



# Swiss Heritage Society Messenger

Mission Statement: To spark and sustain an interest in the cultural heritage of Berne, Indiana and southern Adams County by promoting learning through discovery.

Swiss Heritage Society, Inc.

June 2012

Berne, Indiana 46711

## Indoor Museum Renovation

By Doug Milligan

Renovation has been completed in our indoor museum, with displays and artifacts back in position. The work was necessary to provide climate control within the museum so that valuable artifacts and displays, depicting the cultural heritage of Berne and southern Adams County, can be protected.

Included in the renovation was the replacement of the former grid ceiling and florescent light fixtures with an insulated ceiling and track lighting to better highlight our many important displays. The exterior walls were insulated with new drywall installed, and the metal doors were replaced. A new heating and cooling system was installed to provide

efficient climate control. The floor was also refurbished with replacement tiles and re-grouting, where necessary.

The work on the project was done by Limberlost Construction, Cardinal Electric of Geneva and Don Myers Plumbing, Heating & Cooling of Berne. Swiss Heritage appreciates the high-quality work provided by these contractors to upgrade the former cheese-house into a quality museum for everyone to enjoy. In addition, considerable work was done by Swiss Heritage volunteers led

by Ernie Steiner and Gretchen Lehman. Their efforts were sincerely

Habegger Furniture and other businesses and individuals who have made this museum renovation possible.

A group of Swiss Heritage board members met recently with museum professional Barbara Milligan to receive guidance on making improvements and generating new displays in the future. A Portland native, Barbara is Executive Director and CEO of Historic Highfield of Falmouth, Massachusetts, and an experienced lecturer and speaker on various subjects, including collections

care and historic site management. She is a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) and a Peer Reviewer for the American Association of Museums. Her experiences include serving as a costumed interpreter in Colonial Williamsburg, as an administrative assistant to the director at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello home, as director/curator of the Plymouth Antiquarian Society in Plymouth, Massachusetts and as Director of Cape Cod's Children Museum in Mashpee, Massachusetts. Barbara received her BA degree in American History from Hanover College and her Master's degree in Public History from Indiana University.

We invite our friends and neighbors to visit our indoor museum.



Renovation was recently completed on the Museum with the cooperation of many workers and their hours of labor.

appreciated.

The Swiss Heritage Society would like to thank the community for their financial support of this project. Special thanks for major donations go to First Bank of Berne, Smith Brothers Furniture,

including new displays in the future. A Portland native, Barbara is Executive Director and CEO of Historic Highfield of Falmouth, Massachusetts, and an experienced lecturer and speaker on various subjects, including collections

## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Bake-Away Contest & New Recipe Book

By Doug Milligan

The Swiss Heritage Society is pleased to co-sponsor the 11th Annual Swiss Days Bake-Away Contest on Friday of Berne Swiss Days. The event will be held at Swiss Heritage Village & Museum, 1200 Swiss Way, Berne, Indiana, with judging at 10 AM. Categories are Kids' Cookies, Brownies, Quick Breads and Pies. Prizes donated by

First Bank of Berne, Annie's DRG, Berne Hardware and Swiss Heritage Society will be awarded in each category. For more information, contact Nancy Kuhn @ 260-589-3743 or Barb Sprunger at 260-589-2009 or pick up a flyer at Swiss Heritage.

As a result of the popular Swiss Days Bake-Away contests held from 2002 through 2011, a special cookbook of over 400 recipes has

been prepared by Swiss Heritage. The recipes of these special award-winning breads, cakes, muffins, cookies and pies were incorporated into this special book by a committee of Nancy Kuhn, chairperson, Barb Sprunger, Nancy Yoder and Gretchen Lehman. Photos in the cookbook are the courtesy of DRG of Berne.

The proceeds from the sale of this cookbook will be used to support

efforts of our dedicated members and volunteers to enhance our Village and Museum, while providing a meaningful history lesson to the hundreds of students who visit each year. The new cookbook is available in the gift shop at Swiss Heritage and also in Berne at the Gathering House, Berne Hardware and the Berne Chamber of Commerce.

We know you will enjoy the delicious food in-



spired by these great recipes and encourage you to join us for our annual contest the last Friday in July.

## Meet Ernie Steiner



Ernie Steiner

### Steiner enjoys seeing improvements at the Village

By JIM LANGHAM

It was six and a half years ago when Ernie Steiner was finally able to satisfy a request that had been going on for some time by (then) executive director Gretchen Lehman.

"Gretchen asked me to get on board. The first time I still worked at the post office," said Steiner. "After I retired I told her that I would come on board. That happened in the spring of 2006."

Steiner retired after 32 years with the United States Postal Department. In January of 1991, he became the Berne postmaster, a post where he served until July of 2005.

Steiner's first project at Swiss Heritage Village and Museum was the cataloging room, where he worked during the winter of 2006-07. Two rooms were hooked together. Before he could start the renovation, he had to knock down a couple of walls.

"Eric E. Sprunger helped me; we worked together putting up shelves, doing new wiring," observed Steiner. "Only one of the original two rooms had heat. We took out equipment that was still left from the original cheese house."

"We parted the rooms and put in new windows," continued Steiner. "We dry walled and insulated the outside project. It helped those in many ways who were able to organize and catalog for the museum."

Steiner said that his initial introduction to renovating buildings occurred when he took on a "fix-up" project with the purchase of a house.

"I got started on my first house when my wife and I bought this house and fixed it up. I had friends that taught me," said Steiner. "I did things on my own and continued to learn. I began working on some other projects with our children."

Other projects have included scraping and painting most of the buildings in the village. On occasions, he has had help; one year a class of students from the school helped with painting projects.

The most recent project has been the Swiss Heritage Museum. Steiner's part in the renovation has included demolition, taking down the ceiling, removal of lights and conduit, water lines and air lines. He was also involved in the exhaustive project of transporting the sawmill to the village grounds and reconstructing it a few years ago.

When asked what he enjoys about the work at the village, Steiner replied, "Most of it is just coming out, working and then seeing the place look well-kept. We've gone back and painted some of the buildings a second time."

"There's no way to put into words how hard Ernie works and what all of his work around here means to us," said executive director Doug Milligan. "It's not only the money that he has saved us; his work has such excellence. He works with such pride in all he does. He is an invaluable part of our Swiss Heritage family."

## Did You Know?

This spring a documentary movie entitled "Stranger" was made at Swiss Heritage Village. Paul Yoder, a Taylor University student related to Berne residents Tony Yoder and Floyd Leichty, wrote and directed the film as a class project. The movie takes place on a depression-era farm of a poor family that finds it necessary to decide between law and love. Much of the filming took place in the Luginbill House, the Summer Kitchen and the Sweitzer Barn. Plans are to make the film available for viewing this summer at Swiss Heritage.

## Greetings.....

### ..... from the Executive Director

Our 2012 season at Swiss Heritage Village & Museum has gotten off to a fast start, with many dedicated volunteers preparing our buildings and grounds for visitors. Company is coming!

Our Village is one of the treasures of our county and region, attracting family, friends and neighbors. We appreciate the opportunity to partner with other community organizations representing our cities and towns, as well as other historic sites in our extended area.

Several tours have been provided to area elementary school students, as well as college students from Wright State University. Other tours have been lined up throughout the season, with many fourth-graders are signed up for Festival Education Day scheduled Friday, September 7th.

A major project during the winter was renovation of the indoor museum to provide climate control for our displays and our many valuable artifacts. We would like to pass along our thanks for the financial support of several area businesses and individuals, and to contractors Limberlost Construction, Cardinal Electric, Don Myers Plumbing, Heating & Cooling and Amstutz Construction & Supplies.

Operating a successful historic site requires full community support, both financially and in terms of volunteer service. We are so fortunate in Berne and southern Adams County to have dedicated volunteers, financial supporters and board members. We invite you to join us a member of Swiss Heritage Village & Museum or with a tax-deductible donation. And, be sure to join us for all the events we have scheduled in 2012.

-----Doug Milligan, Executive Director

## Meet Our Board of Directors and Officers

Don Kuhn, President

Ernie Steiner, Vice-President

Kalla Caffee, Treasurer

Gretchen Lehman, Secretary

Trina Moser Sommer, Phil Provost,

Debra Neuenschwander, Dianne Beer, Angela Moore, Dr.

Kent Lehman, Margaret Sprunger, Madelyn Wurster,

Douglas Detwiler, Kristan Nussbaum, Kelly Wheeler

Doug Milligan, Executive Director

Jane Velasco, Administrative Assistant

Monthly meetings are held at Swiss Heritage Village and Museum in Berne.

Swiss Heritage Society would like to thank the many volunteers of our area for their endless hours of work and support. Our volunteer program is designed for residents of our community to provide a much needed effort to spark and sustain an interest in our cultural heritage while enjoying the fellowship of friends and neighbors.

Volunteer opportunities include grounds-keeping, being involved in special events and serving in our gift shop or indoor museum. And, we welcome all suggestions from volunteers and visitors to improve and beautify our Village.

# Swiss Heritage Village

## 2012 Events



**July 27 & 28  
Berne Swiss Days**

Foodstand, Downtown  
Events at Village:  
Fri. 10 am Bake-a-Way  
Sat. 10 am Dog Race & Show  
Sat. Antique Car Show  
Fri. & Sat. Tractor &  
Engine Displays

**Other Events at Swiss  
Heritage Village and  
surrounding areas:**

**Sunday, June 10**  
Haystack Luncheon 11am-1pm

**Saturday, August 25**  
Monroe Lions Truck & Tractor  
Pull 6pm, West Grounds of SHV

**Tuesday, September 11**  
Benefit Auction at  
Swiss Heritage

**Saturday, November 3**  
Holiday Bazaar 9am-3 pm  
at South Adams Schools

**December 24**  
Christmas Eve Services  
6 & 9 pm at SHV Church

**Friday, September 7 9am to 3pm**  
Education Day For School Children  
By Reservation Only!

**Saturday, September 8 9am to 5pm**  
Open to the Public Featuring:

- Children's Games & Contest · Old-timers Games
- Cider Pressing · Pioneer & Gospel Music · Living History
- Artisans · Demonstrations · Delicious Food

**Visitors Welcome**

**Group Tours Available**  
June thru Oct. Prefer reservation for  
groups of ten or more.  
Call 260-589-8007.

The Swiss Heritage Village Museum  
and Gift Shop is open from  
10 am to 4 pm each day except Sundays  
and holidays.

**Tour Admission:**

Adults (age 13 & up)	\$6
Adult Groups (10 or more)	\$4
Seniors (55 & over)	\$5
Children (6 to 12)	\$3
Children under 6	Free
Museum Tour Only	\$3

# Third Commemorative Silver Coins Available

The faith instilling photograph of the Baumgartner Church stamped on one side of the third commemorative silver coin has made it very popular among those continuing to purchase these collector items for those who appreciate our Swiss heritage.

"These silver coins will make a wonderful gift or keepsake with increasing value as the years go by," commented Swiss Heritage Village executive director Doug Milligan. "These coins are made of the highest grade .999 fine silver.

"This commemorative coin is the third in a series of coins that will feature various historic buildings on our campus," continued Milligan. "Each coin in the collection will carry its own serial number."

The price of each of these commemorative silver coins is \$57.00 which includes a \$20 donation to Swiss Heritage Village. This portion of the coin price is tax deductible.

"To our members and sustaining friends, we offer a discount of five coins for \$52," noted Milligan. "If you would like your coins mailed, please add an additional \$5 for postage and insurance."



Once again, SilverTowne, L. P. of Winchester, IN. has been commissioned by Swiss Heritage Society to mint the third one-ounce commemorative silver coin. In addition to the image of Baumgartner Church, the Swiss Heritage homestead logo is on the reverse side.

To order, you may mail a check to Swiss Heritage Society, Inc., P.O. Box 88, Berne, IN., 46711. You can also call 260-589-8007 or online at [www.swissheritage.org](http://www.swissheritage.org).

# Opportunity Continues to Create a Legacy

The opportunity continues to purchase bricks and make ongoing donations toward the, "Create a Legacy Project" at Swiss Heritage Village. Village officials have noted that purchasing bricks is an opportunity to remember, recognize and honor an occasion, achievement and to honor or remember the lives of a loved one or loved ones. Engraving examples include the memory of Merle Inninger, servant of God in Pakistan and London and summer director at the village from 1994-98, the community service of Dr. Freeman Burkhalter, music director who was born on Sept.16, 1908 and who died on Jan. 30, 1999 and the special occasion/recognition of Blaine Fulton, Berne Mayor from 1992-

2003. Brick purchase options include regular size (4 x 8), first brick, \$125; second brick, \$100; third brick, \$75, and each additional brick, \$50 and large size brick (8 x 8), first brick, \$300; second brick, \$200 and each additional brick, \$100.

Please send check or engraving information to: Swiss Heritage Society, P.O. Box 88, Berne, Indiana, 46711.



## Second Annual Fundraising Auction Slated for Fall 2012

Following the success of last fall's first attempt at a fundraising auction by Swiss Heritage Village officials, executive director Doug Milligan stated that "money from the first annual auction will be designated for repairs and improvements at the village and museum."

Now, with the 2012 season getting underway, Milligan has emphasized that village officials are planning on a similar auction in late summer or early fall.

"We will be having our second annual auction," noted Milligan. "There are some folks that are already making plans toward this event."

Last year's auction, which was held on the Swiss Heritage Village grounds following the festival weekend in September, raised over \$14,000 towards repairs and improvements.

"We had such a great turnout for this; we are looking forward to a similar response this year," said Milligan. "We are still amazed at the community outpouring that occurred for this."

Money from last year's auction has been used toward the renovation and repair of the museum over the past several months. Milligan said that those wishing to inquire about this year's fundraiser can contact him at [dougmilligan@swissheritage.org](mailto:dougmilligan@swissheritage.org) or by calling 260-589-8007.



## Haystack Luncheon



## Weiner Dog Races & Dog Variety Show

The very popular Weiner dog races and dog variety show will be held on Saturday, July 28 at Swiss Heritage Village. The Weiner dog races begin at 10 AM and will include races for puppies, stud and powder puff dogs, along with an open grand champion. The open variety events include the cutest puppy, the best dressed, the most loveable, the best vocal performance and the best tail wagging dog, along with other categories. Entry fee is \$10 per dog for all events or \$5 for one event, with prizes and trophies awarded.

## Old Jail Cell: Still popular destination for village visitors

One of the "sleeper" popular stops for those visiting Swiss Heritage Village is the old jail cell located in the southwest corner of the village complex. Children, especially, have plenty of questions concerning its original location and stories surrounding some of its confinements.

Although most jailed individuals was limited to "hobos" who traveled along the railroad and overnight stays connected with alcohol or family arguments, occasionally more serious incidents would occur. It would then be up to the county sheriff to decide on the fate of the those infractions since laws and regulations were still in formation, in many cases.

The town's first jail was built when the town was incorporated in 1889, a log cabin construction located close to the railroad tracks.

Names for the facility at the time included, "calaboose" or "hoosegow."



*Jail Cell at Swiss Heritage Village*

## Devotional: Grandma's prayers just keep going

By JIM LANGHAM

On Memorial Day weekend, I carried out a tradition that dates back to my childhood and beyond, that of decorating graves of loved ones, family members and veterans.

My first memories of Memorial Day, always referred to by my grandma as, "Decoration Day," are that of harvesting Peonies and Irises, trimming them into bouquets on the kitchen table, and then placing them, along with water, in Ball jars to be placed on the graves of family. Sometimes we would spend several hours visiting the cemeteries around including Riverside in Geneva, MRE, Mount Hope and various other area graveyards.

This past Saturday, as I placed a wreath on the grave of Great Grandma Lena Hirschy, I recalled the stories that have been passed down concerning her fervent prayer life. It seems that "Grandma Hirschy" laid in bed in our home the last entire year of her life and prayed for her "ancestors to be." Ironically, she passed in 1948 just three weeks before I was born.

My grandma and mother told how she prayed that the Lord would call ancestors in His work; since then that request has been answered nearly 30 times in the last 60 years. She also prayed by generations, "Lord, be with the next generation after me, Lord, be with the generation after that, and the

next generation (mine), and the next (our children) and the next (our grandchildren)."

As I get older, and see the children of my generation began to age and grow in their spiritual walk, and witness their children start to develop, I find wonderful comfort in knowing that every one of them was prayed for by a Swiss ancestor, who came to America from the homeland and prayed in German the last year of her life for those who come after her.

I find great comfort in knowing that we don't have to be physically alive on earth to see our prayer requests answered. We can pray now for those who are here and those to come after us, and God will answer in His never ending time because He never changes, "Jesus Christ, the same, yesterday, today and forever."

The promise is there in James 5:16, "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

My dad's biggest concern prior to his passing was, "what's going to happen when all of the prayer warriors pass?"

The answer is simple, in answer to the prayers of ancestors, they go on, in school, church, businesses, homes and in circles where the the faith of our ancestors continues to pass on.

## Graber Featured In National Toy & Truck Magazine

By JIM LANGHAM



About 10 years ago, Geneva resident Don Graber was thumbing through a Toys and Joys Magazine. As he glanced over blueprints for making toys such as trains, cranes and other items, he began to ponder the possibility of toy construction. Within weeks, he was ordering blueprints to build everything from model trains to heavy equipment toys.

Little did Graber realize at the time that he would someday be the one publishing ideas in a national publication. This past April, a major feature was written about Graber in a similar magazine entitled, "Toy Trucker and Contractor." Magazine author Don Voelker wrote a feature about Graber's toy making talents.

One of Graber's first items was the Ceylon Covered Bridge, which he built upon request from the Geneva Chamber of Commerce for a special meeting.

"They wondered if I would make covered bridges so I made

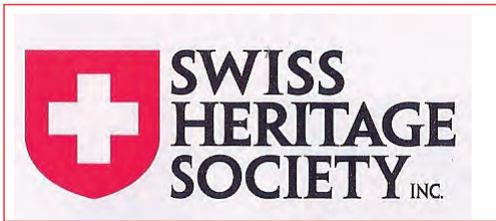
several for their annual awards meeting," recalled Graber.

A short time later, his wife was working with the meat packing project for the Mennonite Central Committee. Those working with the effort asked him to make a truck simulated after the one that hauled away the meat that had been loaded for world hunger needs. Not only did Graber replicate the truck but his son, Joe, was able to secure the insignia of the Central Committee to place on the truck.

"I would see something that I liked in that magazine and I would send off for the blueprint pattern for it," observed Graber. "I started making a few things without ever realizing how it would take off. I just got more and more blueprints and kept going."

Graber said that people often ask him how long each project takes. His response is that he doesn't keep track of hours; he simply goes to his handy shop that he and his wife, Nancy (Eicher), added to their home a few years ago, and works as long as he likes. He doesn't like to place any kind of demand on his time.

"I don't know how this stuff ever got started of getting publicized in magazines," observed Graber. "It gives me something to do; I like making things for the challenge of it. Some things get a little complicated. I make all of my own parts for everything. That gets pretty delicate sometime."



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email: [dougmilligan@swissheritage.org](mailto:dougmilligan@swissheritage.org)

Find us on Facebook at:  
Swiss Heritage Village and Museum

To:

***Dated Material--Do Not Delay!***

# Become a Member!



We want you to join us in educating others and preserving the heritage of southern Adams County, Indiana, through the Swiss Heritage Village, Museum and Nature Center and its many events. Members of the Swiss Heritage Society receive the newsletter, invitations to all programs, workshops and conferences plus free admission to the museum village and special events. All gifts over \$25 are deductible. Please complete this form and remit with your check to:

**Swiss Heritage Society, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 88  
Berne, IN 46711**

Learn more online at: [www.swissheritage.org](http://www.swissheritage.org)  
or call 260-589-8007.

***Our Mission Statement:***

*To spark and sustain interest in the cultural heritage of Berne, Indiana and Southern Adams County by promoting learning through discovery.*

Contributions to Swiss Heritage Society are tax deductible in accordance with IRS code regulations. Swiss Heritage Society is a tax-exempt, non-profit, educational, charitable institution under state and federal laws. All gifts over \$25 are deductible to the fullest extent of these regulations.

***Annual Membership Levels***

- Village Patriarch \$1,000
- Preservationist \$ 500
- Village Builder \$ 250
- Friend of the Village \$ 100
- Pioneer Family \$ 50
- Individual Pioneer \$ 25

***Annual Business Memberships***

- 1-25 employees \$100-250
- 26-50 employees \$250-400
- 51-75 employees \$400-550
- 75+ employees \$550-1,000
- New Membership
- Renewal

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_