

# *Old Salem Shrine News*

1874-1910

June 2016

Vol. 3



***Annual Founders' Day***  
***Sunday, June 5***  
***Open House 1:00-3:00 p.m.***  
***Service 3:00 p.m.***  
***Old Salem Shrine***  
***Upper 55<sup>th</sup> Street (Salem Church Road)***  
***Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota***

## **The Christian Schmid House**

*In December 1885, the Christian Schmid family moved to West St. Paul Township and purchased seventeen acres of land from Daniel Laschinger. They also began to attend the Salem Evangelical Kirche located just across Salem Church Road where Christian was a trustee for several years thereafter.*

In 1854, Johann Georg and Anna Barbara (Schenk) Schmid left their home in Bergfelden Wütemberg and sailed from London to New York. The ship's manifest lists the family under the name "Smitech" with a German origin and a destination of USA. In the manifest list it is believed that George and Barbara are the parents of Christian, Christine, Elizabeth and Jacob Schmid.



Once in New York they proceeded by covered wagon to Fort Snelling where they resided waiting for an opportunity to purchase land for their farm. By 1855 they had obtained 80 acres of farmland in Carver County near Chaska where they became founding members of the Moravian Church in January 1858. Christian was later confirmed there.

Christian married Margaretha Willmsen on June 17, 1866 at the home of his parents. A minister from the Moravian Church of Chaska performed the ceremony.



## Military Service Henry Christian Schmid

### Christian and Margaretha Schmid

In 1879 Christian and Margaretha moved to the southwest quarter of section 8 of Benton Township within Carver County. Christian's mother, Anna Barbara Schmid died December 17, 1880 in St. Paul and was interred at the Lake Auburn Moravian Church cemetery next to her husband's grave.

In December 1885, the Christian Schmid family moved to West St. Paul township, purchased seventeen acres of land from Daniel Laschinger, and began to attend Salem Evangelical Kirche located just across Salem Church Road.

Margaretha Schmid died of lung fever on May 11, 1904 at her home in West St. Paul Township of Dakota County and was interred at the Salem Evangelical Kirche Friedhof two days later.



Translation of Margaretha's tombstone at Salem EV Cemetery:

Margaretha wife of Christian Schmid\*  
Born March 13<sup>th</sup> 1846  
Died May 11, 1904

After his wife's death, Christian married Barbar(Leidig) Engel in 1905. He died of asthma on March 31, 1924 and was interred three days later at Riverview Cemetery, St. Paul.

*\*In 1916 this grave was moved to Riverview Cemetery and today the Michael and Rosina Haberoth family graves are at this location.*



**Muster in: September 27, 1864**  
**Muster out: June 17, 1865**

In June 1864 Christian was drafted to serve in the Civil War but paid a commutation fee of \$300 so he could continue to help his parents with the farm. During a second draft call in September 1864 he volunteered and served in the First Regiment of Minnesota Heavy Artillery, Company B.

Christian chose to be inducted under the alias of Henry Christian Smith, the Anglican equivalent of his real name. After leaving Fort Snelling for his tour of duty, a daguerreotype\* was taken, most likely in Missouri. He applied gilt to the daguerreotype to highlight the buttons on his uniform.

His company was sent to Chattanooga, Tennessee but was not involved in any major battle. Christian, however, was left with permanent damage to his hearing as a result of the heavy artillery fire and he returned to Minnesota in June 1865.

*\*A daguerreotype was made by polishing a sheet of silver-plated copper to a mirror finish, treating it with fumes that made its surface light sensitive, exposing it in a camera from a few seconds for brightly sunlit subjects or much longer with less intense lighting, making the resulting latent image on it visible by fuming it with mercury vapor, removing its sensitivity to light by liquid chemical treatment, rinsing and drying it, and then sealing the easily marred result behind glass in a protective enclosure. Viewing a daguerreotype is unlike looking at any other type of photograph. The image does not sit on the surface of the metal, but appears to be floating in space, and the illusion of reality, especially with examples that are sharp and well exposed, is unique to the process.*  
Source: Wikipedia





*Christian displays two horses while Margaretha stands at the fence. The barn was physically located quite close to Salem Church Road or what is now called upper 55<sup>th</sup> Street. The corn shocks in the background indicated that this photograph was taken in the fall at harvest time.*



*Christian and Margaretha are standing at the fence. The Adam Lashinger house appears to the left of the windmill but the Salem EV Kirche is obscured by the trees at the right of the windmill. The barn at the left burned in 1940. The flat slant roof structure attached to the barn was used for housing the pigs.*



*As of 2007, this house had been remodeled slightly but could still be recognized from this photograph. The summer kitchen had been eliminated and replaced by the old wagon shed which served as the automobile shed. The address of this house at that time was 1404 Upper 55<sup>th</sup> Street in Inver Grove Heights. The current address is 5526 Angus Avenue.*

## More History On Our Website

[www.oldsalemshrine.org](http://www.oldsalemshrine.org)



A list of burials at Old Salem Cemetery has been added to the website.

The January 3, 2016 Epiphany Service was filmed by INSIGHT 7, a local cable company, to enable others to see and hear about the history of Old Salem and a local family. See the video at <https://vimeo.com/151579152>

An extensive written and photo history of the Leidig Sisters prepared by Joe Brotzler will soon be added to the website under a new category "Family Histories." Others are welcome to submit similar histories for the website.

Krista Hutchinson, a new member of Old Salem Shrine Board of Trustees will soon launch an Old Salem Shrine Facebook page.

If you would like updates on Old Salem Shrine activities please send your email address to Jill Lewis [jilllewis6@comcast.net](mailto:jilllewis6@comcast.net)

### Donations to Old Salem Shrine

Contributions to Old Salem Shrine are welcome and needed to maintain this beautiful historic treasure. Donations can be made online at our website [www.oldsalemshrine.org](http://www.oldsalemshrine.org) or by check made payable to Old Salem Shrine and mailed to:

Old Salem Shrine  
6775 Cahill

Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076  
c/o Bart Zehnder, Treasurer

**Thank you for your generous support!**

### Old Salem Shrine Board of Trustees

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## DVD of Old Salem Church History

A DVD of Old Salem's history is available for sale. It includes a more extensive history, biographical information, photos and obituaries of the church's founders and early ministers, notes and letters penned by church members, and photos of both early weddings and those held more recently in the church. To order a \$25 DVD contact George Fell at 651-341-6001.

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