

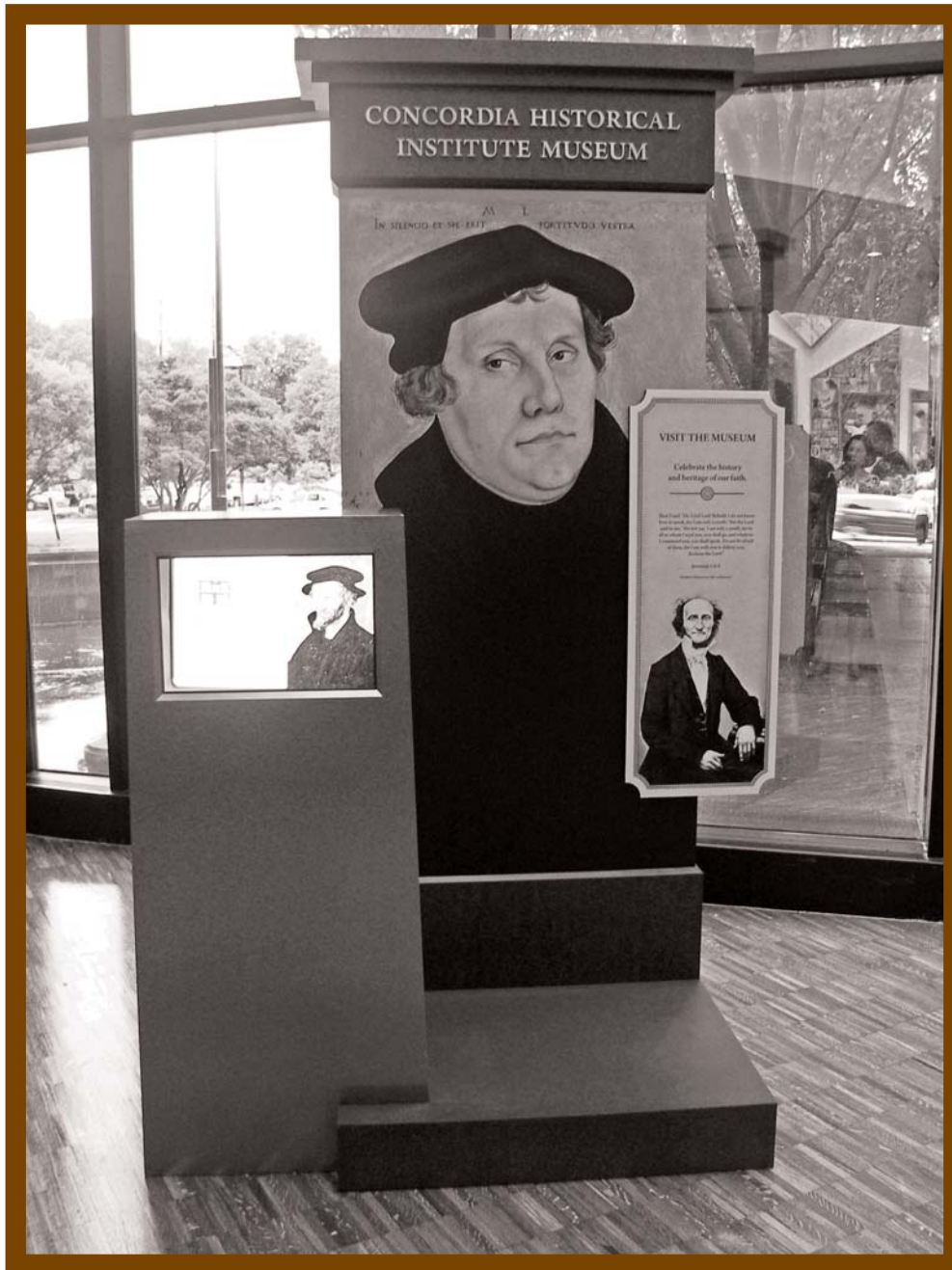


Historical Footnotes

CONCORDIA HISTORICAL INSTITUTE

VOLUME 53 ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2008



This 8-foot-high kiosk now stands in the entrance lobby of the International Center of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod announcing the new museum to all who enter the building. The huge portrait of Luther is by artist Lucas Cranach and is one of many he painted of Luther throughout his life. The right panel contains text from C. F. W. Walther's first sermon. The computer screen on the left airs a series of images that will be updated frequently. The screen will eventually announce exhibits at Concordia Historical Institute's headquarters on the Concordia Seminary campus as funds for the exhibits become available.

Continuing Luther's profound stance in defending the purity of God's Word, our Synod was blessed with leaders, all with common beginnings, who refused to allow anything less. Visitors to this museum will be challenged to continue that legacy.

John 17: (1) When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, . . . (6) I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. . . . (8) I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. . . . (17) Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. John 18: (1) When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. . . . (37) Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth.

Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." . . .

(38) Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

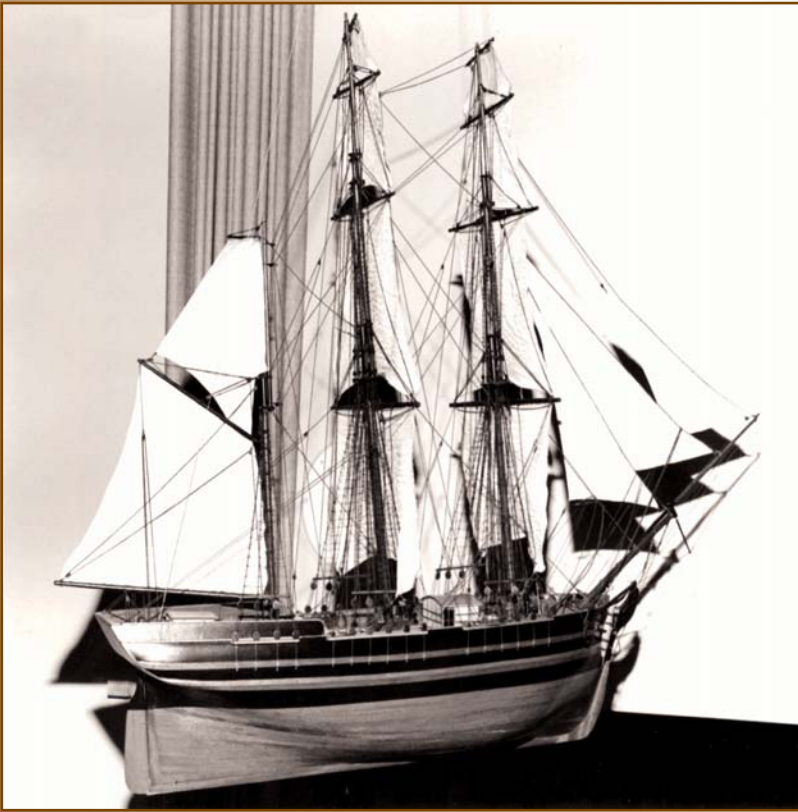


Regardless of denomination, the entire Christian religious world recalls one key event in Luther's life: the nailing of the Ninety-Five Theses to the Wittenberg castle church door. Although most understand the significance of this bold move to awaken the church of that day, few would be able to quote even one of the Ninety-Five Theses. Some mistakenly assume that they were written in German and posted there to inspire public reaction. Their purpose was not that. They were written in Latin, which was not the common language of the people. Parchment reproductions of the Ninety-Five Theses in English will be nailed to the realistic Wittenberg door replica shown below.

The designer's sketch of the Wittenberg doors shows the Ninety-Five Theses flanked by a number of vignettes pertaining to salient people and Luther's encounters with the church.

To the right is the large replica of the Wittenberg doors that will display all the items shown above. They are workable doors that are artistically aged and equipped with special antiqued hinges and latches prepared by a talented blacksmith. All but the latches are now in place within the museum.



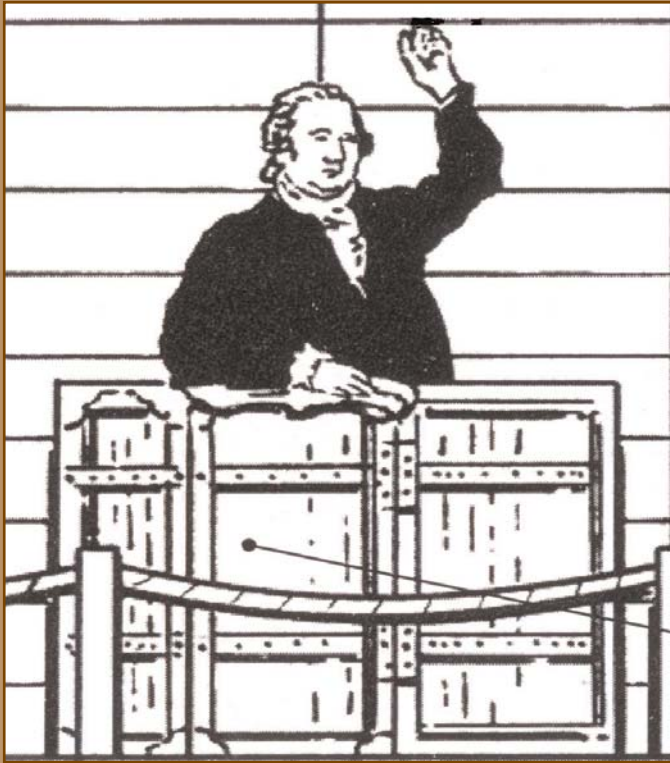


The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod today has congregations that began with immigrants who came to America from various European countries, not just from German territories. Many had the common thread of fleeing intolerable religious and political intrusions into their lives. The choice to chance the risks and primitive living conditions of months-long voyages over a vast ocean explains these immigrants' fervor and resolve better than numerous words. A portion of an original diary from Concordia Historical Institute's archives will be on display, telling of the perils of one of these journeys day by day. C. F. W. Walther was on that ship and is mentioned in that diary. One ship in that fleet of several ships sunk. A poem eulogizing that event is also in our archives. As funds become available, special related exhibits will be constructed at Concordia Historical Institute on the Concordia Seminary campus, allowing visitors to view the entire diary, the poem, and numerous other related artifacts.

The Hualco is an example of the type of ship on which our Lutheran immigrants sailed, braving waves that sometimes equaled the height of their sails. The model will be displayed in a setting that gives the realistic feel of being at sea. The museum designer wants visitors to depart with the emotional high of feeling the immigrants' experience rather than an analytical storing of knowledge.

This is an artist's rendering of the Saxons landing in St. Louis in 1839. Imagine the chaos of debarking at a large river port. Multiply that many times to gather the image of the confusion and din of an ocean landing. Our Lutheran immigrants, after surviving great risk, must gather themselves and their possessions to move on and explore the unknown in a wilderness not yet defined and settled.

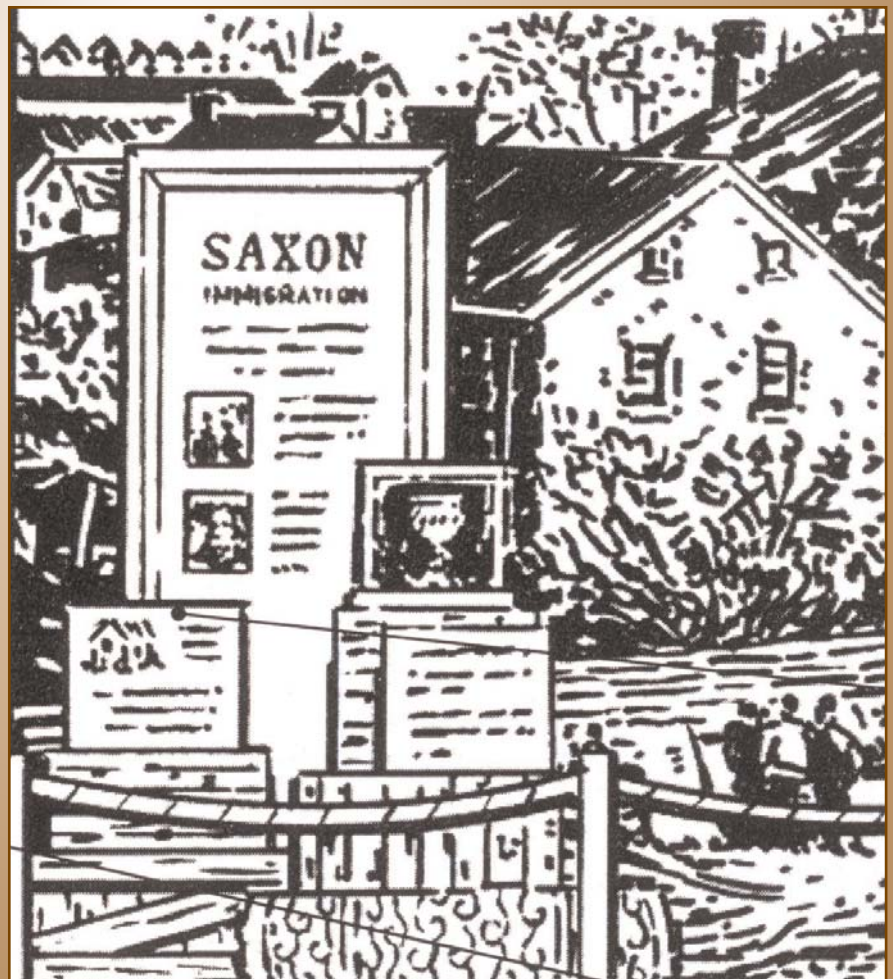




In the land Lutheran immigrants fled, the clergy revealed God and His will to the people. Once Luther opened the Bible for all to view, it was necessary for the common people to be able to read so that they could study, learn, and understand. Pastors were among the passengers on the immigrant ships, and worship and instructional classes were regular events happening throughout the months-long voyage.

To the left is the designer's sketch of a life figure of one of these pastors, created by a noted artist. The figure is expected to be a highlight of the total exhibit. Activated by a sensor, the model will give a brief message (first in German and then in English) intended to renew the zeal of the immigrants and recharge them with the great faith that brought them thus far to America.

To the right is the designer's sketch of only one small portion of the Immigration exhibit. Villages were settled in many locations by Lutheran immigrants that were in similar situations in America. All of some immigrant groups and portions of others became part of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. A number of Saxons settled in an area less than 100 miles south of St. Louis. Concordia Historical Institute has secured and assisted dedicated local individuals in restoring and developing one of these immigration sites into a small village of over a dozen log structures where visitors can absorb the thoughts that went through the minds of our Lutheran forefathers as they went about daily life amidst the beautiful, green-carpeted, rolling hills.





To the left is a rare two-story log cabin that provided a then-luxurious—perhaps enviable—home environment for family living in that day. Like all buildings in the Saxon Lutheran Memorial village, it can be toured.

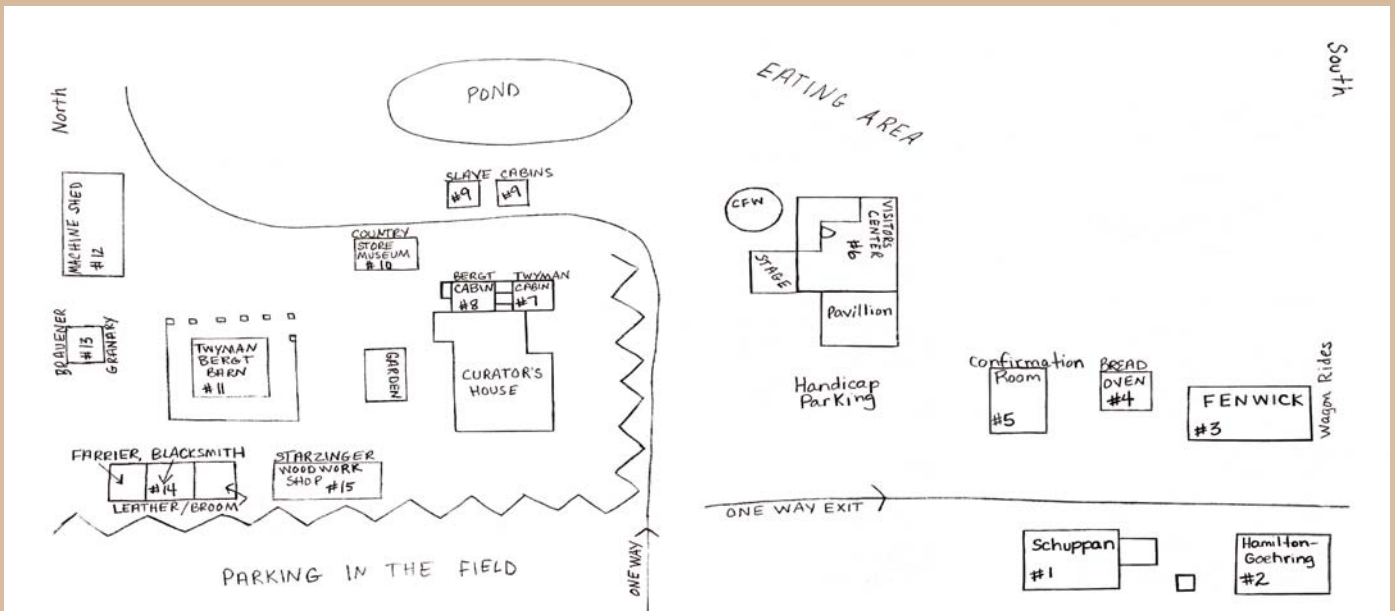
Below is one of several log cabin homes. Most had an attic where items were stored or children slept. Some were entered by stairs and others by ladder.

Saxon Lutheran Memorial

Village life in Perry County was far from ideal by today's standards. Families required small gardens to provide herbs and vegetables. A community brick oven would be fired to produce several days' supply of bread for the village in one baking, using its latent heat after coals were removed. Brooms were made from a special straw grown for that purpose. Spinning wheels whirled—a must before clothing could ever become possible. Blacksmiths not only shod horses and mules, they provided nails and many other needs of villagers. Logs of mammoth girth were raised to form walls.



To the right is one cabin's furnished living area, offering visitors the opportunity to imagine family life in that era.



Map of the Saxon Lutheran Memorial site



Above is the building that contains rare multi-task farming equipment, which is demonstrated annually at the Saxon Lutheran Memorial (SLM) village's Octoberfest. You are invited to attend the Octoberfest on Saturday, October 11, 2008. Over the years, so much has been accomplished by local people and groups to preserve this awesome historic display that is located in the area actually settled by the Saxons. This historic landscape exists due to great effort with minimal funding. We pray that others will also appreciate this rare historic village. The SLM is owned by Concordia Historical Institute.

For questions and further information, contact the Saxon Lutheran Memorial village directly by calling Lynda Lorenz, curator, at 573-824-5404, or emailing her at slmlynda@core.com. You may also call Concordia Historical Institute, 314-505-7900, or email chi@lutheranhistory.org.

In Memory of

Loved ones by Rev. Arthur M. Weber
 Gordon Arthurs by Rev. and Mrs. Eugene Juergensen
 Rosalie Berndt by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Berndt
 Esther Caravello by Mr. and Mrs. William Brauer
 Pastor A. P. Feddersen by Mrs. Adele Hilgeman
 Dr. Elbert E. Foelber by Dr. and Mrs. Herbert L. Foelber
 Rev. George Moritz Gotsch by Mr. Kenneth C. Gotsch
 Olga Hilgendorf by Rev. Edwin S. Suelflow
 Victor H. Hoemann by Mrs. Victor Hoemann
 Victor H. Hoemann by Miss Maria M. Hoemann
 Gladys Suelflow-Krause by Mr. Kurt D. Adams
 Gladys Suelflow-Krause by Rev. Fred Boettcher
 Gladys Suelflow-Krause by Dr. and Mrs. Louis Brighton
 Gladys Suelflow-Krause by Professor Kent J. Bureson
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 Orval Seright by Rev. and Mrs. Eugene Juergensen
 John Silber by Ms. Constance Seddon
 Walter William Wehmeier by Rev. Walter Wehmeier

In Honor & Commemoration of

Dr. Richard Baepler by Mr. Arthur Spiegel
 Leona Geschrey's 80th birthday by Mr. Daniel Sedory
 Rev. Dean M. Greunke's 50 years in the ministry by Rev. Dean M. Greunke
 Dot Wilkening for our 62nd anniversary by Mr. Harvey W. Wilkening, Jr.
 Diane Soderstrom's love & service to others by Mr. and Mrs. Harvey W. Wilkening, Jr.

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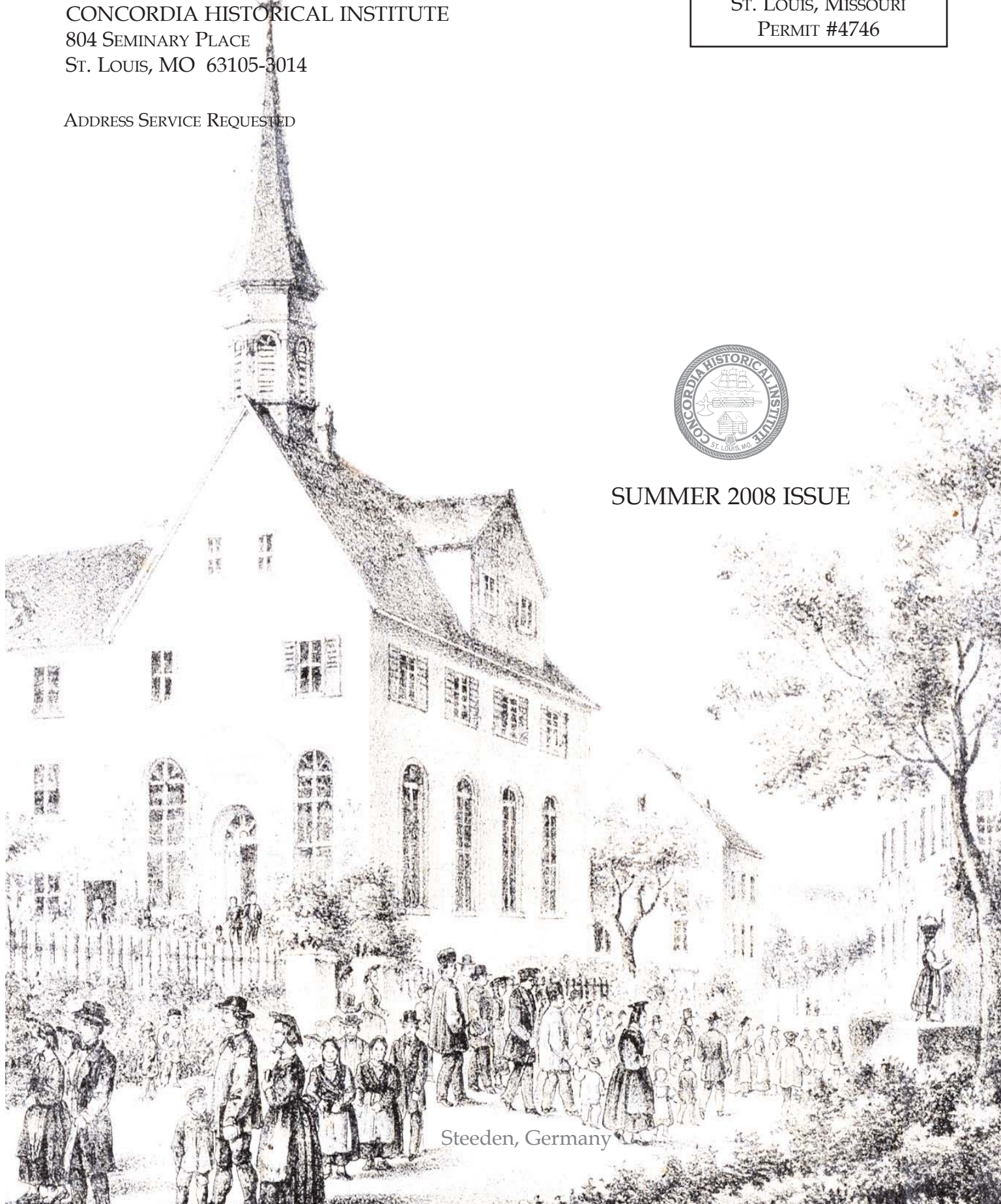
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