



Baggenstoss Shield

Backenstoss

FAMILY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Est. 1927

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

Summer 2007

Plan to attend our 75th Reunion Sunday, August 5,
And celebrate the
Family's first 264 years in America!

This year's gathering will be held Sunday, August 5, 2007 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 – Joshua A. Fink – "A Visit with Benjamin Franklin" |
| 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

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
2310 Kirkland Village
Bethlehem, PA 18017
610-691-4614

Chaplain

Bruce R. Backensto

Directors*

Judith Bacastow
Elwood B. Backensto
Esther(Backenstoe)Schiavone
J. Harold Backenstoe
Veronica Backenstoe
Stanley P. Backenstoss II
Miriam Bagenstose(1922-2007)
Dawn Rosenbaum
Newsletter Editor
Brian W. Bagenstose

President's Message

Greetings to all Backenstoss Family Association Members!

I wish everyone a happy 2007. For the Association, this year marks our 80th anniversary, and, despite the hectic pace of life many of us endure and the increasing geographic separation of our members, the Association continues to go strong.

At the spring 2007 Board of Directors' meeting, our Historian, John E. Backenstoe, proposed making the Family History available on CD and the Board approved the proposal. This development comes at a good time because all of the copies of the most recent Family History have been sold.

As this is our 80th anniversary, I hope that all of you will consider coming to this year's reunion. The reunion will be held on Sunday, August 5, at Heréford Park in Berks County, PA. The reunion serves as a time for members to meet distant relatives face to face, share stories and good times, and enjoy games and entertainment. Additionally, the reunion is the form in which we elect our Directors. So I encourage you to come if you can. And please bring your entire family!

However, if you cannot attend the reunion (or even if you can), please consider sending a donation if you have not already done so. The Association exists to preserve and pass on the history and traditions of our ancestors, provide a forum for the social interaction of the members, occasionally sponsor special events like the 1992 trip to Switzerland and sponsor the printing of Family Histories. Your donation can be for whatever amount you desire. We suggest an annual donation of five dollars. However, regardless of whether you attend the reunion or support the association through your donation, we look forward to receiving any updates on new family members, family news, or other family events so that we can all keep up-to-date on each other.

On a last but sad note, it is with heavy heart that I note the passing of Miriam Bagenstose, one of our Directors. We have devoted an article in her memory elsewhere in the newsletter, but I want to underscore that Miriam was very active as both a Director and reunion organizer and participant. Both she and all the invaluable help she provided will be missed.

Have a happy and productive year, and I hope to see you in August at the reunion.

Jon Backenstose
President, Backenstoss Family Association

BACKENSTOSS HISTORIES NOW AVAILABLE ON CD!

The two volume Backenstoss Family History is now available on a Compact Disc. The indexes list all the family and proper names contained in the history from 1743 up to and including 2002. The History is enriched with irreplaceable information about the origin and meaning of the family name, the Coat of Arms, the original homestead in America, the will of Ulrich Backenstoss, passenger lists, and a history of the Family Association. The "Did You Know" feature of the Addendum is priceless. Finally, there is information about the Oregon, Washington State, Canadian, Minnesota and other branches of the family in North America as well as Switzerland, Germany, England and New Zealand.

It is recommended that a first time viewer read the Table of Contents, the Forward and the other introductory pages as well as the explanations of the historical format used by the historian. The history was originally contained in two printed volumes – the first published in 1993, followed by an Addendum published in 2002. Within the new CD format, the indexes of each volume are set forth separately for immediate access. Each volume is then presented in 50 page blocks, again, for easier access.

A review of the opening pages of both books will give the reader some acquaintance with the breadth and depth of the manuscript. It is only then that the reader will gain some insight into the enormous contribution that our previous historian and author, Elwood Bruce Backensto, has rendered to the family, indeed to the historical community in general. This work represents a lifetime of dedicated effort and perseverance for which we all are grateful.

Thanks also go to our present historian, the Honorable John E. (JEB) Backenstoe, for conceiving the idea of converting our Family History to a CD format and personally following that task through to its successful completion. His foresight and effort have written their own significant chapter in our family history.

To order the "Backenstoss Family Compact Disc" please contact our Historian, John E. Backenstoe at 2310 Kirkland Village Circle, Bethlehem PA 18017 or through e-mail at Johnedwin1@msn.com. The cost of each disc is \$30.00, which includes shipping. The material is readable and printable on any computer able to read the PDF format.

This Year's Program

This year we will be honored with a visit from none other than Benjamin Franklin – as presented by Joshua A. Fink.

Most Americans have learned about Benjamin Franklin from textbooks back in grade school. There is no doubt that Franklin was a great man – printer, inventor, scientist, statesman, diplomat – one of the founding fathers who helped America win its independence from Great Britain. Franklin was a complex man of wit and wisdom and the only man to sign four of America's founding documents.

Come and enjoy a presentation, by none other than Benjamin Franklin himself, portrayed by local historian, Joshua Arthur Fink. When and where was Franklin born? Who is Silence Dogood? Why did John Antes, son of Henry Antes, write to Franklin in 1779? What did Franklin leave in his will to his son William, the loyalist governor of New Jersey? These questions will be answered through a first person interpretation of Franklin.

Joshua Arthur Fink is the Museum Curator and Historian at the Liberty Bell Museum at historic Zion's Reformed Church in Allentown, the place where the Liberty Bell was hidden during the American Revolution.

In Memoriam

Miriam Bagenstose, 85, a director of our Family Association, passed away on Friday, June 8, 2007 at the Essa Flory Hospice Center, Lancaster, PA.

Miriam was born on January 6, 1922, in Lancaster, and was the daughter of the late Guy and Viola Rollman Musser. She was the wife of the late Earl A. Bagenstose who died in 1996. In addition to her many contributions to the Backenstoss Family Association, Miriam was an active member of the Millersville Lions Club. In 1996, she was the recipient of the Melvin Jones Award from Lions International.

Miriam belonged to the Red Hat Society and was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Lancaster, PA. In her role as mother to her three children (Sue, Jere and David) she was active in both the Boy and Girl Scouts and was instrumental in developing the Y-Teens Program at the Lancaster YMCA. Miriam is also survived by six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Miriam's energy, humor and grace will be greatly missed. The Board of Directors extends sincere condolences to Miriam's family along with our heartfelt appreciation for her many years of service to the Backenstoss Family Association.

Treasurer's Report

We made it for another year! The association wishes to thank all members for their contribution. Our faith in your continued support encouraged us to go forward with the 2007 newsletter. You keep in touch and we will keep in touch. Your help is needed to keep our records up to date. Please forward any change in address, births, marriages, accomplishments and passing of family members.

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 2007.

_____ 2007 contribution (\$5.00) Name _____

_____ Additional Street Address _____
Contribution

City, State and Zip _____

_____ Total Submitted

Greetings from Minnesota

Lana Lewer of the Minnesota "Backenstoss Family Association" sends the following account of their 2006 reunion:

On June 25, 2006, we had a wonderful day for our 34th Annual Reunion in Becker City Park. The day was 80 degrees and sunny, and 120 people came to our "Dancin' to the Decades!!" There were some wonderfully dressed people. One hundred dollars was collected and forwarded to your treasurer in support of your newsletter.

All are welcome to join us if you are making plans to come to Minnesota. Our reunion is always the 4th Sunday in June. For more information contact:

Lana Lewer
12326 Zea St. NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433
763-323-3078
Llewer@msn.com

Leah Rodriguez
23499 3rd Ave.
Mankato, MN 56001
507-345-6851
lkrdz@hickorytech.net

BOYHOOD TOP SPINNING GAME

When I was a boy, (I am now 90), a favorite summer game that I enjoyed with friends was top spinning for pennies. We boys would meet on a summer morning in front of the First National Bank in Mount Joy, PA. At that time I lived just two houses away from the bank. Each boy had his favorite top on hand and, as bank patrons came and went, we asked them to throw down pennies, although nickels and dimes were gladly accepted.

The idea was to see which boy could spin his top down and hit the penny. A noticeable dent inside the rim of the coin was required to win. The top had to keep spinning after hitting the coin. Accuracy paid off. I could get some spending money on a Saturday morning, if the bank patrons were generous.

The year was 1924! I wonder if this top spinning sport was popular anywhere else in the Unites States, back in "The Good Old Days?"

Please give me a call, drop a line, or send me an e-mail, if you have any information on this game.

J. Harold Backenstoe
1107 Avenue F, Box 177
Riverside, PA 17868

Phone: 570-275-2417
E-mail: backenstoe@evenlink.com

BACKENSTOSS DAY AT THE "BALL GAME!!"

With your support, the Backenstoss Family Association will hold a second "Backenstoss Family Day at the Reading Phillies' FirstEnergy Stadium in Reading, Pennsylvania. This event has been scheduled for Sunday, August 26, when the Reading Phillies host the Akron Aeros. Game time is 1:05 P.M.

Learning from last year's experience, when all of the 21 people in our group had a wonderful, but sun-baked(!), time, we will reserve our seats under the covered grandstand area - out of the hot August sun and protected from any possible inclement weather. This will also allow participants to patronize the many refreshment stands and vendors - providing the traditional hot dogs and beer, or "peanuts and crackerjack" - that make up a typical day at the ballpark. Doors to the stadium open at 11:45 A.M. We will enter the stadium through the main gate on Front St.

Ticket prices are \$8.00 per person.

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 26 date remained. However, forms should be returned ASAP, but no later than July 6, 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 Day at the Ball Game!

Name of your group's contact person _____

Address _____

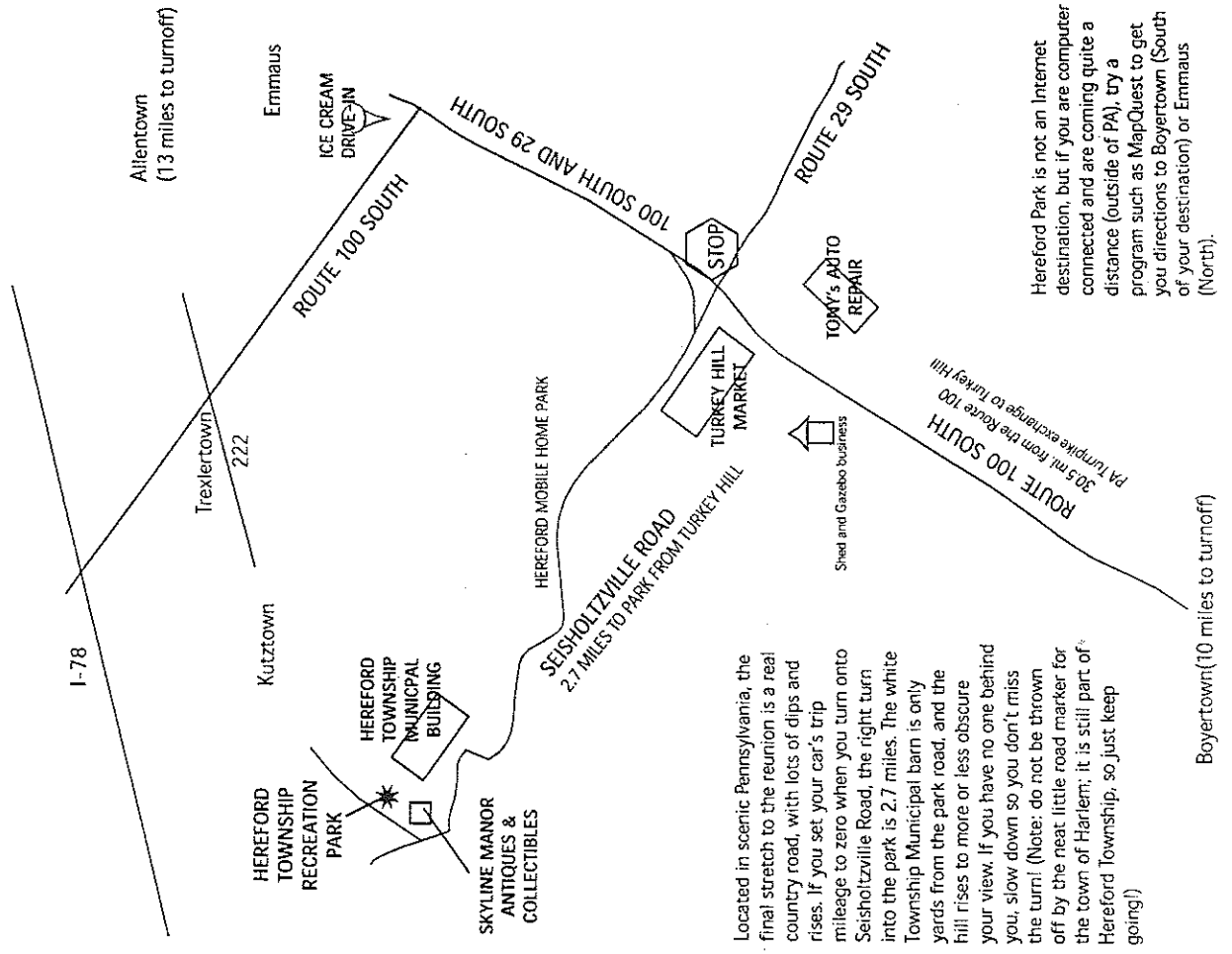
Phone _____ E-mail _____

Number of Tickets at \$8.00 _____

Total Amount Enclosed (checks only) _____

Return form and check(s), payable to "Reading Phillies," no later than July 6, to Brian W. Bagenstose; 117 Marie Drive; Sinking Spring, PA 19608.

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



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

Thank you for your continued genealogical support!