

# HERITAGE CENTER FOUNDATION

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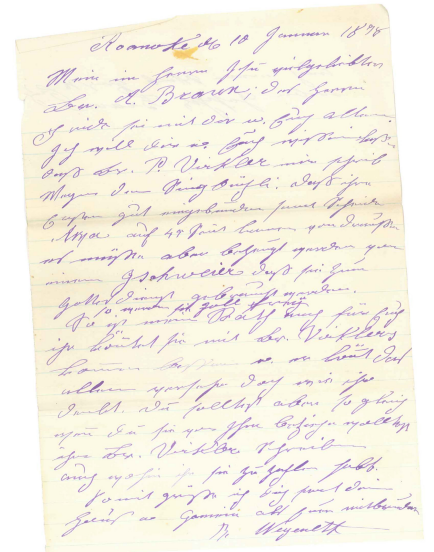
...This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.  
Isaiah 54:17

## Collection of Historical Letters



The Heritage Center Foundation recently received a historical treasure. Trudy Braun from the Apostolic Christian Nazarene church in Syracuse, NY, gave us over 200 old letters written in German script. The letters, originating from a time period when all communication was carried out by mail, are dated from the 1860s through the early

1900s. We have found original letters of spiritual exhortation from Elder Bros. Benedict Weyeneth, Joseph Bella and others, along with more prosaic letters describing the happenings of daily life. Currently the letters are being translated into English.



Excerpt from letter written by Heinrich Dotterer from Neu Hamburg, May 28, 1868:

Much beloved Brother Braun, with joy I take the opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that I have received your much appreciated letter which edified me greatly and brought me joy in the Lord. You can easily imagine what a joy it was when I received it and heard from you. You can easily imagine how it feels sometimes to be alone, but not alone for the Lord is with me and comforts me through His Holy Word because where He has placed me to fight, I shall not be ashamed. For this I am thankful, after all, dear Brothers and Sisters, for we know that He will stay close by us. He does not want us to become idle or lukewarm but work in His vineyard with diligence and not grieve Him with idleness. Therefore, let us all plead with the Lord constantly to beckon us when we err and listen to His voice and follow Him. And my dear Brothers and Sisters pray also for me that the Lord would keep me in His grace and that no one will pluck me out of His hand.

## A new publication is on the horizon...

Accounts for *Stories of Faith and Courage, Volume 4* are being prepared for future publication by the Heritage Center. We will keep you posted on the progress.

## Schlipf letters translation project:

Those of our readers who have read the pamphlet "To the King's Administration of Justice" may recall the confession of faith of three German elder brothers to the German government in 1878. One of the elder brothers, Johann Schlipf, had two sons, Bros. John and Jacob, who immigrated to America and settled in Gridley, Illinois. Sis. Karoline (Messer) Schlipf, Bro. Jacob's wife, hand copied many letters that we must conclude were in the possession of elder Bro. Johann and the Schlipf family for many years. Karoline's books were found in the attic of the home of Bro. Jake and Sis. Amy Schlipf of Gridley, IL. The letters, which contain approximately 74 typewritten pages of spiritual content, give us today a glimpse of the persecution and daily struggles many of our forefathers of faith endured more than 130 years ago.

Included are letters to and from a brother serving time in prison for refusing to bear arms, an account written by Swiss Elder Bro. Henry Geistlich regarding his travels in Hungary, and exchanges of letters between brethren in Germany and Hungary and between brethren in Germany and Dillon and Gridley, Illinois.

Of particular significance is a letter from Bro. Froehlich to the brethren in Dauernberg, Germany, in 1850. In this letter Bro. Froehlich reprints part of a letter written by Elder Bro. Joseph Bella which recounts the terrible persecution and beating of an Hungarian Bro. Horvatsch. In the conclusion of this letter, Bro. Froehlich writes:

"I ask you dear brethren to read this letter to all of the saints who are there so that they can be awakened to faithfulness and zeal. Let it also be read so that they do not become weary in spirit and in supplication and decrease in brotherly love, for I copied this letter for you so that your compassion as members of the body of Christ would really be aroused. It is a glory to us and before God that we have such brothers and sisters among us who have been honored by being consecrated with the sufferings of Christ. What one member suffers, it suffers on behalf of all. That means, their sufferings are a glory for all who are in the same fellowship of the Body and of the Spirit. If I am going to be proud of something here on this earth, then it would be of the fact that we have members among us and to whom we are joined in whom the sufferings of Christ are fulfilled. Yea, loved ones this is a testimony that we have been called to the fellowship of the body of Christ, because we suffer with them and rejoice with them in the glory. I greet all of you in the Lord Jesus. Be faithful and obedient, humble and patient. The Lord be with you all. Amen."

Your Brother,  
S.H. Froehlich

Copies of the Schlipf letters will be placed in the Heritage Center library and may be reprinted in booklet format by the Heritage Center at a later date. Special thanks to Bro. Nathan Wiegand of Akron, OH, for his willingness to translate the Schlipf letters from the original German for the Heritage Center.

## *Do you know. . .*

...that the *Zion's Melodies* hymn book resulted from a desire to preserve historic hymns which had been a source of comfort and inspiration to brethren of the Apostolic Christian Church in the past. Some of these songs had not been translated from German to English, so a Heft/Alte Lieder committee of brethren was formed and completed the translations over several years. In 2005, the *Zion's Melodies* with 67 beautiful historic hymns was published. The hymnal can be purchased from Apostolic Christian Publications, and a CD of a cappella selections from the hymnal called *The Homeward Journey* can be purchased from [www.melttheheart.com](http://www.melttheheart.com) or from [heritageaudio1@gmail.com](mailto:heritageaudio1@gmail.com). An instrumental CD of all 67 *Zion's Melodies* hymns is also available from Heritage Audio.

### **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](mailto:heritagecenterfoundation@gmail.com)

If you would be willing to receive the newsletter in color via **email**, please contact the above email address. We send the newsletters bcc and do not give out email addresses to other mailing lists.

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.

Donations to fund the many projects undertaken by the Heritage Center Foundation are welcome and may be sent to:

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

## **An update on**

### **...the Matthew Translation Project**

The retranslation of Samuel Froehlich's meditations on the book of Matthew is basically completed and is being sent to proofreaders.

### **...Spiritual Breadcrumbs**

The translation of this work consisting of notes Froehlich compiled is being proofread and edited for accuracy. The decision has not yet been made on whether it will be made available at the Heritage Center library, printed in booklet form, or included in pdf form with Froehlich's other writings.

### **...Ernest Graf Collection**

The compilation of Ernest Graf, Sr.'s autobiography and a collection of his letters is currently being proofread and is expected to be published by fall.

### **Digital Format or Print Format?**

As evident in this newsletter, the Heritage Center has many projects in progress and materials we would like to make available. In this age of technology, is the preference going to move towards digital format or are there many who still prefer a paper, printed copy? We welcome your feedback at [heritagecenterfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:heritagecenterfoundation@gmail.com) or The Heritage Center Foundation, c/o Fairview Haven, 605 N. Fourth St., Fairbury, IL 61739

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**“Before Baptism”**  
*Zion’s Harp* #10, verses 1 and 3

Oh, my God, my heart desireth greatly  
To inherit Thy sweet rest.  
In Thy covenant wilt Thou receive me,  
Number me among the blest.  
As Thy twelve disciples in their trial,  
So I pledge myself in self-denial  
To endure reproach, dismay,  
And Thy good Word to obey.

A new being by regeneration,  
I do pledge myself to bear  
With my Master cross and tribulation,  
Likewise with His body share.  
But, my Lord, to suffer and to labor  
Give me strength, and grace, and godly favor  
That I follow Thee alone,  
Till I stand before Thy throne.