



Baggenstoss Shield

Backenstoss

FAMILY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Plan to Attend our 63rd Reunion

Alexander Schaeffer Farm, Route 501,
Schaefferstown
Lebanon County, Pennsylvania

Sunday, August 6, 1995

WE'RE REPEATING OUR PROGRAM OF 2 YEARS AGO!

Come to celebrate the Family's 252 years in America!

Our gatherings continue to grow in size, as can be seen from the group photograph on page 4. The Berks Leisure Area where we met, proved to be a most suitable and enjoyable site, so much so that we will return there next year. But for this year we also have happy memories of another fine gathering spot. We had a large turnout there in 1993 right after our visit to the Old World Baggenstoss and we are preparing for an even larger crowd this year. Our host and hostess, Lee and Dottie Backenstose have, as before, reserved the Alexander Schaeffer house, farm and picnic surroundings that proved so attractive and serviceable before. A map showing how to get there appears on the outside cover of this newsletter. The program will start at noon and, as usual, include introductions and the necessary brief news items, as follows:

- 12:00 Registration and luncheon. Sign in, get your name tag and get acquainted.
- 1:00 Call to Order of Annual Meeting. Invocation, brief reports of Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, President. Election of ten Directors.
- 1:30 Award of prizes.
- 1:45 Games. Get to know your relatives from far and near.

Picnic fare will be provided -- wieners, hamburgers, chips, assorted sodas. We suggest that it would be nice to bring some fruit, cake or other goodies for dessert, perhaps in quantities that can be shared.

In addition, there is a gasoline-powered railroad at Schaefferstown and we have engaged it for the afternoon. There will be no charge to ride on it. It should especially appeal to the younger fry, but if the oldies want to ride on it too, here is a chance to tap the fountain of youth - if only for a brief moment!

For our reunion a year hence we have reserved space at the Berks County park on the outskirts of Reading along Tulpehocken Creek, as follows:

64TH REUNION

**BERKS LEISURE AREA, READING, PENNSYLVANIA
SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 1996**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is again my happy duty to invite you all to our annual picnic meeting. We have an interesting day planned for young and not so young alike. These wonderful reunions continue to get better and better as we see more and more of our extended family. If you haven't attended why don't you make up your mind that this is the year you're going to come. If for no other reason than it is important for the kids have some appreciation of heritage. We have a good site selected, good food, good fun, good companionship -- games and prizes too.

This is the year for you and yours to be there. Family activity is booming -- COME ON DOWNNNN!

John E. "Jeb" Backenstoe

President

PREFACE

(To 1995 Addendum)

The Backenstoss Family Association of America had its start in 1927 and has held 62 Reunions since then in PA. To help commemorate the 250th Anniversary of our forefather's arrival in 1743, three major events took place in 1993.

- A once-in-a-lifetime "Roots Trip" to Switzerland was held. Forty-eight relatives and friends visited sites of our forefather's in Rafz, Gersau, Constance, Lucerne, and Zurich. The planner and organizer was our Family Historian.
- An outstanding reunion gathering took place in Schaefferstown, PA hosted by Dr. D. Lee and Dottie Backenstoe.
- A comprehensive, 432-page BACKENSTOSS - BAGGENSTOSS FAMILY HISTORY was published. This culminated nearly 25 years of research and editing by our Family Historian.

This Family History has many unique features. Unlike many published genealogies which trace primarily the male line, this history also attempts to trace the female line --- at least for two more generations. Rarely do other family listings research the family name in all reported spelling variations. With the code system used, all family members can determine easily how they are related to those who have the same or different spelling. Furthermore, all members can now trace their family line back to their Swiss origin.

This Addendum must be used in conjunction with the 1993 Family History. Mainly this Addendum reports **additions and corrections**, coded back to the 1993 publication. However, it also has several extra features as follows:

- It is dedicated to our Baggenstoss namesakes in Switzerland who made our "Roots Trip" memorable far beyond a normal tour of a beautiful foreign land.
- Included is a research report by Jon Backenstoe entitled, "Patents Which In Some Way Are Associated With Someone Having A Backenstoe-Related Name".
- There is more about our only family member who spelled his name Backesto (page 124).
- Virginia Backenstoe, mentioned prominently in historical writings of the Donner Party and their ordeals as they moved west on early trails to California, has been placed in our family history (page 241).

As your family historian, I welcome additional information and comments on this endeavor.

Elwood Bruce Backensto
32 Holly Drive
Woodbury, NJ 08096-3316

Recognized Family Spellings:

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

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*Directors

January 1995

HISTORIAN'S REPORT

An ADDENDUM to the BACKENSTOSS - BAGGENSTOSS FAMILY HISTORY has been printed, as promised in our 1994 Newsletter, based on additions and corrections received by the end of the year. My heartfelt thanks to all who contributed. My apologies to those whose submission arrived after the deadline. To the procrastinator who has data to submit, my word processor will continue to accept birth, death, marriage, and other interesting observations for posterity.

The ADDENDUM is a 90-page paperback. The "Preface" of the book is reproduced in this Newsletter as a summary of activity. With the compliments of your Family Historian, the 1995 Addendum (a \$5.00 cost) has been sent to all on record who have purchased the Family History. If you should have received an Addendum and did not, please let me know.

Family History books are sold for the printing cost only. Postage and packing costs have always been defrayed by donations to the BFA Publication Fund. In 1994, the average postage cost to ship a single copy of the Family History was about \$2.00; in 1995, the cost has risen to nearly \$3.00 per book. For this reason the BFA Publication Fund needs your contributions, which are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

We are proud to report that our commemorative Family History resided in 28 libraries world-wide (see listing below). If other purchased Histories have been donated to a library not shown, please let me know. If you wish to donate a History to your County Historical Society or local library, copies can be sent directly in your name by your Historian.

Henceforth, the Family History & Addendum will be sold as a package for the original History cost of \$27.50 plus \$4.50 for postage and packing, available for \$32.00 ppd. only from:

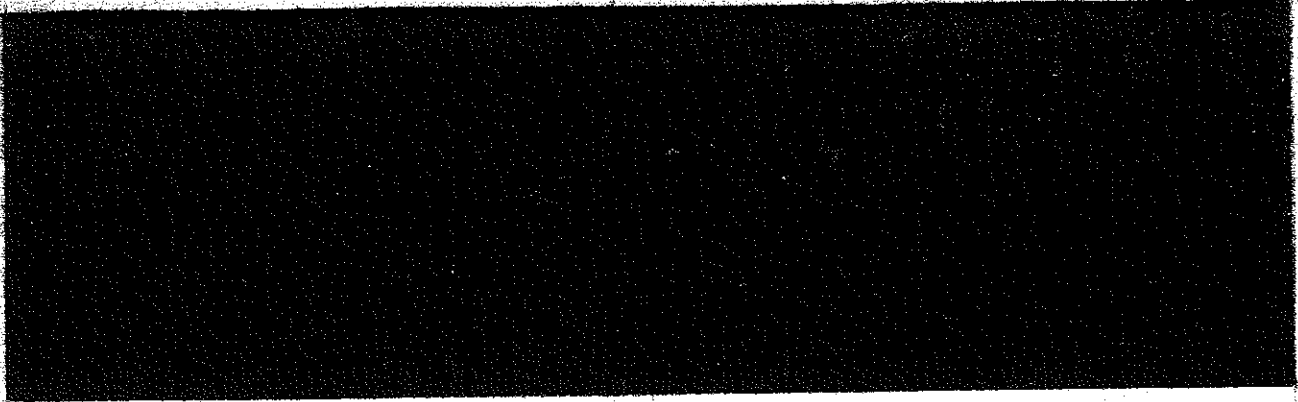
E.B. Backensto, Family Historian
32 Holly Drive
Woodbury, NJ 08096-3316

BACKENSTOSS - BAGGENSTOSS FAMILY HISTORY

located in the following
LIBRARIES

Allen County Public Library Fort Wayne, IN	Heart of America Genealogical Society, Kansas City, MO	Museum in Rafz, Rafz, Switzerland
American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA	The Historical Society of Berks County, Reading, PA	National Genealogical Society, Arlington, VA
American Family Records Association, Kansas City, MO	Historical Society of Dauphin County, Harrisburg, PA	New York Genealogical & Bio- graphical Society, New York, NY
Family History Library (Ch. of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints) Salt Lake City, UT	The Historical Society of York County, York, PA	North San Diego County Genealogical Society, Carlsbad, CA
Friends of Genealogy, Inc. Shreveport, LA	Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, Lebanon, PA	Schwenkfelder Library, Pennsburg, PA
The Genealogical Helper (Everton Publishers), Logan, UT	Lebanon County Historical Society, Lebanon, PA	Staatsarchiv Des Kanton Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland
The Genealogical Society of PA, Philadelphia, PA	Lehigh County Historical Society, Allentown, PA	State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
Gloucester County Historical Society, Woodbury, NJ	Library of Congress, Washington, DC	Westdeutsche Gesellschaft fur Familienkunde, Bruhl, Germany
The Hackley Public Library, Muskegon, MI	Los Angeles Public Library - Genealogy, Los Angeles, CA	The Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, OH
	Museum in Gersau Rathaus, Gersau, Switzerland	

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*Group Photo
At the Berks Leisure Area in 1994. Count the many happy faces!*

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Homestead

This is a better photograph of the original Backenstoss Homestead in America than appeared in the 1993 Newsletter, repeated here for record purposes.

THE LEGACY OF PENNSYLVANIA

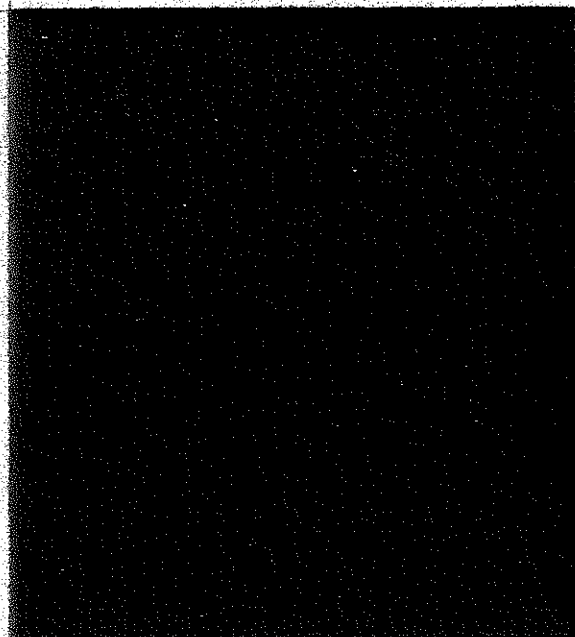
Most everyone knows that Pennsylvania is the name given to "Penn's Woods" and that it was founded by a Quaker, William Penn, as a British colony. It is also known for its central theme of religious tolerance. Less well known are the twists of fortune which combined to achieve this happy foundation of freedom. They make a fascinating story.

The story begins, not with William Penn, but with his father of the same name, a British admiral who fought against the Dutch in 1652-54 and again in 1665-67. He distinguished himself as commander of the expedition which captured Jamaica in the West Indies for Cromwell in 1655. At the Restoration, he was knighted and served as captain of the fleet with the Duke of York, later James II.

His son William was born in 1644. Coming under the influence of Puritan thinking he was sufficiently non-conformist at Oxford University to have been asked to leave at the end of his first year. Thereafter he studied at a Protestant university in France and, briefly, law in Britain. In 1666, as a young man of 22, his father sent him to Ireland to manage the family estates.

William decided to throw in his lot with the Quakers, then a much-despised group. Attending a Quaker meeting in Cork the following year, he was arrested and thrown briefly in prison. He used this incident to express to authorities by letter his firm commitment to the principle of religious freedom. His father threatened to disinherit him but was eventually reconciled. The son soon emerged as an able and outspoken defender of his beliefs. Altogether he published over 100 works. For his pains he was imprisoned a second time, in the Tower of London where he continued his writing. The jury empaneled for his trial refused to convict him, however, and he was released.

Who's Who in the BFA



Ethelmae Marushak
Secretary of the BFA

How often one looks afar for treasures when they are right under one's nose. Ethelmae is a case in point. She has been our devoted secretary for at least 26 years, recording address changes, making additions and deletions and, very important, mailing our 1000+ Newsletters every spring. In addition, she carries a full work load and is a strong church supporter. What a gal, she deserves our highest accolade!

DID YOU KNOW?

(Excerpts from the Diary of John Charles Philip von Krafft, who came to America in 1771 to offer his services to Washington at Valley Forge)

30 Jan. 1788, Friday -- In the morning continued. Paid 10 shillings 9 pence (at inn). At 2 p.m. had myself carried on a horse across the so called Brandywine. In the evening, I again put up at an inn, where I eventually got into conversation with a lieutenant of the Americans, of the 10th Pennsylvania Musketeer regiment. He was a German of Lanchester, named **Backenstoss**. He had been ordered to the camp with a supply of wagons and asked me to go with him.

2 Feb. Monday -- At 2 o'clock this p.m. I went with **Backenstoss** to General Washington's headquarters, which were distant one mile and a half and situated in a place called Valley Forge near a stream called the Schuykill. I wanted to speak to Washington himself, but he had ridden out, so we returned to our house.

13 Feb. Friday -- At 9 p.m. the already mentioned **Lt. Backenstoss** who had again been taken sick, went on leave of absence to Lanchester. I accompanied him, since he had done me a great many favors as far as the picket, a distance of 3 English miles.

To read the remaining entries, find out who this Backenstoss was and which side von Krafft finally fought for, read page 206 of the Family History.

Upon his father's death in 1670, Penn inherited the estates in Ireland and England and, much more important for his place in history, the friendship of Charles II and his brother James which his father had enjoyed. This was most unusual for a Quaker. His activities as an advocate and minister for Quakerism were broadened in the next decade by an interest in the American scene. In 1681, he and 11 other Quakers bought the proprietary rights to an area known as West New Jersey from the widow of Sir John Cartaret.

At about the same time Penn sought and received a great province on the west bank of the Delaware river. He named it Pennsylvania in honor of his father. In return for this land the large debt which Charles II owed to the father was cancelled. Shortly after, the Duke of York granted Penn "three lower counties" which now constitute the State of Delaware. Thus, in the year 1681 William Penn opened the possibility of a large colony in which religion and individual freedom would be the cardinal principles. Penn promptly drew up a "Frame of Government" embodying his ideas. Sailing to this province in 1682, he found Philadelphia already laid out as a "green country town".

After two years, he returned to England, where he stayed until 1699. Upon his return to Pennsylvania, he found things we going badly but he managed to straighten them out in the succeeding two years. So, in 1701, he left Pennsylvania for the second time, placing his secretary James Logan in charge of matters there. Penn was never able to return.

Under Penn, this British colony with the radically new guiding precept became a melting pot. Enthusiastic pamphlets circulated widely by Penn brought settlers from all over Europe. There was a core of a Finns and Swedes in the colony when

Continued on page 6

WHAT OTHERS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT OUR FAMILY HISTORY

North San Diego County Genealogical Society "Paths to the Past" - Vol. XXXIII No. 11 December 1994 - January 1995

The family genealogy begins with Hans Ulrich Baggenstoss who traveled from Switzerland to Pennsylvania in 1743. . . . Two main branches came from Rafz, SW and Gersau, SW. Within the text, there are further breakdowns into branches. . . . Another section of the book details people of the surname in Switzerland, Germany, England, and New Zealand. . . The numbering system is interesting and thoroughly explained, as are the abbreviations. . . Documentation is scarce, but the number of names with vital statistics is massive.

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society Their RECORD: April 1994 (Vol. 125, No. 2)

. The presentation is somewhat unconventional. An unusual system of letters and numbers is employed to distinguish lines of descent in the different families, and rather than presenting all of the generation together, one individual's descendants are traced through many generations before his or her siblings or cousins are treated. . . . The large number of names (including some 3,000 allied surnames) reflects the extensive work that has gone into this contribution to American genealogy.

Everton's Genealogical Helper - Sept. - Oct. 1994 (Although they put an "R" in Baggenstoss and gave the editor's address as Woodbury, NH - inquiries have been received)

The goal of this book is to trace all persons in North America with a variation of the BACKENSTOSS name back to their European ancestors. . . . To do so, the book is divided into two main chapters. . . . The first Rafz line. . . . settled in Pennsylvania. . . . The second Rafz line. . . . came to Lancaster, PA. . . . The Gersau, SW lines. . . . came around the turn of the century. . . . All descendants are traced to the present where possible. . . . Early family members have detailed discussions about their lives, whereas those in later years include mainly vital data, residence, and occupation.

The Legacy ... continued from page 5

Penn acquired it. English Quakers were the dominant element brought by Penn up to the time of the American Revolution but many Welsh Quakers came before 1700. Dutch Quakers founded Germantown just outside Philadelphia in 1783, led by a German Mennonite. Other sects, Amish, Dunkards, German Baptists, Schwenkfelders and Moravians came. The German Lutheran and Reformed wave came in 1727 and later, and was very large, approaching 100,000 by the time of the Revolution or nearly one third of the total population. Scotch-Irish, Marylanders and Virginians also settled in Pennsylvania.

This was the restless "melting pot" to which the Backenstoss/Baggenstoss came in 1743, driven possibly by repression in the Catholic Palatinate but surely also lured by the promise of a better way of life. They moved up the Schuylkill River, for there were no roads into the interior. The homestead farm is scarcely 3 miles from that "water highway". Maps of the individual land grants of that day show a curious feature; every holding abuts adjacent holdings exactly -- no provision is made for roads or other means of access such as the rights -of-way we know today. In such a pioneer society, neighbors find it necessary to cooperate and they succeed at it in ways we can emulate to our advantage. Such was the core of Penn's dream. It is the social contract to which we are all the fortunate inheritors.

1994 REUNIONS

The 22nd annual Baggenstoss family reunion, Minnesota Branch, took place again at Sullivan Park in Columbia Heights on June 26, 1994. Our reunion is always held on the fourth Sunday in June, which is the Sunday after Father's Day. We had 103 relatives attending. The oldest living family member, Rose Baggenstoss Klein, who is 94, has not been able to attend our recent gatherings due to health reasons.

The Pot-Luck dinner with its large variety of dishes, and all delicious, was served at noon followed by a short business meeting. The Game Committee once again had a variety of games for all ages with fun and prizes for all the winners.

submitted by Lois Baggenstoss Schlichting (page 286 of Family History)

Once again the Tennessee Baggenstoss clan gathered over Labor Day weekend to enjoy the fellowship of the family. The weekend began with the traditional "younger generation" supper at Margaret Baggenstoss Beaumont's on Saturday evening. On Sunday a covered dish lunch was served at Mary Elizabeth Baggentosses. Family and friends lingered there throughout the day, and managed to eat again about dusk. Our Tennessee stump stove was once more a big hit, and those of us having to work on Monday were grateful when it finally fell and allowed us to go home to bed!

We missed our distant relatives from Chicago and Minnesota who were unable to attend this year, but look forward to seeing Ed and Lois Schlichting as they head to Florida (Nov. 1, 1994). We hope that next year we might see our new Baggenstoss friends in Rafz, Kurt and Margrit Baggenstoss, here in Tennessee. We welcome all others who would like to attend our family reunion which is always held on Labor Day weekend.

submitted by Hope Baggenstoss (page 308 of Family History)

* * * * *

Knowing your blood line may provide the opportunity to affiliate with a national organization that recognizes descendants of veterans of the Revolutionary or Civil War. The most recent acceptance reported was by Eric Michael Backensto (add. page 252 of Family History). He is now a certified National Member-at-Large of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War because his great-great-grandfather, John H. Backenstose, served as Pvt., Co. G, 8th Michigan Vol. Inf. This certification body was organized 1881 - the only male organization recognized by the Grand Army of the Republic - Chartered by Act of Congress.

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Our financial condition remains sound. Dues are \$2.00 as before. We are still encouraging all to step up to the \$5.00 level if they can. Thanks to all who have done so. This really does make a difference.

This well-read space is one in which to note again that the family history is a worth-while investment, especially looking to the future for our children. The generations keep unrolling, so keep the news of family changes flowing to Woody -- births, marriages, family accomplishments, deaths. Only thus can now and future addenda and histories go to press in timely and accurate fashion. Play your part -- it's up to you and to all of us!

To: Warren B. Backenstoe
7523 Stein Road, Zionville, PA 18092

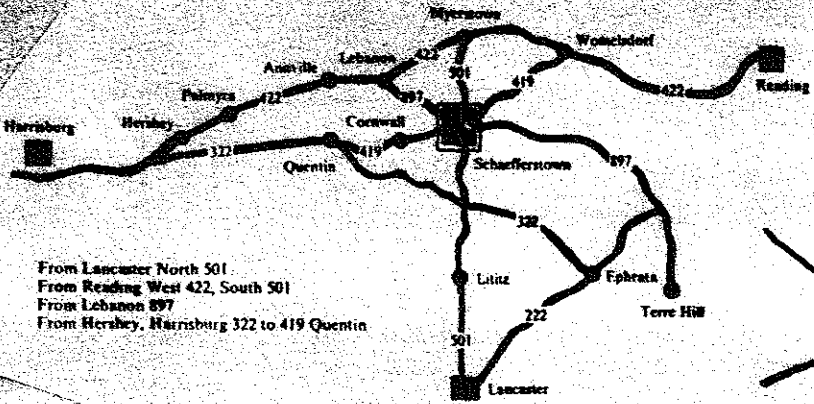
Enclosed is my check to B.F.A. for support in 1995 (dues contribution) \$ _____

Name _____

Street address _____

City, State and Zip _____

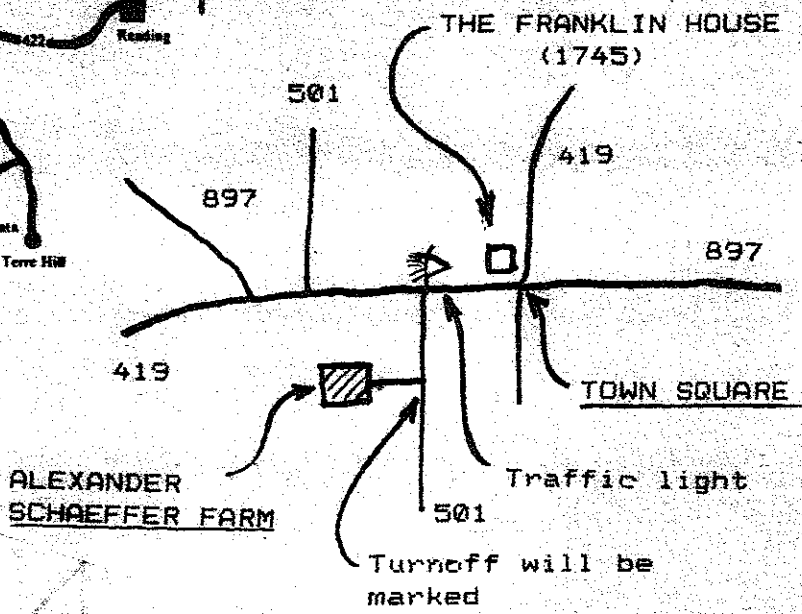
ROADS TO SCHAEFFERSTOWN



From Lancaster North 501
From Reading West 422, South 501
From Lebanon 897
From Hershey, Harrisburg 322 to 419 Quentin



SCHAEFFERSTOWN SQUARE TO
ALEXANDER SCHAEFFER FARM



ALEXANDER
SCHAEFFER FARM

Traffic light

Turnoff will be
marked

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

Thank you for your continued genealogical support!