

Kentucky Einsiedeln Elsewhere.

Ties between a Swiss Village and the American City Louisville, Kentucky.

During the last decade the Swiss journalist Susann Bosshard-Kälin initiated and realized two books, one titled *Westwärts – Encounters with Swiss American Women*, the other *Emigrant Paths – Encounters with 20th Century Swiss Americans* – in cooperation with Leo and Virginia Schelbert of Evanston, Illinois.

Her new project follows the path of emigrants from her home village Einsiedeln in Canton Schwyz who settled in Louisville, Kentucky, and in its environs. Louisville's White Pages list hundreds of names pertaining to Einsiedeln such as Kaelins (Kälins), Schoenbaechlers (Schönbächlers), Birchlers, Zehnders, Curiger,

Oechslins (Öchslins), and Ochsners. In April she visited Louisville for a first reconnaissance with a team that included a historian, camera-person, and photographer. The visit provided numerous and delightful encounters with descendants of 19th century immigrants from Einsiedeln as well as impressive interviews and pictures that eventually will be published.

Crucial for launching the undertaking was a seed money grant of the Swiss American Historical Society, the help provided by Vicky Ullrich-Birchler of the Swiss Ladies Society and of her husband Robert, as well as the assistance of Jeff Haeberlin of the Louisville Gruetli Helvetia Society. The cooperation of Donald Tritt, who accompanied and advised the team for days, and the input of Leo Schelbert, both of the Swiss American Historical Society, are gratefully acknowledged.

A re-activated "Swiss Picnic" of August First 2015, Switzerland's national holiday, follows next. Further steps are planned such as mutual visits that aim to strengthen ties between descendants of Louisville immigrants and Einsiedeln, the town of their origin.



84 persons with Einsiedler roots came to our reunion in Louisville in April 2015

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