

HERITAGE CENTER FOUNDATION

Fall 2015

Issue 16

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



Spiritual Breadcrumbs Now Available

The translation and publication of *Spiritual Breadcrumbs* is completed. This booklet, Samuel Froehlich's early collection of brief meditations from the years 1829 to 1831, is different from his usual writings. Short individual passages, usually just a paragraph long, make this easier reading for those who may find his other writings difficult. This booklet can be purchased for \$5.00 by emailing heritagecenterfoundation@gmail.com or by calling Heritage Press at (309) 249-6281 or from www.melttheheart.com.

1855 *Neue Zionsharfe* Found



An old *Zion's Harp* purchased on the estate sale of a granddaughter of Magdalena Blunier Herbst and Ernest Lewis Herbst has been donated to the Heritage Center. The donor who purchased the book in the Roanoke, IL, area only asked for a translation of the note handwritten in German inside the book as return payment. (See translation below.)



This book is the oldest known copy of our beloved hymnal.

Bareswille, June 16, 1856

In the Lord Jesus Christ, beloved Sister Magdalena Blunier, It is the will of God the Father that His children love Him and praise Him in truth and in their deeds, and hold fast with fervency in the Spirit as members of one body. We have entered into the bond of love, as it says in the *Zion's Harp* #79, This covenant of love shall endure and stand forever; There neither grief nor pain Shall come to part or sever. There God shall e'er abide With us our truest friend, Our hearts in Him unite Forever, without end.

And with this I, your beloved Brother, wish you from my heart to journey on to the land of celestial bodies and to the city, the New Jerusalem, where there will be eternal peace and joy. O then we will be there where the hymn Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia will be sung to Him. With this I greet you with the holy greeting of love and peace. Farewell in the Lord, and stay true and faithful until the end. Amen.

Field Trip Leads to Appreciation for our Heritage

Students from Cornerstone School in Wolcott, IN, visited the Heritage Center last May as part of their Heritage of Faith class. Also stopping at various churches and cemeteries, they located the graves of Benedict Weyeneth, Joseph Bella, and G.M. Mangold as part of their trip. The school's spring newsletter stated, "Touring the Heritage Center Foundation in Fairbury, IL was unanimously voted as the most worthwhile aspect of our excursion. This center houses many relics pertaining to the Apostolic faith that have been passed down through the generations, such as hand-written Zion's Harp hymnals, 150-year-old veils from the original Croghan/Naumburg, NY churches, original letters written by G.M. Mangold, and much more. Copies of nearly every Silver Lining issue were present, and we enjoyed browsing through them and reading about important events from the past. The field trip greatly benefited each of us. It allowed the material we've studied to come alive and caused us to acquire a higher appreciation for our faith."

An Evening of History and Heritage

August 2015 marked 50 years that the Fairbury congregation has been worshipping in its current building. An evening of remembering their history and heritage was held in the fellowship hall with singing, a slide presentation, an archive display, and a snack which included bread with butter and sugar.

The slide presentation included pictures of the old church, of their building the current church, of various additions, and of the brethren on the building committee and ministers who have served in the current church. Many of the pictures in the presentation have been made into a memory book and will soon be available for viewing in the Heritage Center.

The archive display included the baptismal from the South Side church, the blueprints from the current church, kitchen items and china, a reel-to-reel tape player, a pulpit Bible and hymnals, veils and hats, old Sunday school materials, and small toys children used to play with during services.

Although much of the evening was spent talking about memories of building the church and of using the various items from the past, the real focus was on an appreciation of the heritage that has been passed down by faithful brethren and the need to continue to hold fast to the faith and doctrine that has been preserved since believers first began worshipping in Fairbury many years ago.



The Heritage Center is looking for someone who would be willing to spend an hour or two each month cataloging and organizing the library in Fairbury. Please contact Sally Fehr at sfehr@fairviewhaven.org or (815) 692-3407 if you are interested.

Did you know. . .

Originally, in the 1870s, the Lamont and Gridley, Kansas, congregations were one church body. The brethren met at a school centrally located between the two areas. Eventually travel became too inconvenient, and they separated into two distinct congregations. The Kansas brethren faced coyote and wolf packs, Indians, and roaming buffalo during those early days. In 1995, the brethren were once again united into the Lamont-Gridley church.

Information taken from *Marching to Zion*

Stories of Faith and Courage, Volume 4

Volume 4 contains 23 stories from Europe and America showing how God leads His children through trials of life. The book can be purchased for \$12.00 from www.melttheheart.com or by emailing heritagecenterfoundation@gmail.com or by calling Heritage Press at (309) 249-6281.

Many brethren have asked if there will be an audio version produced. We are thankful to announce that various brothers have been willing to again read, edit, and create accompanying music for this new book. Production is anticipated for spring of 2016.

Ernest Graf Booklet Nears Completion

Ernest Graf, Sr., a respected brother in the Apostolic Christian Church, was ordained as elder in Akron, Ohio, in 1922. Besides his duties as elder and minister, he was also instrumental in translating many of the *Zion's Harp* hymns from German into English. This booklet contains Ernest Graf's autobiography and some of his letters, sermons, and doctrinal writings. It also includes his funeral service and a memorial poem written by Henry Beer. This collection was compiled to share the wisdom and spiritual insight of a dear elder brother for the benefit of all who appreciate our blessed heritage. Printing of this writing is expected by early 2016.

A Selection from History

The following words were spoken by Bro. Peter Bach in the North Side, Forrest, church on an Easter morning:

What moves us to do it? Nothing else but our love toward God. These who are born of God will also love the one that is born of God, and so this love is among us. Oh, how that love does bind us together - how it does bind, and how we can be helpful to each other and help encourage one another to carry the burden.

We find in one of our hymns, "While loving, the burden is even made easier." We should even have the love to ask, "Is there any more to share or carry?" Only the true love will and can bring such about.

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“Thou Hast Words of Life”
Zion’s Harp #203, verses 5 and 6

And Love’s holy fire, we pray Thee,
Pour into each spotless heart,
That in joy or in affliction
Ne’er from Thee we may depart.
May we never feel encumbered
With the cross that we must bear,
Gladly leave in self-denial
What Thy kingdom cannot share.

Let Thy word bring light and gladness,
Strength and power to our heart;
May it be the living motive
Causing each to do his part.
Help to store in careful keeping
What this day we may receive;
Manifest Thy healing power
In all who Thy word believe.