

Baggenstoss Shield

B a c k e n s t o s s

FAMILY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Plan to Attend our 66th Reunion

Shank Park

Hershey, Pennsylvania

Sunday, August 2, 1998

WE'RE PLANNING A PROGRAM FOR ALL

Come to celebrate the Family's first 255 years in America!

Our 1997 Reunion at Berks Leisure Area in Reading was a great success. This year's gathering will be at Shank Park in Hershey, PA.

The schedule this year will be 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 and President. New Business.
- 1:45 Games and prizes.

Picnic fare will be provided - hot dog sandwiches and assorted sodas. We are suggesting that you bring chips, cake, pie, other snacks and goodies in quantities that can be shared. Remember place settings for each family member. It has been suggested also that we bring along our favorite recipe, (and the food itself, if practical, for us to sample), to exchange with one another. If making photocopies of the recipe is not convenient, use 3" x 5" cards. To accommodate those who find a Sunday reunion a hardship, we are going to try a Saturday reunion in 1999. For our 67th Reunion we will return to the Berks County Leisure Area in Reading, PA. Note the day and date: Saturday, August 7, 1999.

* * * * *

67H REUNION

READING, PENNSYLVANIA

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 1999

Recognized
Family Spellings:

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

OFFICERS

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717-275-2417

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Asst. Historians

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Milton A. Baggenstoss
Lois O. Schlichting

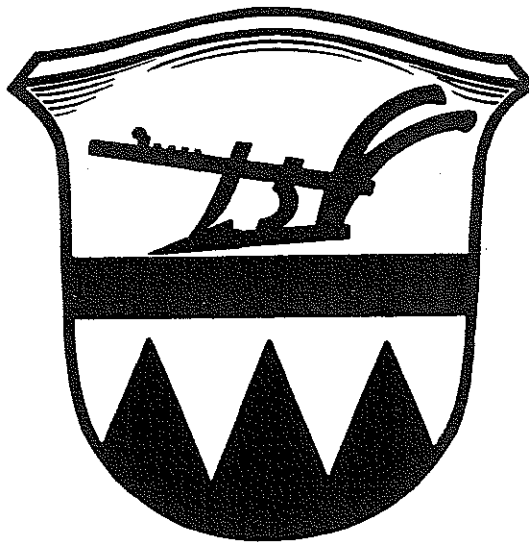
Chaplain

Bruce R. Backensto

Directors*

Russell B. Bakensto
David M. Backenstoe
Gerald J. Backenstoe
Hon. John E. Backenstoe
Thomas E. Backenstoe
John H. Backenstose
Miriam Bagenstose
Ray R. Bagenstose

*Directors



Rafz Das 1930 geschaffene Wappen ist zusammen-
gesetzt aus dem seit 1833 bezeugten Gemeindegel-
zeichen (Pflug) und dem Schilde der Grafen von Sulz (Spit-
zen). Rafz kam 1496 mit der Herrschaft Eglisau an Zürich;
die hohe Gerichtsbarkeit über die Dörfer des Rafzfeldes
gehörte aber noch bis 1651 den Grafen von Sulz.

In Silber ein grüner Querhaken, darauf ein roter Pflug mit blauem Eisen,
unten drei rote Spitzen

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all members of the Backenstoss Family Association of America. We are looking forward to another great reunion this year at Shank Park in Hershey, PA. It is on Bullfrog Valley Road, just off Route 322, (See the map on the last page). The picnic shelter has been reserved for our use from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. It should be noted that there is no electrical service, however a grill will be available.

Your Association is moving forward. Last year during the business session five new directors, David M. Backenstoe, Gerald J. Backenstoe, Thomas E. Backenstoe, John H. Backenstose, and Miriam Bagenstose, were elected. We are happy to have them on our board.

We have a very pleasant announcement to make to the membership. Mrs. Rose Mary Bacastow Eberly, of Sherwood, Oregon, who has attended our reunions in recent years, has included the Backenstoss Family Association of America in her will. A sizeable portion of her residual estate will be granted to us, and we are most grateful for her thoughtfulness in this very generous action. Rose Mary and her husband will be unable to join us this year, but they send their best regards for the future success of the Association.

Please note that our officers voted to try a Saturday Reunion in 1999. This should make it easier for families traveling any great distance to attend, and then get back home in time for work on Monday. We plan to return to Berks Leisure Area in Reading on Saturday, August 7, 1999.

Again, many thanks for the cooperation of everyone involved in helping to keep our Association alive and well. I look forward to greeting each one of you at Shank Park in Hershey on Sunday, August 2, 1998.

Sincerely,

J. Harold Backenstoe, President

HISTORIAN'S REPORT

Centennial Biographical History of Richland County, Ohio, A. J. Baughman, Editor (1901), pages 196-8 has a Biographical Sketch of HENRY BACKENSTO. Part of the sketch is quoted in our 1993 Family History (D4 on page 123).

Our research, however, disagrees with the following quote from that sketch: *The ancestry can be traced back to one of three brothers who emigrated from Germany to America some years prior to the Revolution. One of the brothers settled in the Empire state, another in Virginia and the third in Pennsylvania, and it is from that last named that the branch of the family to which our subject belongs is descended. When the yoke of British oppression became intolerable, and the colonies resolved to renounce allegiance to the mother country, the three brothers all joined the colonial army and loyally aided in the struggle for independence.*

Our research disclaims the ancestry of three brothers from Germany. The records show that HANS ULRICH BAGGENSTOSS and wife Susanne Baur registered their intent on 5-16-1743 to emigrate from Rafz, Switzerland to Pennsylvania. They spoke German. They brought four sons and two daughters with them. We believe the father died during the sea voyage, for his name does not appear on the ship's record. The son, with the same name as his father, then age 16, appears on the captain's list. He made his mark on the Oath of Allegiance to the English government and the Oath of Abjuration. His name was written by a clerk, probably English-speaking, as BACKASTOS, later spelled in various ways, but BACKENSTOSS seemed prominent and was adopted by our Family Association.

Ulrich did not serve in the army. However, brother Johannes did serve. Little is known of brothers Henry and Jacob, although a HENRY BACKNSTOW did serve in the *Revolutionary War*.

A sister-in-law of HANS ULRICH, the father, and widow of HANS BAGGENSTOSS, a brother, came from Rafz, Switzerland the following year, 1744, bringing with her two sons---JACOB and JOHANNES. JACOB had two sons, ANDREW and JACOB, who served in the Revolution. JOHANNES also served during the Revolution; it was his son JOHN who moved to Virginia and sons JOSEPH and JACOB moved to Geneva, NY.

* * * * *

Outfits like "Historic Families", with four locations in central Florida, "offer your family coat of arms on a wide selection of heraldic gifts (priced from \$28 to over \$1,000) featuring over 500,000 names". **They do not have ours!** Other outfits will "create" family shields which are not authentic. **Beware!** Our Family History covers this subject thoroughly and illustrates six different renderings.

WHO'S WHO

A photograph was found in a book sold at an estate of Robert Smith in Rochester, New York in 1997. It was located in a hymnbook written in the Zulu language of South Africa.

Robert Smith was the son of Free Methodist missionaries to South Africa. The flyleaf of the Zulu hymnbook (published 1899) is stamped:

Edwalen Mission
 N.B. Smith (Robert's father??)
 Port Shepatone, Natal

A small scrap of paper in the book says that Robert (Smith's) parents were stationed at
 Adwelamia (Transval)
 Natal, South Africa

The back of the photograph has the following writing:

Dr. and Mrs. Backenstoe crossing the Umtamvuna River on a wire. This was in South Africa. This was after Nathaniel (I assume this is Robert Smith's father), myself (Robert's mother) and Robert and Fred (a brother) had come back to America.

I understand that now (?) there is a bridge on which to cross from Pondu Land to Natal.

The handwriting on the back of the photo matches hand-writing on an envelope with a 1952 postmark. The "now" in the letter probably refers to 1952.

Robert Smith and his wife, Francis, lived on Koladyne Avenue in Rochester since the 1930's. They had no children. Norma Grover, a sister-in-law of Carol (nee Backenstoe) Bence became the primary care-giver of Francis after the death of her husband in 1992. When Mrs. Smith moved from the residence to a nursing home, Mrs. Grover handled the sale of her household possessions, including a small library. When the Zulu hymnal was not purchased, Norma Grover decided to give the book to her brother Dr. Clarence Bence, who is a professor of religion at Indiana Wesleyan University. A colleague of Dr. Bence's served as a missionary to the Zulu people of South Africa before joining the faculty at Indiana Wesleyan.

In leafing through the hymnal, Mrs. Grover noticed the old photo and recognized the Backenstoe name as that of her sister-in-law. Thus the photo returns to the Backenstoe lineage.

DATA for BACKENSTOSS FAMILY HISTORY

	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Date	City and State
BIRTHS	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Parents' Name	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
DEATHS	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
MARRIAGE OF:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
TO:	_____	_____	_____	_____	(Birth)

Wife's Parents' Names: _____

Send to: E. B. Backensto, Historian
 32 Holly Drive
 Woodbury, NJ 08096-3316

Reported by _____

Page in 1993 History, if known _____

DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ REGINA BACKENSTOSS (C3 page 141) is listed as "Rachel" in her father's will and as "Rebecca" in the church marriage records.
- ◆ Our Historian, WOODY BACKENSTO, has had a book dedicated to him. It is a 746-page, bio-discography, entitled: *The Red Nichols Story - After the Intermission - 1942-1965*. Woody wrote "The Foreword", the last eulogy in the tome, and is quoted or referenced through the treatise.
- ◆ Our current Family Association Board of Directors includes three brothers: DAVID M. and twins GERALD J. and THOMAS E. BACKENSTOE (page 187). Their father, Hon. JOHN E. BACKENSTOE who served as Association President in three different decades, continues as a Director.
- ◆ WILLIAM V. BACKENSTO (page 177) is reported in Ripley's "Believe It Or Not" as an exceptional student athlete. While at the University of Toledo, OH he had a 3.8 undergraduate average, plus numerous scholastic honors, and was captain of their basketball team with a 23-2 record in his senior year.
- ◆ William's brother, DAVID R. BACKENSTO (page 178) was No. 1 nationwide Mutual Fund salesman for E. F. Hutton in 1984.
- ◆ RONNIE BACKENSTOE, wife of our Treasurer, chairs the important Marketing Committee of the Pennsylvania German Society.
- ◆ Radio announcements for the "Vac - N - Sew" chain of stores has been confused with our family name.
- ◆ Only 160 copies of the BACKENSTOSS -- BAGGENSTOSS Family History and Addendum are still available for sale. No more will be printed. Future Addenda will be coded back to this comprehensive treatise. Act now! They make ideal birthday or Christmas presents.
- ◆ EFFIE MAY (BACKENSTO) Blickem (1884-1974, see page 238) was a seamstress by trade. Customers could point to pictures in catalogs and she could make the dress. Arthritis struck her hard but she maintained her clear mind and good sense of humor. Crocheted even after she was blind. According to her parents, the family name was originally BACKENSTOSH which means "The baker's helper who puts bread into ovens and takes it out". (See pages 1-4, for information on the origin and meaning of the family names.) This information was supplied by Linda May Arneson Lowry Courchane (pages 238, sG1).

Please send contribution for this popular Newsletter section to
our Historian: E. B. Backensto, 32 Holly Drive
Woodbury, NJ 08096-3316

HELP LOCATE THESE MISSING MEMBERS

Send Current Address to: Family Historian, 32 Holly Drive, Woodbury, NJ 08096-3316

Alderman, M/M Ronald C. - Westminster, CA Backensto, M/M Charles E., Jr. - Butler, OH Donald E. - Mansfield, OH M/M Gary E. - Orlando, FL James A. - Mansfield, OH Kenneth D. - Mansfield, OH M/M Ronald L. - Mansfield, OH Russell L. - Mansfield, OH Backenstoe, M/M Benny - Wash. Court House, OH Backensto, Dawn M. - Middletown, PA M/M Warren L. - Hummelstown, PA Backenstow, Judy - Baltimore, MD Bagenstos, M/M Steven E. - Waterloo, IA Baggenstoss, Bruce A. - Plattsmouth, NE Lynn - Bronxville, NY Baker, M/M Maurice R., Jr. - Shelby, OH Bailey, Kenneth W. - Winter Springs, FL Beissel, Mrs. Barbara - Mohrsville, PA Connor, M/M Lloyd J. - Baltimore, MD	Crawford, M/M Bruce - Waterloo, IA Crittenden, Mrs. N. Gertrude - Ennis, TX Fellows, Mrs. James - Chatfield, OH Frederick, Mrs. Joan - Reading, PA Gabellini, Mrs. Lorraine - Emmaus, PA Haudenschild, Mrs. James - Loudenville, OH Johnson, Mrs. Kenner E. - Lexington, KY Kenworthy, Mrs. Charles - San Antonio, TX Kostelnik, Mrs. Kim - Galion, OH Lowder, Donald J. - Wichita, KS McCarthy, Mrs. Margaret - Harpersville, AL Menzies, Mrs. Malcolm - Juneau, AK Merrill, M/M John K. - Medford Lakes, NJ Prince, M/M Donald D. - Allentown, PA Siegmond, Mrs. John M. - Louisville, KY Smith, Jack Eugene - Columbus, OH Webster, Nancy V. - Wallingford, PA Whitaker, Mrs. Shiela M. - Almont, MI
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Additions and Corrections

to the following list printed in the
1996 Newsletter

U.S. MILITARY SERVICE OF THOSE WITH VARIATION OF BACKENSTOSS FAMILY NAME

(Reference -- Page(p) & Code from 1993 Family History)
(Many Spouses & Relatives also have had Military Service)

World War II	U.S. Army	U.S. Navy
Florian Herman Baggenstoss (1925-1945) p. 284 aC1 Dr. Osmond Jacob Baggenstoss (1917-1991) p. 294 aB4	James Warren Bacastow (1946-) p. 146,H1 Kelly Elmer Baggenstoss (1937-) p. 286,aC9	Minars Alfred Baggenstoss (1927-1978) p. 277,aC1

To Order

BACKENSTOSS - BAGGENSTOSS FAMILY HISTORY (1993)

432-pages, includes name index, hard cover

PLUS

ADDENDUM (1995) - Dedicated to Our Swiss Roots Trip Hosts

90-pages, includes name index, paperback

No. Copies _____ at \$32.00 Total Enclosed \$ _____

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

* * * * *

To: **Warren B. Backenstoe, Treasurer**
7523 Stein Road, Zionsville, PA 18092

Enclosed is my check to B.F.A. for support in 1996 (dues contribution) \$ _____

Name _____
 Street Address _____
 City, State and Zip _____

MINNESOTA BRANCH UPDATE

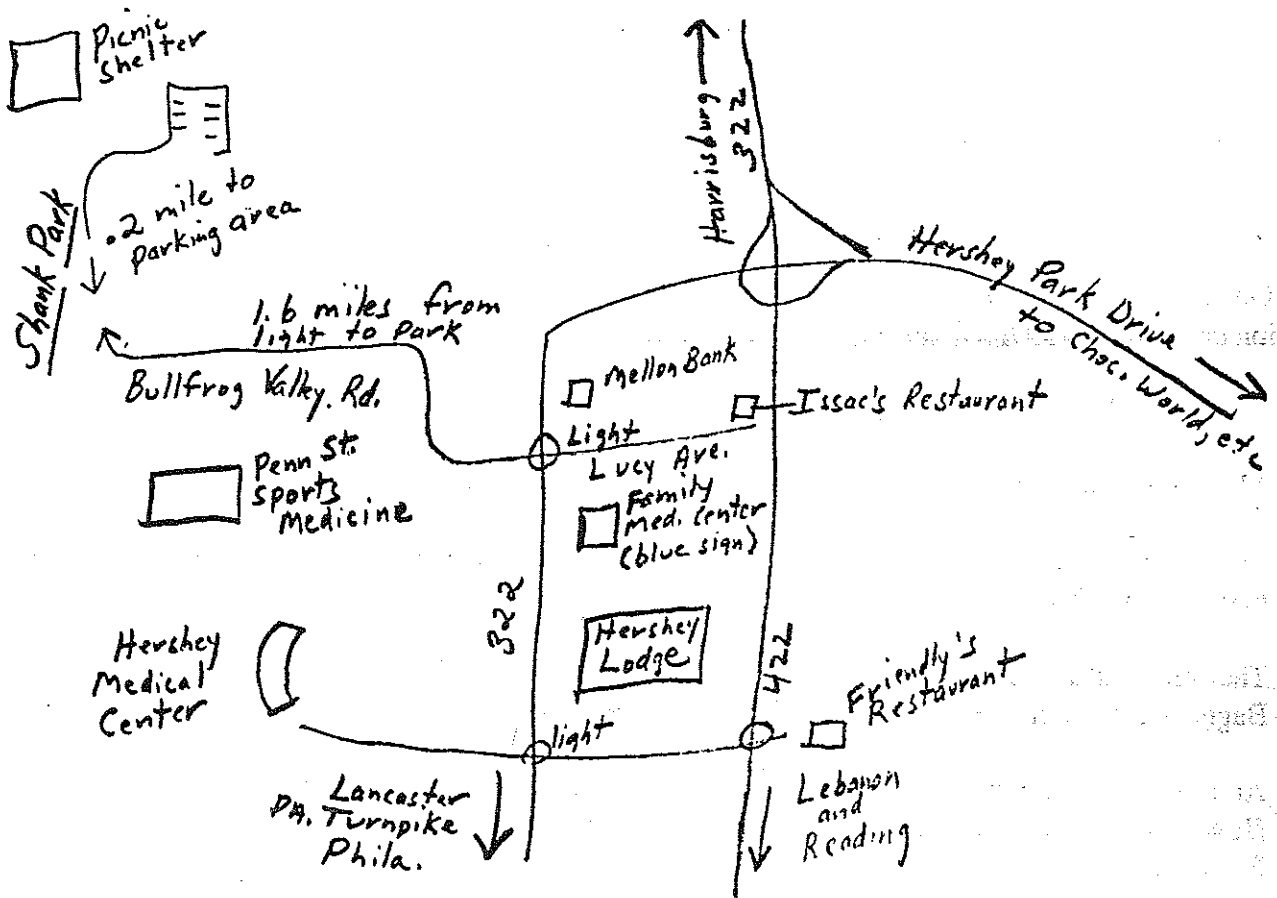
as reported to our Historian,
Woody Backensto

Our Newsletter last year carried a "Special Notice" that our Minnesota Branch would celebrate their 25th Reunion on June 22, 1997. It was a great success! Here are some highlights of that joyous event:

- ◆ 215 attended with six states represented.
- ◆ All present received a Baggenstoss Hanky. They were a big hit.
- ◆ The day was a busy one---with bus tours to the farm, the cemetery, and old family church (details were described in a brochure).
- ◆ They prepared an elaborate Family Cookbook (copies are still available from the compilers, Mr. & Mrs. Kelly Baggenstoss, Rout 2, Box 53, Gaylord, MN 55334 for \$10 each plus postage).
- ◆ An overflow of family pictures submitted for the Cookbook were made available in a separate pamphlet. (Joyce Lobitz, their secretary, sent me a copy of all the above material to share with those attending our Pennsylvania Reunion in August)
- ◆ 32 Family Histories were sold including 2 donated to Historical Societies. (Since I couldn't take the books to Minnesota personally, on my way to FL in February I dropped them off with Lois & Ed Schichting, who are now Florida residents, and they took them to the MN reunion. Remember, Lois & Ed attended the PA reunion in 1996.)

Of Historical Note

By contacting some of the Minnesota Baggenstosses when updating our Family History in 1970, they learned of our Family Association in Pennsylvania. MINARS & wife LORRAINE BAGGENSTOSS took the initiative to start the MN reunions. Minars died in 1978 and his wife in 1996, but BAGGENSTOSS cousins such as Joyce Lobitz, Lois Schlichting, GLEN, MILTON, KELLY, to name a few, have done a fine job of keeping the tradition alive.



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

Thank you for your continued genealogical support!