



# SWISS DECENT FORM

## DOCUMENTARY PROOF

### Application for Financial Aid to Persons of Swiss origin or descent with permanent residence in IL or WI

To be eligible for the Undergraduate Scholarship offered by the Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago (SBS), the applicant must be able to prove that he/she is indeed either a Swiss National himself/herself or of Swiss descent. Because people born in Switzerland are not automatically Swiss citizens, the applicant must know the family's place of origin (*Heimatort*) in order to prove Swiss descent. The place of origin is the place where a family originated, often centuries ago. This is why we can not accept family genealogies; they only state places of birth.

Acceptable documents (originals or copies) for proof of Swiss citizenship are:

- Certificate of Citizenship (*Heimatschein, Act d'Origine*)
- Swiss Passport (current or old)
- Registration at any Swiss Consulate (get letter of confirmation)
- Swiss Military Service Book (*Dienstbüchlein*)
- Birth, Death, Marriage Certificates from Switzerland. They usually not only list a place of residence and/or birth, but also a place of origin. (Baptism certificates do not).
- US Naturalization/Citizenship papers that indicate Switzerland as the previous country of citizenship.
- Any other document, e.g. settlement permit (*Niederlassungsbewilligung*) from Switzerland which lists place of origin.

These documents, numbered and easily identifiable should accompany this form. The number assigned to each of them (i.e., 1, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b ....4a, 4b.....etc.) must appear in the appropriate column (A, B, C, D, E, F; see reverse side) so that they can be matched together without any difficulty.

The form and the documentation must provide the Education Committee with a convincing picture which shows a clear and unbroken lineage from one generation to the next, starting with the applicant, down to each one of the preceding generations.

#### *TO THE APPLICANT:*

- Type the form or use lettering only. Write clearly.
- NAME: Last (for married women also give maiden name), first, middle.
- Complete only the spaces on the reverse side needed to prove that you are of Swiss decent. Start with yourself; then yourself and your parents; then yourself, your parents, and your grandparents, etc. If needed, continue beyond great-grand parents with the same design as on the reverse side on a separate piece of paper.