

# Aluensterberg Plaza and Clock Tower



**Dedication  
July 31, 2010**

# 2010 Dedication

## Muensterberg Plaza and Clock Tower

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### Mission Statement

The Muensterberg Plaza and Clock Tower create a time-honoring tribute at the crossroads of our community by fostering an abiding legacy of the faith of our ancestors, refreshing the common spirit of the community and inspiring a vision of hope for future generations.



# **Berne Community Development Corporation Board of Directors and Steering Committee 2002-2010**

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Paul Zuercher

## **Architect**

Prince/Alexander Partners Inc.

## **Construction Manager**

Limberlost Construction Inc.

## **Fundraising Consultant**

Wes Rediger



## Board & Committee Members



Board and committee members, from the left, include Paul Zuercher, Fred Clauser, Charles Isch, Kent Liechty, Gretta Lehman, Dwight Habegger, Matt Lehman, Floyd Liechty, Fundraising Committee Co-Chairman James Beitler, Jr., John Kirchhofer, Treasurer Gwen Maller, Karleen Sprunger, CDC President David Baumgartner, Ron Sprunger, CDC Vice President Scott Bixler, Fred Lehman, Secretary Connie Potter, Chad Gilbert, Fundraising Committee Co-chairman Roger Muselman, Marcia Rich, Nancy Brown, Nancy Subler, and Jane Velasco.



**Muensterberg Plaza**  
and Clock Tower

# The History of the Plaza Site

The land where the Berne Clock Tower is physically located has a rich history. In 1854, Abraham Sprunger donated the ground to the recently formed Mennonite congregation. The tract was simply identified as “Monroe Township plot 32,” and was to be used for the purpose of a cemetery, which was called the “Muensterberg Cemetery” by the earliest settlers. Over the next five decades, there were approximately 200 bodies buried at this site. A small church was built at this location in 1856.

The cemetery’s location at this site became problematic as the town grew to the west. So, in the years 1892 and 1908, and again in the 1920s, many bodies were removed to the MRE (Mennonite Reformed and Evangelical) Cemetery west of town. In July of 1931, the First Mennonite Church voted to use the former gravesite as a parking lot. In fact, the site had been used to park vehicles as early as the 1920s. On Sept. 25, 1972, the church sold the former cemetery site to Grover Neuenschwander.

Even before that transaction, in 1931, the northern part of the site was home to the Berne Shell Station. Martin Neuenschwander operated the station for many years. A small restaurant, called The Coffee Shop and consisting of five stools, was operated by Martin’s wife, Gladys. Later, when Paul and Juanita Herman purchased the small restaurant, it was relocated across Main Street and west of U.S. Highway 27. In more recent years, the station, known as One Stop Auto, limited its services to car repairs. Meanwhile, the southern part of the tract was used as a car sales lot, known as M & W Auto Sales, with Willard Wulliman as the owner.

In early 2001, Berne 150 Inc., a non-profit organization charged with the celebration of Berne’s sesquicentennial event, developed the idea that the site, being located at the crossroads of the community, would make an attractive plaza with a clock tower as the central architectural feature. Taking that cue, on Oct. 8, 2001, the City of Berne initiated the purchase of the “Shell station and parking lot” from the Virginia Neuenschwander Estate. On April 11, 2005, the city transferred ownership of the site to the Berne Community Development Corporation and vacated the platted street known as State Street with the intent that Berne CDC would plan, develop, and build the site.



In the latter months of 2009 and extending into 2010, the Indiana Department of Transportation contracted to have all of the remaining bodies from the site re-interred to MRE Cemetery. This relocation was a precursor to state plans to improve and widen the intersection of state Highway 218 and U.S. 27.



The Muensterberg Plaza and Clock Tower will provide a fitting tribute to the long, unique history of this site at the main crossroads of Berne. It will serve as a monument to the settlers of Berne who fostered the rich heritage we enjoy and celebrate today.



# The Plaza Project

Muensterberg Plaza and clock tower will benefit the community for years to come.

## The benefits of the plaza and clock tower:

- Enhance a sense of community pride in Berne residents by creating a visual impact that is nationally known, unique and beautiful.
- Strengthen our economic base by establishing Berne as a unique destination marketplace with an international appeal.
- Create an enduring legacy for families, businesses and all who wish to honor loved ones.
- Help Berne grow and thrive by forever creating a new trademark/brand at the crossroads of our community.
- Express our commitment to our community by showing our children and grandchildren an example of unity and cooperation.
- Instill an appreciation for art through architecture.
- Increase the vibrancy of our community by introducing new business opportunities for entrepreneurs, including, but not limited to, specialty shops and restaurants.
- Improve the quality of life for all of Berne by providing a beautiful and entertaining plaza and gathering place at the crossroads of our community.
- Connect our children and grandchildren to the virtues that brought our ancestors to Berne.
- Improve the financial well-being of our community by increasing income and property values.

*“It is with a deep sense of appreciation and gratitude that we have the opportunity to gather here today. How fitting that the clock tower is located on the very site where many of our ancestors were laid to rest! To God be the glory! Life is truly berndabar!” - Floyd A. Liechty*



**Muensterberg Plaza**  
and Clock Tower

# Clock Tower Timeline

The idea for the Berne clock tower and Muensterberg Plaza was first publicly aired in 2001 during a planning session of the Berne Sesquicentennial Committee.

The committee knew that the project was too complex to complete in time for the sesquicentennial celebration, which was held during Swiss Days of 2002, but kept the concept in mind throughout the time of the sesquicentennial. The festival was such a success that a substantial financial contribution was returned to the City of Berne. The city decided to use this contribution as a financial incentive, or “seed money,” to start community development, and chartered the Berne Community Development Corporation.

The Berne CDC was incorporated on Dec. 9, 2002, as a 501(c)3 charitable institution.

The city also transferred the triangular tract of land and vacated State Street where the clock tower now stands.

The Berne CDC met for several years for the purpose of planning and visioning for the development of Berne, but the main project that occupied its attention was the plaza and clock tower dream. A fundraising consultant was hired to help develop strategies to encourage interest and maximum financial participation for the project.

In May 2005, the Berne CDC announced to the media plans to construct the Muensterberg Plaza and Clock Tower, and the fundraising effort began.





*“The people of the Berne community continue to represent the Swiss values carved into the clock tower. This project has special meaning to the Isch family, since all of my great-grandparents emigrated from Switzerland.”* - Charles E. Isch

Members of the project’s steering committee traveled to Cincinnati, Ohio, in June 2005 to visit the Verdin Company, the world’s largest supplier of clocks, clock towers, electronic carillons and bells.

A leadership social was held in the home of Roger and Naomi Muselman on June 25, 2005, with honored guest Keith Reinhard, recognized leader in the national and international advertising community and former Berne resident. Reinhard was named honorary chairman of the project.

In March 2006, the first of several structures was razed at the site, and State Street, a one-block street just east of the triangular-shaped parcel designated for the plaza and clock tower, was officially closed to traffic.

Over the course of the next two years, the all-volunteer fundraising committee continued to secure individual pledges for the project, and local businesses and industries also pledged their support.

In March 2008, the project entered phase three of the fund-raising effort. Prince Alexander Partners Inc. of Indianapolis, the architect working with the CDC on the overall design, proposed a timeline to prioritize the overall project.

In February 2009, a test panel was poured.

On Dec. 15, 2009, members of the CDC met with General Contractor Mike Schwartz of Limberlost Construction Inc. to sign the contracts to allow work to commence.

On Wednesday, March 17, a groundbreaking ceremony marked the beginning of construction of the clock tower, with the dedication set for Saturday, July 31, during Berne’s annual Swiss Days celebration.

## **Clock Tower Timeline**

- 2005 – The project begins
- 2006 – Razing readies plaza plot  
Businesses pledge support
- 2007 – Swiss visitors pledge support  
New curbing poured
- 2008 – New phase begins  
Pledges reach \$2 million
- 2009 – Final plans made  
Firm estimates given  
Test panel poured  
Contracts signed
- 2010 – Construction begins  
Clock tower dedication



# Lehman Glockenspiel

## Berne's Visual History

1. The Hahnemann Sets Sail – In 1852, 82 devout Swiss Mennonite immigrants sailed to the New World on a three-masted cotton transport ship named the Hahnemann. The 123-foot long, 22-foot wide ship could carry a load of 800 tons, but for this voyage, it carried passengers, their personal effects, water, wood and coal, and stones needed for ballast. The ship left Le Havre, France, on March 19, 1852, and landed 41 days later in New York. Seasickness and disease were constant threats, and during the voyage, five children died and were buried at sea.



2. The Settlers Move West – The immigrants left New York on a steamer up the Hudson to Albany, traveled by canal and overland to Buffalo, crossed Lake Erie to Cleveland, and journeyed by wagon to the Sonnenberg Settlement in Eastern Ohio. One after another, the families made the final trek from Wayne County, Ohio, to Adams County, Indiana. Drawn by either draft horses or oxen, their wagons were stacked high with boxes, trunks, sacks, and barrels containing all of their earthly possessions. This group of immigrants settled what came to be known as the Muensterberg Settlement.



3. Cutting Trees And Clearing The Land – When the settlers arrived in Adams County, Indiana, they found dense forests and swamps. The density of the forests required the use of a compass to find one's way. The first generation of settlers toiled most of their lives clearing the land and draining the swamps, always with the ultimate goal of creating flat, fertile farm ground. During this time, numerous sawmills sprouted up, producing lumber that was used for the construction of houses and barns.



4. Farmers Till The Soil – In the Old Country, the Anabaptists were not permitted to own their own land, but were only allowed to rent the high slopes and plateaus in the Jura Mountains, which were rocky and dry and not well suited for crops. The flat land and temperate climate of Adams County made the area ideal for agriculture. Today, as in days past, the primary crops are corn, soybeans, and wheat. Livestock in the area includes dairy cows, beef cattle, hogs, and poultry. The agricultural industry remains a vital part of the Berne community.



# Lehman Glockenspiel

5. Blacksmiths and Other Trades Develop – During the early years of the Muensterberg Settlement and before the invention of the automobile, Berne had a large number of harness shops, blacksmiths, livery barns, and wagon works. One of the local blacksmiths, Abe Hocker, was widely recognized as an expert in his field. He was also an inventor, creating tinned-copper bathtubs, post augers, and cistern pumps. Since his death, Abe's anvil serves as his grave marker and can be seen east of the obelisk on First Drive in MRE Cemetery west of Berne.



6. Crafting Furniture – Quality craftsmanship has always been an integral part of life in Berne, Indiana. During the early years, there were many cabinetmakers, forkmakers, woodturners, and furniture makers. In more recent years, Berne has been home to many furniture manufacturers, and this industry, along with Berne's numerous furniture retail stores, has earned Berne the designation of "The Furniture Capital of Indiana."

7. Worshippers Give Thanks and Praise – From the time Berne was first settled to today, a strong religious faith has been a defining foundation for the community. Many of the original immigrants ventured to the new world for the opportunity of religious freedom. The original church building of the Muensterberg congregation was located where the clock tower now stands. There are now 12 churches located in Berne, and many more grace the vicinity around the city. Depicted here is the singing of hymns and spiritual songs, which has always been central to the worship experience in the churches of Berne.



8. Teaching Students – The early settlers longed for a school where their children might receive instruction according to Swiss customs and in the German language. The first schoolhouse, a one-room log structure, was constructed in 1856. A second school was built in 1888 at the present location of the Berne City Building. A third school was built in 1940 across U.S. 27 to the west of the clock tower, and the local school system used it until 2009. The present campus encompasses the high school, built in 1973, and the new elementary-middle school, which was completed in 2009. For many years, Berne has been blessed with an excellent school system. Education continues to play an important role in the lives of the citizens of Berne.



# Lehman Glockenspiel



9. Amish Settle in Adams County – The Amish came to Adams County in 1850 and have been a vital part of the community since then. Like the other immigrants to this area, the Amish community is primarily made up of descendants of settlers who came directly from Switzerland and Alsace. As of today, there are more than 7,000 Amish, and their 54 congregations dot the landscape around Berne. In addition to speaking English, Berne’s Amish families still converse in the Swiss-German language. The Amish practice a life of simplicity and peace, reject involvement with the military, and believe in remaining separate from the rest of the world, physically and socially.

10. The Sound of Music – Berne is known for excellence in music. In the early years, only the somber singing of the Psalms and martyr ballads was heard in the Muensterberg settlement. Soon, however, piano, organ, and brass and string instruments were added. Community bands enjoyed great popularity before the school system had its own musical groups. The Mennonite Choral Society has performed community oratorios every year since 1890. The churches of Berne and the local school system have long been known for exceptional choral music.



11. Berne Athletics Spread Far the Fame – During the last century in Berne, athletic competition has contributed to both physical prowess and character growth in local athletes, which has brought entertainment and pride to the citizens of the community. Throughout the years, there have been many successful teams as well as individual athletes for Berne High School, Berne-French High School, and South Adams High School, continuing to “spread far the fame of our fair name.” For many years, the bear, the symbol of Bern, Switzerland, was the athletic mascot of Berne High School.



12. Dancing Swiss Couple Celebrating Our Heritage – In recent years, the Berne community has become more keenly aware of how distinctive it is and has learned to celebrate this distinction. There is no better way to end the glockenspiel show than to celebrate the special charm of our community. In this scene, the dancing couple wears authentic Swiss clothing typically worn while performing traditional folk dances.





# Value Panels

Change affects all of our lives, and the very speed of change sometimes takes our collective breath away. As the hands of Berne’s clocks have made their rounds over the past one hundred and fifty-eight years, buggies have been motorized; photography, digitized; and new medicines, synthesized. Cross-country trips that used to take our ancestors weeks are over before we’ve finished the in-flight movie, and our communications move even faster than we do—thanks to services like e-mail, instant messaging, Skype, and Twitter.

A clock tower, in its own unique way, announces that time itself results in change. In the midst of all of this change, we may sometimes question if there is anything that remains constant. The words carved into the clock tower are foundational ideas, principles, and values. They should remain as a constant guide for the Berne community, for they themselves are timeless.

The two values on the northeast side of the tower are faith and courage. Each new day, lived with firm faith and unwavering courage, will have its own rewards.

The two values on the northwest side are commitment and integrity. These values remind us that we all are obligated to each other. They grant honor and respect to each person we encounter— whether customer or client, neighbor or stranger—with no regard for age, gender, religion, race, or nationality.

The values of hard work and heritage on the southeast side suggest that nothing comes without effort and perseverance. These are bedrock principles that have been bequeathed by our early forefathers and mothers.

Finally, hope and vision, the words that grace the southwest side of the tower, are values that point to a bright, better future. This is a future that can be embraced with optimism, not only for ourselves, but also for all those who will follow in the years ahead.



*“My vision from the beginning, nearly eight years ago, was to create a welcoming place for us to visit one another. Just as America has always welcomed people from near and far, so must we welcome settlers and visitors in the 21st century and beyond. Let us meet at the Clock Tower to get to know one another and share our lives.” - Nancy Subler*



**Muensterberg Plaza**  
and Clock Tower

# Reinhard Carillon

The carillon bells in the clock tower were designed and created by The Verdin Company of Cincinnati, Ohio. Since 1842, six generations of Verdin family members have been creating the world's finest bells, clocks and carillons.

The electronic carillon plays on the hour, as well as when the glockenspiel is moving. More than 1,000 songs have been programmed into the carillon for a variety of special occasions, seasons and events, with 16 special songs appropriate to Berne, including the Berne-French and South Adams fight songs and the tunes to "Back Home Again in Indiana," "In a Little Red Barn," and "On the Banks of the Wabash."

Linda Covert, who recorded the music into the carillon, said, "Your project was a very interesting one to work on. What I really liked were the classical pieces you chose, and I especially loved the Heritage Anthem, which I found myself humming throughout the day as I worked on your project."

The Verdin Company was also involved in designing and building the track and mechanism for the glockenspiel.



**Keith & Rose-Lee Reinhard**

*"The vision to create the clock tower and plaza was inspired by the recognition that what you learn in Berne is not only worth celebrating, it's worth preserving in a way that uniquely reflects our Swiss heritage." - Keith Reinhard*



# Bell and Bell Ringer

## In Memory of Jerry A. Sprunger

The bell and bell ringer were built by Weber Company and were given by Sharon Sprunger Wulliman in memory of her husband, Jerry A. Sprunger, a well-known farmer in the Berne area.

The bell ringer in the belfry between the sloped roof and the spire is 7 feet tall. He strikes the bell each hour and is dressed in a typical Swiss outfit. His name is Bernard (meaning brave as a bear).

In Bern, Switzerland, the great hour bell, cast by Johann Reber, has remained unchanged since the tower's reconstruction in 1405. The inscription on the bell reads, in Latin: "In the October month of the year 1405 I was cast by Master John called Reber of Aarau. I am vessel and wax, and to all I tell the hours of the day."

The Bern bell striker is gilded and clothed in typical medieval garb.



*"The value panels provide opportunity for reinforcing the Judeo-Christian values so important to the Swiss settlers of this community. The Biblical example found in Joshua 4 provides an excellent teaching model. When asked, "What do these stones mean?", "tell them" of the importance of the moral values and spiritual heritage in constituting a solid society. The eight values permanently etched in stone are a wonderful tribute to those who established this community and provide inspiration for us and future generations."* - **Connie Potter**



# Settlers Monument

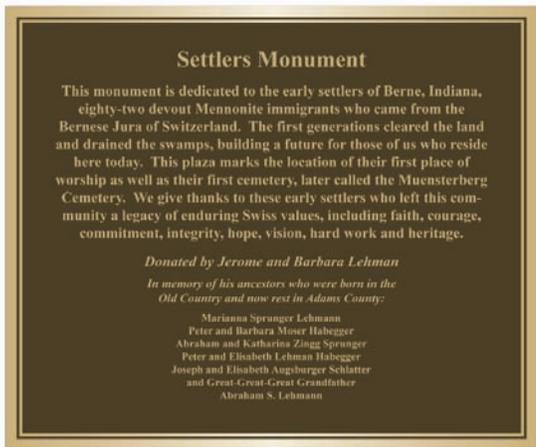
One of the prominent features designed for the Muensterberg Plaza is the Settlers Monument, which memorializes the spirit of the early inhabitants to the Berne area. The monument will stand on the northwest corner of the plaza at the corner of U.S. 27 and Water Street.

The sculpture includes the image of a man standing 6-feet 4-inches tall with his arms outstretched, and a 6-foot-tall woman holding a baby. The settlers are dressed in 1850s attire commemorating the heart of the early pioneers.

The monument was designed and modeled in clay by Nick Ring, master draftsman and artist from southern Indiana, and was then recreated in limestone and delivered to Berne. Ring is also the designer of the glockenspiel figures and the bell ringer.

Jerome Lehman, former Berne resident, and his wife, Barbara, are the underwriters of the Settlers Monument. They contributed because the monument links the heritage of Bern, Switzerland, to Berne, Indiana, and pays respect to the ancestors who left their home country and came to America to establish the Swiss community of Berne.

The monument will be placed at the plaza in the fall of 2010, and an appropriate dedication will be held at that time.



*“This dedication day for the clock tower has been a long, interesting and successful journey. It has been an adventure of exciting discussion and interaction with board members and people. What a delight to be part of Berne history.” - Gretta Lehman*





# Excitement in Berne!



# Clock Tower Statistics

- The Tower was built in 2010 by the Berne Community Development Corporation.
- The formal groundbreaking for the Tower was held on March 17, 2010.
- Hundreds of people witnessed the roof, steeple and finial lifted into place on June 18, 2010.
- Dedication of the Tower was on July 31, 2010, during the community's Swiss Days Festival.
- The Tower stands 160 feet in height from the base to the top of the finial.
- The Tower is 32 feet wide at its base.
- The total weight of the Tower is approximately 1,216 tons.
- The foundation of the Tower is composed of 14 tons of steel rebar and 588 tons of concrete.
- There are 40 concrete panels in the Tower, each weighing between four and nine tons.
- Each clock face on the Tower is 18 feet in diameter.
- The clock hands on the Tower are made of gold anodized aluminum and are 15 feet long.
- Over 300 people worked on the design and construction of the Clock Tower.
- The glockenspiel contains 12 figures, each approximately 5.5 feet tall.
- The Bell Ringer in the belfry is seven feet tall.
- The Tower's carillon can play over 1,000 different songs.
- Construction of the Tower, including prefabrication took approximately seven months to complete.

“The “HERITAGE” inscription is probably what touches and inspires me the most. The Prince and Alexander families have built such big things like dams, bridges, roads and towns, that when I got the opportunity to be involved in such a huge landmark project, I felt I could reach through time and space to my family in the past and in the future. Thank you.” - **Stephen J. Alexander AIA**





# Berne Community Development Corporation

P.O. Box 27 / Berne, IN 46711-0027 / (260) 589-3139 / (260) 589-8526

July 31, 2010

Dear Friends,

Since it was established in 2002, Berne Community Development Corporation has embarked on a bold agenda of projects in an attempt to bring economic and community development to Berne. Berne CDC acquired the Berne Apparel building downtown, razed it, and this year secured a new Dollar General store for that site. CDC has fostered new businesses through a New Business Incentive Program and new Swiss facades through our Swissification Loan Program. We have implemented a historical plaque program that commemorates the history of business locations in Berne. CDC was instrumental in the City of Berne adopting a new signage ordinance. And we continue to work toward new streetscaping for Downtown Berne.

But, of course, our most monumental project, the one that we have poured ourselves into and that will have the most long-term significance for the community, is the Muensterberg Plaza and Clock Tower. We believe that this project will bring about economic and community development by promoting Berne as a "destination marketplace," a place that people intentionally drive to in order to experience Berne. This plaza will bring numerous people to Berne who will shop at our stores, require lodging in our inns, and need to eat in our restaurants. The plaza will ensure that present and future businesses in town will not only survive, but will thrive. We anticipate that new businesses will sprout up, including new stores and new restaurants. Entrepreneurs will be inspired to bring about new vibrant commercial enterprises. The plaza will enhance the sense of community pride by creating a visual impact at the focal point of the community that will become nationally, indeed internationally, known. It will set Berne apart.

We thank all of you who have supported Berne CDC in our endeavors and especially in this historic project. You have made what seemed to be impossible, possible. You have built this clock tower through your generous financial support and encouragement, and generations in the future will thank you for your vision.

Yet we with Berne CDC have not finished our quest to improve our community. In the future, we will continue the work to complete the Muensterberg Plaza and to sponsor other economic and community development projects in Berne. We ask for your continued support in our efforts to develop Berne as a community of distinction and charm.



David N. Baumgartner, President  
Berne Community Development Corporation



## Thank You From the Chairmen

Dear Friends,

We have had the distinct pleasure to lead the campaign for the Muensterberg Plaza and Clock Tower. It was a unique idea calling for extraordinary vision, creative design, and exquisite building. The campaign succeeded because of the work of many progressive, spirited people who were motivated to do something on a grand scale. We thank you all, citizens of and from Berne, for your support, counsel and encouragement along this journey. We now arrive at the dedication of this beautiful clock tower and we feel blessed beyond measure.

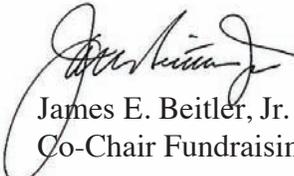
May this hour of dedication be more than the mere setting of the correct time on this clock. And may this day be more than a soon to be forgotten celebration—just another moment in time. No, it is our hope and desire that this time be recognized for more than those things—things which are far more fundamental - may it be a time for remembering, refreshing, and renewing.

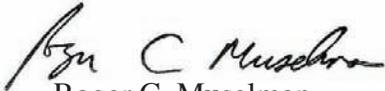
May this clock represent a time of remembrance of the generous spirit of the people of Berne as well as hundreds who will always consider Berne their “heimat.” That collective spirit brought forth sacrificial generosity on the part of many and a new understanding that their charitable spirits, joined together, could develop a culture of care for our public lives and be a powerful representation of their shared love for Berne.

May this be a time of refreshment. May it be a recognition of our generation’s call to renewed commitment to the established and long-held values of our ancestors who carefully laid the foundations of our city, not only physically, but spiritually as well. The words imbedded on the clock walls matter deeply, because lives lived with those values matter. May the Berne community be refreshed by these values and may we carve them in our minds and hearts, in both our individual and corporate lives, just as they have been carved into the stones of the tower.

May this day be one of renewal. This clock tower was built during uncertain and difficult times. During a time of scarcity may it represent that a community can grow and thrive, with a renewed, shared hope and vision. May it symbolize that as we together invest of our time, our talents and our treasures, renewal does come. To Berne’s future generations, may it be said that they were bequeathed a vital, vibrant future for this small town—a future represented by this ‘towering symbol of timeless values’ and an inheritance of what they may ‘learn in Berne’.

Remembering, refreshing, renewing—may this day symbolize that Berne always grants those opportunities to those who value the times of their lives. May these always be the fundamental things that apply—As Time Goes By.

  
James E. Beitler, Jr.  
Co-Chair Fundraising Committee

  
Roger C. Muselman  
Co-Chair Fundraising Committee



July 31, 2010

To the People of My Hometown,

It hardly seems possible that eight years have gone by since I was privileged to address many of you on the occasion of Berne's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was an honor for me to share at that time some reflections on "What I learned in Berne" as a kid growing up here in the forties and fifties.

Sometime later, a few visionary leaders in town began to think more broadly about the community's founding values and how those values might be revisited in a way that underscored both their importance to our heritage and their relevance to the future. And thus was born the big idea to build a monument to the enduring values that the first Swiss settlers brought to this place in 1852.

Through creative leadership and a committee of passionate volunteers, the idea took shape as a plan for a beautiful, functional town plaza anchored by a 160- foot clock tower, inspired by and modeled after the one in Bern, Switzerland. It was an ambitious dream and one I admired because attaining it would require a great deal of courage, commitment and hard work, three of the founding values being celebrated. I appreciated the idea for all the practical reasons—among them the fact that a new place for people to gather and a new attraction for visitors would be created. Even more so, I was impressed by the relevance of the clock tower as a symbol. Combining *never*-changing values with a clock whose time is *ever*-changing is inspired symbolism. "Lasting values for changing times!" It's a theme for the ages that, thanks to visionary leadership and untiring effort, now belongs uniquely to this special place called Berne.

I am honored to be a part of your dedication ceremonies today. I salute your leaders and join them in thanking all of you for your help in making a dream come true.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Reinhard'.

Keith Reinhard Chairman Emeritus

John F Minch, Mayor

Gwen Maller Clerk- Treasurer

## CITY OF BERNE

FOUNDED 1887  
158 W. FRANKLIN STREET  
BERNE, INDIANA 46711



City Council  
Ronald N. Dull  
D. Michael Poulson  
Gregg A. Sprunger  
Curtis L. Wurster  
Mark D. Wynn

### July 31, 2010 Muensterberg Plaza and Clock Tower Dedication

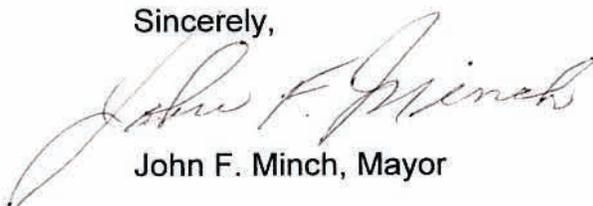
As Mayor of the City of Berne, it is my pleasure to recognize and celebrate the efforts of the Berne Community Development Corporation, current and former residents of Berne, and all those who by their volunteer efforts and philanthropic gifts have contributed to this massive undertaking.

The plaza and the clock tower stand on sacred ground and perpetuate the history of Berne and the sacrifices her forefathers endured to establish our city. Berne's humble beginnings and the depth of our Swiss roots will resonate for generations to come as the chimes ring out every day for the enjoyment of citizens and visitors alike.

My wife Jane and I, along with Keaton Becher, who served as our interpreter and my Administrative Assistant Becky Sprunger were honored to visit Switzerland last summer. As we traveled through this beautiful country and the "heimat" of so many gathered here, we became aware of the focal point of each community, its clock tower. These historical structures are the center of activity and bring tourists and citizens together as they watch the glockenspiel's spectacular display. We believe that our own Muensterberg Plaza and Clock Tower will become the center of activity in Berne, Indiana.

As we celebrate this day of dedication, I wish to congratulate everyone who made the Muensterberg Plaza and Clock Tower a reality and I wish God's Blessing on our citizens and our visitors.

Sincerely,



John F. Minch, Mayor





STATE OF INDIANA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
State House, Second Floor  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

---

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.  
*Governor*

July 12, 2010

Dear Friends in Berne,

It is a pleasure to congratulate the city of Berne on the construction of the community clock tower. The collaborative effort requiring the skills of many individuals in planning, fundraising, and construction truly represents the civic pride of the citizens of Berne.

The value gained through the creation of this monument will impact many Hoosiers for years to come. Not only does the clock tower add aesthetic beauty to our state, but it will also enhance the quality of life and general atmosphere of the community. The participation and vision of the residents of Berne are to be applauded.

Thank you for expressing your commitment to the city and adding to Indiana's diverse architectural landscape.

Sincerely,

*Mitch Daniels*





Stadt Bern  
Stadtpräsident

Erlacherhof, Junkerngasse 47  
Postfach 3000 Bern 8

To Mayor John F. Minch and the Citizens  
of the City of Berne, Indiana

Telefon 031 321 67 33  
Fax 031 321 77 10  
stadtpraesident@bern.ch  
www.bern.ch

Bern, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2010 - mgy

### **The Muensterberg Plaza and Clock Tower – Berne, Indiana**

Dear Citizens of Berne,

The Clock Tower was Bern's first western city gate (1191 - 1256) and formed the boundary of the first city extension. As the city expanded around 1220 from the bend of the river Aare up to the region of today's Clock Tower, a West gate tower was built as part of a defense wall. The town grew very fast and expanded to the West, so that the West gate tower lost more and more its purpose of defense. First transformed into a prison it was immediately re-erected, after the fire of 1405, to host a big bell and a mechanical clock. Thus, it was called the Clock Tower ever since. The tower clock was the city's main clock and therefore had an authoritative function.

Today it is one of Bern's most important sights. Though it has undergone many changes, the Clock Tower kept its purpose of announcing the hours to Bern's people until today.

As Mayor of Bern, capital of Switzerland and home of the original Clock Tower, I am extremely proud that a version of our city's symbol now stands in the town of Berne, Indiana. I would like to congratulate Mayor Minch and the citizens of Berne for this impressive accomplishment. I am deeply impressed with the project as a whole and the Clock Tower in particular. Although the Clock Tower in Bern dates back many hundred years, even today, tourists and even citizens of Bern will pause for a moment in front of the tower to witness the hourly spectacle of the glockenspiel. I have therefore no doubt that your Clock Tower will also impress tourists and locals alike.

Yours sincerely,

Alexander Tschäppät  
Mayor



**Gemeindepräsident**

Haldenstrasse 5  
Postfach 566  
CH-3550 Langnau i.E.  
Telefon 034 409 31 91  
Telefax 034 409 31 10

praesidial@langnau-ie.ch  
www.langnau-ie.ch

Langnau, 28. April 2010

Dear citizens of Berne, Indiana,

Last autumn, the Langnau Board of Councils had the honour to welcome a delegation from Berne with their mayor in Langnau. During their stay, our American guests visited our regional museum where they traced the history of their Mennonite ancestors and learned about the times of the mass emigration to the United States. The whole delegation was very interested in their roots and we have a good memory of this visit.

During our discussions, the plan for the construction of a clock tower in Berne was mentioned and we could feel the enthusiasm of our guests for this venture. The Langnau Board of Councils congratulates the citizens of Berne on this project and wishes good luck and success for the actual construction. We are sure that the Glockenspiel will bring you much pleasure and will emphasise the historical significance of the building.

Regards and best wishes

The Mayor of Langnau, Emmental

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Antener', written over a large, light-colored scribble or stamp. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Bernhard Antener

# Berne Community Development Corporation Dedication Day Committees

Berne

## Program/Bulletin & Publicity

James Beitler, Jr., Chair of Dedication Program  
Nancy Brown, Chair of Publicity  
Roger Muselman, Chair of Printed Media  
David Baumgartner  
Fred Lehman  
Floyd Liechty  
Connie Potter  
Steven Hult, Videographer  
Nicholas Baumgartner, Photographer  
Nancy Brown, Photographer  
Doug Detwiler, Photographer  
Scott Moss, Photographer  
Matt Owen, Photographer  
Jarrett Horne, Graphic Designer  
EP Graphics, Printer

## Food & Refreshments

Gretta Lehman, Chair of Food and Refreshments  
James Beitler, Jr.  
Scott Bixler  
Chad Gilbert  
Marcia Rich  
Nancy Subler  
Jane Velasco

## Memorabilia

Ron Sprunger, Chair of Memorabilia  
David Baumgartner  
James Beitler, Jr.  
Dwight Habegger  
John Kirchhofer

## Plaques & Commemorative Recognitions

David Baumgartner, Chair of Plaques and Recognitions  
James Beitler, Jr.  
Fred Clauser  
Charles Isch  
Floyd Liechty  
Roger Muselman

## Grounds

Charles Isch, Chair of Grounds  
James Beitler, Jr.  
Teresa Flaughter  
Rick Gorrell  
Fred Lehman  
Army Velasco

## “Thank You” to Those Who Contributed Items for the Dedication

Alpine Falls—water  
Amish Country Popcorn—popcorn, oil and salt  
Berne Chamber of Commerce—United States, Swiss, Indiana and Berne flags  
Coca-Cola of Portland—lemonade  
Edelweiss Flowers—stage floral arrangements  
First Mennonite Church—parking and “rain event” venue  
Habegger Ace Lumber—flag poles  
New Glarus, Wisconsin—canton flags  
Simon Unit Steps—concrete steps  
Sport Form—usher shirts





# Pre-Dedication Concert 7:00 P.M.

|                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Alphorn Selections.....         | Midwest Alphorn Retreat Ensemble |
| I Was Born in a Small Town..... | Rob Kowalczyk                    |
| Stardust .....                  | Renee Rybolt                     |
| Time in a Bottle .....          | Rob Kowalczyk                    |
| Cole Porter Medley .....        | Bernished Brass                  |
| Rock Around The Clock .....     | Bernished Brass                  |
| As Time Goes By.....            | Rob Kowalczyk and Renee Rybolt   |
| Time After Time .....           | FMC Quartet                      |
| In a Little Red Barn.....       | FMC Quartet                      |
| On the Banks of the Wabash..... | FMC Quartet                      |
| Edelweiss .....                 | Edelweiss Singers                |
| America, The Beautiful.....     | Edelweiss Singers                |

*The Berne CDC has received a Special Events License from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers to perform the copyrighted musical compositions in tonight's program.*

## Flag and National Anthem Etiquette

The United States Flag Code, first adopted in 1923, prescribes flag etiquette for today's dedication. It serves as a guide to properly honor the United States of America's principal emblem.

- When displayed on a platform, the United States flag is given the place of honor, always positioned behind the speaker and to the speaker's right with other flags, if any, at the left.
- The American flag should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states, localities or societies are grouped for display.
- When hung with the national banner of another country, each flag is displayed from a separate pole of the same height. The flag of one nation may not be displayed above that of another nation.
- According to the Library of Congress, citing protocol: The Complete Handbook of Diplomatic, Official and Social Usage, by Mary Jane McCaffree and Pauline Innis, Washington, D.C., Devon Publishing Company, Inc. 1985, it has been a long-standing practice to play the national anthem of a foreign visitor before the American anthem. "While there is no regulation stating which order should be used, courtesy and long-standing usage prevail" (page 379).



**Muensterberg Plaza**  
and Clock Tower

# Dedication Program 8:00 P.M.



|  |   |
|--|---|
| PROMENADE OF FLAGS .....                       | South Adams Flag Corp   |
| "Fanfare" by Dukas                             |   |
| SWISS AND UNITED STATES NATIONAL ANTHEMS ..... | Reinhard Carillon   |
| WELCOME.....                                   | Master of Ceremonies, James Beitler, Jr.                      |
| PRAYER.....                                    | Kent Liechty  |
| MENS QUARTET.....                              | Jerry Flueckiger, Ed Fox, Don Gerig, Fred Stauffer            |
| "Berne Anthem"                                 |   |
| RECOGNITIONS AND THANKS .....                  | David Baumgartner, President Berne CDC                        |
| ALPHORNS.....                                  | Midwest Alhorn Retreat Ensemble                               |
| "Populaire"                                    |   |
| CITY PROCLAMATION.....                         | Mayor John Minch  |
| RIBBON CUTTING .....                           | David Baumgartner, Connie Potter and Gwen Maller              |
| SWISS GREETINGS .....                          | Marcel and Dora Oberer-Luginbühl                              |
| SWISS DANCE.....                               | Swiss Days Court  |
| EDELWEISS SINGERS .....                        | Don Gerig, Director, Mary Beth Huser, Accompanist             |
| "That Beautiful Stream"                        |   |
| PRESIDENTIAL GREETINGS .....                   | David Myers, Director of Faith-Based Initiatives, DHS         |
| BERNISHED BRASS .....                          | Curt Amstutz, Brent and Chris Hyman, Bob Heimann, Mark Mordue |
| "Syncopated Clock" Abby Fisher, Percussion     |   |
| STATE OF INDIANA GREETINGS .....               | Matthew Lehman, Indiana House of Representatives              |
| FMC QUARTET .....                              | Brian Habegger, Randy Kistler, Neil Potter, Mike Wilson       |
| "Back Home Again in Indiana"                   |   |
| DEDICATORY ADDRESS .....                       | Keith Reinhard  |
| "Lasting Values for Changing Times!"           |   |
| PARADE OF SWISS LANTERNS .....                 | SA Elementary Students and Friends                            |
| PRESENTATION OF LEHMAN GLOCKENSPIEL .....      | Steve Lehman  |
| LASER LIGHT SHOW.....                          | Nu-Salt Laser Light Shows International                       |
| Midwest Alhorn Retreat Ensemble                |   |

# Program Participants

## Parade of Swiss Lanterns

Morgan Alberson  
Savannah Alberson  
Shea Alberson  
Brayden Bixler  
Brooklyn Bixler  
Gracyn Bixler  
Kylee Bixler  
Grace Caffee  
Jessa Caffee  
Colleen Caylor  
Brayden Collingsworth  
Parker Collingsworth  
Caralee Farlow  
Aalihah Feaster  
Natalie Frank  
Hallie Frauhiger  
Sam Frauhiger  
Blake Gilbert  
Brayden Gilbert  
Isaac Gorrell  
Jaci Gorrell  
Kaiti Gorrell  
Mason Heller  
Monroe Heller  
Chase Huffman  
Ty Huffman  
Will Huffman  
Max Isch

Conner Kirchhofer  
Annika Knopfmeier  
Genevieve Knopfmeier  
Lauren Lehman  
Sierra Lehman  
Grace Liechty  
Isabelle Liechty  
Reid Liechty  
Riley Liechty  
Tanner Liechty  
Nathanael Linthicum  
Adrienne McKean  
Derek McKean  
Lauren McKean  
David Muselman  
Grant O'Dell  
Vivian O'Dell  
Kate Potter  
Liam Potter  
Owen Potter  
Isabella Spagnola  
Mallory Stutzman  
Colin Subler  
Drew Subler  
Graham Subler  
Renzo Subler  
Drew Velasco

## South Adams Flag Corp

Participants in the flag promenade include: Braden Baer, Alli Beitler, Haley Bell, Bree Caldwell, Kylie Cisney, Grace Dobler, Brooke Guereca, Anie Habegger, Kayla Harlow, Lindsay Hoffman, Derek Kirchhofer, Tori Kistler, Brooks LeFever, Lauren Lehman, Jaci Liechty, Hali Miller, Hanna Muhlenkamp, Sarah Muselman, Chris Myers, Chelsey Nevil, Kaytlyn Pierce, Shiana Scott, Cora Sprunger, Kyle Sprunger, Shauna Sutton, Brianna Yoder, Jansen Yoder, Tiffany Yoder, and Tori Yoder.



Members of the 2010 Swiss Days Court, from left to right, are: Kyle Sprunger, Alli Beitler, Brooks LeFever, Kaytlyn Pierce, Chris Myers, Jansen Yoder, Derek Kirchhofer, Jaci Liechty, Logan Nichols, Grace Dobler, Braden Baer and Chelsey Nevil.

## Ushers

Derick Bailey  
Margie Dougherty  
Teresa Flaughner  
Rick Gorrell  
Brent Isch

Fred Lehman  
Gregg Sprunger  
Army Velasco  
Natalie Young  
Roger Young

*"My heartfelt thanks goes out to Everyone that had a part in the Muensterberg Clock Tower Plaza becoming a reality." - Dwight Habegger*



**Muensterberg Plaza**  
and Clock Tower

**Featured In Today's Program**  
**Indiana Composers**

Howard "Hoagy" Carmichael was an American composer, pianist, singer, actor, and bandleader. He is best known for writing "Stardust," "Georgia on My Mind," "The Nearness of You," and "Heart and Soul," four of the most-recorded American songs of all time. Carmichael was born in Bloomington, Indiana.

Cole Porter was an American composer and songwriter. Noted for his sophisticated lyrics, clever rhymes and complex forms, he was one of the greatest contributors to the Great American Songbook. Porter was born in Peru, Indiana.

John Mellencamp is an American rock singer-songwriter and musician. He holds the record for the most tracks by a solo artist to hit number one on the Hot Mainstream Rock Tracks chart, with seven hits, and he has been nominated for 13 Grammy Awards, winning one. His songs are known for their populist themes. Mellencamp was born in Seymour, Indiana.

## **Clock Tower Dedication Musical Repertoire**

"As Time Goes By" was written by Herman Hupfeld in 1931. It became most famous in 1942 when it was sung by Sam (Dooley Wilson) in the movie Casablanca. The song was voted No. 2 of 100 best songs in film on the American Film Institute's 100 Years.

"(Back Home Again in) Indiana" is not the official state song of the State of Indiana, but it is perhaps the best-known song that pays tribute to the Hoosier State.

"Berne Anthem" was written by Don Gerig and Jerry Flueckiger for the dedication event of the Berne Chamber office and first sung by the quartet singing it today. Its lyrics are set to the tune of a popular Swiss song.

"Edelweiss" is a song from the 1959 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "The Sound of Music." It is named after the edelweiss, a white flower found high in the Alps.

"In a Little Red Barn (on a Farm down in Indiana)" was the theme song for the morning radio show on WOWO in Fort Wayne, Indiana, hosted by Bob Sievers. "Nancy Lee and the Hilltoppers" performed the song; Nancy Lee was the wife of Sam DeVincent, music librarian for WOWO.

"On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away" was written and composed by American songwriter Paul Dresser. The lyrics of the ballad reminisce about life near Dresser's childhood home by the Wabash River in Indiana. It remained popular for decades, and the Indiana General Assembly adopted it as the official state song on March 14, 1913.





# Repertoire

“Rock Around the Clock” The best-known and most successful rendition of this song was recorded by Bill Haley and His Comets in 1954. It was not the first rock and roll record, nor was it the first successful record of the genre, but is widely considered to be the song that, more than any other, brought rock and roll into mainstream culture in the United States and around the world.

“Small Town” is written by John Cougar Mellencamp about his experiences growing up in a small town in Indiana. He was born in Seymour, Indiana, and lived in Bloomington, which, at the time of the release of the song, was much smaller. Mellencamp has been known as a champion of “small town America.”

“Stardust” was written at the Book Nook in Bloomington, Indiana (across the street from the Indiana University School of Law where Hoagy Carmichael attended school) on an old upright piano. It was first recorded in Richmond, Indiana.

“Syncopated Clock” was written by Leroy Anderson, an American composer of short, light concert pieces, many of which were introduced by the Boston Pops Orchestra under the direction of Arthur Fiedler. John Williams described him as “one of the great American masters of light orchestral music.”

“That Beautiful Stream” is a religious song that has struck a popular chord in the church life of the Berne community, and a verse is sung in the German language.

“Time After Time” is a jazz standard written by Sammy Cahn and Jule Styne in 1947. It was first introduced by Frank Sinatra in the 1947 movie “It Happened in Brooklyn.”

“Time in a Bottle” was a posthumous number-one hit for singer-songwriter Jim Croce, reaching the top of the charts in December 1973, three months after his death in a plane crash.

*“It has been very gratifying to see so many former and current Berne residents contribute to the clock tower. So often, they have commented on what a great privilege it was to be raised in Berne, and they want to give back to the community. I also feel very fortunate to have lived here all my life and to have been surrounded by this great heritage. We have something special here, and the clock tower just adds to the uniqueness of Berne.” - Fred Clauser*



**Muensterberg Plaza**  
and Clock Tower

# Participants

**The Bernished Brass Quintet** started playing together in 1997 but didn't decide on a name until it held a contest to name the group several years later. Originally consisting of Bob Heimann and Curt Amstutz (trumpet), Chris Hyman (horn), Brent Hyman (trombone), and Rob Dague (tuba), the quintet still maintains four of its original five members. Recently, various tuba players from the area have filled the tuba spot. The Bernished Brass has been hired to play for weddings, funerals, festivals, and concert appearances.



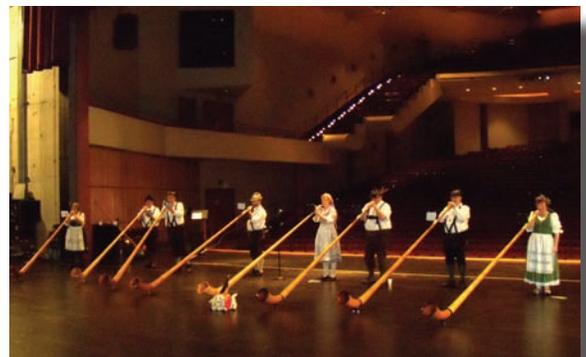
**The Edelweiss Singers**, a men's chorus centered in Berne, had its beginning in Fairbanks, Alaska.

According to Director Don Gerig, "In July of 1995, a men's touring group was sitting in a Fairbanks restaurant. Cecil Henn began talking about the past Mennonite Men's Chorus, and he said there should be a men's chorus singing in Berne. He looked straight at me and said I should be the director, and in a weak moment, I agreed. We held our first rehearsal in Berne that fall."



The Edelweiss Singers perform a variety of music for programs in Berne and the surrounding area.

**The Midwest Alphorn Retreat Ensemble** is comprised of 15 professional and amateur musicians from across the United States. Each year, they meet at Hidden Hollows Retreat Center in Lagro, Ind., under the direction of Dr. Peggy DeMers, Professor of Horn at Sam Houston State University. Dr. DeMers is an internationally acclaimed expert on the alphorn, its history and performance. She teaches and performs both in the United States and in Europe.



The Ensemble's focus is to perpetuate the tradition, history and music of the alphorn. The players spend five days immersed in performing and learning about the alphorn, culminating in concerts that this year include the grounds of Hidden Hollows Retreat Center, the Berne Clock Tower Dedication, and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. They were invited to perform at the Anaheim Disneyland, Oktoberfest 2009, the 2010 FAME workshop in Indiana, and the Conner Prairie Indiana Festival. The ensemble has been in great demand since its first Alphorn retreat.

*MIDWEST ALPHORN RETREAT ENSEMBLE MEMBERS: Karl Allen Beck, Fruit Port, Mich.; William D. Carter, West Caldwell, N.J.; Dr. Peggy DeMers, Spring, Texas; Chris Garrett, Kalamazoo, Mich.; John Griffith, Kalamazoo, Mich.; Frank Jess, Kalamazoo, Mich.; Judy Koenig, Michigan City, Ind.; Dr. Nancy Leipold, Waterford, Mich.; Merv Rennich, Peoria, Ill.; Nathan Richards, Sarasota, Fla.; Dr. Ken Slonneger, Iowa City, Iowa; Dr. Jan Solberg, Kalamazoo, Mich.; Tracy Sonneborn, East Lansing, Mich.; Dr. Mike Steele, East Lansing, Mich.; and Vicki Wheeler, Minneapolis, Minn.*





# Participants



**Renee Rybolt**, a native of Berne, Ind., graduated from Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Ind., in 2009 with a degree in vocal performance. While at St. Joe's, she served as the School of Music choral librarian and performed with the concert choir and chamber singers. Renee won the Indiana State NATS competition in 2007 and finished as regional runner-up in 2008. She has performed the role of Monica in Gian Carlo Menotti's *The Medium*, and has been soprano soloist in Francis Poulenc's *Gloria*, Andrew Lloyd Weber's *Requiem*, Arvo Part's *Miserere*, and Theodore Dubois's *The Seven Last Words of Christ* (with the Mennonite Choral Society). In 2003, Renee was a founding member and soloist of the Bach Collegium of Fort Wayne. Renee is currently pursuing a master's degree in choral conducting from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, where she studies with Dr. Susan Davenport.



## FMC Quartet

Mike Wilson, baritone, is the director of worship arts at First Missionary Church. Originally from Indianapolis, Ind., Mike graduated from Ball State University and taught choir and general music for grades 6-12 in the Alexandria Community School Corporation for two years. He and his wife, Beth, and their three children, Trevor, Nathaniel and McKenzie, have resided in Berne for 12-and-a-half years.

Randy Kistler, tenor, is a financial consultant with Woodbury Financial Services in Berne. He has roots in the Berne area through his parents, Norman and Vera Wanner Kistler. Randy graduated from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., where he met his wife, Danna. The Kistler family, including Tori, Alex and Jamison, have been active in the Berne community for 16 years.

Brian Habegger, the only Berne native, sings first tenor with the quartet. Brian is president of Habegger's Ace Lumber, which was started by his father and uncle, Charlie and Sam Habegger. Brian attended Bethel College in Mishawaka, where he met his wife, Denise. They have two children, Stephanie and Jeremy. Stephanie is married to Jordan Meyer and the couple has one daughter, Alyson.

Neil Potter, a former Adams Central music teacher, principal, and retired Superintendent of Southern Wells school district, currently runs his own business, Potter Lock & Safe. Neil sings bass. He and his wife, Connie, raised their three grown children, Eric, Mark and Janet, in Berne. They are the proud grandparents of Liam, Kate, Owen and Zane.

## Robert Kowalczyk

After graduating from South Adams High School, Robert Kowalczyk attended Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio, and received a bachelor's degree in music in vocal performance, with a minor in theatre arts. He currently works at Swiss Village Retirement Community in the dietary and maintenance departments. In addition, he keeps busy singing at church whenever possible and performs small concerts. He plans to attend graduate school for healthcare administration in the coming year.



**Muensterberg Plaza**  
and Clock Tower

# Reiny's Corn-er

Keith Reinhard - Honorary Chairman

In the early 1950s, Keith Reinhard worked for Bruce Sprunger in his mobile popcorn stand, which, at that time, was called Sprunger's Corn Crib. After Keith acquired his driver's license, his mother, Agnes Reinhard, helped him buy the stand from Sprunger. He re-named the stand Reiny's Corn-er.

For more than three years, Keith and his younger brother, Ken, sold popcorn every Saturday night at the corner of Main and Jefferson Streets in Berne. Reiny's Corn-er was also a popular stand at the ballpark and at area farm sales and street fairs.

Keith, who went on to create famous advertising campaigns for McDonald's in the 1970s, often cites his early fast food experience at Reiny's Corn-er as a reason for his success.

Today, he is a recognized leader in the national and international advertising community. As a former Berne resident, he serves as the honorary chairman of the Muensterberg Plaza and Clock Tower project.

Keith is chairman emeritus of New York based DDB Worldwide, which ranks among the largest global advertising agency networks in the world. Familiar Reinhard slogans include, "You deserve a break today," named the No. 1 jingle of all time by Advertising Age's "The Century of Advertising."



**Thank you to Kirk Lehman for the "re-construction" of Reiny's Corn-er, and to Heidi Jo Lehman for painting the Reiny's sign.**

## Swiss Days Popcorn Stand Workers

### Future Farmers of America

Chelsea Keller  
Eric Subler  
Kaylea Kongar  
Jon Liechty  
Cory Baumgartner  
Curtis Mitchel  
Brooke Kirchhofer

Jon Kohne  
Eric Isch

### National Honor Society

Mallory Eicher  
Caylie Yoder

Muensterberg Plaza  
and Clock Tower



# Clock Tower and Plaza Commemoratives

**Carillon:** Keith and Rose-Lee Reinhard

**Steeple:** First Bank of Berne

**Sloped Roof and Dormers:** Howard and Phyllis Baumgartner

**Glockenspiel:** Byron and Ruth Mary Liechty, LeRoy and Barbara Yoder, Fred and Sonia Lehman, Charles and Louise Lehman, John and Diann Lehman, Clyde and Marjorie Wulliman, Steve and Rhonda Lehman

**Settlers Monument:** Jerome and Barbara Lehman

**Bell and Bell Ringer:** Sharon Sprunger Wulliman (In memory of Jerry A. Sprunger)

**Clock Faces:** James and Melissa Beitler, Arthur and Gloria Muselman, Roger and Naomi Muselman, Paul and Betty Zurcher

**Value Panels:** David and Tanya Baumgartner, Fred and Beth Clauser, John and Rosalind Kirchhofer, Fred and Sonia Lehman, Leslie and Naomi Lehman, Loren and Joan Liechty Family, Gene and Nancy Subler, Van and Sharon Sprunger Wulliman

**Tower Columns:** Smith Brothers of Berne, DRG, EP Graphics/Berne Tri-Weekly News, Habegger Ace Lumber

**Rotunda:** Ron and Carolyn Fryback, Kenyon and Catherine Nussbaum, Ronald and Elizabeth Nussbaum, David and Karen Thomas

**Archways:** Michael and Kay Bauserman, Lehman and Bixler Optometrists, Jerome and Mabel Yager Family, Paul and Marvel Zuercher Family

**Muensterberg Wall, Promenades, Gardens, Trees, Lampposts and Benches:** Bank of Geneva, Amos and Mary Alice Bauman, Alan Beitler, James and Evelyn Beitler, Brad Bentley, Berne Ready Mix, Berne Rotary Club, David and Nancy Binkley, Bob and Lisa Bixler, Bixler Insurance, Black Bear Inn & Suites, John and Wanda Brown, Rick Bush Family, CenturyLink, Doris Cheeseman, Jack and Claudia Claussen, Joe and Dottie DiGirolamo, Tom and Carol Ehram, Alan and Josephine Eichenberger, John and Mary Eicher, Elkhart Products Corporation, Ed and Laurie Fisher, Lee Flueckiger, Roger and Mary Flueckiger, Russell and Susan Flueckiger, Jerry and Pat Fosnaugh, Blaine and Phyllis Fulton, Blaine and Phyllis Fulton Family, Fred and Pauline Geyer, Glen and Beverly Grandlinard, Rob Green Family, Charlie and Warena Habegger Family, Dwight and Beverly Habegger, Earl and Donna Habegger, Habegger Furniture, Grant and Barbara Habegger, Sam and Phyllis Habegger Family, Dean and Myrna Hendricks, Erv and Linda Inniger, Charles and Linda Isch, Robert and Louise Judge, Fred and MaryJane Kirsch Family, Bill and Gretta Lehman, Naomi E. Lehman, Rod and Sandy Lehman, Stuart and Rosemary Lehman, Weldon and Betty Lehman, D. O. Liechty Family, Floyd and Renee Liechty, Limberlost Construction, Larry and Gwen Maller, Ray and Luann Martin, James McDonald, Dick and Janet McKean, David and Janice McKee, John and Jane Minch, Moser Motor Sales, Sarah, Mark and David Muselman, Don Myers Plumbing & Heating, Neil and Connie Potter, Ken and Sandy Reinhard, Neal and Marcia Rich, Fred and Emma Rohrer Family, Aaron and Colleen Scholer, Glenn Scholer, Bart and Judy Sprunger, Ben and Sue Sprunger, Paul and Marjorie Sprunger, Rick and Nancy Sprunger, Roger and Verna Sprunger, Ron and Karleen Sprunger, Ernie and Janice Steiner, Gaylord and Agnes Stuckey, Luke, John Paul and Mary Esther Thomas, Army and Jane Velasco, Naomi Von Gunten, WZBD Radio, Yager Furniture, Chris and Rhea Yoder, Mike and Margery Zehr Family, Chris and Ida Zuercher Family

*“The clock tower project has enabled the community to unite in a common venture in remembering the sacrifices that our forefathers made in settling this city.” - John Kirchhofer*



**Muensterberg Plaza**  
and Clock Tower

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## **Berne Ready Mix**

<http://www.bernereadymix.com/>

## **Core Slab Structures**

<http://www.coreslab.com/index.php>

*Greg Higgins, Mike Johnson, and Keith Raisor*

## **Sofco Erectors**

<http://www.sofcoerectors.com/>

*Roger Banner, Brian Bluhm, Chris Fines, and Ed Whitacre*

## **Weber Group Inc.**

<http://www.webergroupinc.com/>

## **Campbellsville Industries**

<http://www.cvilleindustries.com/>

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**Prince Alexander Partners Inc.**

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**Nick Ring Studio**

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**Fort Wayne Roofing**

[www.fort-wayneroofting.com](http://www.fort-wayneroofting.com)

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**Muensterberg Plaza**  
and Clock Tower

## Berne's Beginning

Berne is located in Adams County, Indiana, 35 miles south of Fort Wayne. The city was settled in 1852 by a group of 82 Mennonite immigrants who came directly from Switzerland and named the new settlement for Bern, the capital city of Switzerland.

The settlers began the chore of clearing the land for farming, but farm markets were severely limited because of treacherous mud roads and distant trade centers.

“So they came to the wilderness of Adams County, Indiana, bringing with them all of their earthly possessions, meager as they were. But they also brought far greater treasures - faith in God and loyalty to His Word, courage, optimism, willingness to work, and skills and trades. They came to a country where they would be fully accepted, where they could own their own land, and where there was opportunity or bettering their economic situation. This settlement was the beginning of a strong community.”  
- Naomi Lehman

The advent of the railroad became the answer to the immigrant's prayers. The Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad was planning a rail line through Adams County, and two farmers, the Hilty brothers, offered to donate land for the project in exchange for a rail depot in the settlement. The railroad company agreed, and the farmers quickly plotted 10 building lots in anticipation of the additional settlers they believed would come by way of the rails.

On Christmas day, 1871, the first train arrived, marking the beginning of Berne, which was officially recorded as a community soon after. A steady stream of Swiss and German people, as well as English-speaking immigrants, came to the area, contributing to the growth of the unique Swiss community of Berne.





# Mayors of Berne



- Andrew Sprunger 1950-51**
- Forrest Balsiger 1952-63**
- Richard Lehman 1964-67**
- Willard Wulliman 1968-1975**
- Gaylord Stuckey 1976-83**
- Delmar Neuenschwander 1984-91**
- Blaine Fulton 1992-2003**
- John Minch 2004-2011**

*Berne became a city in 1950.  
At the 2000 census, the population of Berne was 4,150.*



**Muensterberg Plaza**  
and Clock Tower

# Berne: A Community of Distinction and Charm

Visitors have been attracted to the Berne community for decades. The name Berne implies its Swiss roots, and Berne's ethnicity is one of the features that distinguish it from other small Midwest communities.

Gaylord Stuckey, Berne mayor from 1976-1984, visited Bern, Switzerland, during his term in office, which ignited Stuckey's interest in promoting Berne for its namesake. He returned home and began encouraging businesses to consider adding a Swiss theme to their structures.

Today, dozens of public and private buildings throughout the community include Swiss façades or Swiss motifs. The thematic scheme is attractive to visitors and is an additional draw to the unique specialty shops in Berne.

The Berne Chamber of Commerce currently works with many Midwestern tour companies to establish individualized itineraries, providing a tour guide to the many local attractions.

The near demise of one of the area's first structures, the original Mennonite Church, caught the attention of another Berne native, Madelyn Wurster. Madelyn's maternal grandmother was a relative of Deacon David Baumgartner, who helped to start the church. Madelyn shared her dream of moving the former church into town and restoring it, and when others caught the vision, and Swiss Heritage Society was formed. Two-and-a-half decades later, the project has grown into a 22-acre historical campus.

Swiss Heritage Village sits on the north-east side of Berne and is home to a dozen original historic buildings. The village is open to the public primarily from May 1 through October 31, but activities take place year round for the Swiss Heritage Society. Visitors from all over the United States and around the world have visited Swiss Heritage Village and toured the Luginbill House, with its half-timber construction, and the world's only hand-hewn cider press and other authentic structures. The second Friday of each September, over a thousand fourth graders learn firsthand about Indiana history at the Swiss Heritage Festival, and hundreds more of all ages take part in the hands-on activities and replications of the music, food and lifestyle of the people who settled the community.

Berne has gained the reputation of being "The Furniture Capital of Indiana," and is known throughout the tri-state area as a furniture-shopping destination. Smith Bros. of Berne has become synonymous with individualized, quality upholstered furniture, and people from outside of the community are amazed at the cooperative advertising efforts of Bernhaus, Clauser, Habegger and Yager furniture stores.

In the summer months, Pine Lake draws young people and families looking for recreational fun. The picturesque spot among the pines offers swimming, sunbathing, paddle boating, and other attractions, such as giant water slides, a 30-foot jumping platform, lily pads and more.



# Berne: A Community of Distinction and Charm

Tourists appreciate the Gothic structure of the First Mennonite Church, located at the main intersection in Berne. The beautiful wooden sanctuary was dedicated on Easter Sunday in 1912, and a magnificent pipe organ now includes 24 ranks, 79 stops and 2903 pipes. Annual renditions of Handel's "Messiah" are presented the first weekend of December by the Mennonite Choral Society.

Cross Community Church, also on Main Street, frequently draws visitors to view the eight stained glass windows, each depicting a parable from the Bible. The 100th observance of the Community Easter Sunrise Service was held at Cross Church in April 2010.

The Berne Public Library, which in 2010 celebrates its 75th anniversary, received national recognition in 1999 by the American Library Association's Hennen American Public Library Rating with an eighth place ranking in the nation for a library its size. The following year, the library moved up in the rating to fifth place. The Jungle Room in the children's department entices young people with its selection of materials, programs, and its colorful 53' x 11' mural. For adults, the Heritage Room contains one of the best collections of Swiss genealogy in the United States.

Geneva, Berne's closest neighbor to the south, shares the name of another Swiss city. Geneva was also the given name of a former local author from the previous century. "Gene" Stratton Porter lived much of her adult life in the small community in southern Adams County, and it was there she received the inspiration for much of her popular writing and photography. Limberlost State Historic Site in Geneva includes Porter's Victorian log cabin and a nature preserve. Construction of an official Indiana Welcome Center will begin onsite in the fall of 2010.

Berne and the surrounding area offer much to see and do, and visitors are invited to extend their clock tower visit to include other attractions located within minutes of the timeless tribute.

Plans are developing for a walking and bicycling trail between the city of Berne and the town of Geneva.

*"It has truly been an honor and a privilege for our firm to be part of this very unique project! To assist the Berne CDC in accomplishing their vision of constructing the Berne clock Tower has been an experience that I will cherish forever!" - Mike Schwartz*



**Muensterberg Plaza**  
and Clock Tower

# The Bern, Switzerland Clock Tower

Called the Zeitglockenturm, the Bern, Switzerland clock tower is a landmark medieval clock tower, considered one of Bern's most recognizable symbols.

It is the focal point of public transport and walking routes within the Old Town, serving as the benchmark of official Bern time and the point from which all distances in the canton are measured.

The tower was originally constructed in 1218, made partly in wood. A devastating fire in 1405 razed the tower, which was soon rebuilt—this time with stone. But the clock stopped working soon after the tower was completed. Then, in 1530, Caspar Brunner designed an intricate new clock mechanism, which continues today to keep accurate time. The main draw of the Bern clock tower is a small glockenspiel display, which is set in motion four minutes before every hour on the clock's east face.



# Future Berne CDC Plans

## Completion of the Plaza:

Though building the clock tower has been a massive project, the Berne CDC board has additional plans that will continue to improve Berne in the future.

- **Finish Phase One:** The board will first concentrate on finishing phase one of the Muensterberg Plaza. This will include installing and dedicating the Settlers Monument in the northwest corner of the plaza, installing some decorative lighting, benches and trash receptacles, construction of the concrete stage on the northeast side of the tower, construction of the circular Muensterberg Wall on the southwest side of the tower, extensive excavation work to bring the plaza to the final grade of the site plan, and pouring additional walks for the plaza. At this point, the plaza will be sufficiently completed in order to be used for concerts and festivals.
- **Additional Phases:** These will include a fountain in the center of the plaza with water spouts for children's play. A significant amount of additional walkways will also be constructed, as well as a gazebo with bathrooms on the northeast corner of the plaza. Finishing the southeast corner of the plaza will be another phase that may include either a bear statue, a canton tree with the crests from all of the Swiss cantons, and/or a quilt garden. A final phase will be to install stairs in the tower and to finish the inside with heating and air conditioning so that people can climb to look out over the city, and to raise an endowment to maintain the tower and plaza.

## Additional Projects:

- **"Destination Restaurant."** Berne CDC is interested in promoting and marketing Berne for a "destination restaurant." We will be contacting various restaurant entrepreneurs and connecting them with investors to aid in the plan, design and building of a restaurant that has the ambiance, service and menu that will cater to our community's niche. We have heard from surveys and through our contacts that this is a priority that deserves our attention.
- **Streetscaping.** The Berne CDC Board believes that in order for our commercial areas to thrive, new streetscaping would be beneficial to make these areas more pedestrian friendly. We intend to seek funding for streetscaping projects, both downtown and along U.S. 27. Berne CDC is also discussing a project to encourage businesses to paint and install bear sculptures at key locations throughout Berne, similar to the mastodons in Fort Wayne and the cows in New Glarus, Wisconsin. Tourists enjoy traveling around the town to see each of these colorful sculptures, and these projects have been successful in keeping visitors in the community. We also intend to continue with the historical plaque program that has been so successful downtown.
- **Expanding 'Niche' Retailing.** We want to encourage additional retail entrepreneurs to start retail stores, which, among other things, enlarge the specialty retail offerings for which tourists are looking. Finally, we will continue to encourage businesses in town to improve their building facades by incorporating a Swiss theme. There have been many improved commercial buildings in the past few years, and the Swiss facades make our community even more endearing to those who visit Berne.



**Muensterberg Plaza**  
and Clock Tower

# Berne Churches

|  |          |   |          |
|--|----------|---|----------|
| Berne Church of the Nazarene<br>604 N. Sprunger St.<br>Wayne Steury, Pastor    | 589-2858 | St. George Episcopal Church<br>1195 Hendricks St.<br>Larry Smith, Pastor                      | 589-8690 |
| Bethel Brethren Church<br>718 E. Main St.<br>Joe Nass, Pastor                  | 589-3381 | Trinity United Methodist Church<br>1217 W. Clark St.<br>The Rev. Mark Harris, Pastor          | 589-2888 |
| Cross Community Church<br>315 W. Main St.<br>Randall Luther, Pastor            | 589-2752 | Churches in the surrounding Area<br>Calvary Bible Church<br>6525 S 350 E<br>Ed Grable, Pastor | 589-2582 |
| Cross United Church of Christ<br>1195 Hendricks St.<br>Timothy Price, Pastor   | 589-8690 | Berne Evangelical Church<br>5481 S 450 W<br>Kent Fahl, Pastor                                 | 334-5666 |
| Emmaus Road Mennonite Fellowship<br>825 Hendricks St.<br>Anita Rediger, Pastor | 368-9143 | Mount Hope Church of the Nazarene<br>5005 E 500 S<br>Dave Boots, Pastor                       | 589-2501 |
| Faith Baptist<br>989 W 700 S<br>Travis Combest, Pastor                         | 589-3797 | Living Water United Methodist Church<br>6486 S 700 E<br>Jon Wolf, Pastor                      | 334-5318 |
| First Mennonite Church<br>566 W. Main St.<br>Jeff Linthicum, Pastor            | 589-3108 | Spring Hill Missionary Church<br>2352 E 400 S<br>Bill Hull, Pastor                            | 589-3110 |
| First Missionary Church<br>950 S U.S. 27<br>Kris McPherson, Pastor             | 589-2991 | Trinity Life Chapel<br>8012 S U.S. Highway 27<br>Rick Bullock, Pastor                         | 589-3300 |
| Grace Bible Church<br>6626 Village Way<br>Chuck Circle, Pastor                 | 589-2687 | West Missionary Church<br>4295 W. State Rd. 218<br>Keith J Rupp, Pastor                       | 334-5451 |
| Peace Lutheran Church<br>201 S. Fulton St.<br>Donald Sauls, Pastor             | 589-3848 |   |          |



# Berne and Adams County Government and Not-for-Profit Websites

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Adams County Community Foundation              | <a href="http://www.adamscountyfoundation.org">www.adamscountyfoundation.org</a> |
| Adams County Economic Development Corporation  | <a href="http://www.adamscountyedc.org">www.adamscountyedc.org</a>               |
| Adams County                                   | <a href="http://www.co.adams.in.us">www.co.adams.in.us</a>                       |
| Agape Respite                                  | <a href="http://www.agaperespite.org">www.agaperespite.org</a>                   |
| Berne Chamber of Commerce                      | <a href="http://www.bernein.com">www.bernein.com</a>                             |
| Berne Community Development Corporation        | <a href="http://www.berneclocktower.org">www.berneclocktower.org</a>             |
| Berne Public Library                           | <a href="http://www.bernepl.lib.in.us">www.bernepl.lib.in.us</a>                 |
| City of Berne                                  | <a href="http://www.cityofberne.com">www.cityofberne.com</a>                     |
| Family Hospice & Palliative Care of NE Indiana | <a href="http://www.fhpc-in.org">www.fhpc-in.org</a>                             |
| Hope Clinic                                    | <a href="http://www.hopeandanswers.com">www.hopeandanswers.com</a>               |
| South Adams Schools                            | <a href="http://www.southadams.k12.in.us">www.southadams.k12.in.us</a>           |
| South Adams Senior Center                      | <a href="http://www.saseniorcenter.org">www.saseniorcenter.org</a>               |
| Swiss Days Festival                            | <a href="http://www.berneswissdays.com">www.berneswissdays.com</a>               |
| Swiss Heritage Society                         | <a href="http://www.swissheritage.org">www.swissheritage.org</a>                 |
| Swiss Village Inc.                             | <a href="http://www.swissvillage.org">www.swissvillage.org</a>                   |

**Web sites for many Berne businesses can be found in the directory  
at the Berne Chamber of Commerce Website at [www.bernein.com](http://www.bernein.com)**



**Muensterberg Plaza**  
and Clock Tower

# South Adams Schools



In 2009, South Adams Schools opened a new state-of-the-art school for grades K-8. The design, ground-breaking, construction and habitation emphasize not only space, but a place in which to provide an excellent education. "Optimal learning environment" was a phrase heard over and over in the planning and construction of the facility.

In the new optimal learning environment, teachers are not only able to incorporate the latest technology in the presentation of their lessons, but each room is tracked for temperature, air quality, building noise level and natural light. The 90-degree temperatures of August afternoons, common in the former Berne and Geneva schools, are a thing of the past. Temperatures are now guaranteed not to fluctuate more than two degrees. The humidity is kept at 65 percent year round. Constant circulation provides fresh air in each classroom 15 times per hour, and the HVAC and other building noises do not exceed 45 decibels.



Natural light illuminates each classroom. In older facilities, it was common for big windows to be removed to better insulate the buildings, resulting in darker classrooms. In the new South Adams School, natural lighting and energy efficiency can now be accomplished concurrently. The level of light at each desk in the new school has the equivalent of 70 foot candles, and all areas of the school are at 50-100 foot candles. Since 2006, test scores at South Adams have consistently been rising, and it is expected that the new school will cause the trend to continue. The new educational facility is an aid in obtaining a basic, quality education for all students in South Adams Schools.

The new South Adams elementary and middle schools, adjoined to South Adams high school to form one campus, were directed by community support. Permission was requested from the State of Indiana rather than being mandated by it.

Just over 1,400 students are fortunate to be enrolled at the new South Adams Schools. It is a facility that the community has strongly supported and of which it can be very proud.



# “Berne” Communities in the United States

The name Berne has a rich and fascinating history. In the 1800s, Mennonite immigrants from Switzerland came to the United States seeking religious freedom. These immigrants founded the area that is presently known as Berne, Indiana. As an act of homage, Berne was named after the capital city of Bern, Switzerland. Many other cities in the United States also lay claim to Swiss roots and contain some variation of the name Berne.

The states of Iowa, New York, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Washington have communities called Berne. States that have cities called Bern include California, Idaho, Kansas, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. In addition to these, there are a number of towns called Newbern, Newberne, and New Bern. These are located in Alabama, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. Finally, there are other locations in the United States that are identified as Bern Four Corners, Bernville, Berner, Bernstadt, and Bernheimer.

In some states, there are multiple locations where the Swiss settled. New York includes not only Berne, but East Berne, South Berne, and West Berne, while Pennsylvania at one time contained regions known as Upper Bern and Lower Bern.

The most prominent Swiss communities in the United States include New Bern, North Carolina and New Glarus, Wisconsin. New Bern, North Carolina is celebrating its 300th anniversary in 2010 and commemorates its Swiss ancestry by using the Bern, Switzerland, flag as its city flag. New Glarus, Wisconsin, is named for the Swiss canton (state) of Glarus and is home to the Swiss North American Center.

There is a vibrant history behind the Swiss settlements scattered throughout the United States. Whether called Berne, Bern, New Bern, or some other variation, all of these regions celebrate and recognize a rich Swiss heritage.

*“I feel fortunate to be able to participate in an event that will have such a positive impact on so many people for such a long time. Not everyone gets that chance.” - Marcia Rich*



**Muensterberg Plaza**  
and Clock Tower

# Elementary & Middle School

# Winning Clock Tower

## Essays - 2007

### **Olivia Obringer— 1st grade**

A long time ago there were no buildings and some people came and they hoped they could build a town. They did build Berne.

### **Caleb Sinn— 1st grade**

Our forefathers came from Switzerland. They wanted to build a clock tower. The men will have to work hard to build the tower in Berne.

### **Courage and Faith of Berne, Noah Obringer—3rd grade**

Since 1871 the people started the town of Berne. They started from scratch. They had the courage to build the town and they also had faith in themselves. They had to start a farm by themselves using their courage. They had faith to build a church. Berne started with just a couple of people and now it is a big town. I think you should carve the words 'Faith' and 'Courage' on the clock tower.

### **Swiss Ancestors, Heidi Sinn—3rd grade**

Many years ago, our ancestors came from Switzerland to have freedom from the state church. They wanted to worship God in their own way. When they came to America, they faced a lot of hard work. It was not easy to clear the land of trees. They were willing to do hard work, however; and because they were willing to work, they could finally have freedom. So I am glad you are going to build the clock tower.

### **Hard Work, Freedom, Faith and Courage, Ray Obringer—8th grade**

Values are good habits that empower a person to act upon reason. The following Enduring Values are the four that I will be telling you about: Hard work, Faith, Freedom and Courage. These four enduring values are my favorite because they were all used in the process of fighting for our rights in the War for Independence.

First I would like to tell you about Hard Work. The first thought that comes to a persons mind when I say Hard Work, is a level of work. My friends, it is not just a level of work but it also puts food on the table in most houses. Hard Work always pay off, I sometimes have learned the hard way: it is better to do the job the right way so that you do not have to redo it again. I personally think that if everybody worked hard in life the world would be a better place. Another thing that comes to a persons mind when you mention Hard Work, they think of the hard working soldier of old that worked hard for the freedom that we cherish so much. I think hard work is an Enduring Value due to the fact that our ancestors of this country did not just sit in a rocking chair, feel sorry for themselves that they had no freedom, and wait for the life squad to pick them up, instead they did the following: they spread the good news of the gospel as much as they could and they went out of their way to defend our rights as Americans and fighting until death for the right that they wanted so badly.

Next I would like to tell you about another Enduring Value called Faith. Faith helps us to make sense out of life and make good decisions. People of Faith, turn to Jesus Christ for guidance when they are stuck in a rut in life. Without Faith you cannot be a moral person. Faith can be defined as something that helps us overcome obstacles in life. For instance, the soldiers in the War for Independence had the Faith to risk their lives for our future. This is another example of Faith would be when you are feeling down and you do not think you can proceed any further, you do because you have Faith. I believe that through this Enduring Value called Faith we may come to know and live Christ better in life.

The second to last Enduring Value that I would like to tell you about is called Freedom. Freedom allows us to do what we want when we want. It also allows us to choose who we vote for and who we work for. This is something that was and is made possible in this land we call America by the hard working soldiers who did and are serving for Freedom. We are able to worship who we want through Freedom. Freedom is not

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always something that is automatic you have to earn it sometimes. For instance, you are not allowed to go to a friend's house when you did not do your chores at home; you have to earn going to your friend's house by finishing your chores at home.

The fourth and final Enduring Value that I am going to tell you about is called Courage. Courage is not only having the faith to do what is right but it also helps us to resist temptations that are run by us in everyday life. An example of Courage is defending a kid who is getting picked on at school by a bully. Another example of great Courage of soldier who knowingly go into battle and again risk dying for Freedom. The greatest examples of Courage are martyrs; martyrs are people that die as opposed to giving up what they believe.

I believe that if every single person in this world practiced a good portion of the Enduring Values everybody would be happy. Countries would not be at war, instead signing a never-ending peace treaty.

## **Hardwork for Our Community, Sarah Eicher**

Do you like the Berne community as it is now? Well, you can thank the early Swiss Settlers from Bern Switzerland for that. They worked hard to make Berne the place it is now. It took lots of hardwork but they did it.

You've probably heard the cliché, "Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise." The Mennonites probably got up early in the morning and got right to work. I don't know if they went to bed early or not but I think they deserved it. When the Settlers came to Indiana the land was almost all swamp and trees. They had to clear the trees, drain the swamps, build homes, start businesses, and much more, all with just what they had.

It didn't take just muscle power, though. They also had a lot of things to figure out. This is called brain power. The Settlers had to think about how to drain these swamps, how to cut down these trees, how to build their homes, how to start businesses, and how to keep their family alive. This was hard work for their brain.

The Mennonites worked hard but they persevered because they wanted a nice, free town for future generations. Today we don't think much about their trip over here because they wanted a nice free town, for future generations. Today we don't think much about their trip over here because of their religion, and how they worked hard clearing everything, that's why we are building a clock tower to honor and thank the Mennonites for their hard work. They used muscle power!

## **An Old Story of Hope, Jacob Werst**

The settlers had to do some hard work in building a new future for coming generations. After suffering persecution in Switzerland, they came to America to find religious freedom. They started the town of Berne, Indiana after chopping many trees and draining the swamps.

The new settlers worked and worked for a better life. Perseverance is what they used to reach their goals for this better life. They had to clear land for farming, build homes to live in, adjust to their new climate and learn to live with the Native Americans. Nobody could stop them now that they had begun their new life.

All they wanted was freedom. Living in the mountains didn't work, so their best hope was to find freedom in America. Soon everybody was loaded into the boats and started their journey across the ocean. Courage was a major factor in coming to this new country. Life in the 1850's could be treacherous at times, and it took true courage to face this hard life.

These Swiss people had a vision. It was a vision for making a better life. They had an opportunity to stay in Switzerland under persecution, but chose to live in freedom in America. They had faith in themselves and a strong faith in their God. These settlers were sure of accomplishing their goals.

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## **The Value of Hard Work, Kara Haines**

Did you ever have to chop down trees or drain water to build a house or town? The Swiss Settlers did. They put hard work into building a future for them and for us.

With every tree they chopped down and every swamp they drained, the land started to look more and more like Berne. Someday all this hard work would pay off for them. They went through a lot of hard work, but they persevered and continued their hard work even though it was tough.

Now our town is shrinking instead of growing. So I think we need a clock tower to keep this town with many people and to keep what we have that the Swiss settlers did for us. The clock tower would be a great thing to have in Berne.

As you see the Swiss Settlers did some really, really hard work. Hard work may take time, but you have to stick to it. So I think we need to build a clock tower to keep this town alive.

## **Ideals of Our Ancestors, Danielle Eisenmann—8th grade**

Faith, freedom, and hard work are just some of the things that have shaped our community for many years. Our ancestors had a very strong faith in God. When they came to America they had many hard tasks to do but they were not afraid of the hard work it took to rebuild.

People came from Switzerland and other countries to America. One reason that they came here was because they were being persecuted. The Swiss government didn't want groups of more than twenty, other than the state recognized denominations, growing in their country. They either had to become part of an existing church or leave the country. If they disobeyed, they would be sent to prison.

My grandpa's great grandfather, Ulrich Kipfer, came over to America on a boat. The conditions were so bad that a child from nearly every family died on the voyage. When he arrived in Indiana, he and the families that were with him had to work very hard with their farms and businesses. I am glad that through all their troubles they kept their faith alive; otherwise, we might have never had the chance to grow up in Godly homes.

In spite of all the hardships, our great grandparents had much more freedom than they had before. They could build their houses where they wanted they could build their own church, start a farm or a business, and raise their children without having to be afraid.

Since I have a part-Swiss, part-German ancestry, I am glad that we live so close to Berne. That way we can learn more about our heritage, and spend more time with some of the people who are related to us. It also lets us know more about Swiss Lifestyle: like what they ate, how they dressed, and how they did things. John Eicher, the travelogue narrator, told a story about how he went to a car dealership in Switzerland, where he filled his car with gas. He went in to pay and said to the owner, "Das ist so sufer. Ich chent essa op ter bode," "It is so clean. I could eat off the floor." And the owner said to him, "Ya lug, mirs sind Swishs," "You see, we are Swiss." You can see how a hard working character has been passed down to us, by looking at our own community: from clean looking farms to well kept streets. It makes me want to go clean my room!

Hard work, faith, and freedom are unavoidably a part of us. It makes me feel spoiled that I have had it so nice all my life. I am very thankful for my heritage.

## **Grandpa's Grand Voyage, Alyssa Eisenmann—7th grade**

Faith was, and is still today, the backbone of understanding life, and trusting in God's word. Through faith we have courage to stand up for Jesus and to do what is right. Since the people that arrived here from Switzerland trained themselves in faith and courage, they had opportunities to build a new and better town. They also had hope to and keep a better, Godly community.

# Essays

The Swiss relied on faith in God during the hard times of traveling to a different country. While my Great, Great, Great, Grandpa Ulrich Kipfer was sailing to New York, the storms blew his ship back and he had to wait for favorable winds until the ship could continue on its destination. Many children got sick and died on that on that long, harsh voyage. Sailing that long trip took 47-60 days, but the Swiss finally arrived in New York. "Grandpa" Ulrich settled in the French township of Adams County in May 1851.

Supported by faith, courage was a needed virtue as well. Courage was needed to help face challenges of sailing across the ocean. The Swiss settlers needed courage to stand for their faith during times of persecution. Of course, the Swiss had to learn English to communicate to others and courage to accept that their children were learning English and were no longer learning and speaking Swiss. All these people needed courage and faith in God to help them with their trials and troubles. That just goes to show us how much our ancestors cared about their children and grandchildren to protect them from worldly influences.

When the Swiss went to America, they had plenty of opportunities to build a new, Godly community. Here they weren't persecuted for their faith. Their congregation grew. Their children grew and became hard workers of businesses, farms, and schools.

My grandpa's great grandpa, had faith in God to travel that journey across the ocean. He had courage to sail far away from home to protect his children from worldly influences. He had opportunities to tell his children about his adventure. Last, Grandpa Ulrich had hope to help build new buildings and help people from his community. What we learned on this flashback is the importance of Godly heritage and the challenges they had to go through. This also encourages us to follow and keep these virtues.

## **How My Ancestors Got To America, Carla Sinn—8th grade**

My forefathers were born in the beautiful Swiss mountains, also known as the Alps. Switzerland is east of America in the continent called Europe. My forefathers had to work hard to make a living. They had to plow up the ground, plant the seeds, and pick their food by hand. Their work was very hard, maybe they had to go and catch a horse to use with the plow. They also had to drive horse and buggies because they had no cars or anything like that.

When it came to their faith they got in trouble with the governor so they had to go live on a mountain. They could not sell or buy anything from the other towns people. When they wanted to buy or sell something they had to hide things in a tree stump.

Finally, they had a great opportunity to come to America. When they finally got here, they moved to Indiana, around the Berne area. They were happy living in America, but they had to work even harder. They probably had to learn English which is hard language to learn. They had to clear trees out of the way so they could build their homes. Some even walked many miles to Ohio to talk to a man that went to one of our churches. They got to go to their own church without getting in trouble.

My forefathers had a lot more freedom in American. If my forefathers had not had freedom to move to America I might be living in Switzerland, instead of writing this right now.

Even though my forefathers had a hard time in Switzerland, they still loved their Mother Country. I think it's a great opportunity to build the clock tower in Berne, Indiana because it may help us keep our Swiss Heritage, and may help bring tourist into Berne.

# **Back Home Again in Indiana**

**I have always been a wand'rer  
Over land and sea  
Yet a moonbeam on the water  
Casts a spell o'er me  
A vision fair I see  
Again I seem to be**

**Fancy paints on mem'ry's canvas  
Scenes that we hold dear  
We recall them in days after  
Clearly they appear  
And often times I see  
A scene that's dear to me**

**Back home again in Indiana,  
And it seems that I can see  
The gleaming candlelight, still shining bright,  
Through the sycamores for me.  
The new-mown hay sends all its fragrance  
From the fields I used to roam.  
When I dream about the moonlight on the Wabash,  
Then I long for my Indiana home.**



*Composed by Ballard MacDonald & James F. Hanley*

Berne, IN



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