



Bagenstoss Shield

Bagenstoss

FAMILY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Est. 1927

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

Summer 2006

Plan to attend our 74th Reunion Sunday, August 6,
And celebrate the
Family's first 263 years in America!

This year's gathering will be held Sunday, August 6, 2006 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 - Robert Bagenstose - "Ice Boxes"
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
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BAGGENSTOS
BAGGENSTOSS

OFFICERS

President*

Jonathan Hall Backenstose
116 South 19th St.
Arlington, VA 22202
703-892-8422
jbackenstos@law.gwu.edu

1st Vice President*

Brian W. Bagenstose
117 Marie Drive
Sinking Spring, PA 19608
610-775-1760
redknight67@comcast.net

2nd Vice President*

John H. Backenstose
2478 Old Route 100
Barto, PA 19504
610-845-7878
BacktoPSU@aol.com

Secretary*

Ethelmae Marushak
1495 Riverbend Road
Allentown, PA 18103

Treasurer*

Warren B. Backenstoe
18 East Berks Drive
Wernersville, PA 19565
610-678-7972

Historian*

Hon. John E. Backenstoe
3955 Azalea Road
Allentown, PA 18103
610-435-2634

Chaplain

Bruce R. Backensto

Directors*

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

President's Message

Greetings to all members of the Backenstoss Family Association of America. We look forward to another great reunion coming in August. If you have not recently attended the reunion, please consider attending this year. The reunion is the only chance many of us have to meet and enjoy time with Backenstoss relatives we would never otherwise meet. Recent examples include experts on the lives our ancestors lived and live music by the band of an Association member. And at least one time recently, we had homemade ice cream!

Our yearly Directors' meeting was, as always, very fruitful. Aside from working on the newsletter and reunion, we are hoping to get more people involved in the Association. To this end, we are hoping to recruit people to help as intermediaries between the Association and their immediate families. Such people could help by coordinating feedback from their families to judge interest in ideas in the works such as another Switzerland trip. Similarly, they could help the Historian and Secretary update records and addresses when needed. If you would like to participate in such a program, please contact Director John H. Backenstose.

On an unfortunate note for the Association, John E. "JEB" Backenstoe, our current Historian, has indicated he must step down as Historian in order to have time for planned activities. Of all the offices in the Association, that of Historian is the most important, in my view. This is because, in our Association, it has traditionally been the Historian who did the most, not only to preserve our history, but also to keep the Secretary updated with current addresses for members. Thus, we have a great need to find a replacement able to continue the tradition set by Woody and JEB.

As always, if a member of your family has had a significant life event (e.g. marriage, graduation, birth) please consider updating the Association with this information, either through JEB or any of the other Directors. Especially in the case of a family member who moves, please keep us updated so that your family member can continue to receive the newsletter. Further, if you can, please consider donating to the Association. All the Officers and Directors serve without compensation, the money received going to support the newsletter distribution and some expenses associated with the reunion. So we can use your help in order to continue the efforts to keep the family in contact and our history preserved.

Till next year, I wish every member the best and look forward to seeing you at the reunion.

Thank you,

Jonathan Hall Backenstose

In Memoriam

David Rutherford Bagenstose (1916 – 2002)

“Dave” was a great participant and contributor to the well being of our Family Association. He served as a Director for twenty years (1965 – 1984), including five years as President (1974 - 1979), followed by four more years as Vice President (1980 – 1984). During his career he showed himself to be a superb salesman and business partner and was well known for his sense of humor. Dave passed away in Devon, PA on June 25, 2002. His wife of 52 years, “Betsy,” has since joined him in God’s Kingdom. Dave and Betsy are survived by two daughters and six grandchildren.

This Year’s Program

Long before electric or gas refrigerators, in the summertime housewives had to preserve foods by putting root vegetables in a “cold cellar,” using a drying method, or canning. Finally, ice harvesting became a very popular idea whereby ice was cut during the winter months, held in ice houses and packed with sawdust. Everyone started to purchase ice boxes. The boxes were not unlike our early refrigerators. Most of them opened at the top and held a large block of ice. The lower section contained shelves. Iced tea and lemonade could now be more refreshing by adding chips of ice. Fresh fruits and vegetables could now be preserved for at least a few days. Modern refrigerators now make their own ice and the “ice man does not cometh” anymore!

About thirty years ago, Robert Bagenstose bought one of those wooden ice boxes and restored it. They were usually made of oak and are a very nice piece of furniture, enhancing anyone’s home. This intrigued Robert, and he found the “bug had bitten” him. This led to his collecting tools, toys, ice cards for the window and much more memorabilia. We are most fortunate to have Robert for our program at the Reunion in August, to share his knowledge of the process of ice harvesting. On a hot day in August, this is sure to be a “cool” subject. So join us and share any memories you may have about the “good old” days. We look forward to seeing you and your family.

Greetings from Minnesota

Lana Lewer, president of the Minnesota “Backenstoss Family Association” sends the following account of their 2005 reunion:

“On June 26, 2005, we celebrated our 33rd Annual Baggenstoss Family Reunion! HillBilly Ho-Down was our theme. We met at Kordiak Park in Columbia Heights.

We were “fixin” to have some good laughs. Dressed in bibs, Kevin Kelm started it by pulling up in his 1937 Ford and signing the guest book with an “X!”

Kathryn Windgate, age 92 (and proud to be the eldest member in attendance – if she may add), spoke of her Mom, Rosie, and her family’s heritage and upbringing.

With good banjo pickin and polka music playing, we enjoyed black & red licorice for our afternoon treat.

We welcome all of YOU to join us if you are making plans to come to Minnesota. It’s always the 4th Sunday in June and in 2006 we’ll be in Becker, MN, at the Becker City Park.

Looking Ahead to 2007

Our 2007 reunion has been scheduled for Hereford Township Park – the same location as the site of this year’s gathering. The date will be, as always, the first Sunday in August, specifically August 5, 2007. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Treasurer’s Report

The association wishes to thank all members for their contributions. After all expenses were paid in 2005, there was a balance of \$456.00. This encouraged us to go ahead with the 2006 Newsletter, even though postage and printing have increased. We wish to keep in touch with all family members, but this will only be possible through the continuation of your generous contributions.

Warren Backenstoe

Contributions

Our association finances are barely sufficient 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 2006 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: Warren B. Backenstoe, Treasurer
18 East Berks Drive
Wernersville, PA 19565

Enclosed is my check payable to B.F.A. for support in 2006.

_____ 2006 contribution (\$5.00) Name _____

_____ Additional Contribution Street Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

_____ Total Submitted

BACKENSTOSS NIGHT AT THE "BALL GAME!!"

With your support, the Backenstoss Family Association will hold a "Backenstoss Family Day at the Reading Phillies' FirstEnergy Stadium in Reading, Pennsylvania. This event has been scheduled for Sunday, August 20, when the Reading Phillies host the New Britain Rock Cats. Game time is 1:05 P.M.

Our group will be part of the "Coors Light Deck Party." We will have reserved seats along the leftfield foul line and a 2 hour, "all you can eat" buffet in the picnic area, located directly behind the leftfield seats. The menu includes: barbecued chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, pasta and potato salads, lemonade, iced tea and Pepsi products. Doors to the stadium open at 11:45 A.M., and the buffet begins at that time. We will enter the stadium through the gate on Front St., conveniently located behind the leftfield seats.

Ticket prices are \$17.00 per person. Children aged four and under are free, unless they require their own seat, in which case there is a \$7.00 charge. If our response is sufficient, we will also have "The Backenstoss Family Association" recognized on the stadium scoreboard.

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 20 date remained. However, forms should be returned ASAP, but no later than June 30, as the section will sell out at some point. Questions can 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 \$17.00 _____

Number of Tickets at \$7.00 _____ (age 4 and under with reserved seat)

Total Amount Enclosed (checks only) _____

Return form and check(s), payable to "Reading Phillies," no later than June 30, to Brian W. Bagenstose; 117 Marie Drive; Sinking Spring, PA 19608.

(Please remember to enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.)

INTERESTING NOTES FROM OUR FAMILY HISTORY

- The "Hearthstone Town and Country" newsletter contained the following item in its Saturday, October 7, 1905 edition:

"Dr. M.J. Backenstoe, of Emaus, on Thursday purchased the Solomon Boyer homestead at the northwest corner of Seventh and Turner streets, from Miss Sallie Boyer, for \$7,500. After making improvements on the property the doctor will locate at Allentown for practice."

- My Great Great Aunt Catherine Bagenstos Horn, wife of John Horn, lived in Chambersburg, Franklin Co., PA when the southern soldiers passed through on their way Gettysburg. She gave food and water to the Confederate soldiers, but hid Union soldiers, and their horses(!), in their basement. She had her nine children make a great deal of noise to hide the sounds of the union soldiers and their horses. Catherine was the daughter of Jacob B. Bagenstos and Magdalena Leap.

Submitted by Dawn R. Rosenbaum

Family Life Records include births, deaths, marriages and children.
Here are a few related quotes from famous people:

Mark Twain - Life would be infinitely happier if we could only be born at age 80 and gradually approach 18.

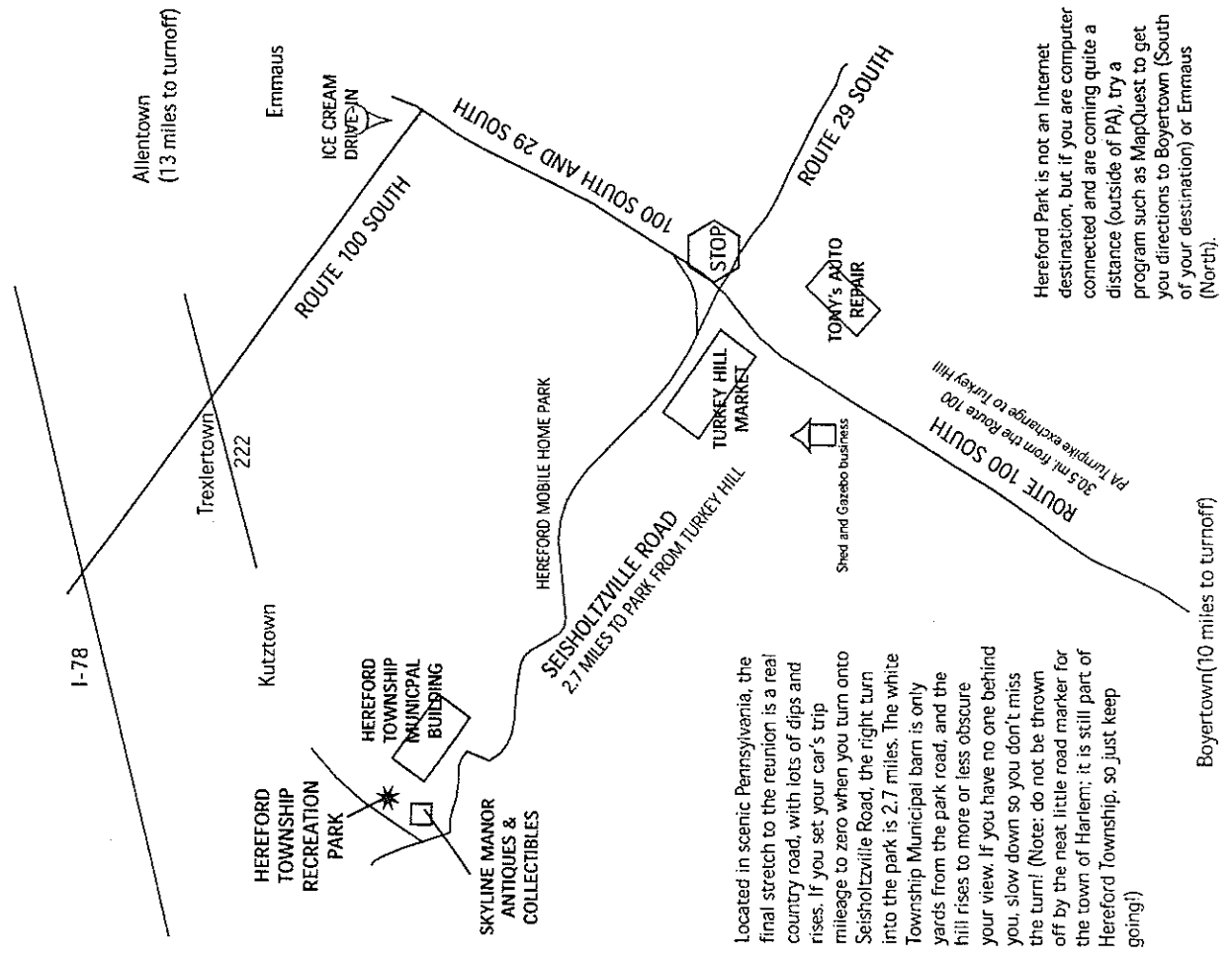
Sophia Loren – Mistakes are a part of the dues one pays for a full life.

Sam Levenson – Insanity is hereditary – you get it from your children.

Phyllis Diller – Cleaning the house while your kids are still growing up is like shoveling the walk before it stops snowing.

Theodore Roosevelt – Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.

Woody Allen – It's not that I'm afraid to die, I just don't want to be there.



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!