Max Schweizer
A Portrait
of New Switzerland
A Portrait of New Switzerland
1831–1900
Origin and Development of a Swiss Settlement in the United States of North America (Madison County, Illinois)

Zürcher Books Ltd, Zug
Max Schweizer was born in Zürich, 1950. He studied geography, history and political science at the University of Zürich. He spent several months doing research in Highland in 1977 and 1978, and is an honorary citizen of that town. At present Max Schweizer is working on a doctoral dissertation on New Switzerland.

This book was translated by Harold and Lynne Schweizer.
Translators' note: We have tried, in as far as possible, to retain the stylistic quaintness of the original documents and letters.
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The exhibition and the book 'A Portrait of New Switzerland' offer an interesting insight into a chapter of Swiss history that is known far too little to a wider public. Considering the large number of foreign labourers who live and work with us today, we tend to forget that for centuries Switzerland too was a country of emigrants. Untold Swiss have left their ancestral homeland, often because they were forced to do so by hard economic necessities, but also because they hoped to find a future with more freedom and a better chance to unfold their talents.

The foundation and development of a Swiss settlement in the United States are traced here, illustrated by photographs, pictures and documents. The hopes and the expectations the emigrants carried with them, the difficulties they encountered and the many problems they had to solve are here impressively presented. I would like to hope that both the exhibition and the book will contribute to deepen our relationship with a country that once received hospitably so many of our fellow citizens, and that they will at the same time awaken understanding for the people from other lands who live among us today — understanding for their worries and concerns, but also for their desire to build a new life in our country.

Hans Hürlimann, The President of the Swiss Confederation
Juhaan Antoan Krieg
New Switzerland
September 1847

'Dear reader, do not forget your fellow citizens; I assure you, they have not forgotten you. Nothing revives those here with greater joy than to receive good tidings from the old homeland, and everyone mourns when we hear such evil reports as have unfortunately reached us in the last years. As only the best of our sentiments for the well-being of our old homeland endow our citizens here, we also hope that our settlement would not be treated as a stepchild by his mother, but rather as a dear child. We only ask for your sympathy and compassion for our well-being. But in that case, you should no longer send us the poor of your communities, the ill-disposed, and especially not your malefactors, for this would certainly be a stepmotherly act. However, we shall welcome every upright man and «Eidgenosse»¹, with or without riches, who would have the will and strength to provide for himself among us. He will here find his field of action, become a useful member of our community and be a burden to no-one.'²
New Switzerland —
One Example Among Many

In the United States of America, more than 140 settlements had, or still have, Swiss or Swiss sounding place-names. Besides names from A — Arbon (Idaho) to Z — Zürich (Kansas, Montana, New York), there are more than twenty names that remind us of Switzerland as a whole. The names vary from Helvetia and New Helvetia to Swiss Home, Swiss Valley and Swiss City, from Switzerland and New Switzerland to Little Switzerland.
What do we know about the history of all these settlements? We rummage through the Swiss libraries in vain, and in vain we ask for the ‘specialist’ who could give us information. Possibly we might find a publication on New Glarus, which has become better known in Switzerland in the last twenty years; or we chance upon a little booklet that tells about one of the approximately twenty-six settlements bearing the name ‘Bern’. But more we cannot expect, for the articles about further settlements that might happen to be published in the daily press are not collected, and thus not available.
Swiss place-names in the U. S.: this map shows names from the past and present, but is not complete.
The aim of this small book, then, is to give insight into the origin and life of a Swiss settlement in the United States. The choice of New Switzerland was purely arbitrary, as was the choice of a settlement on the North American continent. The tracing of the roots of a 'Helvetia' in South America or Australia, or a 'Zürichthal' in Russia would have been equally interesting. Wherever Swiss emigrants made their appearance in the course of general European expansion, their traces are to be found — sometimes only on old maps and in archives, but sometimes faintly or more distinctly in the land itself. Swiss place-names and the foundation of settlements abroad thus testify to emigrated ancestors. Between 1800 and 1914 approximately 510,000 Swiss left their country, temporarily or forever. What, then, were the reasons behind this exodus? To this question — nowadays frequently asked — there are no easy answers. First, one must be aware of the emigration possibilities in the 19th century: besides the United States, the extensive land possessions of England and Spain were also waiting to be colonized. Then one must consider that emigration was believed to bring an improvement in personal conditions, whatever the individual emigrant meant by that; more political and religious freedom in one case, existential security in another, possibly the escape from a threatening criminal procedure, or perhaps just the satisfying of «Wanderlust» and the desire for adventure. The attitude of Swiss communal and cantonal authorities towards emigration differed according to time and place, ranging from emigration prohibitions to quiet tolerance, from willing support to the organized expulsion and deportation of the poor. The protests of foreign governments finally led in 1874 to a new article in the constitution, giving the federal government the authority to take measures against these abuses.

The settlement New Switzerland not only accepted those Swiss who arrived variously motivated and belonging to different classes, but, even more, was hospitable to people coming from such linguistically and culturally distinct areas as the Grisons, Berne, Basel, Zürich and Geneva. This multiplicity on an even smaller territory than in their mother country was one of the unique features of New Switzerland. More will be said in quotations by the immigrants and visitors to the settlement themselves.

In collaboration with the communal authorities of the city of Zürich, a mobile exhibition on New Switzerland was presented. The opening took place on September 15, 1978, with the mayor of Highland and twenty-four citizens of that town in attendance.
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Table of Swiss Emigration (in thousands):
Emigration and Search for a New Home
On April 22, 1831, the fifty-seven year old doctor Kaspar Köpfli of Sursee (Switzerland) sent out a lithographed farewell letter:

'MERKT EUCH IHR ALTEN — SO SIND DIE NEUEN [Mark this, you old ones — So live the new ones]: If we had to bid you farewell personally, perhaps forever, our hearts would break. Allow us, therefore, to say good-bye in written form.'

He let friend and enemy know the reasons for his approaching departure and its deeper meaning: 'To many of our friends our undertaking may seem highly peculiar — by some it might even be looked upon as mental derangement. . . . We believe to have thought about this important step reasonably and with earnest consideration, and we have not decided on such a seemingly daring undertaking without weighing every factor. The desire for religious, political and civil freedom is the mainspring of our decision. . . . But it was not merely a happier home or the securing of a safe and steady income that brought forth in us such an important resolution. . . . But rather the motive which confirmed us in our undertaking was the noble intention to prepare the way on which many family fathers, otherwise active but now without work and plagued by hunger and worry, may obtain for themselves a more comforting future. It is, of course, very hard to leave one's homeland. But what good can we hope for in our dear Switzerland, or even in Europe? The learned world may preach against it as much as it wants; it can be proven as a matter of fact that the old world is suffering from an ailment from which it can only be cured by a promotion of colonization. It is called overpopulation. . . . May the people in dire straits understand our suggestion! May the governments promote their well-being; may the Almighty guide our steps and lead them to the predestined goal.'
The Köpfli pioneer family (from l. to r.): Dr. Kaspar Köpfli, his son Salomon, his daughter Rose Eggen and her child.
For years Kaspar Köpfli had nurtured the plan to emigrate to America and had prepared himself carefully: 'Each book which dealt with that land of liberty was purchased and eagerly read.' The emigration guide by G. Duden, «Bericht über eine Reise nach den westlichen Staaten Nordamerikas und einen mehrjährigen Aufenthalt am Missouri in den Jahren 1824, 25, 26 und 27» (Eberfeld 1829) ['Report on a Journey to the Western States of North America and a Sojourn for Several Years in Missouri in the Years 1824, 25, 26 and 27'], gave occasion for the realization of his intentions. In his book Duden presented to his fellow countrymen the thinly populated Missouri area, in Europe still virtually unknown, as ideal for development. He described the mild climate, fertile soil, cheap land, and gave an account of life on a settlement. In these descriptions Köpfli recognized all the necessary prerequisites for his proposed project: besides favourable farming conditions there was also enough land for those Swiss who wanted to follow after him. About this he writes in his farewell letter: 'According to the reliable reports in H. Gottfried Duden's journey notes, which you can read for yourselves, the area of Missouri where we plan to establish ourselves is of all discovered areas thus far the most fertile. Thousands of acres are still awaiting the buyer. For two Taler or five Gulden one finds sufficiently excellent land that should yield for decades and without fertilizer 80—140%. The climate is so favourable that each one can keep with minimum care as many cattle as he can purchase, for they can find ample food outside summer and winter. For about 2—3,000 Gulden the settler is able to buy a farm of 80—100 Jucharten with sufficient forest land, the buildings, the most necessary household effects and the first stock of cattle — a farm on which a large family can live without worry for the future.'

Where?
Gottfried Duden’s Eden at the Missouri
Bericht
über eine Reise
nach den
westlichen Staaten Nordamerika's
und einen mehrjährigen Aufenthalt am Missouri (in den Jahren 1824, 25, 26 und 1827), in Bezug auf Auswanderung und Uebervölkerung,
or:
Das Leben
im
Innern der Vereinigten Staaten
und dessen Bedeutung für die häusliche und politische Lage der Europäer, dargestellt
a) in einer Sammlung von Briefen,
b) in einer besonderen Abhandlung über den politischen Zustand der nordamerikanischen Freistaaten, und
c) in einem rathgebenden Nachtrag für auswandernde deutsche Ackerwirte und Dieselben, welche auf Handelsunternehmungen denken,
von
Gottfried Duden.

(Aus Kosten der schweizerischen Auswanderungs-geellschaft gedruckt.)
Departure—
The Voyage to America

There were fourteen travellers who set out on the journey from Sursee on the 21st of April, 1831: '... father Köpfli, ... his wife, and a daughter, three sons and a maid; Herr Joseph Suppiger and his brother Anton, together with five men, three of whom were taken along as workers. ... When we departed from Sursee, our coach had to work itself through a crowd thronging in the little town and for a distance outside the gates. These people had come from far to witness the departure to America of a family considered to be one of the town's happiest. Many stood in tears, and everybody stretched out his hand to us for a last farewell.' With seven horses, a goods wagon and a gilded coach, the emigrants travelled through Paris to Le Havre.

When the group went to see a mail ship that should depart May 18, they were shocked: 'With dismay we shrank back. The ship was packed with people, and the travellers did not seem to have a better lot than one usually tells about the slaves. They were left only the freedom to care for themselves, but this probably made their fate even more bitter.' The poor space situation on the mail ships caused Köpfli and others to hire their own ship for 18,000 francs. The purpose was to rent the deck to emigrants for far better accomodations than the mail ships afforded, and to use the cabins for themselves. This plan was soon realized. The deck was converted into a sleeping area and the places were sold to the emigrants streaming to the Swiss ship. However, the threat of losing the money which had already been paid for places on the regular mail ship forced the Köpfli and Suppiger families to sail with the 'La France' to New York on the 2nd of June, 1831.
Joseph Suppiger, co-founder of New Switzerland. He was particularly involved with the development of Highland.
2. Zugang zu vorigen und Raum zum Rad des Steuerruders.
4. Licht gebendes Gehäüs z. untern Cîj.
5. Ein gleiches zur zweiten Cîjütte.

The mail ship 'La France': number 20 was the Köpfli cabin.
7. Eingang zur Cajütentreppe.
8. Windstock zum Ein- und Ausladen.
10. Deckung zum Einladen der Waaren.
15. Windstock um die Anker zu lichten.
17. Damen-Cajüte.
18. Cajütentreppe.
19. Bereitungsband der Speisen etc.
20. linner Raum.
22. Matrosenhöhle.
23. Steuerruder.
24. Keller wonin die Waaren verpackt.
25. Höhe des Geländers oder Bordes.
27. Zwischendeckboden.
The emigrants from Sursee weathered the 45 day voyage well, enjoying the advantages of a cabin set apart expressly for them on the lower deck. A ten day sojourn in the flourishing city of New York served to equip them with weapons and iron farming implements. On the 30th of July they then took quarters with more than 1,000 pounds of goods on a steamer-pulled boat that would take them to Albany. They intended to reach their destination, St. Louis in the Midwest, by the American inland navigational system.

Under the decisive leadership of father Köpfli, the journey west was unflinchingly begun. 'When we talked of our intention to travel to Missouri, people in New York could not understand what we were looking for there. . . . In Cincinnati, again they tried to prevent us from pursuing our envisioned goal and attempted to detain us there. Here, as well as in the states of New York and Ohio, we saw much land that offered more advantages for our settlements than we could reasonably hope for in far Missouri. But the head of our company did not waver a moment; he was not deterred by difficulties; faithful to his original plan, the foundation of a Swiss settlement, he set his sights on the far West where he would be able to choose unhindered and where for many years to come needy immigrants could count on Congress land.'6 On Sunday, August 28, 1831, Joseph Suppiger wrote in his diary: 'Today's journey has brought many a lovely sight to Swiss eyes accustomed to beholding mountains.'7 The same day he also noted: 'At three o'clock we finally saw the long awaited St. Louis. The first impression this place made on me is impossible to describe. We expected to see a little town like Sursee, but it surpasses in every respect the size of Lucerne!'8
Search for a New Home —
At First, Disappointment

After travelling for 128 days, the well-to-do immigrants moved into a newly built brick house in St. Louis overlooking the Mississippi. From here they made excursions into the areas praised by Gottfried Duden. But Köpfli was disappointed in the hill country, which was thickly overgrown by forests. The establishment of a lucrative agricultural concern would have required years of difficult clearing. The Lucerners, however, were not able to find a bigger area of land west of the Mississippi that satisfied their expectations, even after further search. Thus they finally accepted the proposal to inspect some land east of the Mississippi in the state of Illinois. On their way back from Vandalia they went to see a piece of land for sale in the Looking Glass Prairie '... and were immediately surprised by its pleasant situation'. 'Here we found neither the endless forests of Missouri nor the monotonous, vast prairies of Illinois. Though here too prairie country stretched before our eyes, the green plain was embellished with pleasant hills. Little valleys creased through the plain, groves of trees and bushes gave everything the touch of a park landscape, and this beautiful picture was framed in the west by the wooded heights of the Silver Creek and in the east by the Sugar Creek. There were as yet few traces of civilization. Far in the distance, along the edge of the forest, sometimes rising smoke from a log cabin could be seen. The prairie as far as the eye reached lay untouched in its fullest splendor before us. Small herds of deer and sometimes some cattle were grazing in the high, thick grass, which carpeted the landscape with its thousandfold flowers making a show in all their colors. That this was the final goal of our six month travelling and searching became evident to everyone who was present here.'
Above: The region at the Missouri recommended by Gottfried Duden.

Below: The area in southern Illinois chosen by Kaspar Köpfli.
Founding and Development of the Settlement
New Switzerland —
700 Acres Receive a Name

After the inspection of the land in the Looking Glass Prairie, Dr. Kaspar Köpfli assembled the group of immigrants together. The words he spoke were later recorded by his son Salomon. Before everyone took the decisive step to buy the land, Köpfli asked each one to clarify his outlook on the future. ‘I would not like that even one of you would have illusions concerning your life there. What awaits all of you there in that region, which is as yet little better than a wilderness, is a life full of toil, deprivation and hard labor. By this decision we shall isolate ourselves from the rest of the world for many years. There we shall be entirely self-reliant; everyone will have to abjure from cultural events except for those we ourselves will be able to fashion. It will be the satisfaction in our own creations which must give us happiness and inner peace. We must enjoy the fruits of our own labor and that must be sufficient.’ After a second visit to the Looking Glass Prairie, the Köpfli family and the Suppiger brothers decided to together buy and cultivate some land. For this purpose they founded a corporation and purchased 700 acres of land for 2,200 dollars. The land consisted of about one-third forest and two-thirds open prairie, where the plough could be used immediately. About the name that was subsequently given to the new country, it is said in a letter: ‘The situation is of such character that the area deserves the name New Switzerland with all justification, and without further consideration it may be spoken out freely that on our entire journey no land would have been better suited for the application of the biblical injunction, “Here let us build ourselves huts”.’ The settlers moved out to the new Switzerland, as they recorded, on the 15th of October 1831.
DIE UM GebUNG von NEU-SchWEIZERLAND

LEGENDE

PRAIRIE  WALD

NACH EINER KARTE VON 849, IN "COLONE SUISSE DE HIGHLAND"
Finally on the 14th of October the Swiss settlers set out '... to cross the Mississippi with four heavily loaded wagons'\textsuperscript{3}. On the 15th of October they arrived in the deserted area of New Switzerland, bringing with them two cows and calves they had bought on the way. There they first found shelter in a wretched log cabin without windows. And a hard life began for the pioneers, who, because of their wealthy origin, were little used to physical labor. As well as having to immediately repair the cabin, for the first time the men had to milk the cows themselves, handle and direct a team of oxen, slaughter livestock, and, in view of the approaching winter, cut and dry prairie grass.

Not all of them were content with the situation. A son of Salomon Köpfli recorded this conversation between mother and father Köpfli: 'Listen, Father, is this now the splendor and glory of which you dreamt in Europe? You always told me that the welfare of our sons required this step of emigration. But when you now look at your sons, do you still believe it would not have been possible to offer them this kind of well-being in their homeland? I will not speak of the eldest sons — they were old enough to examine this step for themselves — but was it right to take our youngest out of school and use him here to drive oxen!...'\textsuperscript{4}
Father Köpfli answered: 'Listen, Mother, everything has turned out just as I have foreseen it — yes, better even than I would have dared to hope. Without the slightest misfortune we all survived the very wearisome journey, and even here everything turns to our best. My heart rejoices when I wander through our beautiful countryside and think what a field of action lies here before us... Soon... Mother, we shall have overcome the hard, rough years of our beginning. Yes, the worst we already have behind us. Every year now will be better...'

Two years later the family was able to say: 'We are already doing big scale farming; our stock counts 100 cows, 40 oxen, and many horses are available for our use.'
In 1831 Dr. Kaspar Köpfli had promised to prepare a way into a better future for his fellow countrymen. Since Köpfli was still convinced of the rightness of his undertaking, he now wanted to make known the possibilities offered by New Switzerland. Thus in 1833 he published a booklet in Sursee, entitled «Die Licht- und Schattenseite von New-Switzerland in Nordamerika» ['The Bright and Dark Sides of New Switzerland in North America']. In his booklet, Köpfli set forth in a balanced way the possibilities of making a living in the Looking Glass Prairie and was able to name more advantages than disadvantages. In the fifth paragraph of his report he addresses the reader: ‘Until now we have always explained to those who wanted to emigrate what kind of land this is, what advantages and conveniences it offers. But we have also not forgotten, at least never deliberately, to mention the adversities Europeans are usually confronted with here. Whosoever now thinks he could improve his condition, who has enough courage to face the difficulties one might encounter on such a long journey, who would not be disheartened by the hard beginning years, he may dare to take the step after much consideration.’ While Kaspar Köpfli explained the living conditions in New Switzerland, another report by Joseph Suppiger gave important help to those willing to emigrate. The same year both reports were published together in one small volume. The booklet, «Reisebericht der Familie Köpfli und Suppiger nach St. Louis am Mississippi und Gründung von New-Switzerland im Staate Illinois» ['Report of the Journey by the Köpfli and Suppiger Families to St. Louis at the Mississippi and the Foundation of New Switzerland in the State of Illinois'], received great interest and was rapidly sold. Subsequently a stream of settlers, which did not abate for fifty years, started to flow to New Switzerland. By 1837, immigrants from ten different cantons had arrived.
Keisebericht
der
Familie Köpfli & Suppiger
nach
St. Louis am Mississippi
und
Gründung von New-Switzerland
im
Staate Illinois.

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Sursee 1833
Jakob Eggen recounts the story of Highland's founding: 'In winter 1936—37 the Illinois government decided to build a network of state-funded railways... This caused some land speculators, among them a General Semple... to purchase a number of pieces of land along the anticipated railway.' Because one of the future railway lines would go through New Switzerland, Semple also bought land there. Joseph Suppiger was the first whom General Semple contacted. 'One evening as I was working on the cellar of the «Sennhütte» I saw General Semple riding along. He explained that this place, because of its situation between Edwardsville and Carlyle, would be suitable for a town and a railway station, and he wanted to found a town with me here. I should give my forty acres and he would add 160 acres himself in the east and in the south. This proposition took me quite aback, and the founding of towns was so commonly overdone and misused that at first I was not able to make up my mind to this. Time for reflection slipped by quickly. I had asked for the advice of two neighbors, Herr Köpfli and Herr Reinolds, and Mr. Semple enjoined the cooperation of two friends from Virginia. Within a week the plan for the town of Highland was completed.'

After the land was surveyed and a city map was drawn up, the auction of the house lots was fixed for September 16, 1837. '... there came more curious onlookers than keen customers, and neither were represented in great number. Out-of-town customers could not be expected; these foundation projects sprang up everywhere, as for example in neighboring Troy and Marine, where progress did not look too promising either.'
All streets are 60 feet wide except for Zschokke Street, which is 100 feet wide, 40 feet being used by the railway. The side streets are 20 feet wide. All house lots have a 50 foot frontage and a depth of 140 feet, except for those facing the Public Square — they have a 50 foot frontage and a 30 foot depth. Square 23 has been declared the Public- or Market-Square, and measures 300 feet square. Square 32 has been left to the State of Illinois in order to build the depository scale for the railway and to erect the machine shops. On lot 9, square 20, stands the schoolhouse. On square 39, the building sites 5 and 6, and on square 68, the building sites 1 and 2 are not for sale, but reserved for the eventual construction of churches. For further information, contact the proprietors General J. Semple, D. Koepfley and J. Suppiger care of the Helvetia Post Office, Madison County, Illinois.' (The hatched lots are already occupied.)
Highland —
Swiss Town with a Scottish Name

When it came to choosing a name for the little town, General Semple, a Scottish descendant, asserted his influence. Joseph Suppiger later noted: 'As a Scottish and Swiss enterprise, the name “Highland” should remind us both of the Swiss and the Scottish Highlands. Also the town itself is located in the highlands between Alton and Mt. Carmel. The altitude of our pastures is 147 feet higher than the base-line from the Mississippi to Alton.'

General Semple's expectations for the 'Highland' enterprise were not fulfilled. Since the projected railroad would not be constructed for several years, the town lots could only be sold gradually. For this reason the General and his friends sold their shares to Joseph Suppiger, whereby the entire town was in Swiss hands. Even though at this early stage no great profit could be expected from the foundation of the town, the project which had been thrust upon the Swiss proved to be of great significance for the future. Already a few years later Highland emerged as the economic and cultural center of New Switzerland. In a number of reports the development was thus recorded:

1841: 'In the approximately eighty dwellings one meets several businessmen, doctors, teachers, members of the clergy, all sorts of craftsmen... most of them from the German part of Switzerland and some districts of Germany.'

1844: '... one hundred houses are standing. Two schools have been established, attended by sixty to seventy children;... This summer a church named General Christian Church was built of solid stone.'
1845: 'Highland is called a town — you would call it a village — but it is regularly set up. In 1838 the first house was built; now there are more than 120.'

1847: 'No Swiss could really get homesick here, at least I would not know why, for everyone speaks Swiss-German and the social life, too, is entirely Swiss.'

1848: 'There are already three churches: Catholic, Reformed and one for the "Illuminaten". However, there are as yet no resident ministers.'
'Map of Highland’s Environs, or New Switzerland', depicting land survey and building sites for new farms.
<table>
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§ 1. Dr. Roth übernimmt die Beförderung der in diesem Vertrag namentlich genannten Personen von Lörrach nach Galveston unter folgenden Bedingungen:


§ 3. Jeder Passagier über 10 Jahre alt hat 100 Pfund, Kinder unter 10 Jahren 50 Pfund Gepäck frei.

The Immigrants
1833: ‘It was evening towards sunset when we stepped out of the forest and from a little hillock saw the home of the Köpflis family, which they called «das Grütli». ... They welcomed us with great friendliness, and as I was bringing along some letters and announced that I had also brought the ordered cowbells to St. Louis, this helped to recommend me. ... About two weeks after me, at the end of December, new immigrants arrived in St. Louis. Among others were Heinrich Meier with his wife from Zürich and several relatives from the canton of Bern, and Joseph Buchmann with his family and quite a number of relatives (Lucerners). But around the middle of January the Mississippi was frozen, and they were unable to cross it. A vanguard offered to go ahead and look for quarters. Already in October 1833, a Herr Schoch from Burgdorf had purchased the farm now occupied by A. Nagel, for Herr Ruef, who was expected in March with his family from Burgdorf in the canton of Bern. ... We often had quite a bit of difficulty in lodging all those people. The Köpflis were unable to accommodate entire families for long periods of time, although they had built a respectable and roomy house since their arrival in October 1831. However, there were some log cabins nearby the farm for housing people. Heinrich Meier’s family moved into the log cabin on the Sonnenberg and the Buchmann family into the one next to the Köpflis.’

1835: ‘The year 1835 again brought immigrants who settled down in this area, among others the very large Gillomen family, district of Thun ... and also some Aargauer families from the district of Burg; Joh. Leder from the district of Schinznach; the Staffelbach family from Sursee; ... finally the Scherrer family, relatives of the Buchmann’s from the canton of Lucerne.’

1844: ‘... a Swiss does not feel at all foreign there, for he meets fellow countrymen from almost all German cantons and is altogether received with
sympathy and courtesy. This was especially demonstrated in the case of the Sargansers who came in spring 1844, for none of them remained without shelter and the necessary food; the needier ones were cared for and work was provided in the streets, churches and other places for all those who wanted to earn their living.\(^{13}\)

1847: ‘This week a group of emigrants from the canton of Glarus arrived; they had endured much on their voyage and had even suffered from hunger. Many of them were ill. . . . Among the newly arrived Glarners a sixty-year-old man died. They seemed to be exceedingly poor. . . . A fellow countryman from our village by the name of Jos. Ant. Brändli came to see me today. He complained very much about the bailiff, who had greatly diminished his property, and the orphan authorities, who had expelled him in a very improper fashion. I cannot but mention here the abominable way in which many communities in Switzerland dispatch their poor to America. These miserable people arrive without a cent in a completely foreign country. Many are old or sick, unfit for work — what should these poor people do here? Indeed, it takes much unscrupulousness to abandon one’s brothers to distress in such a way. What responsibility do authorities like that load upon themselves when they pitilessly banish their fellow citizens, who were entrusted to them by God for protection, and give them over to despair!’\(^{14}\)

1859: ‘Before the cold set in newcomers from Switzerland arrived, and all were welcomed most affectionately. Herr Hausheer from Wolishofen, being a hearty worker, immediately obtained a decent situation with good wages, and will be able to learn English as he desires, since he lives with an American family. Herr Bolliger from the teachers’ training college in Küsnacht recommended himself at once to those who greeted him by saying he would find any kind of work suitable, and he would readily render good service to whomever would ask. “Well, then”, said Herr Sigrist, “won’t you shuck corn for me for two weeks?” And Bolliger agreed straight away, but before the time was up he was asked by somebody else to stay and give similar help throughout the entire year. He was promised eight dollars per month in winter and ten dollars in summer, wash and food included. Bolliger liked the friendly people; he accepted the work and wants to be a farmer rather than a teacher, because he says he loves the clear sky and is a friend of fresh air and a cheerful life. The carpenter Kägi from Neubrunn, canton of Zürich, was moved with joy upon receiving his family after a five year separation. The industrious and friendly carpenter Hiestand helped out by giving the necessary furniture.’\(^{15}\)
And Some Years Later...

The visitor Heinrich Bosshard reports:

'How wealthy all the Aargauers are who live here! Herr Beder from Schinznach has property worth at least 30,000 dollars. Several of the Zobrist families live in dazzling affluence, and the same is true for Abraham Fricker, Abraham Zimmermann, the Senn brothers, and Jakob Amsler. What beautiful farms the Lütweiler families from Reinach and the Iberg families from Küttigen have. ...'°

'We also have fellow countrymen from Basel and Baselland. How dear to all of us is that friend of the sciences, the loyal, upright Doctor Rhyner from Basel. His exceptional wealth would spur many a one to a big city life of pleasure, but he feels happiest in New Switzerland. ...'°

'Also people from Bern with wealthy origins — they did not come here penniless — feel free and at home in Highland. Herr Bandelier has seen the most beautiful areas of Brazil and North America and chose this for his homeland. The Graffenrieds, the Balsiger brothers and others all like it here. ...'°

'Look at those from Rhäten under the linden trees. Is it not remarkable that of all the emigrants from Bündtnerland who become rich abroad, only those from America do not return to their homeland? Among those the Ambühl brothers from Davos were most successful. Each of them owns several hundred acres of land, large herds of cattle, and one of them even has six acres of vineyard. ... Peter Kufli quickly acquired his wealth as a butcher and now with even greater advantage runs a tannery. ...'°
'The people from Glarus, on whom the patron saint Fridolin shines, are in their element here; industrious, ambitious and «chrützlustig» [always good-humored], they indeed have found their right place. The Schneider family came from Bilten in 1836 and immediately sought to acquire a good stock of cattle; when the prices went up in 1846, their property was already established for great profit, and now they belong to the wealthiest class of farmers. The same happened to many other Glarners. . . .'\textsuperscript{10}

'A glance through the settlement reveals a natural progression in the financial positions. The oldest settlers are the wealthiest, thus the Lucerners are ahead of all the others. . . . There is J. G. J. Staffelbach from Sursee, who lives from his interest on a beautiful country estate. His daughters all married well and his sons are independent and favorably established . . .'\textsuperscript{11}

'The St. Gallers, and especially the Rheintalers, are an extremely capable people and here, where work inevitably leads to prosperity, they are well placed. The families Götz, David Rinderer, Röhri and Joh. Gall from the Oberland live debt-free on rich country estates. . . .'\textsuperscript{12}

'An half hour from here, beyond the plain, the Reverend Vuillet from the Waadtland lives, and further to the right resides the Federal Consul Herr Rilliet from Geneva . . .'\textsuperscript{13}

'Already in Nashville the friendly baker Staufer talked much about the happy and «gemütlich» Swiss life in Highland; he also told me that teaching in the town schools there were Herren Bär and Studer from the canton of Zürich . . .'\textsuperscript{14}
Adventurer, Researcher, Poet and Federal Councillor – Four Examples

Heinrich Lienhard — Unwilling Adventurer

Heinrich Lienhard from Bilton, Glarus came to New Switzerland in 1845. After he had gained command over the English language, he began to work as a shop assistant. Scarcely two weeks after beginning his new job, two of his former travelling companions came to see him. Lienhard had promised to accompany them to Captain Sutter's New Helvetia in California. He reluctantly kept his promise, disclaimed his salary and undertook the dangerous journey to the Pacific. In his diary, later published, he gave an account not only of his travel adventures but also of the impact made by the California Gold Rush, which he witnessed first hand as a sentry in Sutter's fort.

A. F. A. Bandelier — American Indian Researcher

In 1916 the 'Bandelier National Monument' was established in New Mexico by the government under President Wilson. This monument honors A. F. A. Bandelier for his research in the fields of archeology and ethnology. He was born in Bern in 1840 and lived primarily in New Switzerland from 1848 until 1885. His father, co-founder of Highland's F. Rhyiner Bank, financed Bandelier's extensive travels in Mexico and Central America. A. F. A. Bandelier published his first works in the 'Highland Union', the town's German language newspaper.
Heinrich Bosshard —
Poet, Singer, Patriot

In November 1860 Heinrich Bosshard from Zürich travelled to America for the third time. On this journey he was accompanied by his family; their destination was twenty acres of previously purchased land on the Jura in New Switzerland. The former schoolmaster from Schwamendingen (Zürich) and poet of the «Sempacherlied» planned to occupy himself with beekeeping and the cultivation of vineyards. In 1867 he was able to report '... that the profit from fruit, cattle and honey had increased [his] income to far more than 2,000 dollars, exceeding [his] combined income of seventeen years as a teacher in Schwamendingen.'

Emil Frey —
Farm-hand, Volunteer Soldier, Federal Councillor

After studying three years at the University of Jena, Emil Frey, originally from Basel, travelled to New Switzerland via New York. There the former student found work on the 'Rigi Farm' belonging to the Aargauer John Leder. Shortly after the Civil War broke out, he exchanged the peaceful life of a farmer for that of a volunteer in the Illinois infantry, serving first in the 24th and later in the 82nd regiment. Frey, who had advanced to the rank of Captain, became a prisoner of war. After an exchange of prisoners (Capt. Gordon with Capt. Frey), Frey was able to return to Switzerland, where he began his political career. This led him back to the United States as the first Swiss ambassador. In 1890 Frey was elected to the Swiss Federal Council [«Bundesrat»] and later served as President. From 1897 on he worked as the director of the International Telephone Company.
Agriculture and Industry
New Switzerland —
and its Agriculture

‘In Highland, as in the other parts of the United States, it is mostly corn that is cultivated. Of the infinitely many ways in which it is being used, we shall name only a few. In every American household, morning and evening a very light bread is baked of corn meal, replacing our wheat bread. It is baked in the oven or in the frying pan. Before the cob is fully ripe, it is put into boiling water and served with butter and salt for lunch, thus bearing some similarity to sugar peas. The American brandy is also distilled out of corn. The leaves serve as good fodder for the cattle.’

‘This week we had a very plentiful wheat harvest. The grain is heavy and perfect, and the yield is greater than in other years. The wheat is mowed with scythes; sickles are not used here. Wages are one dollar per day at harvest time. The sheaves are bound into small bundles so that they can be more easily stacked outside. The rye is coming nicely too, and so are the oats, but the latter will not be harvested for two more weeks. One bushel of wheat weighing sixty pounds is now worth three-quarters of a dollar; a few weeks ago it was still one dollar, but it might also sink to half a dollar. Here they use very efficient machines for threshing.’

‘Cotton and tobacco are not grown here for trade, but for one’s own use. Flax, rape-seed, castor-oil plant — like all oil plants growing at this latitude — would bring remarkable profit. The potatoes do not deny their native country — they thrive excellently both in quantity and in quality. A delicacy for the newcomer are the sweet potatoes. They bear very well here.’
'In 1834 and 1835 the Köpflis had one hundred fruit trees planted on the "Rigi" and on the "Jura Farm". The fruit trees were of different varieties and had come from a proper tree-nursery. They were planted by Jacob Schütz, who also planted some on Herr Ruef's farm at his request."

'The local horses are not as heavy as the Swiss ones, but they have more stamina. Horse breeding takes a considerable amount of capital — moreover, cattle and pig breeding seem to be more profitable. Of course the stallions must be kept in stables for security. There are enough horse lovers to be found who keep them for general use.'

'In all my life I have never seen such strong and luxurious vines as grow here. Never before have I seen vines heavy with such perfect grapes. The quality of the grapes is excellent, surpassing anything that I have ever tasted.'

'I was strolling towards New Switzerland one morning with true delight, for I was to taste the Sonnenberg '59. When poured into the glasses, its aroma filled the room like the scent of plums. It was a spiritual, exquisite wine, usually sipped slowly so as to savor it long and well. I raised my glass and cried: "Good luck, Highlanders, God bless your vineyards!".'

'Cattle breeding. This is important for everyone, and easy to manage without problem along with any other business... Everybody lets their cattle roam freely; the thick grass fattens them, and the whole year the farmer does not worry about them except in cold winters, when the cattle come in by themselves. The young calves that are fenced-in near the house attract their mothers home morning and evening. Part of their milk is taken, and the rest is left to the calves; afterwards the cows are driven back out.'

'If corn is the main hub round which the American harvest turns, then pigs are the staple of the army of domestic animals. In towns as well as in villages, pigs run through the streets just like the dogs do in Constantinople. They do the work of scavengers without any disturbance from the people passing to and fro. On the dairy farms even the least of all the colonists owns forty to fifty pigs. There are others who slaughter up to 150 at the beginning of winter. Only when they are ready to be fattened are they put in the stables. Every moment one sees monstrous sows trotting by, followed by eight, ten or twelve piglets.'

'On every farm chickens are even more numerous than pigs. Usually they do not have any other shelter against heat, cold or wet than the trees of the orchard.'
Highland —
and its Industry

'First a mill for sawing wood and grinding grain was built in the town, run
by steam engines, and supplying us with the most important building ma-
terials. Then followed a brickworks — good limestone was to be had for
free. Soon a tavern, a school-house, a general store were built, a blacksmith
and other craftsmen settled down, and thus the place gradually grew, so
that now (1844) one hundred houses are standing.'

1844: '...two skilled doctors live here, and there are three taverns, three
general stores, one judge, and one constable; five smithies, three cart-
wrights; carpenters, shoemakers, tailors, masons, saddlers, plumbers, cut-
lers, plasterers, painters, etc. There are also here three brickyards, one
dairy and one distillery.'

1859: 'Our craftsmen are thoroughly occupied, especially the coopers, for
the need for flourbarrels, beer-, brandy-, juice-, and winebarrels is remark-
able. Besides the steam sawmill, we already have eight or nine others. ...
The steam distillery works for export and when it runs produces 1,000
quarts of brandy daily. The spirits are not distilled in metal tubs, but rather
by steam in a 1,500 quart capacity wooden mashing-vat... we also have a
soda-water factory and a soapworks. Here in the Hôtel Francais is the
theater, and further up is the bank. That high, stately building up there on
the heights is the Highland Hotel run by Herr Weber, a Glarner. Then there
is the post office. ... It may be said that Troxlerstrasse is the shopping
street of the town. Shops are rented there for thirty to thirty-five dollars a
month. This shows the amount of trade, for that determines the rent.'

1889: 'Factories and businesses are: the Helvetia Milk Condensing Factory,
a joint-stock company; the Highland (Beer) Brewing Comp., also a joint-
stock company; the Highland Embroidery Works, also a joint-stock com-
pany; Nikol. Rohr and Sons Planing Mill; Fried. Pagan's Mineral Water
Factory; Johann D. Müller's Butcher Block Factory; David Suppiger's
Steammills, already founded in 1840. ...'
Joseph Suppiger's steam-run flour and saw mill was built in 1837.
The brewery in Highland: Scott’s Brewery marketed a beer labelled ‘Bottle Beer Helvetia’.
Hotels
THIS TABLE DELICACY
AND MOST
EXCELLENT INFANTS' FOOD
is absolutely pure milk from model dairies, evaporated under vacuum to a very rich golden cream. It contains all the ingredients and resembling properties of the best quality of cows' milk, and, being free from preservatives or antiseptics, has no foreign flavor whatever. The process, to which it has been subjected, renders it not only entirely free from organic germs, but also changes the nature of its casein, so that it will coagulate in the digestive organs to a light soft curd like that of human milk. It is, therefore, highly commended by authorities as the most wholesome, natural, and perfect food for infants as well as for adults. Every can is warranted to be absolutely pure, healthful and of perfect keeping quality in all climates.

We caution all Dealers against Infringements.

J. B. Meyenberg —
Travelling Inventor

J. B. Meyenberg from Zug (Switzerland), who had been an employee of the milk-condensing factory in Cham, sojourned in New Switzerland only two years, from 1884 till 1886. But the short encounter was decisive for both parties: to the inhabitants of New Switzerland it brought the 'Helvetia Condensing Milk Company', started by J. B. Meyenberg; and Meyenberg himself, in the course of founding the firm, received for the first time the opportunity to experiment on the production of non-sugared condensed milk. Later he was able to found his own concern.
'On October 13, 1858, we had a printing press in our midst for the first time. The name of the first local newspaper, as is well known, was «Der Erzähler» ('The Narrator'). It changed owners several times, finally being named «Highland Bote» ('Highland Messenger'). In the year 1863 a political rival, the «Union», emerged against the «Highland Bote». Both newspapers appeared, with the usual political animosity, until 1869, when the «Bote» was moved to Edwardsville.'
Liste der europäischen Ereditoren von F. Kühner & Co.

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Laerzine-Buch</td>
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<td>Rev. Pierre Morrell</td>
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<td>Поше ново дола, позиетивство и финансы</td>
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Företag, den 5. Juni 1885.
F. Ryhiner & Co. was founded in 1854 as the third bank in Madison County; its place of business was in Highland. The business partners, Dr. Ryhiner, A. E. Bandelier and Moritz Hügy, were all of Swiss origin and completely trusted by the people. The bank began to flourish and finally a connection with Switzerland was established. Twenty-five years later the number of Swiss and Swiss-American investments was about equal (comp. list of European creditors). Near 1885 the state of business changed for the worse; of the original founders only A. E. Bandelier was still alive. He himself had withdrawn 85,000 dollars, probably to finance his son's (A. T. A. Bandelier) expeditions to Mexico and other places. 'The great misfortune for Highland, the failing of the Highland bank that caused so many working class people to lose their hard-earned savings, spread great agitation and bitterness among the victims. This and a threatening law-suit brought Hügy to despair. He took his revolver and finished his life, only forty-five years old, on May 29, 1885. The old Bandelier fled and lives in exile today.'
The first stone church in Highland.
Churches, Schools and Social Life
1831: 'Sunday had come. Now in the morning hours whoever could have looked across our fence would have noticed that here, too, it had been tidied up, and that here, too, one wished to enjoy a day of rest and recovery from a week's hard work, and that one did not wish to disregard the Christian Sunday. ... Thus our workclothes had to be replaced by Sunday clothes, and many a gentleman fashionably clad in black could be seen stepping out through the low door of the log cabin, book in hand, looking for a quiet place in the yard to rest. Towards nine o'clock everyone, even the servants, assembled within the four walls of the log cabin, where a suitable chapter was read out of Zschokke's incomparable «Stunden der Andacht» ['Devo-
tional Hours'].'

c. 1835: 'A certain Schmidt from Schwaben, born and raised as a Catholic, had worked with the Lutherans on his travels, sometimes with the Reformer,
s and at last even with the Moravians, where he learnt some sermons
by heart. These he presented now and then wherever he was working at
the time. For a change he would also give a so-called Swabian tirade, which
never failed to achieve its proper effect, namely that the listeners became
rightly contrite. This occurred especially at the conclusion: "Therefore
return to your old faith and hold on to the kingdom. Give willingly to the
King your duties and to the cloisters your alms. Be diligent at battue, do not
beat venison to death and never talk about politics. Fear the Pope, go to
confession dutifully and keep the feasts. Guzzle water instead of beer,
gobble oat gruel instead of noodles, then all will be well with you, and you
will get a paunch like me. «Kotzebueren». Amen!'"

c. 1840: 'A monk that had fled from Wettingen, canton of Aargau in Swit-
zerland, read the first mass in the home of Herr D. Tuffy. Protestant clergymen
visited this country occasionally before 1840.'

1844: 'This summer a solid stone church was built and was named "General
Christian Church". All denominations made contributions, and one part of
the building shall be used for school purposes. The Catholics on their part
have begun building a church that will probably be consecrated this sum-
mer.'

1889: 'There are five churches: Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian, General
Christian, and French Evangelical. The pastor of the latter, Louis F. Vuillet, comes
from the canton of Waadt.'
'Of our two schools, one is public and the other is parochial. In the public school teach Karl Dietz, A. T. Labhardt, Louis Koch, Edmund Blattner, Jakob Grüning; the women teachers are Emma Kühnen, Adda Wildhaber, Lea Haffer, Maria Graff, Hedwig Todd, Louisa Crouch. The Catholic school and the hospital are administered by nuns.'

'In Helvetia I visited Herr Headmaster Bär, the well-known and esteemed teacher from Männedorf, who moved here after suffering much in Texas. After the kind and affectionate reception, my first question was: "And what are you doing, you old back-from-the-dead schoolmaster you?" "Oh, I have an excellent field of action, nice and free, as ever a teacher could wish", replied my friend and continued: "Here we are able to realize Scherr's ideas about popular education and genuinely carry out his method; the more faithfully we do this, the more profoundly we come to appreciate in him the republican friend of our youth and a first-rate teacher. One of the first American statesmen, Alex Dallas Bache, called him 'a very remarkable teacher' in his 'Report of Education in Europe', and also lauds his pedagogical-organizational activity." Scherr's writings are widely circulated in America. . . .

It is well known with what obstacles his public work was confronted outside the United States; but here in Helvetia it is different — the inhabitants take part with great interest in the development of their educational system. With brilliant success we also apply Scherr's phonetic reading and writing method to English. After elementary school and «Realschule» follow two categories of «Sekundarschule», for our children are entitled to go to school up to the age of twenty-one without payment and cannot be formally dismissed. When young men and women are very studious in their classes, they are able to move on in some subjects in a quarter of a year, whereas it would take two years in Switzerland."
The former school in old Highland.
Examinations

Notice

On Monday, the 4th of April 1859 from 2 to 5 o'clock P. M., there will be an election held at the school-house at Highland, Madison Co. Ills. at which the legal voters of the school district No. 1T 3R 5W (Highland School District) shall decide the question of levying a tax to extend the term of school from 6 to 10 months.

Highland, Madison Co. Ills. this 22nd of March 1859

By order of the Board of the School Directors,
the secretary: Ad. Eug. Bandelier

N. B.:
The examination of the public school at Highland shall take place on the following days:
Monday, the 28th of March, A. M. class of W. Marguth
Monday, same day, P. M. class of Amos
Tuesday, the 29th March, P. M. class of Studer
Wednesday 30th March, P. M. class of Baer
Thursday 31st March the premiums shall be awarded to the best pupils.
At a later day a school-festival will be given to the children of the district.
Friday, 1st of April next, at 7 o'clock P. M., meeting of the friends of instruction at the school-house, at which the School Directors will report concerning the last term of school.
Social Activities — Beginnings and Growth

The immigrants not only established themselves spatially according to Swiss patterns, but also culturally. Besides giving the surrounding hills the names of Swiss mountains — Blumenberg, Gotthard, Jura, Pilatus, Rigi, Sonnenberg etc. — they also organized rifle clubs, athletic clubs and choral societies.

1832: '(I) ... believe that for perfect happiness we only stand in need of a few family friends and, what is more, wine! By the former the old European amusements could be imported and by the latter the gatherings would be seasoned.'

1844: 'Also life is very social here. People often, and especially on Sundays, gather together from the surrounding area. Highland has quite an agreeable little band; for some time there was also a choral society. Last summer an amateur theater was opened. The stage properties were recently bought by a group of travelling performers, but new ones are now being made. Dances too are held more frequently now, and young people already know quite well how to entertain themselves.'

1859: 'Highland does not lack a congenial social life — one counts about seventeen different clubs, and, in the schoolbuilding that is situated in the middle of town, the public library, group singing, lectures, and school teaching afford mental stimulation. On summer evenings the musical society plays, and the sound of the brass instruments, of cymbals and of kettle drums gives festive pleasure.'

1889: 'The club activities, especially those of the rifle club, have come to flourish most splendidly in Highland. Its shooting matches, gymnastic, displays and choral festivals are known far and wide. And the "Helvetia Shooting Society" has secured itself a solid basis for the future by the purchasing of a nicely situated shooting park in the "Lindenthal". The athletic club has done the same by the erection of a large and beautiful gymnasium that serves also as the theater, and houses the library.'
A program from the play ‘Sleeping Beauty’, presented in the Highland gymnasium.
Sharpshooters

'At that time the "Lindenthal" was still a piece of virgin forest. But the members of "Helvetia Shooting Society" took it in hand, going out one Sunday with hatchet, axe, and saw to clear the thicket so that they might build roadways and fences, and erect some buildings. And already on the 4th of July 1863 the first shooting match could be held there. Guests arrived with anticipation from Quincy, St. Louis, Evansville, Peoria (Indiana), Morganfield, Charleston, Tell City, and other towns. Since Highland was not yet then connected to a railway, the guests were fetched in Trenton by carriage. The festivities were opened by the usual riflemen parade, which was headed by the band. Following were twenty-four little girls in white dresses carrying little United States flags in their hands, then came the guests, and finally the "Helvetia". The festivities lasted two days, and of course the entire town and even the surrounding countryside participated. The interest in the shooting was so great that twice as many prizes as had been offered originally were distributed. The interest would have been even greater had not some of Highland's sharp-shooters been away fighting in the war. The following letter shows how much they would have liked to take part:"¹⁴

Camp at Goose Creek, Virginia
June 26, 1863

To A. Bruckner, «Schützenmeister»¹⁵, Highland, Ill.

The soldiers of Comp. H in the new Hecker Regiment herewith send you 15 dollars as a contribution to your shooting match. Please take this as a small token of our cordial sympathies for the forthcoming match. We know as well as you that through our (native) shooting matches we are able to contribute greatly toward national solidarity and a united country. We salute this first attempt as a successful step in this direction. Wishing you a happy celebration, we remain

Faithfully yours,
Emil Frey*, substituting major, 82nd regiment, Illinois volunteers
John Schaffner, sergeant
Theodore Shatoney, sergeant

* later member of the Federal Council of Switzerland

'The federal shooting matches, which Highland celebrated two more times in the "Lindenthal" in the recent years 1883 and 1885, assume always a greater and more vigorous character. The child, born from the mother country of Switzerland, baptized with the name of "Helvetia", has become a strong man.'¹⁶
The founding of the first athletic club dates back to the year 1853, and even before the Civil War some large gymnastic exhibitions were given. After the war, on the 31st of October 1869, the foundations were laid for Highland's own gymnasium. On December 26th of the same year it was inaugurated with a great celebration, and it soon developed into a cultural center. Besides gymnastic displays, various festivities were organized in the gymnasium; fancy-dress balls were held, plays staged, concerts presented, and political meetings took place.
The Constitution of the Athletes' Club, a member of the North American Athletes' Society.

Constitution.

Artikel 1.

Name des Vereins.

§ 1. Der Name des Vereins ist "Turnverein Highland." Derselbe ist Mitglied des Nordamerikanischen Turnerbundes.

Artikel 2.

Zweck des Vereins.


Mittel hierzu sind:

- Körperliche Turnübungen.
- Alle Arten Waffenübungen.
- Dramatische und gesellige Unterhaltungen.
- Gesang, Bibliothek und Vorträge.

Artikel 3.

Mitgliedschaft.

§ 3. Bestand. Der Verein besteht aus:

a) Activen Mitgliedern;

b) Passiven Mitgliedern;

c) Ehrenmitgliedern.

Active Mitglieder sind solche, welche das körperliche Turnen pflegen, oder an den Bestrebungen irgend einer Section (Sänger, Schützen) Theil nehmen.

Passive Mitglieder sind solche, die aus trügerischen Gründen nicht an den körperlichen Übungen Theil nehmen, jedoch im Allgemeinen das Turnwesen fördern helfen.

Ehrenmitglieder sind solche, welche sich um die Heding des Vereins oder des Turnwesens verdient gemacht haben, und dafür vom Verein mit der Ehrenmitgliedschaft ausgezeichnet worden sind.


§ 5. Jeder Kandidat muß auf einer hierzu vom Bunde bestimmten Aufnahmegesuch angemeldet werden und eine Eintrittsgebühr von $1.00 (einem Dollar) entrichten.
This poem is dedicated to the «Harmonie» singers and praises their songs of 'God and Fatherland'.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the men's chorus «Harmonie» still had a large number of Swiss songs in its repertoire.
Commemoration of a Poet

Programm
für die
H. Bosshard Denkmal
Enthüllungsfeier
Sonntag, den 13. Juni 1909
in HIGHLAND, ILLINOIS.

9 (Uhr Vormittags.) a. Feier am Grabe.

Zur Feier am Grabe versammeln sich die Sänger von St. Louis und Highland mit den Festtheilnehmern beim Bahnhof in Highland nach Ankunft des ersten Zuges von St. Louis und begeben sich nach dem Grabe des Dichters, auf dessen ehemaliger Farm, (jetzt Zolk Farm) wo folgende Gedächtnissfeier stattfindet:
1. Schmückung des Grabes.
2. Gesang—"Stumm schläft der Sänger"
   Schweizer Männerchor, St. Louis.
4. Gesang—"Schlaf in Ruh"
   Harmonie, Highland, Ill.
5. Musikstück vom Musikorps, Highland, Ill.

Rückkehr zum Bahnhof und Empfang der Festgäste des Extra-Zuges von St. Louis, Mo.

(10:30 Uhr Vormittags.) b. Enthüllungsfeier.

Zur Denkmal-Enthüllungsfeier versammeln sich die verschiedenen Behörden, Ehrengäste und Vereine mit Fahnen am Bahnhofplatz zur Parade durch die Stadt nach dem Lindenthal-Park.
1. 11 Uhr. Abmarsch der Parade.
2. 11:30. Ankunft im Park.
3. Gesang—"Städtlein Traut"
   Gem.-Chor, Highland.
5. 12 bis 1 Uhr. Mittagessen im Park.
6. 1 Uhr Nachmittags. Sammlung der Vereine und Zug durch den Park nach dem Denkmal.
9. Enthüllung des Denkmals.....Frau Josephine Peter, St. Louis.
11. Gesang—"Lass't hören aus alter Zeit"....H. U. Wehrli
   Massenchor.
12. Flattern und Schwenken der Fahnen um das Denkmal.

Festrede von Herr Pastor Johannes J. Meyer, St. Louis.
'The «Sempacherlied» [Song of Sempach] is a part of every Swiss and is carried with him across all oceans, and wherever he looks up in spirit to the white cross on the red field, there sounds in earnest as well as in happy hour, «Lasst hören aus alter Zeit von kühner Ahnen Heldenstreit» ['Let us hear of ancient life, of brave forefathers heroic strife']. With the erection of a memorial in Highland, the burial place of H. Bosshard, the Swiss in America have the self-appointed task of showing reverence and gratitude to the memory of the poet of the «Sempacherlied».'

Right: The Bosshard Memorial in the Lindental Park of the 'Helvetia Sharpshooters' Society'. The engraved text assumes that the «Sempacherlied» is the national anthem of Switzerland.

Below: Bosshard's tombstone on the 'Jura' hillside.
Lincoln’s Visit and the Civil War
Abraham Lincoln's Campaign Visit to Highland

Campaigning for U. S. Senator from Illinois in 1858, Democrat Douglas and Republican Lincoln confronted each other over slavery, the central election issue. After Douglas had given a campaign address in Highland, the executive committee of the Highland Republican Club wrote the following letter¹ to Lincoln:

Highland, Madison County, Ill.
August 13, 1858

Hon. Messrs. L. Trumball and A. Lincoln,

We take the liberty of writing you a few lines to request you, if practicable, to make a visit to Highland and address our citizens here on the politics of the day. It is the more important that you should do from the fact that Judge Douglass was here on the 5th inst. and made a short bumcombe speech, taking care to say nothing about the Dred Scott decision or the doctrine and principles therein contained. The people here were to some extent disappointed in Douglass, his speech, etc. and are now very anxious to see and hear Mr. Lincoln. We see by the papers that you will be at Greenville, Bond County on the 11th Sept. and at Edwardsville, Madison County on the 13th. Highland is about half way between the two places. Either you might stop a little at Highland on going to Edwardsville or you might conveniently pass from here to Belleville, if that is the direction you wished to take.

We think there is more to be accomplished here than at many other places. Highland is an important point for the Republicans in this contest, and will probably decide Madison County.

We promise to you, if you come, a hearty reception. All our societies are of the best Republican blood and working only for our free and just cause.

An early answer from you is desired.

Yours & c.

John Blattner, Jacob Eggen, J. D. Manners,
Garritt Crownover, Chas. Kinne, Henry Weinheimer,
John Guggenbuhler, Charles Meyer, Secretary.

Executive Committee of the Highland Republican Club
Lincoln's travelling companion to Highland, Judge Joseph Gillepsie, reported about their visit of the same year: 'We stopped there and had a good time. It was soon noised around that Lincoln was in the place and the house where we were stopping was crowded and jammed. The people were perfectly enraptured; the bare sight of the man threw them into ecstacies.'

Joseph Suppiger built Highland's first brick house in 1837. Here Abraham Lincoln spent the night (see window marked by x).
In April 1861 Abraham Lincoln first appealed for volunteer soldiers. In response to the President’s call, a short time later, on the 4th of May, Jakob Eggen and Dr. Gallus Rutz organized a meeting in John Menz’s tavern. In speeches by Eggen, Rilliet de Constant (the Swiss Consul in Highland) and Blättner, the young men were entreated to enlist as volunteers. Preparatory training was held daily from the day following the meeting until July 30th. Jakob Eggen instructed and drilled the assembled infantry company, and Rilliet de Constant took over the cavalry. Because the state’s quota for volunteers was immediately filled, forty Highlanders enlisted in the 15th Missouri regiment, which later became well-known under the name ‘Swiss Regiment’. The inhabitants of Highland, however, were not all of one opinion concerning the war, and the town was divided into two political camps. Later requests for volunteers were not responded to with the same alacrity — indeed, towards the end of the war the little town even had difficulty in raising enough soldiers to fill its obligatory quota.
Swiss from Highland who served in the Civil War.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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David Habegger from Trueb, Bern settled down in New Switzerland in 1865. He served as a volunteer in the Illinois 82nd Infantry, and died in Highland on August 10, 1874.
Swiss street names in Highland.
'There is nothing in America that one has not already had in Europe.'

'A bird that has escaped from its cage has about the same feeling I have had here since I came to America's free soil. No minister can give orders and condemn one — and one need not fear the fanaticism of some stupid farmers, for on the whole people are far better educated than in Switzerland.'

'Goiter, cretins and deformed people, as there are thousands in Switzerland, can nowhere be found in the Union.'

'Here as nowhere else it is said, “The one who does not give in, wins”.'

'Go forth, and forget all about return — build there your fatherland. America is a mother, who has at her disposal inexhaustible resources, and who has more than enough to provide for her children.'

'How lovely are the Swiss children born in America! Forms of perfect beauty and healthy stature! What a difference from the town children of Switzerland!'

'However, those who do not bring along anything but their strength do not need advice, or rather one single piece of advice should suffice; namely, to be well-mannered, moderate and industrious.'

'... nowhere, however, do the steam locomotives go faster than in Switzerland, because here they have their law and limits both in speed and in power.'

'It may take long until harvest, but everyone may be sure the diligence and the hard work of the prudent man are rewarded three or four times better than in Europe.'
'To tell the truth, since the beginning of its history Switzerland has not been able to show an example that demonstrates in such a degree a general rise from poverty to prosperity.'

'This area with its settlements has so many natural and cultural advantages as I have never met anywhere else.'

'I tell you, except for an old soldier from Solothurn and some ruined alcoholics, we have no poor people in this region.'

'The people here eat very richly and lay a very good table. Already in the morning they serve meat.'

'Nobody should think that fried pigeons can be found on the prairie or that «Bratwürste» [veal sausages] are wattled into the fences, for these are hard to make.'

'The situation is truly picturesque — not romantic, but friendly and inviting.'

'It is easy to provide for even a large family, for children are not a burden here, but rather useful. An American thus says, “Another one thousand dollars!” when a boy is born to him.'

'The life of a farmer certainly has its poetic side, but it is foremost a practical life, and the practical side might easily choke all poesie.'

'He who is a friend of beautiful nature's rustic, quiet life must feel happy here. Sometimes I think I am removed to a big alpine meadow.'

'How comforting it must be to each Swiss to find Swiss dialects, Swiss customs, music, singing and schools here as well as in his homeland.'
'Of all the kinds of people that surround us, it is most desirable to get to know the real American farmer, the Yankee. Some time earlier we already noticed that the greatest part of the inhabitants here consists of Swiss and Germans, and these we all know.'

'The American shows himself especially polite towards womenfolk, who everywhere maintain a certain pre-eminence. Also a father spends far more time in the raising of his daughter than of his son.'

'Cheating is not as frequent here either, as in Europe, because the local thieves are too proud for small thefts.'

'The Americans often seem to compete with each other to see who can sit on a chair in a more crooked and twisted manner. Tobacco is used by the men only for chewing, and the womenfolk take the freedom to smoke pipes.'

'He covers your floor uninterruptedly with his horrible tobacco spitting, and does not think he is doing something in the least impolite.'

'... he ist very curious, almost like a child. Without regard he steps into your room, examines everything, tries your clothes on and asks questions without ceasing.'

'He does not take twenty steps without a horse.'

'Here one does not find any real difference between farmer, craftsman, minister and businessman — each thinks as highly of himself as the other.'

'He is singularly obliging. If one needs twenty or thirty teams of four horses each for the erection of a building, then one finds them on the fixed day at the appointed place and the American works for four Swiss. For a reward one gives a glass of whiskey and a hearty thank-you.'
New Switzerland (Highland) —
Development of the Vision

1831: 'To many of our friends our undertaking may seem highly peculiar — by some, it may even be looked upon as mental derangement.'

1835: 'One should not be deceived: our new Switzerland in Illinois is only in the process of development.'

1845: 'Life in Highland is genuinely Swiss; almost everyone speaks Swiss-German. It is entertaining to hear a group of people in a tavern or somewhere else speaking the unchanged cantonal dialect — the «gemütlich» Bernese dialect, the melodious Bündner, the Zürcher, the Glarner, Lucerner, Basler, St. Galler, Aargauer, Zug, and so forth.'

1889: 'Highland, Ill. is the largest Swiss founded, with Swiss blood enlivened, and by a Swiss spirit endowed colony in the United States.'

1978: With its 7,000 inhabitants, the garden-town of Highland is the commercial center of the area. Its own businesses and industries (Basler Electric, Wick's Organ Factory, Highland Supply Co., the regional printing office of the 'Wall Street Journal', the airport, banks, the hospital, newspaper, radio station, etc.) make it possible for many inhabitants to work in Highland itself. St. Paul's Church organizes the «Kirchenfest», and in the Lindental Park of the 'Helvetia Sharpshooters' Society' the Madison County Fair takes place every year. Today life in Highland is 'real American', and the language of the nation has replaced the former multiplicity of dialects and languages. Kaspar Köpfli's 'New Switzerland' belongs to history. Highland has become one American small town among many — but it remains a town with a special past.
Appendix

Foot-notes

Abbreviations: DAG = Deutsch-Amerikanische Geschichtsblätter

Introduction

1 the distinctively Swiss word for compatriot.
2 Krieg, Johann, Anton; Reisebericht von Lachen, Kt. Schwyz . . ., in: Köpfli, Kaspar; Spiegel von Amerika, Luzern 1849.

Emigration and Search for a New Home

1 Köpfli, Kaspar; Abschiedsbrief; «Merkt Euch ihr Alten — so sind die Neuen!» Sursee, den 22ten April 1831 am Tag der Abreise, abends 3 Uhr.
3 Köpfli, Kaspar; Abschiedsbrief 1831.
4 Köpfli, Salomon; DAG, 1905, Heft 1, p. 54.
5 Suppiger, Joseph; Reisebericht, Sursee 1833, p. 48.
6 Köpfli, Salomon; DAG, 1905, Heft 1, p. 55.
7 Suppiger, Joseph; Reisebericht, Sursee 1833, p. 199.
8 ibid., p. 200.
9 Köpfli, Salomon (Brief). Zitat aus Suppiger, Joseph; Reisebericht, Sursee 1833, p. 208.
10 Köpfli, Salomon; DAG, 1905, Heft 1, p. 58.

Founding and Development of the Settlement

1 Köpfli, Salomon; DAG, 1905, Heft 2, p. 13.
2 Köpfli, Salomon (Brief), Zitat aus Suppiger, Joseph; Reisebericht, Sursee 1833, p. 208.
4 ibid., Heft 3, p. 5.
5 ibid.
6 Köpfli, Salomon (Brief), Zitat aus Suppiger, Joseph; Reisebericht, Sursee 1833, p. 296.
7 Köpfli, Kaspar; Die Licht- und Schattenseite, Sursee 1833, p. 43/44.
9 a small building after the manner of a chalet, commonly used in alpine Switzerland for the making of dairy products.
11 Eggen Jacob; Aufzeichnungen aus Highlands Gründungszeit . . ., Highland 1888, p. 12.
The Immigrants

1 Eggen, Jacob; Die Schweizer-Kolonie Highland... in: DAG, 1905, Heft 3, p. 17, 19/20.
2 ibid., p. 30.
3 Huber, Heinrich; Bericht..., Ragatz 1845, p. 15/16.
4 Krieg, Johann Anton; Reisebericht von Lachen, Kt. Schwyz..., in: Köpfli, Kaspar; Spiegel von Amerika, Luzern 1849, p. 83.
5 Bosshard, Heinrich; Zweite Reise..., Zürich 1860, p. 191.
6 ibid., 1859, p. 340.
7 ibid., p. 343.
8 ibid., p. 338.
9 ibid., p. 342.
10 ibid., p. 342.
11 ibid., p. 338.
12 ibid., p. 341.
13 ibid., p. 333.
14 ibid., p. 329.

Agriculture and Industry

1 Rilliet de Constant, (Louis); Auszüge aus Briefen..., Bern 1849, p. 32.
2 Krieg, Johann Anton; Reisebericht von Lachen, Kt. Schwyz..., in: Köpfli, Kaspar; Spiegel von Amerika, Luzern 1849, p. 83.
3 Köpfli, Kaspar; Die Licht- und Schattenseite, Sursee 1833, p. 14.
4 Eggen, Jacob; Die Schweizer-Kolonie Highland..., in: DAG, 1905, Heft 3, p. 31.
5 Gloor, Hs. J.; Reisebericht, in: Köpfli, Kaspar; Spiegel von Amerika, Luzern 1849, p. 60.
6 Bosshard, Heinrich; Zweite Reise..., Zürich 1860, p. 104/105.
7 Köpfli, Kaspar; Die Licht- und Schattenseite, Sursee 1833, p. 15.
8 Suppiger, Joseph (Brief), Zitat aus Suppiger, Joseph; Reisebericht, Sursee 1833, p. 219.
9 Rilliet de Constant, (Louis); Auszüge aus Briefen..., Bern 1849, p. 37/38.
10 ibid., p. 38.
11 Huber, Heinrich; Bericht..., Ragatz 1845, p. 37.
12 Köpfli, Kaspar; Die Licht- und Schattenseite, Sursee 1833, p. 22.
13 Huber, Heinrich; Bericht..., Ragatz 1845, p. 17.
14 ibid., p. 17.
15 Bosshard, Heinrich; Zweite Reise..., Zürich 1859, p. 332.
16 Eggen, Jacob; Aufzeichnungen aus Highlands Gründungszeit..., Highland 1888.
Churches, Schools and Social Life

1 Kopfli, Salomon; DAG, 1905, Heft 2, p. 30.
2 Eggen, Jacob; Die Schweizer-Kolonie Highland . . . , in: DAG, 1905, Heft 3, p. 28.
3 Bandelier, A. F. A.; Geschichte des Townships Helvetia, 3—5, Madison County, Ill., Highland 1876, p. 12, Anm. 2.
4 Huber, Heinrich; Bericht . . . , Ragatz 1845, p. 17/18.
5 Steinach, Severin Adelrich; Geschichte und Leben . . . , New York 1889, p. 257.
6 ibid., p. 257.
7 levels of high school that differ according to ability.
8 Bosshard, Heinrich; Zweite Reise . . . , Zürich 1860, p. 105/106.
9 The original is in the Louis Latzer Library, Highland, Madison County, Illinois.
10 Suppiger, Joseph; Reisebericht . . . , Brief vom 19. 3. 1832, p. 222.
11 Huber, Heinrich; Bericht . . . , Ragatz 1845, p. 17.
12 Bosshard, Heinrich; Zweite Reise . . . , Zürich 1859, p. 333.
14 zitiert nach DAG 1901, Verfasser nicht bekannt.
15 head of the shooting society.
17 Peter, Albert; Gedenkschrift . . . , St. Louis 1909, Vorwort.

Lincoln's Visit and the Civil War

1 abgedruckt in: «News Leader», Highland, Madison County, Ill., Datum nicht bekannt.
3 This list was drawn up in cooperation with Robert Gerling. The country of origin is based upon church registers in Highland.

Past and Present

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3 Bosshard, Heinrich; Zweite Reise . . . , Zürich 1859, p. 341.
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Pictures

Abbreviations: L. L. H. = Louis Latzer Library Highland, Ill.

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