

HERITAGE CENTER FOUNDATION

Spring 2012

Issue 10

...This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.
Isaiah 54:17

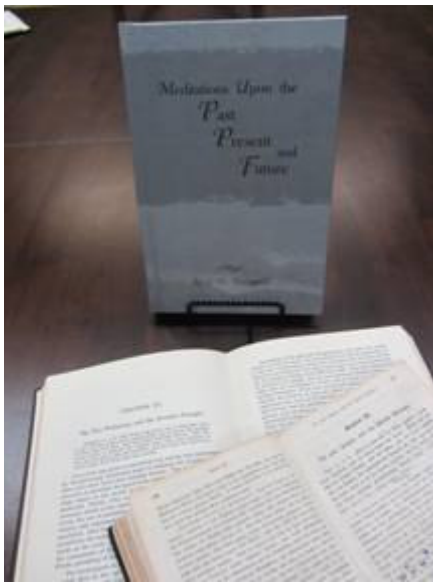


This wood-covered German edition of *Martyrs Mirror*, copyright 1780, originally belonged to Fred & Leah Oesch Rowell who lived on a farm near Tremont, IL. Believers of the Tremont church would occasionally gather in their home in the early 1900's to read, reflect upon, and discuss the true stories of those persecuted for their faith.



A Treasure Found in a Swiss Bookstore

The HCF has been given an 1861 *Neue Zionsharfe* - now the oldest edition in our library. It has 213 hymns - appropriately ending with hymn #213 "Parting Hymn." Our next oldest *Zion's Harp* was printed in 1869 and ends with hymn #251 "Jehovah."



Meditations Upon the Past, Present, and Future by G.M. Mangold has been reprinted and is now available at www.melttheheart.com. This book contains a reflection on the Revelation of the Apostle John.

The picture shows an early German edition with an 1862 copyright date, a later version translated into English by Bro. Ernest Graf, Sr., and the newest publication.

Defending the Truth

To the King's Administration of Justice booklet will soon be reprinted. This defense of the faith by early believers to the secular authorities can be considered a 133-year-old Statement of Faith. To reserve your copy, contact us at heritagecenterfoundation@gmail.com or call (309) 249-6281.

A Pilgrim's Voyage

Henry Geistlich was an elder from Meilen, Switzerland, who traveled to America in 1866 to visit the churches and brethren there. While on his journey, he kept a detailed journal, chronicling day-to-day events, as well as his spiritual thoughts, inspirations, and struggles.

Geistlich's journal is a historical and spiritual treasure. It gives the reader a glimpse into the post-Civil War life of American and Swiss believers. Depicted by the pen of an interested first-time observer, his descriptions of the American frontier and the splendors of Paris and New York City paint a fascinating picture.

Furthermore, Geistlich's daily entries in his journal reveal a rich spiritual life. Threaded throughout his journal are many references, both direct and indirect, to the Scriptures and *Zion's Harp* hymns. As an elder, he felt a burden for counseling and shepherding the souls with whom he came in contact. It is also evident that Geistlich strove to keep his heart and mind focused on Christ and on strengthening his own spiritual life. He had little tolerance for the worldly vanities he saw or even conversations that were not spiritually edifying.

Geistlich's journal was newly translated recently and will soon be published by the Heritage Center Foundation under the title *A Pilgrim's Voyage*. Watch for its arrival at www.melttheheart.com, or order a copy by calling (309) 249-6281 or by emailing heritagecenterfoundation@gmail.com. May the book be an encouragement and blessing to all who read it.

Did you know. . .

Before the *Silver Lining*, there was a "Serviceman's Newsletter." Originally published and distributed by Bro. David Mangold, it contained names and addresses of brothers and friends serving in the armed forces; a typed sermon; and poems, comments, or announcements such as an invitation to visit Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnlé in Japan. The newsletter containing "list number 13" (a list of over 700 brothers' and friends' military addresses) is dated July 5, 1943, and the newsletter with "list number 18" is from February, 1945.

Do you have. . .

. . . a pamphlet entitled "From the Beginning to the Present as a Voice of Warning and Judgment" by John Kreinbill?

John Kreinbill was possibly the first convert in Illinois and later became a minister in the Peoria congregation. If you have a copy of this or can share information about it, please contact us at heritagecenterfoundation@gmail.com or (309) 242-2257.

Mailing List

If you know of someone who would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact Darcy Stoller at (309) 242-2257 or heritagecenterfoundation@gmail.com.

If you would be willing to receive the newsletter in color via **email**, please contact the above email address. This option helps reduce printing and postal cost for the Heritage Center Foundation.

If you do not wish to receive future newsletters from the Heritage Center Foundation, you may remove your name by emailing or calling the phone number listed above.

A Selection from History

The following words were spoken by Bro. Philip Beyer who served as elder in Naumburg, NY, from 1938 - 1958:

And if that is true, then let us endure unto the end – let us be faithful in all that we have promised to our Lord and that includes a great deal. When we go back to that time when we received peace from God our Heavenly Father and we felt indeed that we could do anything and lay anything aside for Him – has that become different in our hearts; or, is the same love in our hearts for our Lord as it was then? It is something that we should from time to time ask ourselves – not that we should tell each other that the love is not the same, but we should ask ourselves, each one, individually, "Is the love the same as it was in the beginning?" If we find upon careful examination of our hearts that perhaps here and there (in a little measure here and a little measure there) we are perhaps growing a little cold to our Lord, is it not time then that we should seek after that First Love which we had so that when the times of trouble come? They are coming to every one of us in some way and manner, and many have experienced such times of troubles when they thought the Lord had deserted them, thought their prayers were heard no more. They felt as if the Lord had left them. When we come to such times of trouble ought not then we to feel that our love for the Lord is the same, and be persuaded that He who promised "I will be with you unto the end" is the same Lord. His promises are good unto each and every one. The children of men often make great promises. Sometimes they intend to keep them, sometimes not, but our Lord's promises are good – He will keep them unto the very letter, unto every soul that He makes a covenant with. He will keep His part if we keep our part, that we may endure unto the end.

The Heritage Center Foundation
c/o Fairview Haven
605 N. Fourth St.
Fairbury, IL 61739

“Blest Eternity”
Zion’s Harp #103, verses 3 and 6

It matters not that we endure,
As martyrs also did of yore,
The cross and much affliction.
Although our suff’ring were amassed
And all upon the balance placed,
We’d find this full conviction:
Eternal life doth far outweigh
All trials for which it doth repay.

Ah, how I long now to depart
To satisfy my weary heart
With Thee, O life immortal!
When can I soon to Thee ascend
To where my thoughts do daily wend
And enter heaven’s portal?
I would forget this world and strife
And work for sweet eternal life.