



Backenstoss

FAMILY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Est. 1927

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

Summer 2016

**Plan to attend our 84th Reunion on Sunday, July 31,
And celebrate the
Family's first 273 years in America!**

This year's reunion will be held on Sunday, July 31, 2016 at Gring's Mill Recreation Area; 2083 Tulpehocken Road; Reading, PA 19610. The park opens at 8:00 A.M. and we have reserved the second floor "Barn Room," located in the main building, from 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Come early if you like and enjoy the fishing, walking paths, volleyball courts and children's playground. All anglers 16 and older must have a PA fishing license.

Our reunion schedule 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. | Association officers will provide an update concerning our new genealogy website. |
| 3:45 P.M. | Adjournment of reunion, followed by a meeting of the Board of Directors. |

Sandwiches, ice tea, lemonade, soda and condiments will be provided. Please bring your own additional picnic fare, plates, napkins and utensils. Cooking grills will not be available, but there is counter space and electricity for crock pots. The comfortable indoor facility is well supplied with tables and chairs, but you may wish to bring picnic blankets and/or lawn chairs to enjoy the well maintained lawn areas. Directions to Gring's Mill may be found on our website at www.backenstoss.org.

Recognized

Family Spellings:

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

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Judith Bacastow
Esther(Backenstoe)Schiavone

Veronica Backenstoe
Dawn Rosenbaum

Newsletter Editor

Brian W. Bagenstose

President's Message

Longtime members of the Backenstoss Family Association of America will no doubt notice the date of this year's reunion is a departure from our family tradition. The Backenstoss reunion has usually been held on the first Sunday in August. However, this year, in order to reserve the picturesque Gring's Mill Recreation Area, we have scheduled our reunion for Sunday, July 31. Gring's Mill is located at 2083 Tulpehocken Road; Reading, PA, 19610, directly opposite the Penn State Berks Campus. The beautiful, park-like setting includes volleyball courts, a playground, walking paths and a popular fishing spot. Please visit our website at www.backenstoss.org for directions to the site.

This edition of our family newsletter will also be a departure from previous newsletters in that it will primarily display photographs from our 2015 reunion at Hunsicker's Grove in Mertztown, PA. Family members who attend our reunions always enjoy meeting relatives from the far flung branches of our family tree and hearing stories of how our forefathers established themselves in various locales in the United States and other countries.

Speaking of our family tree, I am happy to report that officers of our organization are hard at work establishing a genealogical website that will display our published family history. The Backenstoss genealogy has been painstakingly recorded in four hardbound volumes published in 1949, 1972, 1993 and 2002. These editions have become treasured heirlooms for many B.F.A. members. The books are no longer in print, but transferring the Backenstoss genealogy to a website will make our history available to current and future generations. As might be imagined, this is a formidable task. However, real progress is being made, and a report on this project will be part of this summer's reunion agenda. The B.F.A. is also interested in obtaining any copies of our histories that may be available, particularly the 1993 history that is our "gold standard" edition.

As you view the photographs on the following pages, you will note a number of current officers and directors are identified by name and genealogical classification as found in our printed histories. The classification system at first appears complicated, but is really quite logical. In my case, as you will see on Page 4, I am a descendant of the third of Hans Ulrich Backenstoss's children who survived to adulthood and emigrated to America in 1743. Therefore, my classification begins with "A3." In the 2nd generation, I am the descendant of the fourth child, therefore my next classification is B4. This format continues through the generations and, as I am of the 8th generation in my line and the oldest of two siblings, my personal classification is H1. My younger sister is H2, and my three children are I1, I2 and I3.

It is my sincere hope that next year's President's Message will contain instructions on how to access our completed genealogical website. That is a challenging goal, but it may well be within our grasp. Until then, please visit our current website at www.backenstoss.org for updates concerning the Backenstoss Family Association of America. Thank you for your continued support, and I hope to see you at our Gring's Mill reunion on July 31!





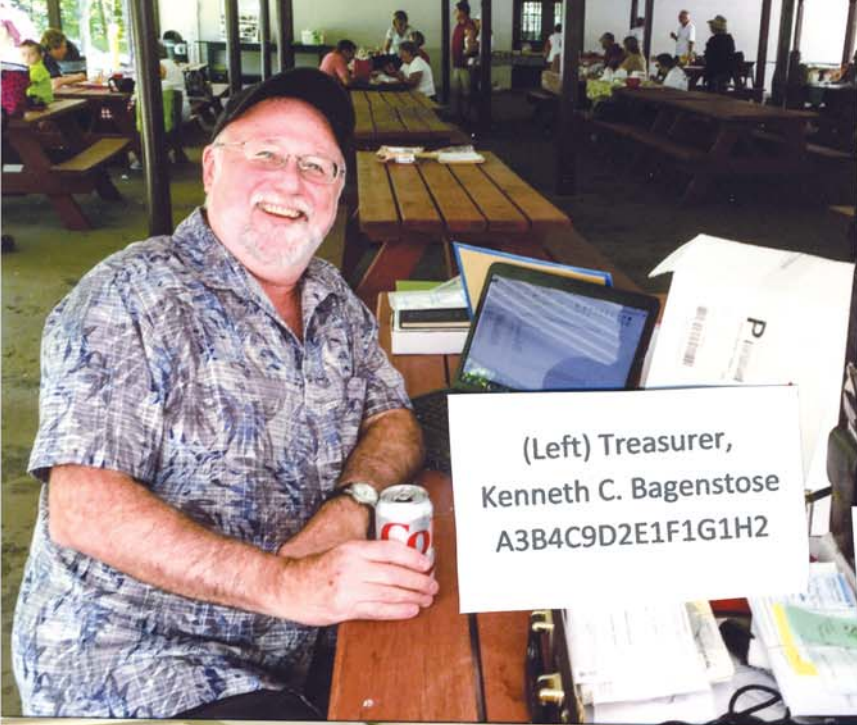
2015
 Reunion
 at
 Hunsicker's Grove
 Mertztown, PA

(left to right)
 B.F.A. Directors and
 Members of the 1993
 "Roots" Trip to Switzerland
 Veronica (Irish) Backenstoe
 Husband Warren
 A3B4C5D6E1F4G2
 Ethelmae (Sicher) Marushak
 A3B4C5D6E1F2G1
 Esther (Backenstoe) Schiavone
 A3B4C5D6E1F4G6



(Left)
 Historian
 Robert C. Bagenstose
 A2B4C12(!)D4E4G2

G1 (Big Sister)



(Left) Treasurer,
Kenneth C. Bagenstose
A3B4C9D2E1F1G1H2



I2



(Left)
President,
Brian W. Bagenstose
A3B4C9D2E1F1G3H1





(Above) First Vice President John H. Backenstoss A2B5C9D4E1F1G3 and wife, Diane, who serves as chief photographer and games organizer!





Family
Fun!



2016 Backenstoss Contribution

The directors of the Backenstoss Family Association ask that each member contribute \$5.00 annually 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 2016 contribution. The B.F.A. budget is funded exclusively by our members' \$5.00 contributions and generous voluntary contributions and bequests from individual members. The B.F.A. is grateful for additional contributions and bequests of any amount. This practice is common among family associations and helps 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 2016 Member Contribution(s) \$5.00 each

_____ Additional contribution

_____ Total Amount

_____ Check if you wish to receive the 2017 newsletter by email rather than

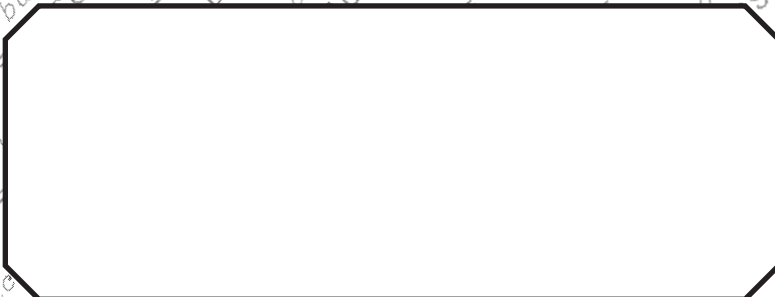
U.S. Mail. Email address: _____

Please return this form to B.F.A. Treasurer, Kenneth C. Bagenstose; 1015 Conifer Road; Leesport, PA 19533.

Please include updated information concerning any of our association members.

Backenstoss Family Association of America
570 Guldin Road
Blandon, PA 19510

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Thank you for your continued genealogical support!

