Staates zu entwickeln, die reichen Mineral und Agricul-turschätze zu heben, mit welcher eine gütige und gnädige Vorse-hung diesen westlichen Theil von Tennessee so reich gesegnet hat.

(There follow excerpts from several papers and magazines; namely, *New-Yorker Tribune*, *Philadelphia Press*, *Harpers Monthly Magazine*, and *Philadelphian Blatt*, which contain similar descriptions of East Tennessee.)

Diejenigen, welche von Europa kommen und Tennessee zu ihrem Bestimmungsorte erwählt haben, schiffen sich am Besten auf einem Dampf- oder Segelschiffe für Norfolk, Va., ein; fahren dann mit der Virginia-Ost-Tennessee Bahn direkt nach Chattanooga, welches ungefähr 300 Meilen entfernt ist und eine Eisenbahnfahrt von 10 Stunden erfordert. Von Liverpool, London, Bremen oder Hamburg kann man die ganze Reise in 12 bis 18 Tagen machen.



The stagecoach inn in a picture from 1908. Tradition says it was built by Christian Marugg, but firm facts are wanting.

Appendix B. GermanText of the First Pages of the Church Records

I shall leave all mistakes as they appear in the original, giving notes on those which are not easily understood.

Gründung des Vereins.

Zur Weihe des Grütli versammelten sich Sonntags den 11 April, [1869] Nachmittags, die in hiesiger Umgegend niedergelassenen Schweizer. Der Sprecher fasste diesen Nahmen, von der bedeutungsvollen Seite, und erwähnte, wie klein die Zahl der vor mehr als 550 Jahren, auf dieser stillen Bergwiese versammelten Eidgenossen war, und wie dennoch viel Segen und Glück derselben entspross, Oestreichs Gewaltherrschaft musste ihrem treuen Zusammenhalten zum Opfer fallen. Gut und Blut wagten sie Jahrhundertelang, dem hehren Gut der Freiheit, und heute noch erfreuen sich unser Mitbrüder daheim im Vaterlande derselben. Auch an uns ist nun, die Gründung einer Schweizer Colonie zu fördern und ihr Gedeihen zu sichern. Nicht mit Pulver und Blei müssen wir das Ziel erringen, unter den friedlichen Waffen des Landmans fallen die Riesen des Waldes, allein dennoch ist Eintracht, Muth und Ausdauer nothwendig, ein ächt social demokratischer Sinn muss uns beseelen, ein uneigen-nütziges Sinnen und Handeln muss uns zu Grunde liegen, um unser Ziel zu erreichen die Colonie zu fordern und zu erhalten. Eintracht und Vertragssamkeit muss bei allen unsere Versammlungen vorherrschen, dann wird der Allmächtige Lenker unsere Schicksale, unseren Wollen das Gedeihen nicht versagen, da wird Segen und Heil auch dieser Stätte für die Nachwelt entspriessen, und Werden wir auch nützliche Bürger unsere Adotiv-Vaterlandes werden.

Unter dem 2ten Mai (1869) wurde der vorgelegte Statutentwurf angenommen und zur leitenden Behörde erwählt: Heinrich Schwarz in Grüli Präsident, Rudolph Wegelin in Bersheba Spring Vicepräsident, und Jakob Schneider Zur Long-

mühle Aktuar. Dieser Versammlung wohnte Herr Emil Plümacher welcher vom schweizerischen Auswanderungsverein als Direktor der Colonie erwählt, indem auch das Projekt von ihm ausgegangen, bei; er referirte über die Schwierigkeiten welche seinem Projekt noch bevorstehen, zeigte an, das noch keine Acktionzeichnung zu Stande gekommen, von anderer Seite, aber, werde ihm Hülfe schnell zu Theil werden.⁵⁸ Er bitte die Colonisten um Geduld mit dem versprechen sein möglichstes zur schnellen Erledigung der Colonieangelegenheit zu thun. Am 31 Mai ging die zwischen Herr Col. Hughs und Herr Plumacher festgesetzte Vertrags frist zu Ende; laut welchem mit diesem Tage, 30 Familien permanent auf dem Colonieland sollten angesiedelt sein. Der Grütliverein brachte in Erfahrung, das Herr Col. Hughes, nicht mehr Willens den Vertrag zu halten, indem Plumacher in keiner Beziehung seine Pflichten erfüllt, diese Nachricht bewog den Verein in seiner Versammlung vom 6 Juni eine Bittschrift an unser hohes General Consultat zu richten, und ihn um Hülfe zu ersuchen. Diese hatte den gewünschten Erfolg, zu unser Versammlung am 4 Juli langten zwei Abgeordnete unseres Tit. hohen General Consultats, Herr Wermuth und Herr Peter Staub begleitet von Herr Col. Hughes an; um diese Angelegenheit zu untersuchen. Um den hohen schweizerischen Bundesrath eine gewissenhafte Berichterstattung zu machen, wünschte Herr Wermuth, erster Sekräter des Consuhats aus dem Munde jedes einzeln, Stimmung und Wünsche zu vernehmen, bereits mit Einmuth wurde von allen erklärt, das ihnen Klima und Lage wohlgefallen, und das sie glauben, es sei möglich sich eine freie eigene Existenz zu gründen, von Allen wurde gewün-

⁵⁸ This sentence is so confused that an entire revision of it is necessary for understanding. "Dieser Versammlung wohnte Herr Emil Plumacher, welcher vom schweizerischen Auswanderungsverein als Direktor der Colonie erwählt wurde; bei, er referierte über die Schwierigkeiten welche seinem Projekt noch bevorstehen, er zeigte an, dass noch keine Aktionszeichnung zu Stande gekommen sei, von anderer Seite jedoch werde ihm schnell Hilfe zuteil werden."

scht, es möchte die Colonie schnell zu Stande Kommen, um die Arbeit beginnen zu können.

Herr Col. Hughes erklärte sich bereit mit den Colonisten einen neuen Vertrag abzuschliessen, und dem eifrigen Bemühen der beiden Herrn Abgeordneten gelang es, einen für die Colonisten sehr günstigen Vertrag zu erzielen.

Laut diesem Vertrag, wurden alle 50 Acker Lots der Strasse nachgeschenkt, und für die im Hintergrund anstossenden ein Verkaufsrecht für 1 Dollar per Acker jedem Colonisten eingeräumt. Diese Abänderung verursachte einen neuen Verzug, indem die ausgewählte Länderei, verschiedenen Eigenthümern zugehörte, welche sich die billige Kaufsumme nicht gefallen lassen wollten, und vielseitigen Bemühungen gelang es endlich, die erste Verloosung auf den 16 August anzuordnen, an welchem Tag Mr. Buolen und Hill, die bedeutendsten Land-schenker, der ersten 5000 Acker, beiwohnten.

Protokoll der Gemeinde Versammlung vom 16 August (1869) im Grütli. Vormittags 10 Uhr. Die Protokolls des Grütlivereins vom 6 Juni, 4 und 18 Juli werden verlesen und mit Einmuth ratifiziert. Hierauf referierte der Präsident über den Gang der Colonieangelegenheit bis zur Gegenwart. Der Vorstand des Vereins beantrage, das die Gemeinde sich heute konstituiren solle, eine Behörde erwählen, welche von nun an, die Beschlüsse zur Ausführung zu bringen habe.

Als heutige Tagesordnung schlage der Vorstand vor:

1. Beschluss betreff Antritt der Landerei, und Verloosung derselben am heutigen Tage.
2. Aufnahme der zur Verloosung Berechtigten.
3. Wahl eines Vorstandes aus deren Mitte.
4. Abschluss eines Vermessungsvertrags mit Ingenieur Baur.
5. Anzahlung an die Vermessungskosten.

6. Ziehung der Loose.⁵⁹
7. Beschluss betreff Nachholen der Frohndienste.
8. Unvorhergesehenes.

Die Tagesordnung wurde gefällig erklärt. Zu betreff Antritt der Länderei, wurde die uns zugesandte Abschrift von Herr Wermuth datirt Knoxville den 10 Juli, welche derselbe an das Tit. hohe General Consulat richtete, verlesen, aus der sich ergab, das laut Vertrag, von keinem andere Land die Rede sein könne als das von Mr. Buolen uns zugemessene. Die Uebereinstimmung mit dem Vertrag einerseits, die befriedigenden Aeusserungen, von den beiden beiwohnenden Herrn Buolen und Hill andererseits, bewirkten den Beschluss definitive Besitzname des Landes zunehmen und zur Befriedigung der Bürger, dieselbe am gleichen Tage zu verloossen. Der Verloossungsplan zeigte, das nach Abzug des Schullandes sowie der Strassen, noch 48 Loose zur Verfung stehen, und wurde beschlossen das sofort alle zur Verloossung kommn sollen, definitive Anmeldungen waren 52, deshalb musste auf 4 Auswärts wohnende verzichtet werden, 48 Bürger wurden zur Ziehung berechtigt, deren Namensverzeichnis bei der Verloossung folgen wird. Auf Antrag von Herrn Baur wurde die Wahl eines Vorstandes neuerdings verschoben, bis nach der Ankunft unsers Tit. hohen General Consulat. Der zwischen Herrn Baur und dem Vorstand Nahmens der Gemeinde abgefasste Vertrag für die Eintheilung und Vermessung wird verlesen, im Wortlaut angenommen. In Bezug Deckung der Vemessungskosten, wurde beschlossen.

⁵⁹ The word "Loose" (for Lose, plural of Los meaning lot, as in "drawing lots," or as a prize in a lottery) is used in this record in its meaning (rare in German speaking countries) of a parcel of land. Here and there the English "lot" takes its place. Verlosung (here spelled variously) is the "allotting process" or the giving out of the colony's lots, not the holding of a lottery or the "raffling off" as it would seem to mean, from the angle of pure German usage. [Another report describing writing the lot numbers on pieces of paper which were then drawn by the colonists.]

- a) Die von Plumacher ausgestellten Quittungen, an Zahlungsstatt anzunehmen, bis das hohe Consulat deren Kraftslosigkeit erkärt.
- b) Jeder, auf den obiges nicht Bezug habe, und an heutiger Verloossung theil nehmen wolle, habe sofort 4 Dollar an die Vermessungskosten zu bezahlen.

Der restierende Betrag von 11 Dollar, soll nachdem die Vermessung beendigt, welches bis Ende November geschehen soll, innert [= innerhalb] Monatsfrist an Baur bezahlt werden, im Unterlassungsfall würde Verzichtleistung angenommen und die Gemeinde würde neuerdings über die betreffenden Lots verfügen.

In Bezug der Frohndienste wurde beschlossen, wer bis zum 1 November (1869) Besitz von seinem Lot nehme, und als dann bereit sei, die Frohndienste nachzumachen, sei es bewilligt, später Ankommende dagegen, haben für jeden Tag 1 Dollar zu bezahlen, um die Arbeiten im Tagelohn oder Akkord ausführen zu lassen.

Für Auswärtige denen man keine Kenntniss von der Verloossung geben konnte wurde verfügt, die Loosse zu ziehen, ihnen schriftliche Mittheilung zu machen, und sie aufzufordern innert Monats frist die erste Anzahlung an die Vermessungskosten zu machen, und zu erklären, ob sie die Frohnen nachholen oder bezahlen wollen. Wer diese Pflichten innert Monatsfrist nicht erfüllt wird Versicht angenommen. Auf allgemeines Verlangen Unterbruch [= pause, break] bis 2 Uhr. Der Anfang am Nachmittag wurde gemacht, mit dem deponiren der Plumacherischen Quittungen, und Einzahlung der laut vomittäglichen Beschluss zu zahlenden 4 Dollar. Von 17 Bürgern wurde quittungen deponirt, 24 machten die Anzahlung von 4 Dollar, und für 7 Auswärts wohnende gelten obige Bestimmungen

Die Verloossung ging in bester Ruhe und Ordnung vor sich und es erzeugte sich folgendes Resultat:

- 6 Leonhard von Rohr, durch Tausch mit Carl Ruodin No.7
- 4 Caspar Fuchs – von der Gemeinde zurückgezogen –

Anton Rockers

- 3 Jakob Lanz
- 14 Leon Stocker
- 16 Heinrich Lanz
- 12 Benedikt Studer
- 1 Jakob Fehr
- 24 Anton Heuggeller, durch Kauf an John Bahnholzer
- 5 Joseph Stocker, älter
- 13 Caspar Schild
- 2 Rudolph Wegelin
- 30 John Stauffer, Vertauscht an No. 54
- 9 Conrad Bolli
- 38 Joseph Burri
- 39 Anton Stocker
- 19 Ulrich Weiss
- 18 Heinrich Schwarz zur Longmühle
- 8 Georg Schwarz zur Longmühle
- 21 Samuel Müller – Gegenwärtig Mischen
- 10 Melchior Thöny
- 36 Hch. Bertschinger
- 31 August Werdmüller
- 34 Peter Kissling
- 23 Jakob Schneider
- 17 Carl Zehnter -- Gegenwärtig J. Heller
- 11 Joh. Rychen
- 28 Joseph Stocker
- 22 Jakob Bollinger
- 20 Heinrich Egli
- 32 Heinrich Wagner
- 33 Joh. Kissling
- 25 Caspar Holzhauser – Gegenwärtiger Kaufre Joh.
Bahnholzer
- 26 J.U. Baur -- Gegenwärtig Joh. Bahnholzer
- 15 Christian Hofstetter
- 7 Carl Studin [Ruodin?] -- Tausch Leonhard von Rohr
- 35 Joh. Baumgartner
- 27 Jakob Fruttiger
- 37 Friedrich Seidel. Kauf -- Hch. Bertschinger
- 29 Hch. Schwarz, älter
- 50 Friedrich Born

- 46 Jakob Zurcher
- 42 Albert Gräuicher
- 41 Jakob Seier
- 43 Jakob Külling
- 45 Peter Schild
- 40 Jakob Schwarz
- 44 Zimmerli Concurati

Nach der Verloossung war eine fröhliche Heiterkeit, wo schallende Hoch ertönten unserm hochgeachteten Herrn General Consul Hitz, Consul Staub, Wermuth, sowie den Landschenkern Buolin, Hill in Altamont und Mr. Hughes in McMinnville. Entlassung der Gemeinde.

Verzeichnis der Besitzer im zweiten Bezirk.

- 46 Joh. Zurcher
- 51 Friedrich Fawer
- 52 Carl Fawer
- 53 Christian Häberli
- 54 Melchior Zwald
- 55 Alcide Faigoux
- 56 Carl Stucki
- 57 Caspar Zopfi
- 58 C. Hohliger
- 59 Jb. Seier
- 59 Christian Ruf
- 60 Christ. Amacher
- 61 Caspar Kreis
- 61 J. Rottach
- 62 Heinrich Scharrer
- 63 J. Vogt
- 64 N. Werdmüller
- 65 Heinrich Werdmüller
- 66 Fried. Müller
- 67 Friedrich Born
- 68 Joseph Fluri
- 69 Fried. Kneubühl
- 70 Melchior Jnäbnet
- 71 Jakob Mäder
- 72 Joh. Scholer

73	J. Amstutz
74	Ulrich Zimmermann
75	Eduard Berger
77	Gebrüder Huggenberger
77	Fritz von Gunten
81	Wermuth, Canzler des G. Consulats
82	Consul Staub

Protokol vom 9 Sept. in Grütli. Auf den Wunsch von Herr General Consul Hitz und Consul Staub wurde die Gemeinde ausserordentlich versammelt um folgende Traktanten zu erledigen.

- 1) Constituierung der Gemeinde.
- 2) Entwurf einer Gemeinde verfassung.
- 3) Wahl einer leitenden Behorde.
- 4) Referat von Herrn General Consul Hitz, betreff Bedingungen und Sicherung des Colonie Landes. Die Gemeinde konstituirte sich als eine politische Gemeinde umfassend einen Flächen-raum von 9090 Akern, und ersuchte Herrn General Consul Hitz über nach benannte Zweck-bestimmung, uns ein Gemeinde-reglement zu entwerfen, und für die Incorporation zu sorgen.

Zweck: Die Gemeinde Switserland, Grundy County, Tennessee bezweckt innerhalb der Schranken der Bundesverfassung der Vereinigten Staaten, sowie der Staatsgesetze von Tennessee, und Verordnungen des County "Grundy" - religiöse sittliche, Schul und Volksbildung nach Kräften zu Fordern, sowie auch gemeinsames Wirken, die geistige und matterielle Wohlfahrt, der in ihrem Umkreis Angesiedelten zu sichern. Die Wahlen, wurden auf Vorschlag des Consulats, in demokratischen Sinn eingeführt. In 10 Lotbesitzer wählten ein Mitglied in den Gemeinderath, oder als den ein Bruchtheil. Zur Vollziehungsbehörde, wurde auf Vorschlag des Gemeinderathes, ein Vorstand von 3 Mitgliedern erwählt.

Wahl des Gemeinderathes:

1 District	Lot No.	1-10	Georg Schwarz
2 District	“	11-20	Heinrich Egli
3 District	“	21-30	Jacob Schneider
4 District	“	31-40	Heinrich Bertschlinger

Als Vorstands-Mitglieder wurde vom Gemeinderath vorgeschlagen - -

Zum Präsident - - - - - Heinrich Schwarz
Zum Acktuar - - - - - Rudolph Wegelin
Zum Schatzmeister - - Jakob Schneider

Schwarz verdankte innig dem Gemeinderath den Vorschlag, bittet aber um Entlassung mit wesentlichen Gründen.

Wahlergebnis. Mit entscheiden grosser Mehrheit.

Zum Präsident - - - - -Joh. Kiessling
Zum Acktuar - - - - - Rud. Wegelin
Zum Schatzmeister - -Ant. Stocker

Herr General Consul Hitz referirte nun getrennt über den Stand der Colonie-angelegenheit, erklärte nun die Landerei in jeder Beziehung gesichert, allein in formaller Beziehung sowohl, wie in den Zahlungen bedingungen, seien wesentlich Veränderungen vorgekommen.

Von geschenkten Land sei nun keine Rede mehr, sondern es werde nun jedem Bürger ein einhundert Acker Lot, um 50 Dollar zu theil, sowie die Zahlungs frist, nur ein Jahr verschoben werden konnte, bis zum 1 Sept. 1870 seien alle Lots zu bezahlen, jedoch ohne Zinsvergütung. Herr Staub sei als Trustye bezeichnet, sei willig dieses wenn auch schwierige Geschäft zu besorgen, dagegen sei such von den Colonisten zu erwarten, das sie ihm bestmögliche Erleichterung verschaffen. Sein Schlusswort war, mit bewegter Stinme, uns die Worte des sterbenden Attinghausen ins Gedächtnis zurückzurufen: Seid Einig! Einig!

Der Abend war eingebrochen, und es wurden helle freudenfeuer entzündet, der Gesang-verein brachte den hochgeachteten Herrn Consular ein Ständchen, zu welchem Kreis sich auch noch die betagte Mutter des Dem würdigen Vertreter hochgeachteten Herr General Consul gesellte. Dem würdigen Vertreter unsers theuern Vaterlandes, dessen Ruf erschallt wenn es gilt daheim im Vaterland die Noth zu lindern, dessen Hülfe und matterieller Unterstützung sich Schweizer erfreuen, welche in Amerika ihr Adotiv [Adoptiv] -vaterland suchen. Nur Ihm, betont der Sprecher, ist auch die glückliche Losung hiesiger Colonieangelegenheit zu verdanken, grosse Opfer an Zeit und Geld hat er für uns gebracht. Zur innigsten Dankbarkeit sind wir Ihn verpflichtet, zum Danke den wir nicht auszusprechen vermögen, unser Dankbarkeit muss sich durch die That erzeugen. Lasset uns in uneigennützigeweise, pflegen die Saat, welche uns überlassen, noch nicht beseitigt sind die Lasten, welche eine neue Ansiedlung zu tragen hat, Eintracht Muth und Ausdauer sind erforderlich um das vorgesezte Ziel zu erreichen, treues Zusammenhalten trägt wesentlich zur Erleichterung und Forderung bei, diese Dankopfer wird unser hochgeachtete Herr General Consul mit Freuden begrüßen, wird sie als Entschädigungs für die grosse Mühe annehmen, gebt eure Zustimmung kund, in dem ihr erschallen lasst Euer Hoch: dem würdigen Vertreter unsers theurn Vaterlandes Herr General Consul John Hitz

Er lebe Hoch! Hoch! Hoch! Gesang: Er lebe Hoch.

Mit bewegter Stinme dankte Herr Consul für die ihm abgestattete Ehrenbezeugung, wies dieselbe an die Regierung zurück, deren Diener er sei, beglück-wünschte ein Volk, das in republikanischer Beziehung so weit vorgeschritten, wie unser liebes Schweizer Vaterland. Wenn seine Besoldung auch viel geringer als diejenige eines Vertretters eines monarchischen Staates, glücklich schätze er sich Vertreter der europäischen republik zu sein, Repräsentant eines Volkes, dessen höchste Gewalt die Volksgewalt sei.

Sein Hoch gelte dem Vaterlande und seiner freien Regierung, so wie allen treuen biedern Schweizerherzen, hier und dort. Hoch! Hoch! Hoch! Das dritte Hoch wurde Herrn Consul Staub gebracht, um Ihm seine vielen Opfer für die Colonie bestens verdankt. Ein starker Regen, machte dem fröhlichen Feste ein Ende, und mahnte die Theilnehmer zur Heimkehr.

Protokoll vom 25 Oktober in Grütli. Traktanten:

- 1) Beschluss betreff der Ausführung der Strassen-arbeiten.
- 2) Erstellung eines Schulhauses.
- 3) Gemeinde Verfassung.
- 4) Name des City's.

Der Antrag des Gemeinderaths. Es sei Mr. Bauer als Roodmeister [road master] zu entlassen, und habe der Gemeindrath die nöthigen Arbeiten zu leiten, wird angenommen, und dem Gemeinderath der Auftrag ertheilt, die Brücke im Gruetli zu beendigen.

In Betreff des Schulhauses wurde beschlossen der Gemeinderath habe bis zur Jahreswende Plan und *Kostenrechnung* vorzulegen, um Geldmittel zu erhalten, solle er das City land ausmessen lassen, und eine Versteigerung anordnen. Dem City wurde der Nahme Bern besigelegt.

Die von Herrn Wermuth eingesandte Gemeindeverfassung, wurde angenommen, und der Vorstand beauftragt für Incorporierung zu sorgen, und der Gemeinde der Nahme Switserland gegeben. Zur Erleichterung von neuen Ansiedlern wurde beschlossen 2 Blockhäuser zu erbauen, insofern der Credit erhebllich sei. Es wurde schliesslich jedem Lotbesitzer gestattet, in den Strassen Holz zu fallen, jedoch dürfen die Stöcke höchstens 1 Fuss hoch, gelassen werden. Entlassung.

Gemeindeversammlung den 31 Dezember 1869 in Gemeinderath Schneider's Lot. Der Präsident eröffnet die Versammlung, und schlug als Tages Ordnung vor:

- 1) Verlesen und Ratification der Protokolle vom 9 Aug. und 25 Okt. in Grütli.
- 2) Antrag des Gemeinderathes, betreff Erbauung eines Schulhauses in City Bern.
- 3) Feststellung des Verkaufspreisses, der kunftigen einhundert Acker Lot.
- 4) Antrag betreff Versteigerung der City Lot.
- 5) Antrag für Erstellung eines Friedhofes.
- 6) Uebergabe des Plans der ersten 5000 Acker an die Gemeinde .Anzeige betreff Beendigung der Vermessung, und Zahlung der Kosten.
- 7) Wahlen des Gemeinderathes und Vorstandes.
- 8) Unvorhergesehenes.

Das Protokoll vom 9 Sept. wird verlesen und ohne Einsprache ratifiziert, dasjenige vom 25 Okt. wird dahin vervollständiget, das in Bezug auf das Strassenwesen, dem Gemeinderath die Leitung der vorzunehmenden Arbeiten obliege.

In Vollziehung des Gemeindbeschlusses vom 25 Okt. betreff dem Schulhausbau beantragte der Gemeinderath. Es möchte auf der hiezu ausgewählten Stelle in City, ein ordentliches Fremhaus [frame house] erstellt werden, von 30' Länge, 24' breite und 1½ Stock hoch. Ueber das Ganze möchte eine 14 Tägige Frist zu verschlossen Eingaben für die Forderungen gestattet werden, und sodann den Beforderungen das Recht eingeräumt ohne Ratifications vorbehalt der Gemeinde, dem Mindestforder die Zusage zu ertheilen.

Heinrich Schwarz wünscht und beantragt, das dahin abgeändert, dass uns für die Erstellung Concurenz eröffnet werde. Er setzt das Vertrauen in die Bürger, dass durch frei-

willige Arbeit, das Holz gefällt und geführt werde, wodurch bedeutende Kosten erspart würden, sollte es als denn nicht möglich sein, so solle den Behörden unbedingte Vollmacht zur Ausführung ertheilt werden, und zwar ungesäumt, indem die Erstellung eines Schulhauses dringend notwendig sei. Beschluss: Der Gemeinderath und Vorstand wird beauftragt, auf dem zur Schule ausgewählten Lande, durch freiwillige Arbeit ein Stück zu klären,⁶⁰ und eine zugängliche Strasse zu öffnen. Ueber die Erstellung des Hauses Concurrenz zu eröffnen und ohne Ratifications vorbehalt der Gemeinde, dem Mindestforderer die Zusage zu ertheilen; sollten erstere Arbeiten nicht freiwillig geleistet werden, so ist denselben ebenfalls Credit bewilligt.

3) ⁶¹ Der Präsident gibt der Gemeinde Kenntniss, dass Herr Consul Staub neuerdings 5000 Acker Land angekauft, und er wünsche das die Gemeinde den Verkaufspreis bestimme, bedacht auf eine Vergütung an Herrn Consul Staub, für die viele Mühe und Opfer welche damit verbunden. Er weist hin auf die grossmüthige Handlungsweise gegen über uns, in dem dasselbe bis dahin ohne Entschädigung besorgt worden. Jb. Hehr beantragt, es möchte Herr Staub unbedingt uuberlassen werden den Verkaufspreis zu bestimmen, er könne nicht geeignet finden, ihm eine Entschädigung zu bestimmen, sein Wirken könne niemals dem eines Arbeiters gleichgestellt werden.

Der Präsident befürchtet, es könnte daraus von ungewisser Seite, Herr Consul Staub als Landspeculant bezeichnet werden, was er auf der Schweizer Colonie nicht sein wolle, wir alle seien ja überzeugt, des er dasselbe nicht sei, sein Wunsch wäre die Gemeinde möchte den Preis bestimmen. Hch. Schwarz unterstützt den Antrag von Hehr, weil schon gegenwärtig viel Zwiespalt entstenden, weil Vermesser und Agent in einer Person fungiert. Herr Staub wirkt als Consul, und den Colonisten ist zu gönnen, wenn sich die Preise nicht allzusehr steigern.

⁶⁰ A German version of the English "to clear." The German should be either "ausroden" or "ausreuten."

⁶¹ This numbering follows the original; no explanation is given of the omission of 1) and 2).

Beschluss: Es wird Herr Consul Staub, seine grossmüthige Handlungsweise gegen uns innig verdankt, und ihm unbedingt überlassen, die fernern Verkaufspreise zu bestimmen.

4) Ueber die Versteigerung der City Lot beantragt der Gemeinderath, in der Nähe des Schulhauses eine Anzahl Lot vermessen zu lassen, und auf eine Versteigerung zu bringen. Herr Bertschinger als Referent zeigte: Zur Vollziehung des Gemeindebeschlusses habe sich der Gemeinderath an Herrn Ingenieur Baur gewendet, und von demselben einen Plan erhalten, der alle 200 Acker in $\frac{1}{2}$ Acker Lot eingetheilt, und die Strassen in gerade Richtung [gelegt hat], eine Untersuchung habe gezeigt, dass diese Ausführung mit zu grossen Kosten verbunden, gleichwohl haben sie eine Kostenrechnung verlangt, für den Plan habe Baur 20, für jedes einzelne Lot 1 Dollar verlangt, was eine Ausgabe von 400 Dollar verursacht hätte. Diese Forderung habe den Gemeinderath veranlasst, diese Angelegenheit zu verschieben. Hch. Schwarz findet die Forderung ebenfalls übertrieben, er verdankt dem Gemeinderath den Verzug, und glaubt diese Arbeit sei mit wenig Unkosten ohne den Ingenieur auszuführen, wo die Lage nicht äusserst günstig, glaubt er es sei Vortheil nach Belieben der Käufer, bis auf 4 Acker grosse Lots abzugeben.

Beschluss: Der Gemeinderath und Vorstand wird beauftragt, im Sinne des letzten Antrags, die Eintheilung vorzunehmen, und eine Versteigerung anzuordnen.

5) Der Gemeinderath und Vorstand beantragt, es möchte an geeigneter Stelle ein Friedhof hergestellt werden, und wurde beschlossen: Da No. 21 wieder der Gemeinde zurückgefallen, und Boden und Lage wohl geeignet, so möchten beim Wiederverkauf circa 10 Acker im Hintertheil der Strasse nach bis an den Abhang vorbehalten werden. Zur Verringerung der Ausgaben für den Anfang 1 Acker geklärt und eingefenst [= cleared and fenced in] werden.

6) In betreff Vermessung der ersten 5000 Acker wurden viele Klagen laut, betreffs mangelhafter Beziehung der Gränzlinien, sowie unberechtigtes Verlegen einiger Loose. Zum Beschluss wurde erhoben:

Es wird den Besitzern von einhundert Acker Lot, eine monatliche Frist eingeräumt, um ihre Gränzlinien zu untersuchen, werden innert derselben keine schriftlichen Klagen, dem Vorstand eingereicht, so wird Zufriedenheit angenommen, und der Vorstand beauftragt, den Beschluss betreffs Tilgung der Vermessungskosten zu vollziehen.

7) In Vollziehung der laut Constitution vorzunehmenden Erneuerungswahlen, zeigte sich folgendes Wahlergebnis in den Gemeinderath:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 1. Distrikt | Jakob Lanz |
| 2. “ | J. U. Weiss |
| 3. “ | Jb. Schneider, welcher ablehnte, und an dessen Stelle am 17 Januar Mr. Bahnholzer gewählt wurde. |
| 4. “ | Heinrich Bertschinger |
| 5. “ | Carl Zehnter |

Als Vorstandsmitglieder wurden vom Gemeinderath vorgeschlagen:

Zum Präsident	: Herr Joh. Kissling und Jb. Hehr
“ Aktuar	: Rudolph Wegelin und Hoh. Schwarz
“ Cassier	: Anton Stocker und Joh. Baumgartner

Wahlergebnisz.

Präsident: Zahl der Votanten 31, Absolut Stimmehr 16. Herr Kissling Stimme 29, Hehr 1, ungültig 1.

Herr Kissling verdankt der Gemeinde das Zutrauen, und erklärt sich zur Annahme, mit dem Wunsche die Gemeinde möge eine glückliche, friedliche Entwicklung haben.

Cassier: Zahl der Votanten 28, Absolutes Stimmen mehr 15. Stimmen erhielten: Herr Stocker 17, Baumgartner 9, Bertschinger 2.,

Mithin erwählt Herr Stocker.

Aktuar: Zahl der Votanten 31, Absolutes Stimmen mehr 16.
Stimmen erhielten: Herr Wegelin 3, Bertschinger 2, Hch.
Schwarz 26.

Unter Artikel 8 der Tagesordnung zeigt Jb. Hehr der Bürgerschaft an, dass er von der Court Altamont zum Roodmeister bestimmt, und er biete dass alle Bürger, welche das 20 Altersjahr eingetreten und nicht über 65 alt sind auf dem ersten Donnerstag im Januar in Frohndienst [erscheinen]. Säumige werde er sofort der Court überweisen.

Hch. Schwarz protestirt gegen solche Handlungsweise, Strassenrichtungen sollen vorerst der Bürgerschaft zur Genehmigung vorgelegt werden. Er betont ernstlich, dass dieser Courtbeschluss, nur auf Ansuchen einiger Bürger erfolgt, und glaubt wenn die Gemeinde um eine Zeitfrist nachsuche, so werde dieselbe gerne ertheilt. Strassenverbesserungen seien Bedürfnis, aber zu viel könne man den Colonisten nicht aufbürden. Ohne Vorwissen der Bürger, solle man strenge darauf halten, Strassen zu errichten, Schwarz zur Longmühle beschwert sich ebenfalls, gegen soviele Frohndienste, und weisst nach dass im laufenden Jahr 1869, er und sein Bruder 36 Tage Frohndienst geleistet, er betont ernst, den Berg wieder zu verlassen, wenn so hart verfahren werde.

Die Gemeinde beauftragte den Vorstand, ein Bittgesuch um Aufschub an die Court Altamont zu richten, und hernach wenn ein solcher ertheilt, eine Strassenrichtung zu ermitteln, im Interesse beider Gemeinden, und den Plan der Gemeinde zur Genehmigung vorzulegen. Schliesslich wurde durch das Präsidium, noch ein Schreiben von Herrn Consul Staub verlesen, woraus die traurige Lage der Familie Lager von Glarus ersichtlich, und es wurden die Bürger gemahnt, die in letzter Gemeinde freiwillig gezeichneten Liebesgaben, an den Cassier zu bezahlen, um dasselbe gesamt dem Consulat zur Linderung der Noth, benannter Familie einzusenden. Entlassung der Versammlung.

Ausserordentliche Gemeinds Versammlung den 7 Feb. 1870. In Folge entstandenen Zwistigkeiten, der Besitzer der ersten und zweiten Complexe, hauptsächlich von den zwei City Complexe und dem Strassenwesen herrührend, berief Herr Consul Staub am 1 Feb., eine Commission zusammen, um eine friedliche Lösung der betreffenden Streitobjekte zu erzielen: Dieselbe bestand aus den Herrn Ingenieur Baur, Jakob Hehr und Edward Berger einerseits. Herr Präsident Kiessling, Bertschinger und Schwarz anderseits. Zum Vorsitzter wurde Herr Consul Staub ernannt. Zur Frage kamm folgendem Haupttraktanten:

1) Soll die von Herrn General Consul Hitz entworfene, und am 25 Okt. letzten Jahres von den Bürgern angenommen Verfassung beibehalten, oder als ungültig erklärt werden?

2) Auf welchem Wege kann eine friedliche Lösung der City angelegenheit erzielt werden?

3) Liegt es nicht im Interesse der Bevölkerang, die Ansiedlung in zwei Schul und Strassenbezirke zu theilen; dennoch aber jedem Bezirk, gleiches Nütznissungsrecht von dem betreffenden City Complexen zu kommen zu lassen?

Nach ziemlich langer, heftiger Discussion, gelang es einen einmüthlichen Commissional Antrag zu erzielen, welcher also lautet:

I Die Gemeinde Constitution, soll nur in so weit abgeändert werden, als notwendig um dieselbe inkorporiren lassen [= inkorporieren zu lassen], und wird Herr Consul Staub geboten, dasselbe zu übernehmen.

II a) Die beiden bisherigen City Complexe sollen vereinigt werden, anstossend an das im zweiten Complexe ausgelegte, mit anschluss der parallel laufenden 100 Acker Lot No. 45, 46, 43 und 44 bezeichnet so dass der Complexe 600 Acker gross.

b) Für öffentliche Gebäulichkeiten, wird im Centrum desselben ein Complexe von 25 bis 30 Acker einstweilen vorbehalten; von welchem aus der Verkauf von City Lot auf beiden Seiten beginnen soll.

c) Das Strassenwesen inmitten des City gebiets, ist Sache der Bewohner derselben.

d) Der Erlös der betreffenden City Lot, darf nach Bestimmung der Schenker, nur für Kirche und Schulzwecke bestimmt werden.

e) Der Name Bern, welcher dem ersten beigelegt, wird neuerdings bestätigt.

III In Betracht des weiten Umfangs, und der raschen Ansiedlung, theilt sich die Gemeinde in zwei Schulbezirke, wovon jeder aus dem Erlös der City Lot, die gleichmässige Nutzniessung für schule und Kirche zu Theil wird. Zur Erstellung der ersten Schulhäuser wird jeder Gemeinde, ein Credit von Zweihundert Dollar bewilligt.

IV Jede Schulgemeinde übernimmt die Erstellung und Unterhaltung der in ihrem Gebiet nöthigen Strassen und Brücken, sowie die durchlaufenden Countyrooden [= county roads].

V Mit Herrn Ingenieur Baur, ist ein Vermessungsvertrag des City Landes abzuschliessen.

VI Annehmen der Vermessung der ersten 5000 Acker.

VII Veranstaltung einer Gemeindeversammlung auf den 7 Feb. zur Ratification, oder Verwerfung vorstehenden Antrags.

Protokoll der Gemeindsversammlung den 7 Feb. 1870.
Tagesordnung:

1) Verlesen und Ratification des Protokolls vom 31 Dez. 1869.

2) Ratification oder Verwerfung des vorstehenden Comissions Antrag.

3) Ratification der Abkunft mit Mr. Zürcher, betreff seinem schon bebauten 100 Acker Lot No. 46.

4) Ratification des Vortrags mit Herrn Ingenieur Baur.

Der Präsident eröffnet die Versammlung, mit kurzer aber ernster Einleitung, er deutet die entstandenene Zwistigkeiten auf

gegenseitige Missverständnisse, und ersucht die Bürger, den heute so wichtigen Verhandlungen alle Aufmerksamkeit zu schenken, alle Parteilidenschaft, und ins besonders persönliche Angriffe zu unterlassen, mit Staufachers edler Gattin, rufe auch er heute besonders den Bürgern zu: Sieh vorwärts Werner und nicht hinter dich, er hoffe die scheidenden Worte unsers hochgeachteten Herrn General Consuls, seien noch in den meisten Herzen eingegraben, Seid Einig! Einig! Einig! Nur Eintracht sichert den Bestand, nur Eintracht fördert das Gedeihen, nur ein rein demokratischer Sinn führt uns zum Ziele, mit diesem wenigen Worten erkläre ich die Versammlung eröffnet.

Hierauf wird das Protokoll vom 31 Dez. verlesen und mit Einmuth ratifiziert.

Der vorstehende Comissional Antrag wird verlesen, und die Beweggründe dazu durch den Referent Schwarz erläutert.

Nachher von Herrn Eduard Berger unterstützt.

Herr Schneider und Bollinger, glauben die Besitzer der 100 Acker Lot im ersten Complexen im Nachtheil, wünschen hauptsächlich, dass die sogenannte Pappelspring frei und offen behalten werde.

Auch diesen Wunsch, wusste Herrn Consul Staub auf sehr verdankenswerthe Weise zu erfüllen, indem er die betreffenden 200 Acker um 130 Dollar, Ankauf und Vermessung, in begriffen an die erste Schulgemeinde, zur Auslägung kleinerer Complexen kaufweise abtrat. Damit erklärten sich die beiden Antragsteller befriedigt, und trugen auf Ratification des Comissional Antrags an, welches ohne weitere Einsprache mit Einmuth zum Beschluss erhoben wurde.

Bis noch Incorporirung der Constitution, wurde ferner beschlossen, eine Commission von fünf Mitgliedern zu erwählen, bestehend aus Präsident, Vice-präsident, Quäster, und Actuar, und einem Beisitzer, mit dem Auftrag, das Wohl der Gemeinde in jeder Beziehung nach Kräften zu fördern, durch den Verkauf von City Lot so schnell als möglich, auch Mittel zu suchen, um der Schulbildung Eingang zu verschaffen.

Das Wahlergebniss war folgendes: Mit Einmuth gränzender Mehrheit wurde zum

Präsident gewählt:	Herr Kissling
Vice-präsident :	Eduard Berger
Cassier :	Anton Stocker
Aktuar :	Hch. Schwarz
fünftes Mitglied :	Ulrich Zimmerman

Die Unterhandlung, betreff Vermessungs Contract, mit Herrn Ingenieur Baur, zeigte folgendes Resultat. Mit Ausnahme, dass für öffentliche Gebäulichkeiten ausgelegten Complexes durch welchem nur die Rooden für einstweilen zu bezeichnen sind, verpflichtet sich Baur, den ganzen Complex in 1 Acker Lots auszulegen, jedes derselben mit 4 Eck und zwei Mittelpfählen zu bezeichnen, und mit No. zu versehen, sowie die Strassen-richtung genau zu bezeichnen, nur verlange er nach Beendigung der Arbeit Untersuchung, und bei befriedigter Erfüllung Annahmserklärung. Ebenso stelle er der Gemeinde einem Plan zu, für die Ausführung dieser Arbeiten, verlange er Zweihundert und fünfzig Dollar, Einhundert nach der ersten Lotversteigerung, und Einhundert und fünfzig nach Jahresfrist, mit dieser Forderung seien imbegriffen, alle Vermessungskosten in beiden City Complexe, die schon verfallen.

Dieser Vertrag wird ebenfalls zum Beschluss erhoben, und Herr Bauer, ersucht, so schnell als möglich, eine Anzahl Lot zu vermessen.

Herr Zürcher wünscht, dass die Gemeinde ihm als Entschädigung 20 Acker von seinem 100 Acker Lot, der westlichen Gränze entlang, auf der das Haus stehe, um 15 Dollar als Vermessungskosten, welche er für das ganze Lot schon bezahlt überlasse, die übrigen 80 Acker, sei er bereit, für das darauf hafende Capital von fünfzig Dollar, der Gemeinde zu überlassen.

Die Bürger fanden das Anerbieten für billig, und genehmigten den Ausgleich mit Einmuth. Die 200 Acker, um welche das City vergrößert wurde, werden von beiden Theilen gleichmässig getragen, und der Vorstand ist beauftragt, über die Deckung des fraglichen Defieicits, am 4 Juli der Gemeinde einen Antrag vorzulegen. Die erste Gemeinde bezieht 4 Acker als

Schulland, an der Nord, die zweite an der Südseite des City Complexes. Auf die Einfrage des Präsidenten, ob noch jemand etwas weiteres beizufügen habe, verlangt Hch. Schwarz das Wort, und erwähnt mit wenigen Worten, der vielen Opfer, welche Herr Consul Staub, der Colonie schon gebracht, welche er als Trustye der Gemeinde noch zu bringen habe, und mit welchem Eifer, er auch diesmal sich bestrebt das friedliche Verhältniss wieder zu erstellen. Bis dahin, habe er alle Opfer ohne Entschädigung dargebracht, wofür Ihm die Colonisten zu äussersten Dank verpflichtet seien. Auch er werde Eintracht, durch welche die Colonie blühen und Gedeihen werde, als Zeichen der ächten Dankbarkeit hinnehmen. Eure Anerkennung beweist Ihm, indem ihr einstimmt in ein kräftiges Hoch. Herr Consul Staub lebe Hoch! Hoch! Hoch! Herr Staub freut sich über den Tag, wo ihm vergönnt, unter uns zu weilen, wenn auch fehle der edle Rebensaft, der bei solchen Festen, in unserm Mutterlande, die Gemüther erheitere, er finde hier beim Wasserquell die Gemüther heiter und begeistert. Er bringe auch heute uns die Worte unsers nun im Schweizerlande weilenden Vertreters, und Freundes, Herr General Consul Hitz in Erinnerung: Liebe Landsleute Seid Einig! Einig! Einig! er hat dieses Projekt schon einmal gerettet, und ihr dürft auch ferner, seiner Vorsorge auch vertrauen.

Ihm bringe ich mein Hoch.

Der grösste Theil von Euch, erinnert sich aber noch, wie er hier auf dieser Stätte, das ihm erschallende Hoch zurückwies, weil es nicht Ihm, sondern der Regierung gebühre, deren Vertreter er sei. Auch ich bin überzeugt, dass eure Regierung daheim Euch nicht vergisst, dass dieselbe Euch Ihren Schutz nicht entzigt, unbegründet sind die Vorurtheile, welche ich schon oft aussprechen gehört. Thatsache ist es, dass dem Unbemittelten, aber thätigen Manne hier noch eher möglich sich empor zu schwingen als in dem lieben Mutterlande, allein dennoch kam man eurer Regierung nicht zumuthen, dass sie die Auswanderung befördern helfe, wer aber einmal ausgewandert ist, kann versichert sein von ihr Nöthigenfalls beschützt zu sein. Euch liebe Landsleute ist es schon ertheilt worden, und wird Euch ferner zu Theil werden. Vertraut Eurer Schweizer Regierung, lasst ihr sagen, wenn Euch liebe Brüder Gefahr droht, hier auf

den Tennessee Berg stehen Eure Brüder, Einer für Alle, und Alle für Einen.

Auch euch liebe Lansleute gebührt Anerkennung für den festen Willen, und die Ausdauer, die ihr bei diesem Colonieprojekt an den Tag gelegt hat. Ich danke Euch ferner für den guten Ruf, den ihr eurer Vaterlande durch euern Fleiss und Charakter, unter den hiesigen Einwohnern erworben. Haltet treu zusammen füttert eure Herzen mit ächtem Schweizerfutter, das da ist, reine Freiheit, Volksbildung, Gesang und überhaupt Vereinsleben, dass die geistige Fortbildung erhöht. Was die Colonie anbetrifft, so muss ich gegenüber dem Aufschwung derselben, meine vollste Zufriedenheit aussprechen, bleibt nur Einig, Thätig und Ausdauernd, so werdet ihr ernten die Früchte, die ihr gesäet, ich meinerseits gebe euch die bestimmte Zusicherung, nach meinen Kräften die Colonie zu bewahren. Schliesslich bringe ich mein Hoch, der Schweizer Regierung, ohne deren Hülfe eure Colonie nicht mehr bestehen würde, zweitens dem lieben Ländli, und dem Völklein das darin lebt, und drittens allen treuen Schweizerherzen, wo sie immer sein mögen.

Die Schweizer Regierung, das ländli und Völkli, so wie alle biedern Schweizerherzen, wo sie immer zu finden leben Hoch! Hoch! Hoch!

Mit dem schönen Vaterlandsliebe: Brüder reicht die Hand zum Bunde, wurde die Versammlung beschlossen, und unter Verdankung vom Präsident entlassen.

Appendix C. German Texts from Minutes of the Agricultural Society

August 6, 1876 -- A description of the celebration on the fourth of July reads as follows:

Comite für die Feier des 4 Juli berichtet, Eltern und Kinder sowie alle die sich versammeln sich morgens um 9 Uhr am neuen Schulhause wo ein Zug formiert wird und dann mit Musik nach dem Festplatze marschirt, dort wird die Unabhängigkeits Erklärung durch Henry Weishaupt verlesen, darauf Musik und

Gesang, dann Rede von Hauser, Musik und Gesang, hierauf Rede von John Kissling über Lokalangelegenheiten u. s. w.

June 5, 1892 -- Upon the death of one of the oldest and most revered members, and for many years president of the club, John Kissling, the following necrology was written into the minutes:

NEKROLOG für JOHN KISSLING

Joh. Kissling, geb. 1827 von Schwarzenburg, Canton Bern, war mehrere Jahre in seiner Heimath, als Lehrer thätig. Vor zirka 20 Jahren reisste derselbe mit seiner ziemlich zahlreichen Familie nach Amerika und wurde hier einer der Grunder hiesiger Schweizer Colonie.

Herrn Kissling war in jeder Beziehung ein strebsamer und unternehmender Mann, der keine Opfer scheute, wo es galt, ein gutes Werk zu schaffen und zur Verbesserung hiesiger Colonie viel beigetragen hat.

Der Verstorbene hat sich dann auch, trotz seiner zahlreichen Familie, zu einem in guten Verhältnissen lebenden Manne emporgearbeitet. Seine überlebenden Kinder und Gattin, sind meistens erwachsen und stehen in selbstgeschaffenden Verhältnissen.

Als vieljähriges, fleissiges Mitglied hiesigen Landwirtschaftlichen Vereins, dessen Präsidentschaft er bis zu seinem Tode inne hatte, erweisen Ihm, die jetzigen Mitglieder diesen Nachruf im Protokol.

Namens der Landwirtschaftlichen Vereins, dessen Secretär

Fritz Wirz.

1906 - Year's report --

Das abgelaufene Jahr war für den Verein ein Normales. Durch den Tod hat der Verein kein Mitglied verloren noch durch Aus-

tritt; bloß ist ein Mitglied durch Wegzug verlohren gegangen, was übrigens nicht zu beklagen ist, da derselbe Mitglied der ärgste Lump war, der jemals die Colonie bewohnt hat; hat er doch in weniger als 2 Jahren eine der schönsten hiesigen Farmen, ver-soffen. Es ist also nur zu beglückwünschen, dass der Verein von einem solchen Subjekt befreit wurde. Es ist diess Leonhard Oertli, Sohn, der seinem Werk noch die Krone aufsetzte, indem er seiner Frau noch die letzten Baarmittel gestohlen hat und ver-duftet ist.

February 7, 1909 -- The meeting was given over to the discus-sion of the recent State prohibition law. The following was put in the minutes:

Es wurde über das vom Staate angenommene Gesetz betr. das Getrränke Verbots discutiirt; Es wird hervorgehoben, dass ein solches Gesetz, keinen Falls die Laster der Trunk-sucht vermindert und dem Staat noch überdiess enormen Verlust seiner Einkünfte verursacht.

Auch sollten solche Gesetze unbedingt vor das Volk zur Ab-stimmung gelangen, wo es um so viele Existenzen handelt, und einer republikanischer Regierung unwürdig ist.

1911 - Year's report -- The following excerpt seems to be the gist of the report:

Anregung zum festerm Zusammenhalten des Deuschthums ist unbedingt notwendig, das wir sonst befürchten müssen dass nach paar Jahren das Englische Element das Deutsche verdrängt. Schon sind bereits mehrere der schönsten Farmen in Amerikanischen Händen, die mit deutschem Fleisse hervorge-bracht wurden. Wir brauchen unbedingt neuen Zuwachs aus der alten Heimath, nur dann können wir mit Erfolg, dem Englischen entgegen treten.

1914 - Year's report -- The world war earned the following para-graph in this record:

Von dem in Europa ausgebrochenen Weltkrieg hatten wenig zu verspüren, da hauptsächlich nur die Industrien und Handen (factory employees) in Mitleidenschaft berührt worden. Wie lange dieses furchterliche Morden noch währen wird, ist nicht abzusehen, da keine der kriegführenden Mächte, so lange noch Widerstand möglich ist nachgeben will.

Appendix D. Land Transactions of Peter Staub

In the summer of 1869, with his own funds, Peter Staub purchased large tracts of land in Grundy County which he then sold in 100-acre lots to the settlers. From the minutes of the Colony, it appears that Plumacher had not been able to acquire the land and have it surveyed into lots. The desperate settlers appealed to John Hitz, the Consul General in Washington, and Hitz called Staub to the rescue. He provided the funds and the business acumen to make the deals work. The early colonists certainly thought very highly of him. Jackson, however, reports that in 1933 people in the colony thought Staub a “first-class swindler.” I have heard it said that he sold them land he did not even own. Which view of Staub is correct?

Peter Staub was born in 1827 in Bliten, Canton of Glarus, Switzerland. He came first to Rahway, New York, in 1854 and then moved on to Knoxville shortly before the war. He became successful in the iron foundry business, built the first “opera house” in Knoxville, and was elected mayor of Knoxville in 1874 and 1876. He was killed in a runaway horse carriage accident on May 8, 1904.

The deed books in the courthouse in Altamont show that, in 1869, in six transactions he bought 14,575 acres of land in Grundy County for a total of \$9,000, or at an average price of 62 cents per acre. The previous history of this land through purchase grants to Samuel M. Barrell and sale to Edmund Monroe and Wm. C. Hill has been told in the text and footnotes in Chapter 1. From both the minutes of the colony and the deed books it is clear that Staub did not – as was suspected in the colony in 1933 -- buy up all the land before the colonists came. Indeed, there is no evidence of his having bought any land before August 31, 1869. There is every reason to believe that his initial negotiations with the owners were in front of the assembled colonists on July 4, 1869, as recorded in the minutes.

By the end of 1872, deeds had been recorded in which he sold 3,250 acres for \$1675 in 33 transactions at an average price of 52 cents per acre. All but one of the transactions were at 50 cents per acre. The one exception was lot A on the edge of the

Colony at \$1.00 per acre to Charles Ott, who is not otherwise mentioned as involved in the Colony. Staub evidently discriminated against non-Swiss, but this transaction is quite significant in showing that the market price of the land in 100 acre lots was well above what the colonists paid.

Many of those who had entered the drawing, and some of those on the map, had not paid the full price to get the deed, or many deeds went unrecorded. We know that some of the deeds were, indeed, unrecorded, for there was no deed in 1869 or 1870 to John Kissling. In 1887, however, Staub, then the U.S. Consul in St. Gall, signed a statement attesting that in 1870 he had given Kissling a deed for lots 47, 48, and 49, a deed that seems to have been destroyed by fire without having ever been recorded. Such a statement is hardly the act of a "first-class swindler." (This payment has been counted in the total sales mentioned above.)

Based on other evidence of families living in the Colony after 1875, I think it is safe to say that Staub received at least another \$850 for 1700 acres. That estimate brings his total receipts to \$2525. As an upper limit of his receipts we can suppose that all of the 91 lots on the 1872 map shown as belonging to someone other than Staub had sold for \$50 each, except the one to Ott for \$100. On that assumption, Staub had gotten back \$4600 of his \$9000 investment.

Had he sold land that did not belong to him? Sadly, it seems he had. Apparently the title to some of the lands he thought he had bought was not good. In 1884, some of the Monroe heirs brought suit and forced Rosina Staub, Peter's wife, to pay \$3166.60 for a half interest in 6333 acres. The price must have been arrived at by presuming that Peter had paid 50 cents an acre for a half interest, so now he had to pay another 50 cents for the other half. This transaction is recorded in Book O, page 359. Staub paid this sum, so far as we can tell, without recourse to the people to whom he had sold the land at half the price it eventually cost him.

In 1890 and 1901, he sold a half interest in some 1120 acres for \$2600. In 1903, he granted a 100-foot right-of-way through his lands to the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis railway for

\$1. In 1903, he also sold 1200 acres to James and T.B. Northcut for \$1000 and 1040 acres to William Webb for \$2000. Thus, by the end of his life, he had receipts of at most \$10,200 – and more probably about \$8125 -- against an outlay of \$12,166.60.

Relative to the question of whether the colonists were trapped into buying land at unfair prices, it should be noticed that only 17 of the 48 lots allocated on the first day were paid for by receipts from Plümacher; all other sales were to people who still had their money in their pockets and knew perfectly well what they were getting for it. Indeed, some or all of the receipts from Plumacher may have been for payments made in Grundy county.

Staub gave the school district 403 acres for a school, precisely the land where the school and athletic fields now are. As late as 1876, we find Staub giving the colony another two acres of land for school and church purposes.

Without him, the colony would never have gotten started. It is really a bit hard to see how such a negative opinion as Jackson reports could have been justified. I join the early colonists in a *Hoch! Hoch! Hoch!* for Peter Staub..

About the Author

Frances Helen Jackson was the daughter of George Pullen Jackson, musician, musicologist and professor of German, and Inez Wright Jackson, kindergarten teacher and potter. When Frances was only ten and her brother eight, their mother died in the 1918 flu epidemic. Their father's childless sisters stepped into the breach to help rear the children.

The family placed a premium on education, music, and social service, making it no surprise that Frances would excel in all three areas. She began studying harp in high school and later continued her studies at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, and then with Alfred Holy in Vienna, Austria and with Carlos Salzedo. As a young woman, she played solo harp; and, for her entire adult life, she taught harp. For twenty-two years she was principal harpist for the Nashville Symphony. The first Nashville symphony, which went out of business in the depression, had been founded by her father.

Frances received her BA from Birmingham Southern and her MA in German from Vanderbilt. Her father, then head of the German Department, was both advisor and mentor to his daughter for her master's thesis. For many years she taught both German and harp at Nashville's Ward Belmont Preparatory School and College.

Frances married Fitzgerald Parker in 1935. A banker and lawyer by profession, "Bud" loved languages, music and the out-of doors. He played the violin and sang in a choir. It was he who gave Frances the nickname "Sally" which somehow suited her and by which she became more widely known than by her real name. The home in which he and Sally reared their three daughters resounded with singing and music-making for fun and was full of "play" with foreign language.

In addition to her music and teaching career, Sally had a remarkable volunteer career as well. She was active in the Nashville Symphony Guild, serving as its president. She served on

the Board of the American Symphony Orchestra League (ASOL) for ten years during which she held several offices and organized the ASOL Women's Council and served as its inaugural president. To this day the ASOL annually awards the "ASOL Sally Parker Education Award" to a US orchestra.

During the last ten years of her life, Sally undertook the hobby of wheel throwing pottery. This she added to a lifetime of creative craft projects including sewing almost all of her own and her three daughters' clothes. She had begun selling her pottery at craft shows when she died of cancer at the age of sixty-three.

Frances Jackson Parker, also known as Sally, was a musician, teacher, volunteer, craftswoman extraordinaire. On top of all that, she was a great mama to the three of us.

Pamela Parker Helms
Susan Parker Martin
Carol Parker Thomas (Deceased)

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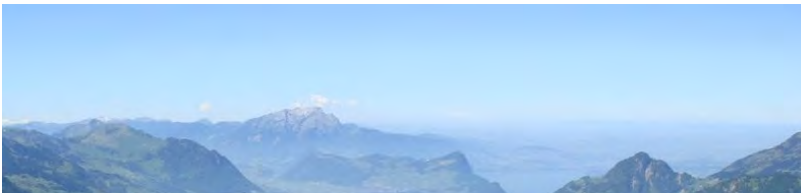
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The Gruetli or Ruetli meadow in Switzerland, looking north. Painting by Johann Heinrich Bleuler, 1834 or 1835.



*The Swiss Colony at Gruetli --
Bridge to a New Land*



From 1869 to the early years of the 20th century, over fifty families of Swiss immigrants came to Grundy County, Tennessee with the express purpose of creating a Swiss Colony, a community composed almost entirely of German-speaking Swiss that would preserve their culture in a new land. They gave to the area the inspiring name of Gruetli, the meadow where legend says representatives of three cantons

The Swiss Colony at Gruetli - Frances Hele

*The Swiss Colony
Frances Hele*

