



Backenstoss

FAMILY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Est. 1927

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

Summer 2019

**Plan to attend our 87th Reunion on Sunday, August 4,
And celebrate the
Family's first 276 years in America!**

This year's reunion will be held on Sunday, August 4, at Hunsicker's Grove, 9350 Longswamp Road; Mertztown, PA 19539. Hunsicker's has been a popular site for several of our recent reunions. We have reserved the large, well equipped pavilion. There are areas and courts for volleyball, wiffle ball, frisbee and other games. A well stocked fishing pond is located next to the pavilion. Those 16 and older will need a PA fishing license and will have to share two "Longswamp 2019" buttons we have purchased. There are no restrictions on those 15 and younger. Lavatories are located a short distance from the pavilion.

Reunion schedule:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 12:00 Noon | Relaxation/Meeting of old and new friends
Registration |
| 12:30 P.M. | Opening announcements followed by lunch, games and socializing. |
| 1:30 P.M. | Introductions of family members
Officers' reports
Report on the status of the association's genealogy project |
| 2:30 P.M. | Election of officers for two year terms |
| 2:45 P.M. | Games and prizes |
| 3:45 P.M. | Adjournment of reunion, followed by a meeting of the Board of Directors. |

Sandwiches, iced tea, lemonade, soda and condiments will be provided. Please bring your own additional picnic fare, plates, napkins and utensils. For further information, visit our website or contact any of the officers listed on Page 2.

President's Message

Recognized

Family Spellings:

BACASTOW
BACKENSTO
BACKENSTOE
BACKENSTOES
BACKENSTOS
BACKENSTOSE
BACKENSTOSS
BACKENSTOW
BAGENSTOES
BAGENSTOS
BAGENSTOSE
BAGENSTOSS
BAGGENSTOS
BAGGENSTOSS
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webmaster@backenstoss.org

Directors*

Hon. John E. Backenstoe
Ethelmae (Backenstoe)Marushak
Esther(Backenstoe)Schivavone
Veronica Backenstoe
Dawn Rosenbaum
Newsletter Editor
Brian W. Bagenstose

The officers and directors of the Backenstoss Family Association of America have met throughout this past year to continue the development of our genealogy website. We are pleased with the enthusiastic responses we have received and, as we had hoped, a bit overwhelmed by the volume of additions and updates to be added to our family history. There is a Zen proverb that states, "After enlightenment, the laundry." The creation of the genealogy website was a signature moment in our family history and provides us with considerable enlightenment regarding our ancestors. Now, systems and procedures are being developed that will allow the continuing history of our family (laundry-like only in its never ending nature) to be added to our records. This task is, in its own way, every bit as daunting as the creation of the website itself. However, I have been encouraged and impressed by the hard work and innovative ideas of our webmaster and recently appointed genealogist, Christopher Bagenstose. I feel confident that with Chris to lead us, the Backenstoss Family Association will be equal to the task.

For our 2020 reunion, we will return to Hunsicker's Grove in Mertztown, PA. Hunsicker's has been the site of several previous reunions and has always proven to be a popular spot, particularly with our younger members! The local anglers contribute to a stocking program that keeps the sizeable fishing pond well supplied with trout, bass and a wide variety of panfish. The BFA has purchased two badges that will allow those 16 and older to fish. You will also need your PA fishing license. Those 15 and younger have no restrictions! Anyone wishing to purchase their own "Longswamp 2019" badge may do so at Chris's Outdoor Sports, conveniently located nearby on Longswamp Road. The cost is \$15, and the proceeds go to the maintenance and stocking of the fishing pond. The store will be open on August 4, from 10:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M.

This newsletter contains photographs taken at our 2018 reunion which marked our family's 275th year in the New World. The site of the reunion, Belleman's Church, is located only a few miles from the original Backenstoss homestead and many of our earliest American ancestors are buried there. A walk through the church cemetery always provides an informative and moving experience for all members of our family.

No review of the past year would be complete without reporting the sad news of the passing of our family historian, Robert C. Bagenstose. "Bags" passed away on March 5 of this year, a fact which seems incomprehensible to those of us who knew him over many decades. Bob attended our directors' meeting at the end of November 2018 and had been as outgoing and engaged as always. His death from cancer only months later came as a tremendous shock. The Backenstoss Family Association of America sends our sincerest condolences to Bob's family and wishes to recognize his many contributions to our family organization. Bob will be greatly missed!

Bob always valued the "history, traditions and social enjoyment" provided by the BFA, and in that spirit I encourage you to attend our reunion on August 4.
Best wishes to all...

Brian W. Bagenstose

2019 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 organizing the annual reunion, maintaining the association website, and publishing the association newsletter. Please support our association by returning this form along with your 2019 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 2019 Member Contribution(s) \$5.00 each

_____ Additional contribution

_____ Total Amount

_____ Check if you wish to receive the 2020 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.

* * * * *

Genealogy information may be submitted by using the form on the following page or by visiting www.backenstoss.org and clicking on the "Genealogy" tab. This will allow you to submit information electronically. Use the lines below if additional space is needed when using the paper form.

Return form to Kenneth C. Bagenstose; 1015 Conifer Road; Leesport, PA 19533

Name of Person Submitting Information
Date Submitted
Relationship to Family Member Being Added/Updated
Your Contact Phone
Your E-mail address

Check one: New Entry Additional/Edit Info of Existing Record

FAMILY MEMBER NAME <i>First Nick Middle Maiden Last Suffix</i>	Connection to Backentoss Genealogy Identify relative from Backentoss history, list DOB and relationship to Family Member
DATE of BIRTH [DOB]: Location, country, state, town, twp, county, etc.	
DATE of DEATH: Location(s) of death and burial:	
PARENT NAME: Name and DOB of parent	
GRANDPARENT: Name and DOB of grandparent	
OTHER INFO: Education, Employment, Military, etc. Include additional sheets if necessary	

MARRIAGE INFO: <u>Specify: 1st, 2nd, etc. or Unmarried.</u> Use additional sheets for Multiple Marriages
NAME of SPOUSE <i>First Nick Middle Maiden Last Suffix</i>
SPOUSE DOB: Location, country, state, town, twp, county, etc.
SPOUSE DATE of DEATH: Location(s) of death and burial
MARRIAGE DATE/LOCATION: country, state, town, twp, county, etc.
CHILDREN: Specify from each marriage, Name and Birthdate
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

NOTE: Bloodline children born after 2002 should be submitted as new individual family members

OTHER SPOUSE INFO: Parents' Names, Education, Employment, Military, etc. Include additional sheets if necessary. Please, Indicate Spouse 1, 2, 3, etc.

OBITUARY FOR ROBERT C. BAGENSTOSE

Robert C. Bagenstose, 71, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 in his Muhlenberg Township residence surrounded by his loving family. Born in West Reading, he was the son of the late Ray R. and Florence (Seifrit) Bagenstose. He was the longtime partner of Renee M. (Esterly) Wertman.

A 1965 graduate of Schuylkill Valley High School, Bob earned his bachelor's degree in economics at Kutztown University, and graduated from the University of Virginia School of Retail Banking. Bob began his professional career working for the University of Alabama in the Geological Survey Department. He was a banker at a number of financial institutions, including Meridian, Core States, Wachovia, Wells Fargo/All First/Bank of PA and Sovereign before retiring from Santander Bank in 2013. He served as president and was a longtime board member of the Council on Chemical Abuse.



In his younger days, Bob enjoyed drumming and played in a number of local bands. After retirement, he was the controller at Neo-Pangea, West Reading and loved volunteering at Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center. For the past ten years, Bob also served as the Historian for the Backenstoss Family Association of America.

Bob is survived by his son Brett J. Bagenstose, husband of Christin, Wyomissing, and stepsons, Jared Perella, husband of Tina, Shillington, and Justin Perella, husband of Carla, Sinking Spring. Also surviving are six grandchildren: Mya and Ethan Bagenstose, and Jack Zoe, Ava and Rocco Perella. His sister, Gail, wife of Gary Orr, Wyomissing, also survives him. (Editor's Note: This obituary appeared in the Reading Eagle, March 7, 2019.)

2019 Website and Genealogy Update

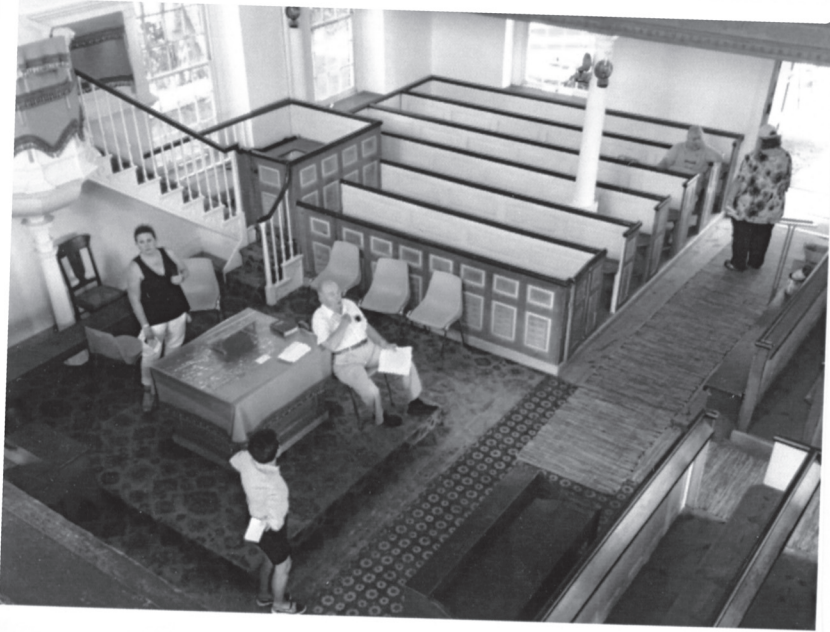
With the passing of our historian, Robert C. Bagenstose, the board of directors made the decision to expand the duties of Webmaster to include those of association Genealogist. As our family genealogy is now available and updated on the internet, this change in titles reflects the procedures used to maintain our family history. I am honored to add the duties of genealogist to my website responsibilities. I know the other officers and directors will support these efforts, as they have done in the past. Please visit our website (www.backenstoss.org) to review its new features and enjoy learning about our family history.

My goals for the year are to:

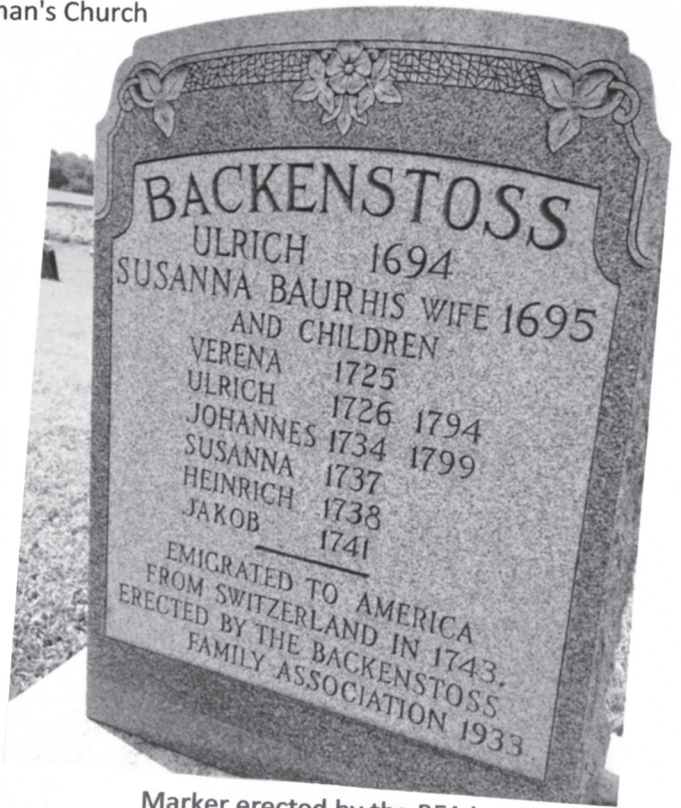
- Enter the information submitted for new family members from the 2018 newsletter
- Increase ease of use of the Genealogy Search web pages and register them with Google
- Modify the current online form to provide for easier entry of new information

My efforts as webmaster and genealogist have been very fulfilling and have actually complemented and expanded my technical knowledge in web design. If you have any questions about the site, blog submissions or suggestions for improvements, I would love to hear from you! I'm looking forward to this year's reunion, and perhaps I'll see you there. Reunion information is always available on our website.

Photographs from our
275th anniversary at
beautiful Belleman's Church



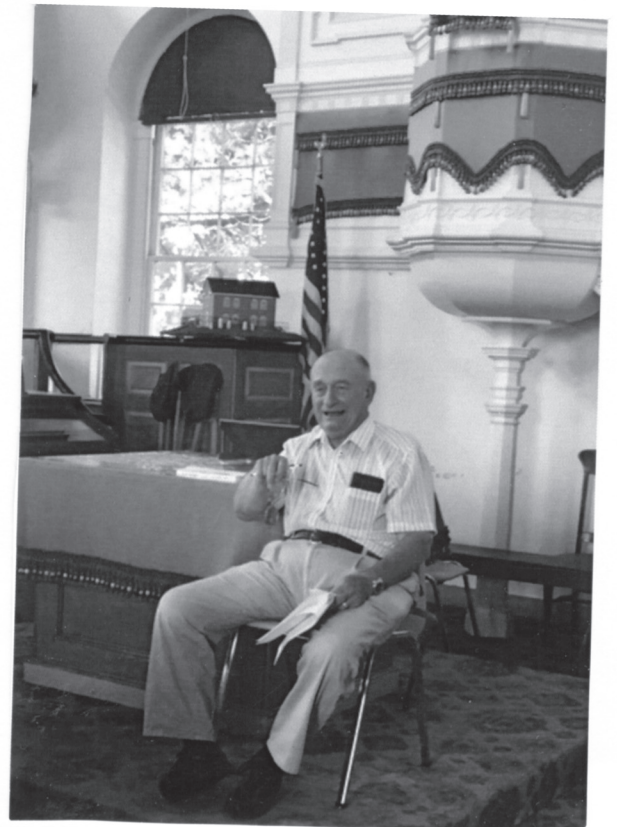
A view of the chapel taken from
the church balcony.
Please note the stairs leading to
the wineglass pulpit



Marker erected by the BFA in 1933
to honor those who emigrated from Switzerland
190 years before



The pipes of the renowned
Buhler organ
are located in the church balcony



Belleman's local historian told us
many interesting facts and stories
about the construction and history
of Belleman's Church

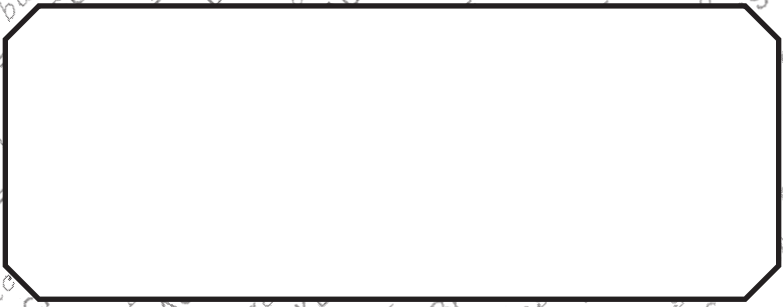


Photographs courtesy of Diane Backenstose



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Thank you for your continued genealogical support!

