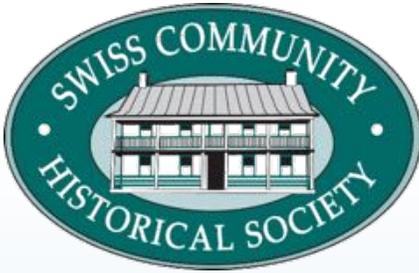


Christmas 2018



of Bluffton & Pandora
P.O. Box 5
Bluffton, OH 45817

Schumacher Homestead
8350 Bixel Rd.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
Judith Kingsley

VICE PRESIDENT
Gary Wetherill

SECRETARY
Todd Rainey

TREASURER
John Burkhart

CURATOR
Keith Sommer

Jeff Althaus
Seth Bixel
Dale Bridenbaugh
Marvin Diller
Rachael Hermiller
Ron Lora
Joanne Niswander
Paula Scott
Samantha Shrider

EDITOR: Paula Scott

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Samantha Shrider
(419) 204-1926
swisshistoricalcampaign
@gmail.com
PO Box 5
Bluffton, OH 45817



newsletter

The society is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its purchase of the Schumacher farmhouse with an Open House on November 17, 2018. The event will include refreshments, artifact displays, historical photographs and identification challenges.

Saturday, November 17, 1-4 p.m.

**Society members and Capital Campaign donors
are cordially invited to this special event**

As was reported in the July 4, 1968 *Bluffton News*, "By an almost unanimous vote, members of the Bluffton-Pandora Swiss Community Historical society voted...to purchase the old Christian Schumacher homestead.... Plans are to eventually restore the old building, replacing walled-up fireplaces, a summer kitchen long ago torn down and generally painting and repairing it. Ultimately, it will be furnished with furniture of the period when it was built in the 1840s."

And the result? The restored, furnished homestead inspired a 21st century visitor to write: "A beautiful spot in a peaceful rural location. The house is a historical gem & was well restored. We were amazed at the size of the rooms & to think that so many children were raised there (I think we heard the laughter)."

Please join us for the open house, to share your stories and interest in local history. Not yet a member? Please join the society to attend!

membership reminder

This newsletter is intended to be mailed to Swiss Community Historical Society members in good standing. Frankly, it's a policy we haven't strictly enforced.

RENEW NOW

If you see a yellow "RENEW NOW" sticker on your newsletter, please renew your membership as soon as possible. You can also check the mailing label to see when your membership is due. Thank you so much for supporting our work to preserve and share the history of Swiss settlers in the Bluffton and Pandora area.

Annual household: \$30.00 – Annual sustaining: \$100.00 – Life membership: \$1000.00

Please mail checks to SCHS treasurer Marvin Diller, P.O. Box 5, Bluffton, OH 45817.

find a red ear?

When 35 Van Wert high school German students visited the homestead in October, docent Gary Wetherill told them about cornhusking bees, a festive and social way to get a big job done in the 19th century.

Gary also mentioned that when you found a red ear of corn, you were allowed to publicly kiss the person of your choice! **Post script:** Not long after, Gary was picking up stray ears after harvest in a local field and found a red ear. Lucky boy!



schedule a tour

Docent-led tours are provided for hundreds of visitors to the homestead each year.

You can schedule tours for all kinds of groups, including families, businesses, and other organizations. A recent Steiner family reunion group brought 36 visitors to the Swiss house.

To set up a private tour of the house, contact Joanne Niswander at 419-358-0186. Admission is \$5.00 for individuals over 16, payable at the time of the tour. School tours are \$1 per student. Note: there is no group fee, but donations are gratefully accepted.

fantastic fall

After last year's 90-degree weather, the conditions for the 2018 Fall Festival felt ideal: cool and overcast.

Within the first hour it was obvious this would be the best year yet for attendance. An estimated 1700-1800 people came to the Homestead on September 22, 2018.

Visitors found lots to do, like the longtime favorite straw maze for the kids and delicious food for the adults. Period demonstrations, garden and house tours, farm animals, smoking bacon, horse-drawn wagon rides, a slingshot range, live music, beautiful quilts, and more were available for our guests to enjoy.

New this year was a blacksmithing demonstration by 15-year-old blacksmith Ben Eiden.

This event would be impossible without the amazing volunteers who served as docents, fed visitors, parked cars, baked bread, and helped with the hundreds of little and big tasks that made the day successful.

Plans are already underway for next year's event as we look for new activities. We hope to have a team of oxen on display.

If you have ideas or suggestions for the 2019 Fall Festival, please contact a board member or message us through Facebook or swissmennonite.wordpress.com/join-us.

PICTURED:

TOP: Benjamin Hartzler

CENTER: Blacksmith Ben Eiden

BOTTOM, left to right: Docents Nancy Yeager, Joanne Niswander, and Rachael Hermiller



Fall Festival support

Are you in touch with our Fall Festival donors? These local businesses help make the Fall Festival at Schumacher Homestead a greater fundraising opportunity for the society.

Please join us in thanking them for their generous support of the festival.

Our Generous Donors

A to Z Meats

Et Cetera Shop

Citizens National Bank

Family Eye Care Clinic of Bluffton

Pandora Grain & Supply

Shirley's Gourmet Popcorn Company

Suter's Morning Star Cider Press

Niswander honored

SCHS board member Joanne Niswander is one of ten individuals honored in an October 2018 "Words of Wisdom" conference exhibit by LeadingAge in Philadelphia.

Joanne's nomination featured her work on the board and role as tour coordinator for the Schumacher Homestead. She has also published two books, *An Alzheimer's Primer* and *Reflections from Maple Crest Pond*.

LeadingAge highlights Joanne's "messages of hope and optimism to others aiming to 'age positively.'" Congratulations, Joanne!

LeadingAge®

LEADINGAGE ANNUAL
MEETING + EXPO

October 28-31, 2018

Pennsylvania Convention Center | Philadelphia, PA

Scrap Artist Quilters donation



The quilt raffle held at the 2018 Fall Festival generated a \$1000 donation to the society's Capital Campaign fund from the Bluffton Scrap Artist Quilters.

The beautiful quilts that were displayed at the Schumacher farmhouse are the work of these generous and skilled artisans. Their partnership is greatly appreciated. Your raffle ticket purchases are, too!

< **Quilter Dottie Long and visitor**

from the archives



This seasonal postcard was sent to a Miss Ella Zurfluh of Lima in about 1904 and was donated to the society in 1986. The photograph is thought to be of Lottie and Mildred Rise.

Flowers, animals, and nature scenes were common Christmas card decorations at the time, according to Smithsonian.com.

Christmas cards had become widely popular by the 1890s. Book-style cards with envelopes were introduced in 1915 by the Hall Brothers company of Kansas City—which would later become a household name as the Hallmark company.

sing in the New Year

Welcome 2019 with Swiss caroling:

Members of the Swiss Community Historical Society will be leading traditional Swiss songs at Mennonite Memorial Home and other MHCO facilities.

Dates and times will be announced in the Bluffton Icon and on our Facebook page.

A musical score for two songs. The left page is titled "Neujahrs-Lied." and the right page is titled "NEW YEAR'S WELCOME". Both songs are in 4/4 time and have a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are provided in both German and English. The German lyrics are on the left page, and the English lyrics are on the right page. The music is written on a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The English lyrics are: "1. 'Tis time now to wel - come the, 2. Good for - tune and bless - ings / to, 3. In heav - en be - fore the great, 4. In clos - ing this year we re - hap - py new year, God grant you to dwell in your home, God grant you such heav - en - ly throne, God grant thee re - peat this one wish, God grant you on live and en - joy the new year, bless - ings this year in your home, ward in that heav - en - ly home, high once that heav - en - ly bliss."



homestead holiday

Celebrate Christmas with acoustic music, natural decorations, candles, and firelight at the Schumacher Homestead.

Refreshments will be served and activities for children will be provided in the cellar.

Demonstrations of period woodworking tools will be given in the workshop, weather permitting.

Christmas Open House, 2-7:00 p.m., December 1

Visit SCHS at www.swissmennonite.wordpress.com and on [Facebook](#)

P.O. Box 5
Bluffton, OH 45817

