

The Bernese Jura/Canton of Basel/Canton of Schaffhausen The Jura, Basel and Schleithem Täufer Regions

Preliminary Draft to Volume 4

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Preface

Brief History of the Swiss Reformation

The Canton of Jura Introduction

1. Brügg Mennoniten-Gemeinde near Biel. One of the newest members of the Swiss Mennonite Conference with 44 members led by Therese Broglie
2. Jeanguisboden/Le Jean Gui (chapel, school, archive). The Jeanguisboden Chapel was built in 1900. This is the place for the Swiss Mennonite Conferences meetings. Here are the archives of the Swiss Mennonites. Many precious books and manuscripts are stored in an archive room.
3. Anabaptist bridge (historical place). A narrow gravel road which leads from Cortebert (east of St. Imier) to the Anabaptist bridge is very steep and sometimes even dangerous. Nevertheless, a car can make the grade. The bridge is an old secret meeting place of our ancestors, Under the bridge, now collapsed, they were even safe from the Bernese “Anabaptist hunters.” The Anabaptist bridge (Pont des Anabaptistes) is the only place which in Switzerland bears the name of our brotherhood.

Eglise Evangelique Mennoniten du Valion de St-Imier

4. Eglise Evangelique Mennoniten-Gemeinde Les Bulles (chapel). This little chapel is located near La Chiaux-de-Fonds and was erected in 1893. Before 1893 the congregation met at Les Bressels, a farm house between La Chaus-de-Fonds and Le Locle.
5. Eglise Evangelique Mennoniten de La Chaux-d’Abel (chapel and school). Chapel located here and the oldest Mennonite school in the Bernese Jura. The school was built in 1863 and the chapel in 1904.
6. Mont-Tramelan (Fürstenberg) Mennoniten Chapel (meeting place and school). Located West of Tramelan there are three more worship centers. Hall of Fürstenberg – another meeting place also belonging to the Sonnenberg Congregation. Not far away is a school house where Mennonite children have been educated since 1953.

7. Les Mottes Mennoniten Chapel (chapel, school, and environs). Here at Freiberge is a unique park-landscape with extensive fir forests and artful farm-homesteads. After passing through the forest to an open area there is a farmhouse that used to be owned by the Mennonites. One of the small buildings was called chapel Le Cernil, the first Mennonite church building in the Jura Mountains.

Eglise evangelique mennonite de Tavannes

Tramelan Chapel, Eglise evangelique mennonite du Sonnenberg

8. Kleintal-Moron Mennoniten-Gemeinde (chapel and school). This is an imposing baroque church, which in former times belonged to the monastery. Today, it is used for concerts and sometimes by the Mennonites. It belongs to the state of Bern.
9. Cave of the Anabaptists (Geisskirchlein) – located high up on the rocks of the ravine of Le Pichoux there is a cave sheltered by the forest.
10. Eglise evangelique mennonite de Courgenay (chapel) – Mennonites built this little chapel in 1938 in the village of Courgenay.
11. Grosslützel (chapel) – Mennonites converted the former Inn and Post Office to a Chapel in the early 1900s. Chapel is no longer in use.

Swiss Anabaptist 18th century migration patterns.

Bernese Anabaptists found in Jura in the Early Part of the 18th Century

12. Basel Mennonite Community – Basel-Holee and Schänzli Mennoniten-Gemeindes
13. The European Mennonite Bible School and Bienenberg Theological Seminary, Bienenberg, Switzerland.
14. Schleithem Region in the Canton of Schaffhausen

Schleithem Museun – Täuferstube room

Täufersteg and Täuferstein. Anabaptist Crossing Memorial in Basel This is where the Mennonites crossed over from Switzerland to the German Palatinate.

Rheinfalls near Schaffhausen and Stein an Rhein Medieval Architecture. Rheinfalls is one of the most beautiful natural areas of Switzerland and Stein an Rhein is one of the most beautiful cities in Switzerland with its medieval architecture.

Täuferjahr 2007 Program Events translated into English. (partial listing)

Bibliography