



A view of Hirzel looking southwest from Unter Siten (1B). Credit: Albert M. Best.

Our European Ancestry

A Visit to Hirzel, Switzerland

*by Jane Evans Best**

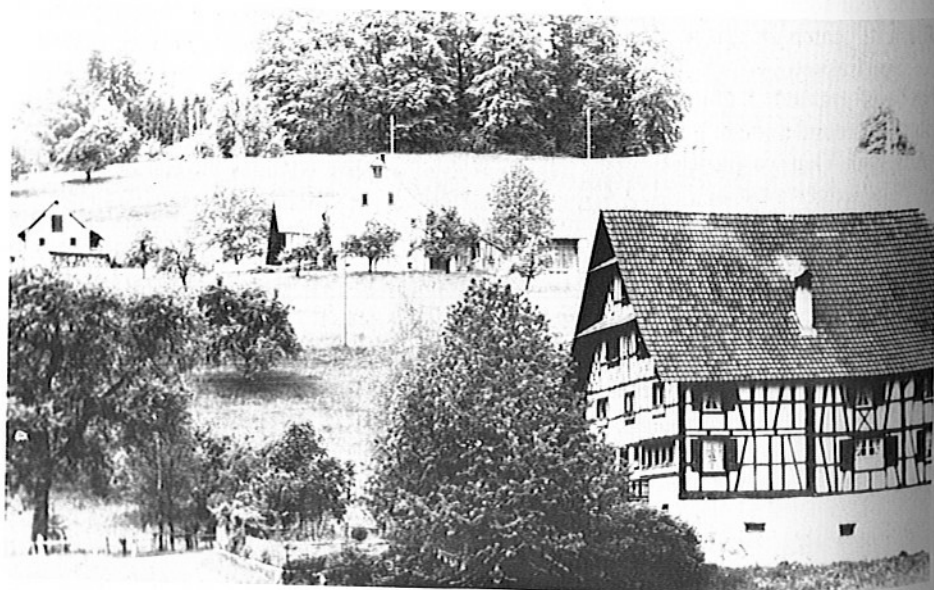
On June 15, 1633, Henrico Engeler, pastor of the state church in Hirzel, Canton Zurich, Switzerland, sent a list of forty-six Anabaptists and their children to his superiors in Zurich. He named the hof or farm where each family lived.¹

On Monday, May 14, 1990, my husband, Albert, and I visited Hirzel to try to find these farms and photograph them. To our delight we found most of them marked on a map at the bus stop on Zuger Street, the main road around the east and south sides of the town.

The next day I accompanied Lois Ann and Lemar Mast's "Mennonite Heritage Tour" to show them these places and tell them about the people who once lived there.

This article will explain to you what I shared with them that memorable day, and some of what I have learned since then.

Outlines of two of the families mentioned below are included in my article, "Bauman and Sauter Families of Hirzel, Switzer-



Ober Siten on the hill is probably the older of the two houses. Unter Siten at the right is easily visible from Zugerstrasse, the main road between Horgen and Zug. Credit: Albert M. Best.

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land," on page 53 of this issue of *MFH*.

I hope anyone interested can retrace our steps and find the same joy of discovery that we felt when we visited the homes where many of these early families lived, and from which some of them emigrated, eventually to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

1 Siten

The main road from Horgen, on Lake Zurich southwest of the city of Zurich, to Hirzel, less than five miles away, climbs over Horgenberg and emerges from the forest at Siten.

Ober Siten (1A) on the hill is north of the main part of the town of Hirzel and is probably the older of the two main houses, according to Jane Davidson, who was a member of the bus group. Unter Siten (1B) is a handsome black and white homestead at the end of a narrow lane through a meadow of flowers and is easily visible from the main road.

Called Syten in 1633 and Seiten on an 1851 map,² it was the home in 1633 of Rudolf Landis (LS33), his wife, Anna Bauman, and their six children, and of Hans Landis (LS32), his wife, Elsbeth Erzinger, and their eight children.³

They were two of the sons of Hans Landis (LS3) and Barbara Hochstrasser, who probably lived in either Ober Siten or Unter Siten. He was an Anabaptist minister and in 1614 was the last Anabaptist put to death by the state in Canton Zurich. His son Hans was also a minister, and in 1637 was imprisoned for his faith, and his property was confiscated.

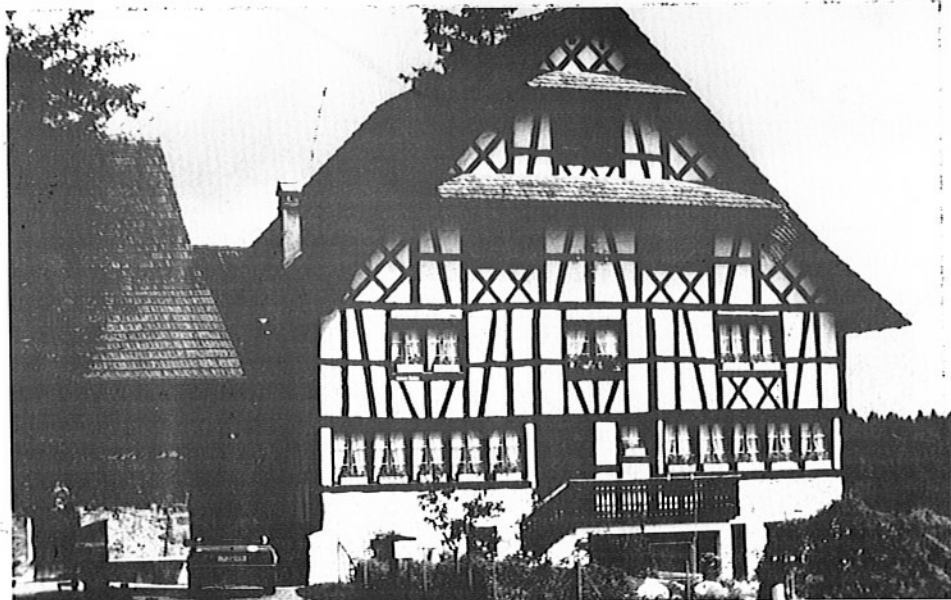
Continue south on Zuger Strasse to Schönenberg Strasse and turn left; go southeast to Spitzen.

2 Spitzen

In 1633, there were five Anabaptist families living in Spitzen, one of which was Peter Brubacher, his wife, Anna Pfister, and their three sons, Hans Heinrich, Peter, and Hans Jacob (bap. Oct. 9, 1631).

This is probably the Hans Jacob Brubacher, Mennonite,⁴ recorded in 1685 in Ibersheimer Hof, Germany, with "no children yet," and in 1693 in Friedrichstadt, Germany, with a wife and child. This child was probably the Hans Brubaker who immigrated in 1717 to present Lancaster County.

Go west to Mülibüel.



Unter Siten (1B) as seen from Hirzel. Siten was the home in 1633 of Rudolf Landis (LS33) and Hans Landis (LS33), sons of Hans Landis (LS3), the Anabaptist minister put to death in 1614. Credit: A. Best.

3 Mülibüel

In 1633, Felix Landis (LS31) lived in "old Müllibüel" near the Muhlebach with his wife, Adelheit Egli, and their two children. He was also a minister, and he and his wife were imprisoned for their faith at Oethenbach in Zurich. They were probably the grandparents of the Felix Landis, Jr., who was recorded in present Lancaster County by 1718.

Go west to Zuger Strasse and turn left; a short distance west a narrow road leads to Boden.

4 Boden

Lying in the valley south of Hirzel, Boden was the home in 1633 of Anna Bär (?BG12),⁵ widow of Jacob Huber, whom

¹ LDS microfilm 1185140, item 1, pp. 675-683. All LDS microfilms mentioned in this article are on permanent loan at the Family History Center, 2100 Hollywood Drive, York, PA 17405.

² LDS microfilm 1181532, item 10, Karte des Horgerberges.

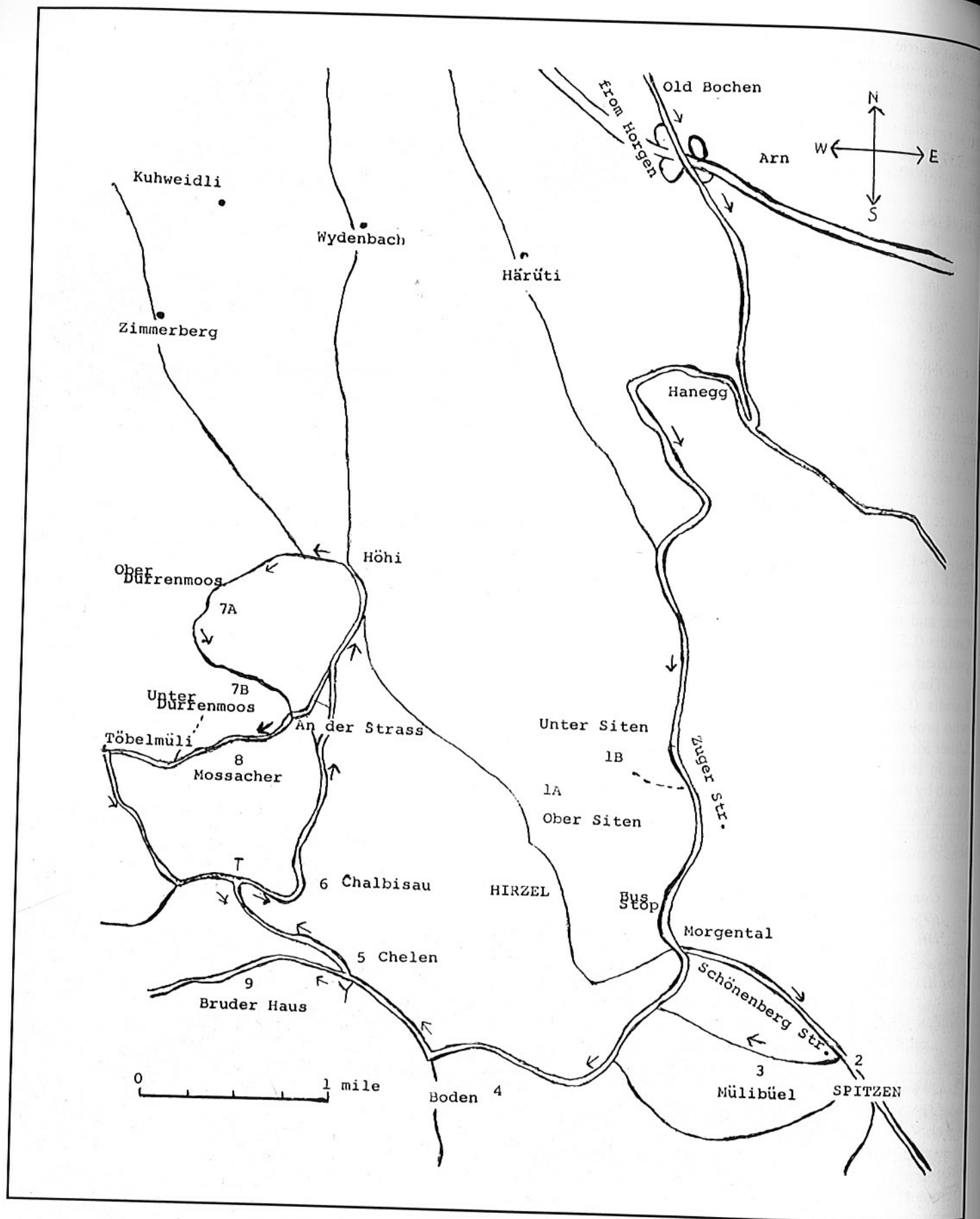
³ Jane Evans Best, "Swiss Origins of Groff, Hess, Weber, Landis, and Oberholtzer Families," *Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage* 13 (April 1990): 22-23.

⁴ Hermann and Gertrud Guth, J. Lemar and Lois Ann Mast, *Palatine Mennonite Census Lists, 1664-1793* (Elverson, Pa.: Mennonite Family History, 1987), p. 16. Sem C. Sutter, "Palatine Mennonites in Schleswig-Holstein, 1693-1698," *Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage* 2 (April 1979): 19-20.

⁵ Jane Evans Best, "Swiss Emigrants from Albis, Part II: Rifferswil and Mettmensstetten," *Mennonite Family History* (Apr. 1989): 52. This Anna Bär was probably BG12, a sister of the wife of Oswald Bär (BF61), who was called in 1657 an "Anabaptist Rabbi" in Alsace.



Chelen was the home in 1649 of Rudi Landis (LS326), probably the ancestor of many Americans. Credit: Lois Ann Mast.



Map of the Hirzel, Switzerland, area. Credit: Jane Evans Best.

she had married at Hirzel in 1625. She had become an Anabaptist about 1629, and lived here in 1633 with her two children, three stepchildren, and Hans Rudolff Bauman (BU416) and his wife, Margaretha Landis (?LS37). They were probably the grandparents of Wendel Bauman (?BU4162.5), settler of 1710, and John Bauman (?BU4162.3), Mennonite minister.

Continue west on Zuger Strasse to the Y; bear right off of Zuger Strasse to Chelen, also called Chälen and Kellen.

5 Chelen

In 1649, Rudi Landis (LS326) and his wife, Christine Metler, lived in Kellen with their infant son Hans Heinrich (LS3261). By 1657, they had emigrated from Hirzel and were listed as Anabaptist.

He is probably the Rudolf Landis who attended the Steinsfurt, Germany, meeting for worship in 1661, and the father of Hans Landis (1664-1727)(?LS3264), and Jacob Landis (1667-1730)(?LS3265).

Go west to the T and turn right.

6 Chalbissau

In 1633, Daniel Buman (BU411) and



Chalbissau was the home of Barbel Suter (SR36) in 1684 when she married Hans Heinrich Huber (HR251). Credit: Lois Ann Mast.

his wife, Anna Kagi, lived in Kalbissau with their infant son, Hans Jacob.

In 1684, Barbel Suter (SR36) was living in Kalbissau when she was married at Hausen to Hans Heinrich Huber (HR251). Their son Hans Heinrich (HR2516) was probably the one in Martic Township by 1740, and son Jacob (HR2518) the one who died at Byerland in Pequea Township in

1743.⁶

Barbel Suter's nephew Jacob Suter (SR332), baptized October 22, 1665, was probably the Jacob Souder who married Anna Groff (B1) and who died at present Soudersburg, Lancaster County, in 1737.

Go north to Höhi, also called Höchi, and turn left to Ober Dürrenmoos (7A).



Unter Dürrenmoos as seen from Moosacher on the southeast. Junghans Buman (BU34) lived at Dürrenmoos in 1591. Credit: Albert M. Best.



Moosacher is on the left in the foreground. Ober Dürrenmoos is on the right in the background. Credit: Albert M. Best.

7 Dürrenmoos

The Uli Buman family was recorded in the present parish of Hirzel in 1393. Jung-hans Buman (BU34) lived in Dürrenmoos by 1591, and his son Oswald Buman (BU346) died at Ober Dürrenmoos (7A) in 1673.

Oswald's daughter Barbara (BU3463) (b. 1631) lived at Dürrenmoos in 1652 when she was married at Hausen to Hans Jacob Huber (HR24). I believe it was their son Hans (HR244) (b. 1663) who died in Earl Township, Pennsylvania, in 1750.

Oswald's son Hans (BU3465) was probably the grandfather of Jacob Bauman (?BU3465.21)(d. 1752) of Earl Town-

ship and John Bauman (?BU3465.22) (b. 1703), miller and papermaker at the Ephrata Cloister.

Go south to Moosacher.

8 Moosacher

In 1633, Oswald Landis (LS22) lived at Moosacher with his wife, Anna Schäppi, and their six children. He and his wife were jailed in 1640 at Oethenbach for their faith, and Oswald died in 1650 at Moosacher.

Also living there in 1633 were Hans Heinrich Landis (LS224), his wife, Magdalena Poliar, an Anabaptist, and their five children. He was probably the Hans Heinrich Landis at the Steinsfurt meeting in 1661. His brother Hans Jaggli Landis (LS221) emigrated between 1649 and 1651 to Alsace, and died in Weiler near Hilsbach, Germany, in 1656.



A man who now lives at Moosacher holds a 1640 roof tile. Credit: Albert M. Best.



Bruder Haus was the home in 1633 of Conrad Strickler. This is Unter Bruderhaus. Credit: Albert M. Best.

Go west, bearing left at Töbelmüli, and return past Chelen to Zuger Strasse; turn right and go west to Bruder Haus.

9 Bruder Haus

In 1633, Conrad Strickler and his wife, Anna Landis, Anabaptists, lived here with their son Hans, aged 18. By 1649,⁷ Conrad had died, and Hans Strickler and his wife, Margreth Hitz, lived at Härüti with Annali Landis, still an Anabaptist, and their six children. Son Hans Heinrich had emigrated by 1657 with Hans Strickler, son of Jacob Strickler.

This was probably the Hans Strickler who was a Mennonite recorded⁸ in Friedrichstadt, Germany, in 1693 and 1697 with his wife, and with Hans Cunrad and Jacob Strickler.

The Abraham Strickler, Mennonite, recorded in Kirschgartshaeuserhof (Kirschgauhausen? near Worms), Germany, in 1742 may also have been related to these families.⁹

⁶ Jane Evans Best, "Swiss Roots of Neff, Weber, and Huber Families," *Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage* 13 (October 1990): 31. This corrects the township in which Byerland is located.

⁷ LDS microfilm 1185149, item 1, p. 151.

⁸ Sutter, "Palatine Mennonites in Schleswig-Holstein, 1693-1698": 19-20.

⁹ Guth and Mast, *Palatine Mennonite Census Lists, 1664-1793*, p. 51. An Abraham Strickler was baptized August 16, 1611, at Horgen, a son of Jörg Strickler and Barbel Rytter, and sponsors were Abraham Hiestand and Sara Lutholt.