Eight Cousins Visit Our Roots And Swiss Cousins in Chabrey

The first Swiss Christinat/Christenot Family Reunion was held on August 5, 2006, in the village of Chabrey (population 215) where ancestor **Louis Christinat** was born in 1764. The eight Christenot cousins who traveled to Switzerland were: **George Christenot** [California], **Marion Graves** [Tennessee], **Orville** and **Bev Orr** [Minnesota], **Al** and **Cande Recke** [Montana], and **Larry** and **Sharon Morris** [California].



Our U.S. Christenot Ambassadors from the left -- Bev Orr, George Christenot, Al and Cande Recke, Marion Graves, Sharon and Larry Morris, and Orville Orr.

Following is cousin **Sharon Morris'** account of the reunion:

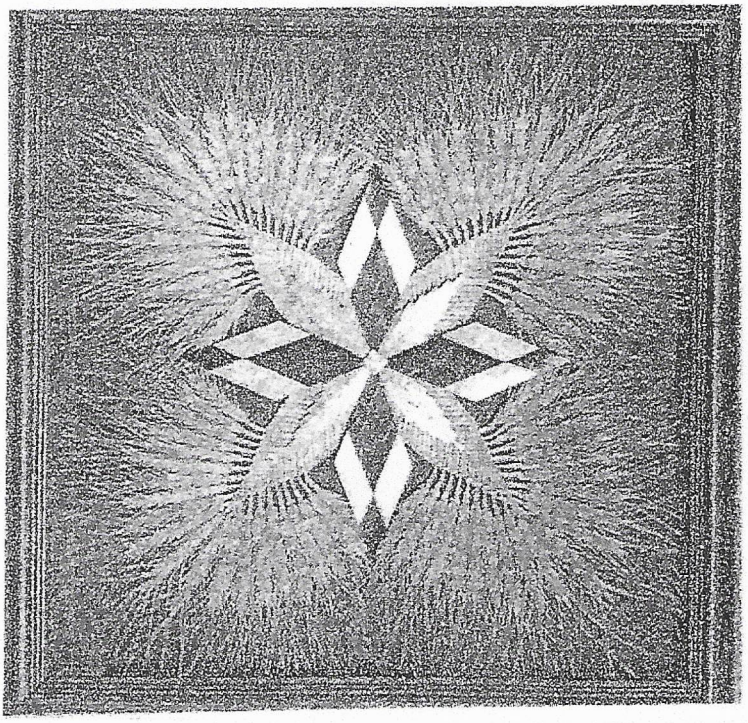
"The Reunion Reception began at 6 p.m. in the small park in Chabrey. We were greeted and warmly welcomed by Mayor **Ernest Chuard**, who spoke to us in French. When he finished, his sister-in-law then repeated his words in English. We were entertained by Swiss Folklore musicians dressed in beautiful Swiss clothing from their area. A couple sang and yodeled Swiss music and then an Alpenhorn player entertained everyone. The entire entourage of about fifty then traveled by foot to the Chabrey Community Center for an excellent dinner that was graciously served by some of the people of Chabrey. After our meal we were again entertained by Swiss yodeling.

"A very special gift presentation was given by the Mayor to our group. Each of us received two bottles of wine from the **George Christinat** Vineyard as well as a set of six small wine glasses with the Chabrey logo and commemorative words celebrating 200 years.



Cande presented the Prairie Star Wheat creation to Chabrey Mayor Chuard. Anna Marie (r) acted as translator for the reunion.

"Special gifts were presented to the Mayor and the community: **Marion Graves** gave Mayor Chuard a lovely Friendship quilt she had made that could be hung up in the Community Center. Her design featured colors representing the Swiss with red and white and the Americans with red, white, and blue. Each of the American Christenots signed the red, white, and blue fabric blocks. **Cande Recke** presented a beautiful Prairie Star Wheat creation which had been designed, put together, and encased in a shadow box by **Janet Christenot** of Montana. The center represented a Swiss wheat pattern and the outside of the pattern represented America.



The Prairie Star Wheat design was created by Janet Christenot.

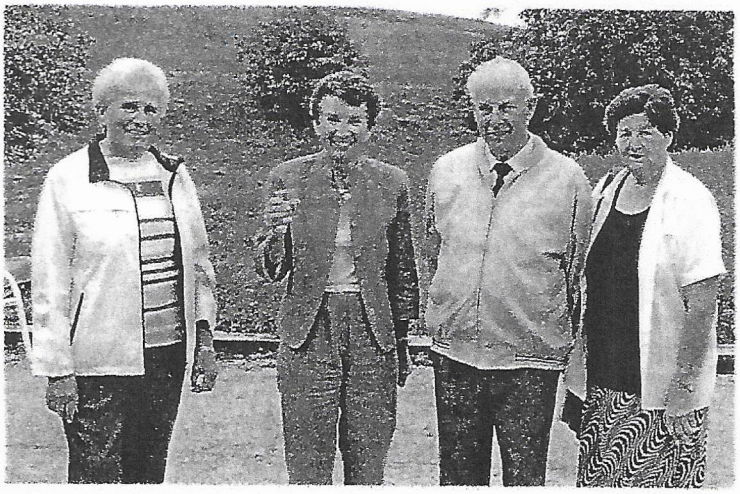
"**George Christenot** had done much recent research on the Swiss Christinat genealogy and had made copies of part of what he had gleaned. **George** then had **Frederic Zeller** read, in French, some of what had been printed so that the people in attendance from Chabrey could hear what he had found. The genealogy record of Chabrey had been lost in a fire some years back and so they were quite interested in what **George** had researched. A copy of this document was left with the village. **Orville Orr** expressed deepest thanks to all of the people at the dinner for the Christenot group being able to attend this wonderful family reunion. He invited them to attend the Christenot Family Reunion in Astoria, Oregon, in July 2007. Copies of The Christenot Chronicle were given to those who desired to have them.

"The USA Christenots, along with some Swiss Christinats, were invited to be guests of **Pierre-Andre** and **Meya Christinat** on Sunday morning. They took us on a walking tour through the village of Chabrey, speaking to us in English about each place we visited. We were then entertained in their home with pastries and beverages and wonderful fellowship.

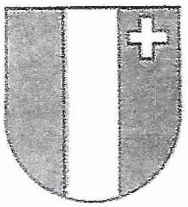
"We are so grateful to **Frederic** and **Janine Zeller** who diligently and graciously worked to make this family reunion happen. The Christenot family from America adopted the **Zellers** and invited them to our Family Reunion in July."

Larry and **Sharon Morris** invite all the Christenots to travel to Switzerland for the second Christinat/ Christenot Family Reunion in two or three years.

Check out a web site called **SwissRoots.org** that is excellent for genealogy and information about Switzerland.



These happy Christinat faces belong to: Francois Christinat (wife of Henri-Louis, mother of Pierre-Andre); Andreé Christinat Nydegger; Roger Christinat (80 years old in September 2006); and Denise Christinat.



Neuchâtel (NE)
Canton since 1815
Area: 797 sq. km (308 sq. miles)
Population: 158,000
Capital: Neuchâtel



Chabrey, Neuchâtel, Switzerland

A Gracious Message from One of Our Swiss Cousins in Chabrey

Christenot cousin **Pierre Andre Christinat** recently wrote the following to **Larry and Sharon Morris**, organizers of last summer's visit to Chabrey, Switzerland:

"We have much pleasure in knowing you. Thank you for your marvelous visit! . . . You are welcome in Chabrey; it is also your village. I am **Pierre-Andre Christinat**, born February 17, 1970; my parents are **Francoise** and **Henri-Louis Christinat**. **Meya** and I were married in Constantine. **Loraine** was born on June 28, 1996, and **Fabrice** on June 28, 1997. June 28 is an important date in our family! We also hope to come visit you, but I cannot say when."

Signed, **Pierre Andre Christinat**



Christinat Family Cemetery, Chabrey, Switzerland.