

HERITAGE CENTER FOUNDATION

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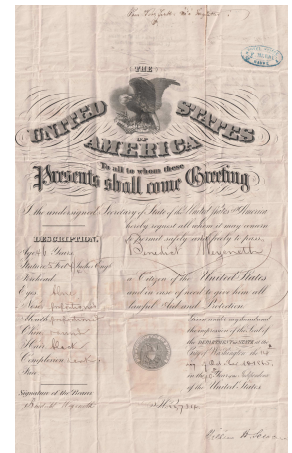
...This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.
Isaiah 54:17



Hand-Made Historical Treasure

A chair hand-made by Benedict Weyeneth along with a citizenship document from 1865 bearing his signature have been donated to the Heritage Center by the Fred J. and Anna (Weyeneth) Leman families of Roanoke, Illinois.

Benedict Weyeneth came to America in 1847 at the age of 29 at the request of Samuel Froehlich to help solve some questions posed by a group of Mennonites in New York, subsequently beginning the Apostolic Christian Church in America. He and his wife moved to America in 1851. Although the exact year of craftsmanship is unknown, his date of death in 1887 means the chair is over 130 years old. According to the family, it is believed that the seat is made from the bark of a tree and is stuffed with moss or lichen. They also state that Weyeneth's wife, Elizabeth, was cooking over the fireplace while seated in this chair, had a stroke or heart attack, fell into the fire, and later died as a result. There were supposedly burn marks on the arm of the chair which were later painted over. The Heritage Center Foundation is truly blessed to receive this donation and thankful to the Leman family for sharing this historical treasure.



G.M. Mangold Exhibit Planned

The family of the late Vi Funk of Morton, Illinois, has graciously loaned to the Heritage Center a number of items belonging to George Mangold (1822-1894). These items include a diary and poems written by Mangold while still living in Lorraine in 1883, as well as a handwritten draft of his work *Meditations Upon the Past, Present and Future*.

Other donors have provided a book of 100 poems prepared by Mangold for his daughter, and a large handwritten letter written by him while visiting Füllinsdorf, Switzerland.

The Heritage Center thanks these donors and plans to display these items and others from George Mangold in a special exhibit for visitors to the library.

Historic Hymnals of the Apostolic Christian Church

Our last newsletter gave a brief explanation of the difference between hymns and gospel songs. To further emphasize our unique musical heritage, we are providing a summary of our Apostolic Christian hymnals.

--The *Zion's Harp* is a uniquely Apostolic Christian hymnal. It started as a two-page hymnbook, printed by Juliane von Kruedener in 1817. More hymns were added and the next version was known as the *Begginger Buchlein*. An extended version of the *Begginger Buchlein*, called *Christliche Harmonika*, was published by Johann Vetter in the early 1800s. (NOTE: The Heritage Center Foundation has a photocopy of this early hymnal.) Samuel Froehlich used the *Christliche Harmonika* as a basis for a hymnal he called "hymns for the meetings of believers" which was printed between 1828-1853. In 1854, Froehlich commissioned G.M. Mangold to compile a new version of the hymnal. Mangold created the *Neue Zionsharfe* (New Zion's Harp), a compilation of 182 hymns. Mangold wrote 26-29 of the hymns himself. (NOTE: The Heritage Center Foundation was recently given a copy of Mangold's poetry journal in his original handwriting.) This hymnbook was reprinted a number of times and eventually the final German version included 253 hymns. In the 1920s, the *Zion's Harp* was translated from German to English by Apostolic Christian brethren. This hymnal was revised in 1958 to include music for every text, and about 50 new melodies were added. In 2000, another revision of the *Zion's Harp* was published and three hymns were added, along with some melody changes. The *Zion's Harp* has been published in every language of the Apostolic Christian brethren. These languages include: Croatian, English, German, Hungarian, Japanese, Romanian, Serbian, Slovakian, Spanish and Ukranian. The majestic hymns of the *Zion's Harp*, well-known to Apostolic Christian brethren, unite our brethren in common understanding of our faith regardless of language barriers. Interestingly, the understanding of many Apostolic Christians is that *Zion's Harp* hymns are unique only to our church. In reality, a number of the hymns are still included in traditional hymnals in other denominations in Germany.

--The *Heft* hymnal, also known as the "Long Book" was originally published in German. Five different versions of the Heft hymnal were published in German, as more hymns were added to each version. In 1931, an English version of the *Heft* was published. It was titled *Songs of Praise and Worship*. The *Heft* hymnal (both English and German) was primarily used for Sunday School, hymn singings, and in the home.

--*Hymns of Zion* was first known as *Songs and Hymns of Zion*. Several versions of *Songs and Hymns of Zion* were published, with the final edition being published in 1949. *Hymns of Zion*, the "brown book" as we know it today, was published in 1958. It included hymns from the *Heft* which had been translated by Apostolic Christian brethren along with original hymns written by Henry Beer and songs from other American and European traditional hymnals.

--Published in 2005, *Zion's Melodies* is a collection of historic hymns recently translated by Apostolic Christian brethren. The *Alte Lieder*, a historic German hymnal formerly used by some of our churches, was included in this compilation. Also included in *Zion's Melodies* were hymns from the *Heft* that had not yet been translated and included in previous hymnals. There are still some hymns from the later *Heft* versions that have not been translated.

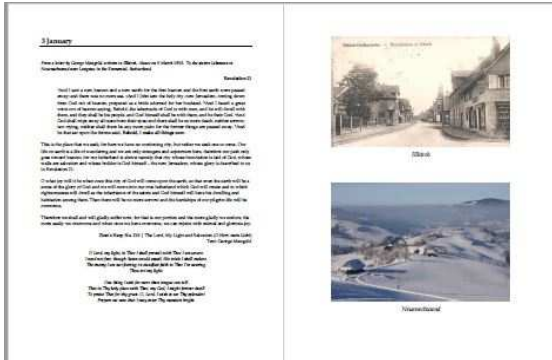
More detailed information on the various hymnals of the Apostolic Christian Church is available in the *Heritage of Faith* church history textbook.

Do you know. . .

Which congregations were greatly influenced by Benedict Weyeneth?

Croghan and Naumburg, NY; Elgin, IA; Tremont, IL; and Roanoke, IL

Historical Devotional



The Heritage Center is considering publishing a book that would serve as a daily devotional with brief excerpts from sermons and writings from the early years of our church in Europe and America, especially prior to 1900. These excerpts would come both from Samuel Froehlich and many other brothers whose thoughts have been preserved from that time period. We solicit your suggestions for writings or excerpts

that would be beneficial to include in such a project. Please email heritagecenterfoundation@gmail.com or call (309) 453-3251 with ideas or contributions.

A Selection from History

The following words were spoken by Bro. Will Stettner (minister from Elgin, IL, from 1934 – 1964):

Just as Jonadab found it to be good for his sons to give them a commandment so it is often good and needful for the servants of God to give advice and to admonish for the welfare of the flock where they see danger approaching. Paul wrote to his fellow workers to teach, to exhort, to admonish, and where such teachings and corrections are heeded and obeyed a blessing will follow....But where such instructions are made light of and are not taken to heart and only looked upon as words of man because they are not written in the Bible, it will not lead to anything good. That brings to our mind the teaching of one of our departed elders. It is almost fifty years ago when Bro. Christian Gerber was our elder.... He taught us, he admonished us, he corrected us and how we did love him. He often warned us and mentioned in his sermons about "Der Freiheit Geist," which means the spirit of freedom. But let us not misunderstand this. The brother did not mean or refer to the spirit which makes us free from the bondage of sin. But he had reference to the so-called "spirit of freedom" which is really a spirit of deception. The words "Spirit of Freedom" are such beautiful words and our enemy tries to blind our eyes with such beautiful words, "spirit of freedom." To have a little more freedom here, a little more there, allow this and the other thing just because it is not commanded in the Bible. That's the very way the evil one is working to undermine the very foundation of the commandment of Christ which was given to us at the first beginning when the Lord called us to follow Him. The commandment was, "Deny yourselves and follow me." This false spirit is working under the cloak of freedom and trying to do away with all restrictions and bring God's people into a self-satisfying state all under the beautiful words of freedom.

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“Passionate Longing”

Zion’s Harp #53, verses 1 and 6

Oh Jerusalem, the golden,
Where God’s praises ever ring;
Heav’nly choirs to Thee beholden,
“Holy, Holy, Holy!” sing.
Oh, when will God grant to me
Thy glad citizen to be!

But if I must longer tarry
On this wild, tempestuous sea,
Where on frail bark I am sailing,
Storms and waves are tossing me,
Though the cross and death I see,
Still let hope my anchor be!