



Backenstoss

FAMILY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Est. 1927

“For the perpetuation of the history and traditions of the family and its social enjoyment”

Summer 2011

Plan to attend our 79th Reunion Sunday, August 7,
And celebrate the
Family's first 268 years in America!

This year's gathering will be held Sunday, August 7, 2011 at the Hereford Township Park, located on the Seisholtzville Road, between Hereford (Rts. 100 & 29) and Seisholtzville, PA (see map).

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
2:00 P.M.	Program - "Rosie the Riveter"
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 favorite recipe to exchange.

Recognized

Family Spellings:

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

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Veronica Backenstoe
Stanley P. Backenstoss II
Dawn Rosenbaum
Newsletter Editor
Brian W. Bagenstose

President's Message

I hope everyone has had a good year and wish everyone a happy summer. This is a busy time of year for the association – the Directors recently met for their annual spring meeting, and we are looking forward to the annual reunion in August.

Our directors have placed a priority on increasing the number of members who actively participate in the association. Accordingly, every effort will be made to have our 2012 (next year's reunion) at Dorney Park. Details on the Dorney Park initiative can be found in the article that follows this message.

We believe the Dorney Park reunion will provide many attractions for all age groups and a group rate, lower than any child, senior or discount rate, would apply. The association would sponsor a pavilion and a five hour "American Classic" meal plan of hamburgers, hot dogs and soda for all participants. As usual, we would conduct the annual business meeting, hold our election of directors and take our group photograph. As we need 100 commitments to get the desired group rate, please respond as indicated in the following article.

This year's reunion will be held on Sunday, August 7, at Hereford Park. Our annual reunion provides a chance for association members to meet relatives close and distant, play some games, perhaps win some prizes and certainly eat some good food. Please see the directions and agenda found in this newsletter. If you have not recently attended a Backenstoss reunion, please consider coming and introducing your family to the other attendees!

One of the major functions of the association is to maintain and publish the Family History and newsletter. We need any and all updates regarding our members, such as births, marriages, graduations, awards, job changes, deaths, etc. We also are in great need of updated addresses for association members so that we are able to send the newsletter out to as many members as possible.

As a last topic, if you haven't sent your contribution for this year, please consider doing so. Members are asked to make a voluntary contribution of \$5.00, a good value for what the association accomplishes every year. The association uses all contributions to support the publication of the newsletter, publish updates to the family history and defray the costs of the annual reunion.

As always, we welcome any input you may have regarding the activities or potential activities of the association. I wish all of you the very best and hope to see you at the annual reunion on August 7.

Jon Backenstose
President
Backenstoss Family Association

DORNEY PARK
PROPOSED AS SITE
OF 2012 REUNION

In an effort to increase the number of our active members and bring the richness of our family history and traditions to new generations, the board of directors of the Backenstoss Family Association has chosen Dorney Park as the site of our 2012 reunion. For those who may be unfamiliar with our local Pennsylvania attractions, Dorney Park is an expansive amusement and water park located near Allentown, PA. The date of our reunion will be Sunday, August 5, 2012.

Family members and guests who attend the Dorney Park reunion will have access to both the amusement and water parks from 10:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. From noon until 5:00 P.M., the Backenstoss Association will sponsor a pavilion, reserved for our members and guests, where we will hold our usual reunion activities. Included with the pavilion rental will be a five hour "All You Can Eat - American Classic" menu of hot dogs, hamburgers and soda.

All individuals age 3 and older attending the reunion will be charged the same group entrance fee, which this year is \$20.75. This rate is lower than any senior, child or discount ticket and far less than the current adult price ticket of \$39.99. There is a current parking fee of \$12.00 per vehicle. Please keep in mind that the pavilion rental AND the cost of the five hour "all you can eat" menu will be paid by the Backenstoss Association. While the costs associated with this reunion are greater than those of our recent gatherings, the proposed plan represents an incredible value when compared to duplicating the same Dorney Park experience without the family association sponsored group rate and meal plan.

We will need a minimum of one hundred attendees to qualify for the group rate and pavilion rental. While this number is greater than the attendance at our recent reunions, we hope the attractions at Dorney Park and the value provided by our group plan will attract new members, many of whom will bring their children. Your newsletter editor, Brian Bagenstose and his cousin Ken, our association treasurer, pledge a combined total of no less than 20 family members, so we are already 1/5 of the way to the number required!

We ask that family members who are interested in attending a reunion at Dorney Park read the additional information and follow the directions found on Page 6 of this newsletter.

If fewer than 100 people are able to commit to a reunion at Dorney Park, next year's reunion will still be held on the first Sunday of August at one of our usual locations. Specific information would be included in next year's newsletter.

GREETINGS FROM MINNESOTA!

Our family "cousins" in Minnesota enjoyed their 38th Annual reunion on June 26, 2010 at Becker City Park in Becker, MN and will meet there again on June 25 of this year. The Minnesota Branch is planning a big 40th REUNION on June 23, 2012 "back home" in Albany, MN where their association got its start. They're even arranging a "Baggy Bus" charter coach to travel to and from Albany to the Twin Cities area! Sounds like a great time! Anyone who is interested in further information can contact Lana Lewer, secretary/treasurer, at LLEWER@msn.com or 12326 Zea St. NW; Coon Rapids, MN 55433.

From the Treasurer
by Ken Bagenstose

I would like to thank everyone in the Backenstoss Family Association for making me feel welcome and appreciated in my first year as Treasurer of this great legacy organization. I am continually surprised at receiving contributions and other mailings from all corners of the continental United States and even from our original homestead country of Switzerland. We are a bigger group than I ever could have imagined!

For those of you who don't know me (and I assume that's most of you) I am cousin to Brian Bagenstose, first vice-president of our organization. My vocation is that of being chief financial officer for two Pennsylvania corporations; Crescent Brass Manufacturing in Reading PA, and Wilton Armetale, Inc., located in Mt. Joy PA about 20 minutes west of Lancaster. Crescent Brass is a non-ferrous foundry and machining manufacturer and Wilton Armetale is a producer of high-end cast aluminum giftware available at stores like Macy's, Bon-Ton, and Boscov's.

At last year's reunion I acquired a beautiful color photocopy of the Baggenstoss Family Shield provided by Ronnie Backenstoe (available for purchase at the annual reunions for \$3.00) and with it a brief description of its origin. [Excerpt from Ronnie's Shield publication]:

BAGGENSTOSS. Farmer since 1450. First appearance: Oath of truce of 1479 in the Canton Archives of Lucern. The family originated in Konstance. The Nidaldnerland family comes from the Gersau Baggenstoss family. It settled in Kirsiten in 1559 and became citizens there. Coat of Arms interpretation sources are the Ratserkamtnis book Bd. IV of 1780 up to 1794; from the Gatschet Coat-of-Arms book 1799, Bd.1, Bl. 200 found in the Canton Library of Bern. Armorial painting at the Council House of Gersau of the year 1907 and glass painting in the Priest's House of 1912. Arms: In red, painting upward is a shovei or spade with a wooden handle; on each side six-painted stars: red-silver; helmet adornment is an upright, red-clothed man with a spade in his right hand.

Using the information contained on that document I took a 'Google Earth' computer tour of the beautiful and scenic Gersau, Switzerland area of our family's origin. For the unfamiliar, Google Earth is a free internet download and with it you can take a digital tour anywhere on our planet using satellite photographs and also view photographs that have been uploaded to their site from users all over the world.

So we have four elements coming together: A big family, a long proud history, a great rendition of the Baggenstoss Family Shield, and a modern manufacturing process capable of producing permanent reproductions of our family symbol that can be passed on to future generations. I asked the artists at Wilton to make a model of our family crest that would be suitable for reproduction in their patented cast aluminum style and the result is pictured on Page 7.

I personally think this is a beautiful item that can be proudly displayed. I plan to have a prototype of this 11" plate to see and touch at this year's family reunion. For those not able to make it to the reunion, please visit the Armetale website or one of the department stores mentioned above to get an idea of the fine quality of Armetale products. This plate will be equivalent to the items you can see there.

(continued on Page 7)

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 2011 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 2011.

_____ 2011 contribution (\$5.00) Name(s) _____

_____ Additional Contribution Street Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

_____ Total Submitted

UPDATES TO OUR FAMILY HISTORY

YOU CAN HELP keep our family association records up to date by using the space below 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. Our treasurer, Kenneth C. Bagenstose, will send the information to our Family Historian. Please note that contact information for our proposed 2012 reunion at Dorney Park may be returned using the form on the reverse side of this page. 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.

Name of Family Member

Address

Nature of Event & Comments

INDICATION OF INTEREST IN
2012 DORNEY PARK BACKENSTOSS REUNION

In order to schedule our proposed Dorney Park reunion, we ask that interested family members respond in the following manner:

- Indicate your interest in attending the reunion by completing and returning the form found on this page or by e-mailing Kenneth C. Bagenstose, treasurer, at kbagen@aol.com. This should be done ASAP.
- Provided there is sufficient interest in a Dorney Park reunion, interested members will be contacted as soon as 2012 rates for Dorney Park are available. Rates are usually set in March of each year. This year's rate is \$20.75 per person.
- Members will be asked to send in their final registration information and checks by a tentative deadline of April 30, 2012. (Checks will be returned if fewer than 100 family members complete their registrations.)
- Final registration arrangements will include providing a self-addressed, stamped envelope, so that tickets can be mailed to family members at the earliest possible date.

Yes, our family is interested in attending the Backenstoss Family Reunion at Dorney Park on August 5, 2012. Our contact person is:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Number of family members (age 3 and older) who plan to attend: _____

[Either or both of these forms can be returned to Kenneth C. Bagenstose, treasurer; 1015 Conifer Drive; Leesport, PA 19533]

BAGGENSTOSS PLATE ORDER FORM

Name _____

Shipping Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

No. of Plates Requested (\$35.00 per plate) _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____

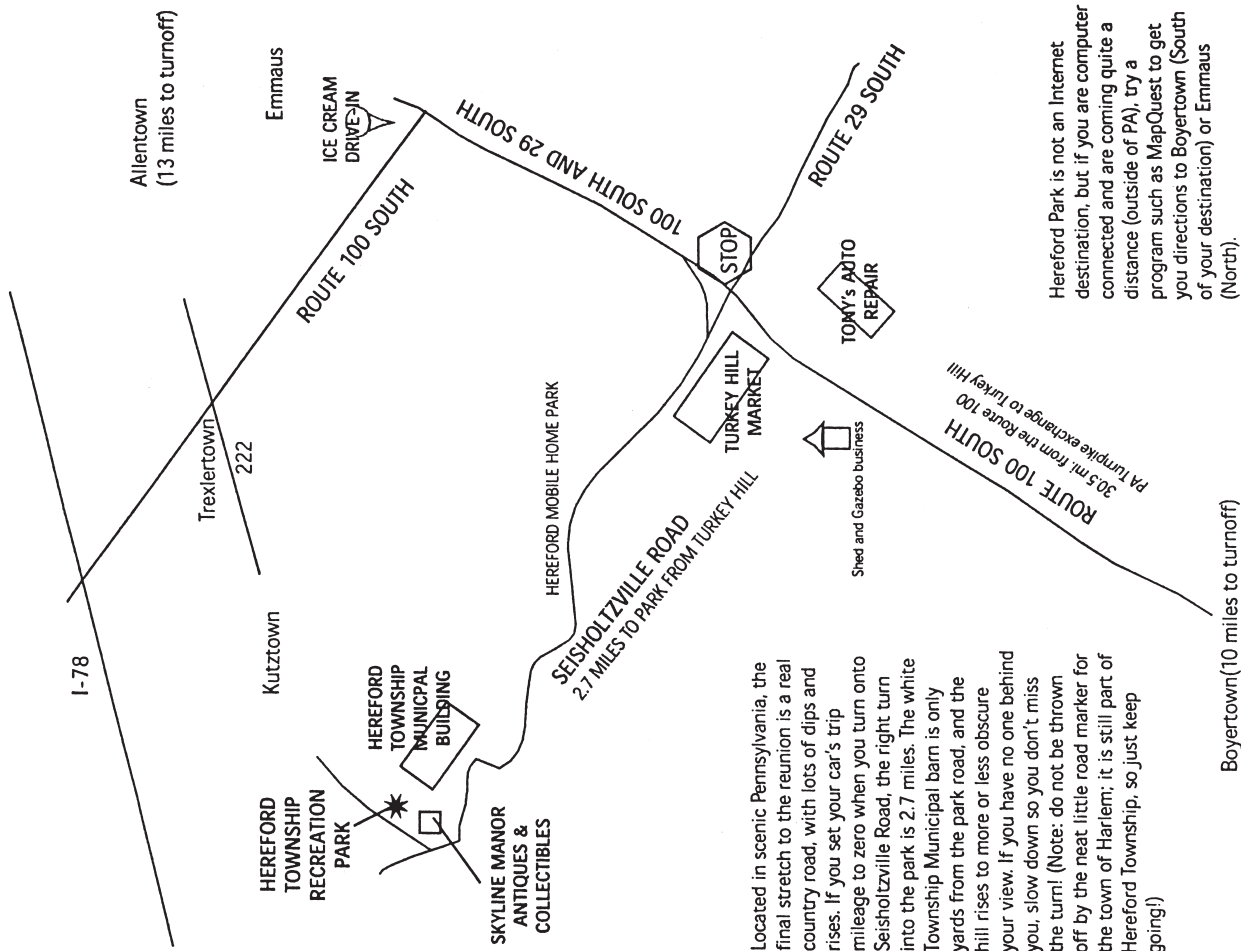
(checks made payable to Backenstoss Family Association – please do not send cash)



The cost of this item to family members is \$35, which includes \$10 UPS shipping and handling within the US. Shipping costs outside the country would have to be arranged on a case by case basis. The \$35 cost will just cover the expense of manufacturing and shipping the plates. The family association is providing this opportunity as a service to our members, not as a means to add funds to the association's treasury. As always, the association will be grateful for any additional voluntary contribution purchasers of the plates may see fit to include with their yearly \$5 contribution.

This is a custom product and a one-time offer so we can only make them available on a pre-sale basis. And to get the best price from the manufacturer we must buy at least 50 plates. I'm guessing that quantity won't be a problem based on the wonderful response we get each year during our contribution drive. In order to give everyone an opportunity to order a plate I have asked Brian to put a response question on the contribution return coupon to indicate if you are interested and how many plates you would like. Shipping name and address will be important. E-mail response would be greatly helpful in pulling this together. I can be reached at kbagen@aol.com **for more information. See you at the reunion!**

Ken



Located in scenic Pennsylvania, the final stretch to the reunion is a real country road, with lots of dips and rises. If you set your car's trip mileage to zero when you turn onto Seisholtzville Road, the right turn into the park is 2.7 miles. The white Township Municipal barn is only yards from the park road, and the hill rises to more or less obscure your view. If you have no one behind you, slow down so you don't miss the turn! (Note: do not be thrown off by the neat little road marker for the town of Harlem; it is still part of Hereford Township, so just keep going!)

Hereford Park is not an Internet destination, but if you are computer connected and are coming quite a distance (outside of PA), try a program such as MapQuest to get you directions to Boyertown (South of your destination) or Emmaus (North).

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

Thank you for your continued genealogical support!