



Backenstoss

FAMILY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Est. 1927

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

Summer 2014

**Plan to attend our 82nd Reunion Sunday, August 3,
And celebrate the
Family's first 271 years in America!**

**This year's gathering will be held Sunday, August 3, 2014 at Hunsicker's Grove in
Mertztown, PA.**

Our schedule will be:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 12:00 Noon | Relaxation/Meeting of old and new friends
Registration |
| 12:30 P.M. | Opening ceremonies followed by lunch, games and socializing
Bring your fishing rod! There is a small lake located next to the picnic
grove that will provide plenty of fishing excitement for young and old.
Persons 16 and older must have a PA fishing license. |
| 2:00 P.M. | Association officers will provide an update concerning our new and
expanding website. |
| 3:45 P.M. | Adjournment of reunion, followed by a meeting of the Board of
Directors. |

**Hot dogs, rolls, ice tea, lemonade, soda and condiments will be provided. Please bring
your own additional picnic fare, plates, napkins and utensils. There are plenty of picnic
tables at the site. Lawn chairs are optional. Directions concerning the reunion can be
found on Page 3 of this newsletter.**

President's Message

Recognized

Family Spellings:

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

OFFICERS

President*

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

1st Vice President*

Jonathan Hall Backenstose
116 South 19th St.
Arlington, VA 22202
703-892-8422

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*

Kenneth C. Bagenstose
1015 Conifer Road
Leesport, PA 19533
610-926-1669
kbagen@aol.com

Historian*

Robert C. Bagenstose
3250 Harrison Ave.
Reading, PA 19605
610-939-1301
bags3250@aol.com

Webmaster*

Christopher C. Bagenstose
webmaster@backenstoss.org

Directors*

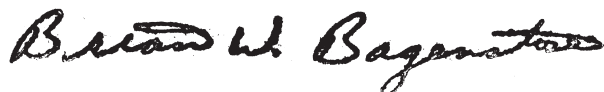
Hon. John E. Backenstoe
Judith Bacastow
Esther(Backenstoe)Schiavone
Veronica Backenstoe
Dawn Rosenbaum
Newsletter Editor
Brian W. Bagenstose

This year's 2014 Backenstoss Family Association reunion will be held on Sunday, August 3, at Hunsicker's Grove in Mertztown, PA, which is just southwest of Allentown. (See Page 3 of this newsletter for directions to the site.) After last year's successful and very enjoyable reunion during a Reading Fightin Phils game at First Energy Stadium in Reading, PA, the directors have decided to return to our more traditional picnic format for 2014. However, baseball fans need not be concerned! Because of the great time we had last year and on previous occasions, we will again schedule a "Backenstoss Night at the Ball Game." The date for this event will be Saturday, July 26. Full details are on page 5, and the registration form for the game is on page 7 of this newsletter.

I have good news to report concerning the development of our website, which can be accessed at www.backenstoss.org. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our Webmaster, Christopher (Chris) Bagenstose, an entire line of Backenstoss Merchandise, almost all of which is emblazoned with our family shield, is available at the "BackenStore" link at the top of the home page. Do you need a new sweatshirt or pair of sweat pants? How about a lunch bag, wine stopper or a deck of Backen-cards? Don't forget the new arrivals. For infants there are blankets, hats, onesies and the ever popular BackenBib(!), all proudly displaying the Backenstoss shield. I'm sure you get the idea. Even if you don't buy a single item, you can still have a good time just browsing through the offerings.

Over the course of the coming year, we plan to add more features to the website, so please be sure to "visit" from time to time. These improvements have been made possible by a generous bequest to our association from Rose Mary Bacastow Eberly, who passed away in January of 2012. Along with her mother, Mary Martha Atkins Bacastow, Rose Mary participated in the historic "Roots" trip to Switzerland in 1993. Family members who knew her at that time remember she had vowed to include our association in her will. The directors will honor Rose Mary's memory and generosity by using her bequest to "perpetuate the history and traditions" of our family. The establishment and maintenance of an interactive and informative website is intended to fulfill that purpose, and we believe is in keeping with Rose Mary's wishes. Please remember her in your thoughts and prayers. An update concerning the website will be included on the agenda of this year's reunion.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on August 3 at Hunsicker Grove to share stories, old and new, of our shared ancestry. We have reserved the large, well maintained pavilion for our exclusive use. Lavatories are located next to the pavilion and parking is plentiful. I, for one, plan to bring my fishing rod, lawn chair and grandsons (not necessarily in that order). It has all the makings of a great day. Please come if you can. As the saying goes, I hope the one thing missing from our re_nion isn't "u."



Backenstoss.org Is One Year Old!

Our website has been up and running for a little over a year now, and we have added 25 users to the site. We usually get 3 to 5 visits per week and it's growing strong. We did have to make a few changes to the user signup process as a result of too many spam accounts being created by non-Backen persons. That being said, if I deleted your account or you wish to have one created, please contact me by email and I will add you in. Anyone can visit our site without having a login so please check regularly. The login allows you to post to the BagenBlog with old or new pictures of family, research, stories, or questions for the group. It is not needed for general viewing and information.

We have added many past newsletters to the website so they can be viewed at any time on the newsletters menu. We have every year all the way back to 1995! Ok, for some of us that doesn't seem like that long ago.... never mind, next topic....

We are hard at work bringing the BackenStore online with some fun products and new family graphics as well as classic ones. By the time this article reaches you, I'm sure the BackenStore link will be functional. (editor's note: the link is functional and filled with great Backenstoss items!)

Thank you for the chance to keep this site up and running and if you have any ideas for more features on our website please forward me your ideas and comments to Webmaster@backenstoss.org. I hope to meet some new family at this year's reunion as I didn't get to attend last year because our family was moving to a new home.

Sincerely,

Christopher C. Bagenstose

Directions to Hunsicker's Grove



Street Address: 9350 Longswamp Rd., Mertztown PA 19539

Directions

Take Fleetwood/Lyons/Topton road (Main Street) to Topton (Weis Street). Continue through Topton (Main Street) through Longswamp to Lower Longswamp. Turn left at the Blue Orchid Inn onto Smith Lane. Continue to stop sign, turn right -- park entrance is 0.8 mile on your right, across from Brookvue Farms sign.

From Route 222 (Monterey): Take L.R. 06138 to Five Points, turn right, continue to Topton. Turn left at the traffic signal, follow directions above.

From Route 100: Turn left at Hereford onto Hereford Road (L.R. 06119.) Continue through Harlem, Seisholtzville, Red Lion, and Maple Grove to Lower Longswamp. Turn right at the Blue Orchid Inn onto Smith Lane. Continue to stop sign, turn right -- park entrance is 0.8 mile on your right, across from Brookvue Farms sign.

From the BFA Treasurer - 2014

From the Treasurer
By Ken Bagenstose

Greetings from Leesport! Part of the Backenstoss heartland! Spring was a little late coming this year, but after the long hard winter we experienced it's nice to be able to think about our annual summer gatherings and new programs that are under construction.

As mentioned in last year's newsletter and in the Webmaster messages, the Backenstoss Family Association has created, and continues to enhance our website, www.backenstoss.org. We hope this will be a vehicle for us to become closer as a family even over great distances. We appreciate the response we have gotten from those members who indicated in their contribution returns last year that they would like to begin to receive their annual newsletter by e-mail, rather than U.S. Mail to help save printing and mailing costs. We will be trying to make that happen with this 2014 newsletter distribution, but don't be surprised if you receive it by mail *and* e-mail... we don't want to leave anyone out!

In recent years we have made available commemorative 'Baggenstoss' plates by Wilton Armetale. You can find information about them in previous year's newsletters which can be found on our website if you don't keep your old newsletters. We still have a few left! So if you are interested, please do not send money for them now... contact me so I can make sure we have enough. Then we can complete the payment and shipping arrangements. Cost would be \$35.00 each. If there is continued demand, we would consider another production release.

It is the generosity of our members that makes it possible for us to grow the association and the ranks of our membership and we ask that you continue to help us out by returning the coupon with your kind donation and of course to provide us with any pertinent family information so we can keep the history up-to-date and growing. The directors ask that each member contribute \$5.00 annually to the cause.

Please send your return coupons and check contributions to:

Backenstoss Family Association [...or BFA]
c/o Ken Bagenstose, Treasurer
1015 Conifer Road
Leesport, PA 19533

Thanks in advance for your continued support of the BFA.

Ken Bagenstose
Treasurer, BFA



Scenes from our 2013 Reunion

P



2014 BACKENSTOSS NIGHT AT THE "BALL GAME!!

With your support, the Backenstoss Family Association will hold another in its series of "Backenstoss Nights at the Ball Game" at the Reading Fightin Phils' First Energy Stadium in Reading, Pennsylvania. This event has been scheduled for Saturday, July 26, 2014 when the Reading Phillies will host the Akron RubberDucks (really!). Game time is 6:35 P.M. Gates open at 5:30 P.M.

We will reserve our seats under the covered grandstand area, which is out of the hot sun and protected from inclement weather. This will also allow participants to patronize the many refreshment stands and vendors, all providing the traditional hot dogs and beer, or "peanuts and crackerjack," that make up a typical day at the ballpark.

Ticket prices are \$9.00 per person.

Family members who wish to attend should complete and return the registration form found on page 7 of this newsletter, along with checks made payable to "Reading Fightin Phils." Please call (610-775-1760) or email (redknight67@comcast.net) Brian Bagenstose if you have any questions regarding arrangements.

News and Pictures
From Our Minnesota Cousins

BAGGENSTOSS

Family Association ~ OF AMERICA . Minnesota Branch

42nd Annual Family Reunion

Saturday, June 28th, 2014
Sullivan Lake Park
721 51st Ave NE, Columbia Heights, MN

Directions: from I-694,
turn South on Hwy 65 (Central Ave. NE),
turn West on 51st Ave NE.
Park is halfway down the block on the Right.

Registration starts at 11:00 a.m.
Potluck Dinner begins at NOON



2014 Backenstoss Contribution

The directors of the Backenstoss Family Association ask that each member contribute \$5.00 to support our organization's ongoing activities. These activities include our annual reunion and the publication of the association newsletter. Please support our association by returning this form along with your 2014 contribution. The directors also ask that members consider making additional contributions and bequests of any amount. This practice is common among family associations and will help ensure the financial health of our organization through future generations.

Enclosed in my check payable to the "Backenstoss Family Association:

Name(s) _____

Street Address _____

City, State and Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

_____ Total Member Contribution(s) \$5.00 each

_____ Additional contribution

_____ Total Amount

_____ Please check if you wish to receive the 2015 newsletter by email rather than U.S. Mail

Please include updated information concerning any of our association members.

Registration for 2014 Backenstoss Night at the Ball Game

Family members should register for our 2014 "Backenstoss Night at the Ball Game" by completing the following form. (Full information on Page 5.)

Name of your group's contact person _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Number of tickets at \$9.00 _____

Total Amount Enclosed (checks only) _____

Tickets will be left at the "Will Call" window at First Energy Stadium in the name of each group leader OR if you enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope, we will mail the tickets to you ASAP. Please register ASAP as tickets may sell out.

Checks containing contributions to the family association should be made payable to the "Backenstoss Family Association" or BFA. Checks for Fightin Phils tickets should be made payable to "Reading Fightin Phils." All checks and forms should be mailed to Kenneth C. Bagenstose; 1015 Conifer Road; Leesport, PA 19533.



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

Thank you for your continued genealogical support!