

Backenstoss

FAMILY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Est. 1927

"For the perpetuation of the history and
traditions of the family and its social enjoyment"

Summer 2010

**Plan to attend our 78th Reunion Sunday, August 1,
And celebrate the
Family's first 267 years in America!**

This year's gathering will be held Sunday, August 1, 2010 at Belleman's Church, just off Rt. 61 near Leesport, PA, approximately 10 miles north of Reading, PA (see map on last page of this newsletter).

The schedule this year will be as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 12:00 Noon | Relaxation/Meeting of old and new friends
Registration |
| 12:30 P.M. | Opening ceremonies followed by lunch, games and socializing |
| 3:00 P.M. | Business Meeting
Call to Order of Annual Meeting, Invocation, brief
reports of Secretary, Treasurer, Historian and President,
and New Business |
| 4:00 P.M. | Adjournment of reunion, followed by a meeting of the Board of
Directors. |

Picnic fare will be provided - hot dogs and assorted sodas. We suggest you bring chips, cake, pie, other snacks and goodies in quantities that can be shared. Remember place settings for each family member and serving utensils for covered dishes. Family members are encouraged to bring a recipe to exchange and your favorite LAWN CHAIRS to use in the grove next to the church.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Recognized

Family Spellings:

BACASTOW
BACKENSTO
BACKENSTOE
BACKENSTOES
BACKENSTOS
BACKENSTOSE
BACKENSTOSS
BACKENSTOW
BAGENSTOES
BAGENSTOS
BAGENSTOSE
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BAGGENSTOSS

OFFICERS

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1st Vice President*

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610-845-7878
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1495 Riverbend Road
Allentown, PA 18103

Treasurer*

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Historian*

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Bethlehem, PA 18017
610-691-4614

Chaplain

Bruce R. Backensto

Directors*

Judith Bacastow
Elwood B. Backensto
Esther(Backenstoe)Schiaivone
J. Harold Backenstoe
Veronica Backenstoe
Stanley P. Backenstoss II
Dawn Rosenbaum
Newsletter Editor
Brian W. Bagenstose

Greetings to all Backenstoss Family Association Members and Friends,

During the past year, our family association has held the 2009 family reunion and the 2010 directors' meeting. This message will provide you with an overview of these activities and a review of upcoming events.

Before addressing those items, however, I must report our family association notes with great sadness the passing of Warren B. Backenstoe (A3B4C5D6E1F4G2*). He very ably served as director and treasurer of our association for many years and, along with his wife, Ronnie, often served as host for our reunions. Personally, he was always very helpful when I came to him with questions or seeking guidance. He will be sorely missed by the association, family and friends. A separate tribute to Warren can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.

At our April 18 directors' meeting, Brian W. Bagenstose (A2B4C10D2E2F1G3H1) nominated Kenneth C. Bagenstose (A2B4C10D2E2F1G1H2) for the position of treasurer, and after due consideration, Ken was elected as our newest director and current treasurer. We are sure he will continue in the fine tradition established by Warren and his predecessors. Congratulations Ken!

Our family historian, the Honorable John E. Backenstoe (A3B4C5D6E2F5G2, "J.E.B.") reported he is in the process of rescanning past Family History books to produce a newly formatted Family History CD. The new format will provide for much easier updating of information. In anticipation of this new Family History, please correct any outdated information regarding yourself or your relatives or communicate new information such as marriages, births, graduations, etc. A form for reporting updated and new information can be found on Page 5 of this newsletter.

During the April 18 meeting, the directors selected the location for this year's reunion. The directors are always concerned with selecting a good location that will facilitate a strong turnout and provide a pleasant environment for socializing and scheduled activities. Because of the success of the 2009 reunion at Belleman's Church, and because Belleman's featured prominently in the lives of many of our early ancestors, Belleman's Church was again selected as the location for our 2010 reunion. As always, the reunion is free and open to all association members and provides an excellent opportunity to meet and spend time with relatives, both close and distant. Also, the reunion

(continued on page 3)

*numbers and letters reference the genealogical index used in Backenstoss Histories

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (cont.)

provides a forum to discuss the business of the association and elect new directors. I hope everyone will consider attending, and I look forward to seeing you there. The reunion will be held on Sunday, August 1. This newsletter contains directions, a map and schedule of events.

One area of concern for our association is that our secretary, Ethelmae Marushak (A3B4C5D6E1F2G1), reports a growing number of mailing addresses are no longer valid. The number of returned newsletters has increased in recent years. Thus, **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** If you know of any family members who have not received the newsletter, **PLEASE** complete and return the form found on page 6 so they can be added to our mailing list and our association can reach the widest possible circle of family members.

Given the current state of the economy, I am happy to report the treasurer's notes read at the April directors' meeting indicate our association is in good financial condition. However, the association relies on the continued contributions of family members to cover operating expenses, and I ask that you consider sending a contribution. A form for this purpose can be found on page 6 of this newsletter. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated and will help defray the costs of the newsletter, reunion and preparing and publishing the updated Family History CD.

As a final note, as always the association welcomes any submissions you may have for next year's newsletter. Pictures of family members, family members in the news, family recipes, etc. are all welcome.

I wish each of you a prosperous year and look forward to seeing you at the reunion.

Jonathan Backenstose (A2B5C9D4E1F3G3)
President, Backenstoss Family Association

Greeting from Minnesota

We celebrated our 37th Annual Baggenstoss Family Reunion on June 2009!
"Tricks, Treats & Traditions" was our theme.
We met at Orono Park in Elk River, Minnesota. We had the most perfect day!

Every year, we never know who's gonna blow us away with their costume;
Willy Wonka, Cher, and Fred Flintstone were amongst other celebrities!
Lots of the little people came as princesses, lady bugs, pirates, Hawaiians and more!
The "Bedrock Biffies" sealed the deal.

We had the "Potluck of Potlucks" fit for a palace!
And a homemade decorated cake to celebrate a family tradition!
We invite you to join us this year.
We'll be at the Becker City Park in Becker, Minnesota
on SATURDAY, June 26th, 2010.

Registration begins at 11:00...call or eMail me if you'd like more information!

We hope you can join us!

--Leah Rodriguez,
MN Branch President

23499 3rd Ave, Mankato, MN 56001 ~ 507-345-6851 ~ lkrdz@hickorytech.net

IN MEMORIAM

Warren B. Backenstoe, long time treasurer and director of the Backenstoss Family Association passed away on March 23, 2010. Warren and Veronica, "Ronnie," (Irish) I. Backenstoe celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary on November 2, 2009. Born in Salisbury Township, Warren was a 1940 graduate of Allentown High School. In September 1942 he joined the Navy, serving on the USS Edward C. Daly, DE17, the first destroyer escort in the Pacific, of which 14 months were spent in the Aleutians during the campaign to retake Attu and Kiska islands. After his discharge from the Navy, Warren attended Drexel University and received a BS in Business Administration with a major in accounting. He worked for Lehigh Portland Cement Company as a market analyst for 37 years, retiring in 1986. He was a member of Jerusalem Western Salisbury Church, Allentown, PA. He was a member of Boy Scout Troop 38, where he received his Eagle Scout and Order of the Arrow award. He was active in the Goschenhoppen Historians and the Peter Wentz Farmstead and was a member of the PA German Society.

Warren will be remembered as a kind and generous man. He was a true gentleman, and his experience and wise counsel were of great benefit to our family organization. Our condolences go out to Ronnie and also to Warren's many relatives and close friends.

Editor's Note: The following article was sent by Leah Rodriguez of the Minnesota Baggenstoss Branch. The soldier who is the subject of the piece, Florian H. Baggenstoss, was her father's oldest brother. As surviving members of the "Greatest Generation" grow fewer with each passing year, it is "fitting and proper" that we remember and honor the service and sacrifice of Warren, Florian and all the men and women who served during WWII.

'Lest We Forget'

submitted by Delphine Richter Thomas

Delphine Richter Thomas and her husband Orron traveled to France in July 2008.

Delphine has been doing genealogy and family history research for almost 30 years. She is a native of Albany and has many ancestors from this area. She discovered that a cousin, Florian H. Baggenstoss, from her mother's side of the family died during World War II and is buried in the Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial, St. Avold, France. On the drive to Paris, it was decided to pay honor to a family member and an Albany son who was a fallen hero.

Florian H. Baggenstoss, PFC, 30 Infantry, 3rd Division died on 15 March 1945. He was born 23 December, 1925 to August and Esther (Ehrlichmann) Baggenstoss. He was the oldest of perhaps 12 siblings. The family eventually moved to Morrison County.

Upon arrival at the cemetery the official explained that she would look up the name of my soldier and locate his plot. She then handed us an American flag and a French flag. She also grabbed a camera and gloves along with a bucket of sand. She emphasized that they only use sand from Omaha Beach to signify the camaraderie these soldiers all held in common. The sand was used to fill the lettering so it would be more visual when taking photographs. This was a very emotional moment for us. We walked to the gravesite and she took our photo. Then we spent some time touring the grounds. The chapel is remarkable. It features maps of key events and flags representing all our military branches. Later we went back to the headquarters where she handed us a packet of brochures and information plus the flags and a large photo. It was definitely a highlight of our trip to France.

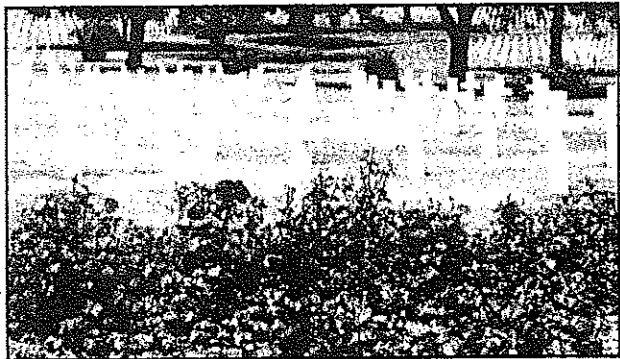
We were amazed at the size of this cemetery. This cemetery is the largest American World War II cemetery in Europe and has 10,489 soldiers interred. The Walls of

the Missing have the name, rank, organization, and state of 444 soldiers who gave their lives in the service of our country, but their remains were not recovered or identified and thus sleep in unknowns graves. Again, this is a beautiful serene setting but very emotional. Later, we visited Normandy and Omaha Beach and saw the American Cemetery there. We had also visited the West Flanders area of Belgium where we toured various cemeteries of the World War I era. We can rest assured that our fallen soldiers are not forgotten.

Our Fellow Countrymen
Enduring All And Giving All
That Mankind Might Live In Freedom And Peace
They Join That Glorious Band Of Heroes
Who Have Gone Before

(Inscription beneath figures of King David, Emperor Constantine, King Arthur, George Washington)

(Delphine Richter Thomas, daughter of the late Henry and Dorothy Scheunemann Richter, now lives in Port Isabel, Texas, and Avon.)



The Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial, at St. Avold, France.

This cemetery is the largest American World War II cemetery in Europe and has 10,489 soldiers interred.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

As noted in this year's President's Message, our association has experienced a decline in the number of family members registered on our mailing list. This decline almost certainly stems from a lack of current information rather than a sea change in the actual number of family members or their traditional willingness to supply future generations who will carry on our family name!

YOU CAN HELP by using the following form to communicate the name and address of any family member who does not currently receive our newsletter. This same form can be used to communicate news pertaining to the birth, marriage, accomplishments and passing of family members. The form can be returned separately or with any contribution you choose to make to our association. Our treasurer, Kenneth C. Bagenstose, will send the information to our Family Historian. Information concerning additions to the mailing list can also be e-mailed to Brian W. Bagenstose, newsletter editor, at redknight67@comcast.net. We thank you for your help in expanding our family association mailing list.

Name of Family Member	Address	Nature of Event & Comments
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FAMOUS QUOTES ABOUT FAMILIES

- Families are like fudge - mostly sweet with a few nuts.
Author unknown
- Live that you wouldn't be ashamed to sell the family parrot to the town gossip.
Will Rogers
- By the time a man realizes that maybe his father was right, he usually has a son who thinks he's wrong.
Charles Wadsworth
- One of life's greatest mysteries is how the boy who wasn't good enough to marry your daughter can be the father of the smartest grandchild in the world.
Anonymous

Contributions

The generosity of our members continues to provide sufficient resources to sustain current operations. The continuation of our newsletter, reunion and other family association activities is dependent on our members' annual contributions. The directors of the Backenstoss Association ask that each member contribute \$5.00 annually. Please support our association by returning the following form along with your 2010 contribution. The directors also ask that members consider making additional contributions and bequests of any amount to the Backenstoss Family Association. This practice is common among family associations and will help ensure the financial health of our organization through future generations.

To: Kenneth C. Bagenstose, Treasurer
1015 Conifer Drive
Leesport, PA 19533

Enclosed is my check payable to B.F.A. for support in 2010.

_____ 2010 contribution (\$5.00) Name _____
_____ Additional Street Address _____
Contribution City, State and Zip _____
_____ Total Submitted

2011 Reunion

Our 2011 Family Reunion will be held on Sunday, August 7, 2011 at the Hereford Township Recreation Park located between Hereford (Rts. 100 & 29) and Seisholtzville, PA. Further details will be provided in our 2011 newsletter.

FAMILY MEMBERS "IN THE NEWS"

Zoe Bagenstose was honored by the school board of the Governor Mifflin School District for being one of 17 third grade students out of 230,000(!) to attain a perfect score in the difficult blue division of the WordMasters Challenge, a national language arts competition in its 22nd year. Zoe, currently a fourth grader, is the daughter of Chris Bagenstose and the granddaughter of our new family association treasurer, Kenneth C. Bagenstose. (We are sure that Ken's skill with numbers matches his granddaughter's facility with words!)

Brett Bagenstose, owner/creative director of Neo-Pangea, a provider of Web-based digital applications, was one of three executives honored for entrepreneurial excellence by the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce.

BACKENSTOSS NIGHT AT THE "BALL GAME!!"

With your support, the Backenstoss Family Association will hold its fifth annual "Backenstoss Night at the Ball Game" at the Reading Phillies' First Energy Stadium in Reading, Pennsylvania. This event has been scheduled for Saturday, August 28, when the Reading Phillies will host the Binghamton Mets. Game time is 6:35 P.M. Gates open at 5:30 P.M.

We will reserve our seats under the covered grandstand area – out of the hot August sun and protected from any possible inclement weather. This will also allow participants to patronize the many refreshment stands and vendors, all providing the traditional hot dogs and beer, or "peanuts and crackerjack," that make up a typical day at the ballpark. The night's festivities also include post game fireworks and a Harley Davidson Game Cap giveaway to the first 2,500 adults (18+) who attend.

Ticket prices are \$9.00 per person.

Family members who wish to attend should return the following form, along with checks in the correct amount made payable to "The Reading Phillies." The form and checks should be sent to Brian W. Bagenstose; 117 Marie Drive; Sinking Spring, PA 19608. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope so that your tickets may be mailed to you. At the time this newsletter was printed, many tickets for the August 28 date remained. However, forms should be returned ASAP, but no later than Wednesday, June 30, as the section will sell out at some point. Questions may be referred to Brian at the above address or by phone (610-775-1760) or e-mail (redknight67@comcast.net).

* * * * *

YES! Sign us up for Backenstoss Night at the Ball Game!

Name of your group's contact person _____

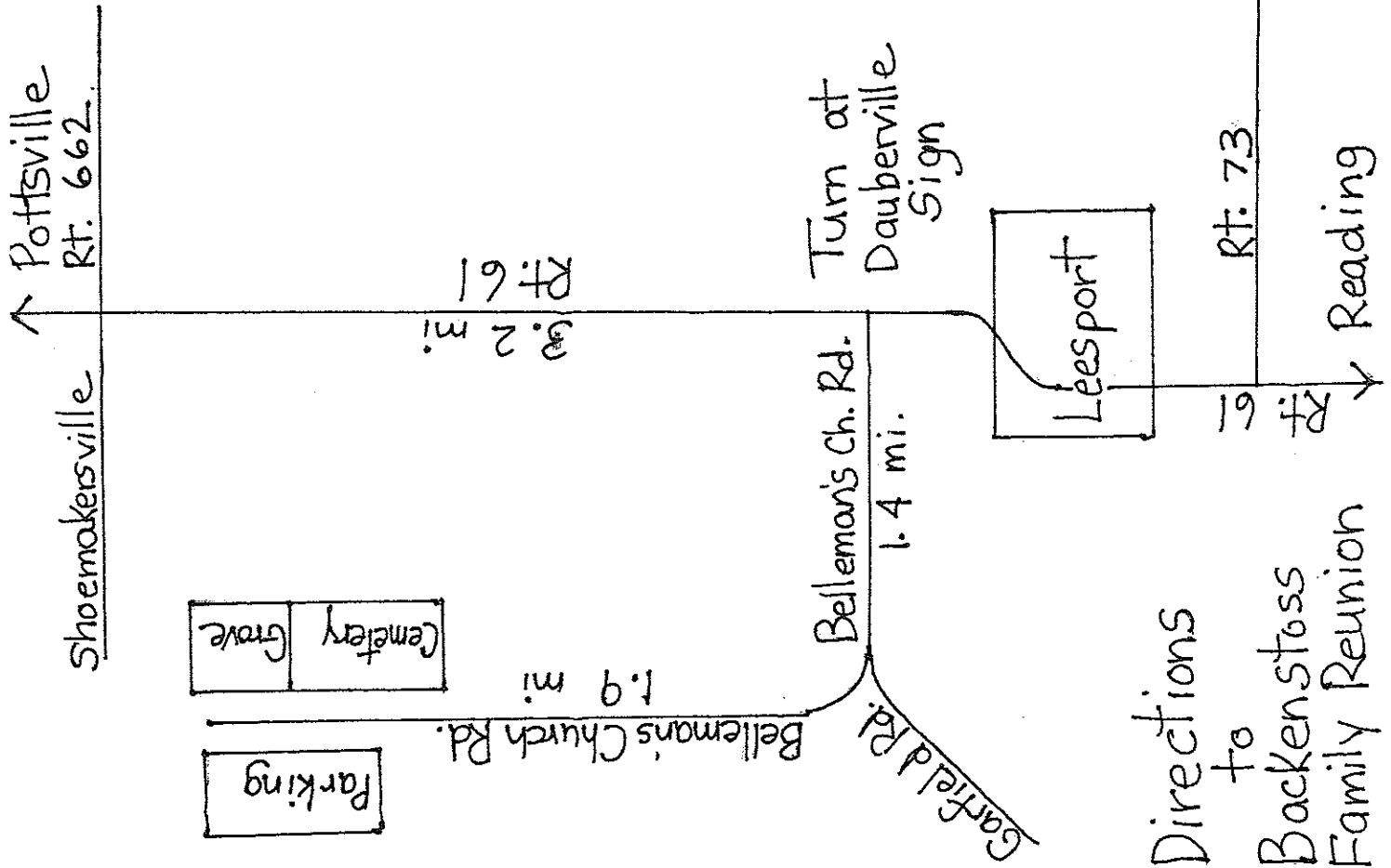
Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Number of Tickets at \$9.00 _____

Total Amount Enclosed (checks only) _____

Return form and check(s), payable to "Reading Phillies," no later than June 30, 2010, to Brian W. Bagenstose; 117 Marie Drive; Sinking Spring, PA 19608.
(Please remember to enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.)



Backenstoss Family Association of America
 1495 Riverbend Road
 Allentown, PA 18103



M/M Kenneth C. Bagenstose
 1115 Conifer Rd
 Leesport PA 19533

Thank you for your continued genealogical support!