



Baggenatons Shield

B a c k e n s t o s s

FAMILY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

FAMILY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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

VOLUME No. 11

SUMMER 2003

*Plan to attend our 71st Reunion Sunday, August 3,
and celebrate the
Family's first 260 years in America!*

This year's gathering will be held Sunday, August 3, 2003 at the Berks Leisure Area in Reading, PA.

The schedule this year will be as follows:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 12:00 Noon | Arrive early for socializing, quiet times, or games before the meeting begins.
Registration
Sign in, get your name tag and get acquainted. |
| 2:00 P.M. | Opening. Following the opening, there will be a break for lunch. |
| 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, sandwiches 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. It has also been suggested 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.

**Recognized
Family Spellings:**

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

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*Directors

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all members of the Backenstoss Family Association of America. As always, the Association has been busy over the past year.

The 2002 National Reunion was held in Zionsville, PA. We had a turnout of around 60 people. Our featured speaker was Nancy Roan who spoke on Pennsylvania Dutch cooking. She was very informative and entertaining. The Association Directors were reelected without change.

The Minnesota branch met last year for their 30th annual reunion. Their turnout was a wonderful 122 people! This year, their reunion will be held on June 22, in Glencoe, Minnesota. Their Historian and contact person is Sandy Baggenstoss of Rice, Minnesota. The Minnesota branch has always been very supportive in the Association and very active in celebrating their Backenstoss heritage.

The Association Directors met on the day of the 2002 National Reunion and again in January, 2003 to carry out the business of the Association. The officers were reelected without change. As always, the Directors took great pains to determine the best location for the 2003 reunion. This year's reunion will be held at the Berks Leisure Area in Reading, PA. The date will be Sunday, August 3, and detailed directions and a map are included in this newsletter. Berks Leisure Area is an attractive setting, with open space for volleyball and other games and the Tulpehocken Creek for fishing. There will also be a presentation on Pennsylvania German Fraktur.

While the Officer and Directors have remained the same as last year, one appointed position has seen a change of the guard. Elwood Backensto (Woody) the Association's longtime Historian, has retired. The Honorable John E. Backenstoe (Jeb) has taken over as Historian. Woody was Historian from 1970 to 2002 and personally oversaw the compilation, financing and publication of a Family History and several Addendums - a truly monumental work! As every Association member is likely aware, Woody's work over the years was tireless. He always persevered despite frequently failing to receive needed information. He also committed considerable personal finances and time to the preservation of our history. Thanks to his work, much information which otherwise would have been lost has been preserved for us and our descendants to enjoy.

As a reminder, Woody's last work, the 2002 Addendum to the Family History, is still available. Everyone who purchased a copy of the 1993 Family History is entitled to a copy of the 2002 addendum without charge. There are still a few people who should receive a 2002 Addendum, but whose current whereabouts are unknown. Anyone who knows of such a person, please contact Woody or Jeb.

As always, we need your support. If you haven't sent in dues, please do so. Submissions for the newsletter are encouraged - family announcements, achievements, family recipes, and creative works like writings or an example of your children's artwork are all welcome. Suggestions and comments regarding the annual events of the Association, such as suggestions for the Reunion location or something new to try, are also encouraged and can be sent to any director.

Jonathan Backenstose
May, 2003

DIRECTIONS TO BERKS LEISURE AREA

TRAVELING ON 422 EAST - FROM LEBANON, PA

- Take 422 East
- As you approach the Reading area, follow the large, green Reading/Allentown signs
- Go Past the "Penn Ave." and "State Hill Rd." Exits
- Take the "Crossing Drive/Paper Mill Rd. East" exit
- Turn left at the stop sign
- Turn right at the second traffic light (Berkshire Blvd.)
- Travel .6 mile to where Berkshire Blvd. "T's" at a stop sign
- Turn right at stop sign
- Travel .2 mile to entrance to Berks' Leisure Area/Berks County Dept. of Veterans' Affairs

TRAVELING ON 422 WEST - FROM PHILADELPHIA, PA

- Take 422 West past Reading, PA (Reading will be across Schuylkill River on right)
- Follow large, green Allentown(222 North)/Lebanon(422 West) signs
- Go Past the Rt. 12 West/Pricetown Rd. Exit
- Take the next "422 West/Lebanon " exit (stay in right lane as you merge onto 422)
- Take "Paper Mill Rd." Exit
- Go straight to second light (Berkshire Blvd.)
- Turn right on Berkshire Blvd.
- Travel .6 mi. to where Berkshire Blvd. "T's" at stop sign
- Turn right at stop sign
- Travel .2 mile to entrance to Berks' Leisure Area/Berks County Dept. Of Veterans' Affairs

TRAVELING ON 222 NORTH - FROM LANCASTER, PA

- Take 222 North (As you approach Reading, get in left lane as you pass Tom Sturgis Pretzel and Savage Dodge Trucks)
- Take 724 West for .9 mi.
- Turn right on to ramp at 422 West/222North (Reading/Allentown) signs
- Go to third exit - You will pass "Penn Ave./Lebanon" and "State Hill Rd." exits
- Take Crossing Drive/Paper Mill Rd. exit
- Turn left at stop sign
- Go straight to second traffic light (Berkshire Blvd.)
- Turn right on to Berkshire Blvd.
- Travel .6 mi. to where Berkshire Blvd. "T's" at stop sign
- Turn right at stop sign
- Travel .2 mi. to entrance to Berks' Leisure Area/Berks County Dept. Of Veterans' Affairs

TRAVELING ON 222 SOUTH - FROM ALLENTOWN, PA

- (Anyone traveling south on routes 183 (Shartlesville) or 61 (Pottsville) will intersect with 222 South and should use these directions)
- As you approach Reading you will pass the "Broadcasting Rd." exit
- Take the next exit marked 422 West/Lebanon on large green sign
- As you merge with 422 West, stay in the right lane and take the first exit marked "Paper Mill Road"
- Go straight at first traffic light (Woodland Rd.)
- Turn right at second traffic light (Berkshire Blvd.)
- Travel .6 mi. to where Berkshire Blvd. "T's" at stop sign
- Turn right at stop sign
- Travel .2 mi. to entrance to Berks' Leisure Area/Berks County Dept. Of Veterans' Affairs

MINNESOTA BRANCH REUNION 2002

On June 23, 2002, 122 of us celebrated our 30th Annual Baggenstoss Family Reunion! "Traveling Many Miles, to Share a Million Smiles," was our theme. Entertainingly enough, many of us wore bright and cheery yellow shirts. Although it wasn't planned, we all got quite a charge out of it..."Because we sure think alike."

Everything about Becker City Park was beautiful! Our absolutely delightful day was started with Gary Baggenstoss opening it up with a beautiful prayer. Following prayer, we enjoyed an endless potluck of everyone's favorite dishes. During dinner, we surprised everyone with a yellow cooler in celebration of our 30 years together. On it was printed our 2002's theme, logo and date.

Lana and Larry Lewer and family provided the games...so off to the hills everyone split after the meeting - - as they knew over 1000 water balloons were waiting and ready to go! The younger children fished in the pond and swung endlessly at the pinata. Between wet clothes and pockets full of candy - - all were happy! Topping the end of our day were cool and refreshing ice cream treats for all!

- The youngest family members in attendance were Alyssa Baggenstoss and Isabella Czeck
- The eldest in attendance was Mickey Baggenstoss - 83 years young!
- Guess the # of Candy in the Jar Winner - Samantha Seefeldt
- The 30th Person to Arrive - Wayne Schlicting (Wayne won a gift certificate!)
- Door Prize Winner - Janet Kulla

Our "Song-Prayer" to Kick-off Our Reunion (Sing to the tune of "Edelweiss")

Bless our lives, bless our homes,
bless our every endeavor.
Warm us all with your love,
And our love for each other.
Friendship and joy may fill our hearts,
thankfulness forever!
Bless this food, precious Lord,
as we eat it together!

Submitted by June and Mel Huberty

Thank you to everyone who had taken the time to attend from near and far. Knowing that "coming to the Baggy Family Reunion" is an important part of your yearly summer travels is appreciated.

31st Annual Reunion - Sunday, June 22, 2003
Oak Leaf Park - Glencoe, Minnesota

IN RETROSPECT

April 1902

Dr. M. J. Backenstoe, of Emaus, this month planted 1,000 peach trees on his farm which is located near Emaus. This peach orchard will be one of the largest in that section.

John Leap Bagenstos - born in Franklin Township, PA, on March 19, 1816 and died March 6, 1913, buried in Kents Cemetery in Brooklyn, Iowa.

The following is taken from a typed article found in the John L. Bagenstos Family Bible and compiled by one of his grandchildren:

"He spent his childhood in the then sparsely settled east. Sundays he went to Sunday School in the little church where his father alternated with other members on picket duty to guard against a surprise attack and massacre by Indians. He lived in a time when a man dare not go into his field without his rifle slung across his shoulder to protect himself from the savage red men who had no love for the pale faces who usurped their lands.

He went to school to a master who earned his salary by subscription and when education was dearly earned, many of the pupils walked five to six miles to and from the schoolhouse. He remembered vividly the time when the law providing for free schools was first passed by the legislature. Most of the people, as is often the case, opposed the law, blind to the good results sure to follow and at one time, Mr. Bagenstose narrowly escaped a severe thrashing for defending it.

In 1842 he married Miss Elizabeth Helman and in 1855 they moved west, settling 100 miles west of the present site of Davenport and within a few miles of the now existing town of Brooklyn, Iowa. At that time it was a savage wilderness and hard and relenting labor stared each newcomer in the face. On every side rose the virgin wilderness containing the only available lumber - - the uncultivated ground covered with dense underbrush and offering naught in the way of food stuffs. The family settled on a valuable tract of land, securing it under the homestead law and there Mr. Bagenstos erected his home, a log cabin that stood for many, many years and where several of his 8 children were born. His wife, who shared bravely the hardships of the early pioneer days, died of tuberculosis at the age of 74."

Henry Backensto was born in Dauphin Co., PA, on October 31, 1825. At the age of 8-10, he earned money making broomhandles and whipstocks. He was educated in the subscription schools of the county. At 16 he took charge of a threshing machine which he followed for 6 years. On October 28, 1847 he married Sarah Clayburg who was born in Butler Township, Richland Co., Ohio. They had 9 children, 4 living in 1880. In 1891 he married Mrs. Catherine Crum who was born in Ohio in May 1833. They had no children. The following is an excerpt from "Centennial Biographical History of Richland and Ashland Counties, Ohio."

"Soon after marriage he erected a log cabin on his father's farm, which stood in the midst of beech woods in what was then Blooming Grove Township, but later Butler Township. He took his bride to this primitive home and began clearing the land for the plow. He inherited 80 acres when his father died and purchased the other 80 acres from his brother. As the years passed, he added to his farm, replacing the pioneer house with a commodious frame residence, also erecting barns and other necessary outbuildings. By the turn of the century he owned one of the most desirable and attractive properties in that section of the county. He extended the boundaries until the farm comprised 200 acres of rich, arable land. In 1863 he moved to Shiloh, Ohio where he built a brick-block home in 1873. In 1867 he sold the farm - - his real estate transactions provided a good income. About 1885 he became the owner of a general mercantile store in Shiloh, also serving as a trustee of Cass and Butler Townships. He was reported to be a man of sound judgment, possessing excellent business and executive ability, combined with resistless energy and resolute purpose."

Our association finances are sufficient for current operations. However, continued support for the newsletter, reunion and other family association activities will require additional funds. The Association directors, at the January 2003 meeting, voted to increase annual association dues to \$5.00. Please support our association by returning the following form along with your 2003 dues. The directors also ask that members consider making 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.

The request for annual dues was omitted from the 2002 newsletter. 2002 dues (\$2.00) may be included with the 2003 form.

To: Warren B. Backenstoe, Treasurer
 18 East Berks Drive
 Wernersville, PA 19565

Enclosed is my check To B.F.A. for support in 2003

_____ 2002 dues (\$2.00)	Name _____
_____ 2003 dues (\$5.00)	Street Address _____
_____ Additional Contribution	City, State and Zip _____
_____ Total Submitted	_____

The Backenstoe Connection to the Big Band Era

By Tom Davis

What do Artie Shaw, Sammy Kaye, Frankie Carle, and Stan Kenton have in common? Of course, it's obvious that they all had orchestras during the big band era of the 1940s. The less obvious thing they had in common is that a member of the Backenstoe family played with all four big bands. Hughey Backenstoe spent the 1940s playing as a pianist with some of the most popular big bands of his time.

Hughey Wesley Backenstoe was born in Ohio on May 25th, 1920. In the early 1940s he left Ohio and moved to California. By this time, Hughey was an accomplished pianist and earned a position with Stan Kenton's orchestra. While living in Los Angeles and playing for Stan Kenton he roomed with Ray Wetzel, who was also a member of the band. Hughey went on to play with other big names of his time. He played

with Artie Shaw, Sammy Kaye, and Frankie Carle during the time that they were recording top hits on the Hit Parade.

In 1945 Hugh married Frankie Carle's daughter, Marjorie. About the same time, Marjorie became a singer performing vocals for her dad's band, the Frankie Carle Orchestra. Frankie didn't want the public to know that Marjorie was his daughter until she could prove herself as a singer. In an effort to conceal her relationship with the band's leader, she changed her name to Marjorie Hughes and Hugh used his stage name Hughey Hughes. During 1945 and 1946, the Frankie Carle Orchestra recorded several very popular hits including "A Little on the Lonely Side", "Rumors are Flying", and "Oh! What It Seemed To Be".

By the end of the 1940s the constant travel and hardship of life on the road had taken its toll on Hughey. He was separated from Marjorie and returned to Ohio where he continued

to make a living performing solo piano until 1974. During his career as a pianist, he played with some of the biggest names of his time and accompanied Mel Torme, Cab Calloway, and played with the Mary Kay Trio. Hugh was married to Nancy Louise Baker and they had three children, David Hughey, Nancy Lou, and Joseph (Joey) Daniel Backenstoe.

Information for this article was gathered from the BACKENSTOSS - BAGGENSTOSS FAMILY HISTORY and a biography of Frankie Carle, *The Golden Touch: Frankie Carle* by Gene Catrambone. In addition, Joey Backenstoe provided some personal information about his father. By the way, Joey is also an accomplished musician, playing guitar in a rock band and solo jazz guitar.

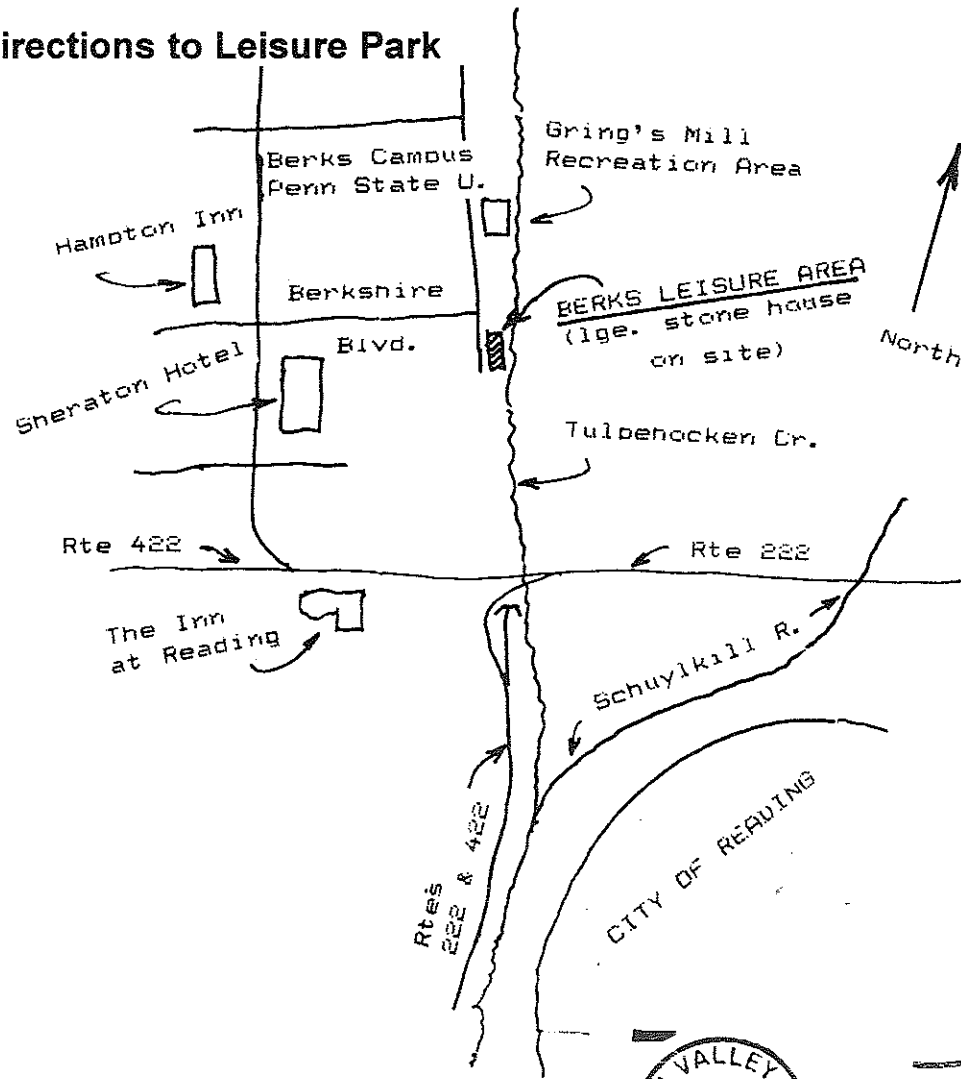
If anyone has any further information about Hughey Backenstoe or his time with the Frankie Carle Orchestra please feel free to contact me.

Email: tjdavisjr@prodigy.net

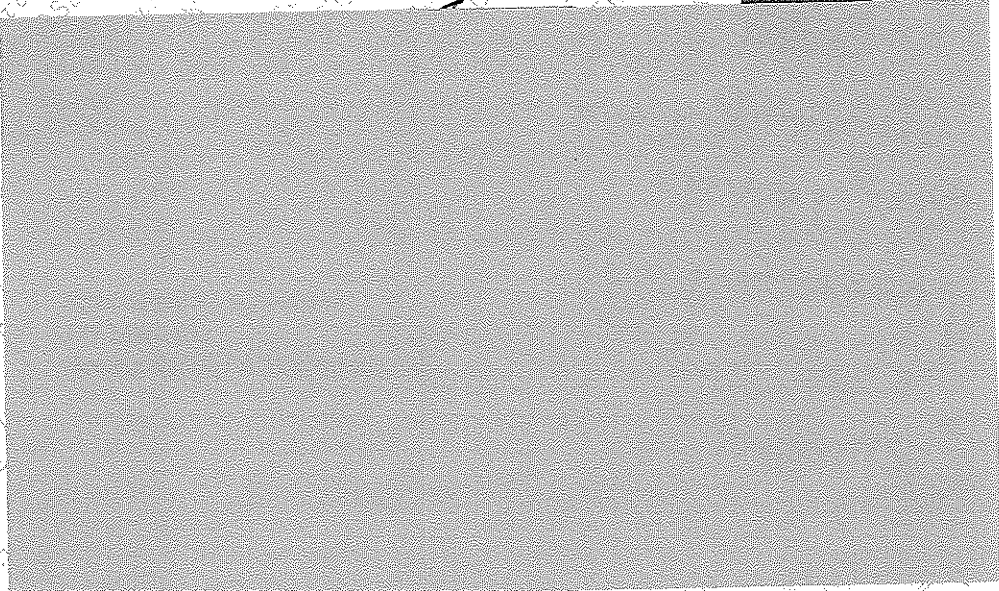
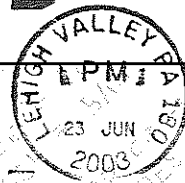
DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ The "Romance at Shady Rest" reported in last year's Newsletter has a sad ending. The marriage of RODGER "Shorty" BACKENSTO and Mary McAvoy on 1-15-1994 ended with the death of Mary on 5-15-1996.
- ◆ There is a "Backesto Park" in San Jose, CA. The newspaper account of a weekend celebration in August of 1994 states that: *ANNA E. C. BACKESTO donated \$30,000 to the city of San Jose in 1890 in the memory of her husband, DR. JOHN PERRIE BACKESTO.* The city used the money to buy the 2-1/2 acres, which it opened as a park in 1922.
- ◆ San Jose, CA Historian, Clyde Arbuckle, reported: the BACKESTO name was changed from the original BACKENSTOHS when he came west from Pennsylvania. Arbuckle must be unfamiliar with our Family History, especially page 124. BACKENSTOHS is a new variation of BACKENSTOSS.
- ◆ Indiana Census for 1840 shows a LEVI BACKENSTOSE in Wayne Co. The 1900 census shows the family of WILLIAM H. BACKENSTO in Brazil, IN. Also, the family of CHARLES BACKENSTOSE in Hagerstown, IN is the 1880 & 1900 census (page 340). Who were they? Indiana residents, can you help?
- ◆ JOHN BACKENSTOSE (1792-1863) is said to be the first white male child born in Geneva, NY. The date was 12-11-1792 (page 242).
- ◆ The *History of Lancaster County* reports a WILLIAM BACKENSTOSE, sergeant, part of Capt. William Hamilton's company that marched for Baltimore 9-3-1814 and returned to Lancaster 12-8-1814. We can not place him in our lineage. Any help? (page 207).
- ◆ On July 4, 1774 at Hanover Church, nine stalwart citizens drew up resolutions declaring their independence, signed them and adopted a flag. Six days later, July 10, men of initiative and courage in Paxton Twp., PA, near Harrisburg, did the same thing. One of the signees was JOHN BACKENSTOSE. These were initial steps that led to the well-known Declaration of Independence signed on July 4, 1776 (page 8).
- ◆ Rose City Park, part of northeast Portland, OR, owes its origin to one of our ancestors. Encompassing 402.51 acres, the area was a part of the land claim of JACOB BACKENSTOS, a pioneer settler, that was assigned to Backenstos' widow by President Andrew Johnson in 1866.
- ◆ BAGGENSTOSS was originally a nickname for a rowdy person, one who could give heavy slaps to the cheek of his opponent. In its earliest form, BAGGENSTOSS was an additional name to describe the character of the person, as Ruedi der BAGGENSTOSS of Zurich in 1400 (page 1).
- ◆ Our progenitor, HANS ULRICH BAGGENSTOSS, registered his intent on 5-16-1743 to emigrate from Rafz, SW to Pennsylvania with his wife, Susanna Bur, and six children --- four sons and two daughters. Did he ever set foot in America? That is the question (pages 15-16).

Directions to Leisure Park



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



Thank you for your continued genealogical support!