



Backenstoss

FAMILY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Est. 1927

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

Summer 2020

Plan to attend our 88th Reunion on Sunday, August 2,
And celebrate the
Family's first 277 years in America!

Covid-19 regulations permitting, our 2020 reunion will be held on Sunday, August 2, at Crystal Cave, 963 Crystal Cave Rd., Kutztown, PA, 19530. This will be the BFA's first gathering at this popular attraction. In addition to a tour of the world famous Crystal Cave, the site also offers a cafe, ice cream parlor, gift shop, miniature golf course, and educational activities for children. Our reunion will be held in a pavilion next to a shaded lawn area. Grilled hot dogs, ice tea, lemonade, water and soft drinks will be provided. We have a group tour of the cave scheduled for 2:00 and can add additional groups if needed. It will be necessary for members to contact us by phone or email to reserve a place in our tour group. Please see the article on Page 3 and promotional materials on Pages 4 - 5 for details and full information. If circumstances require us to cancel the reunion, an announcement will be placed on our website: backenstoss.org.

Reunion schedule:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 12:00 Noon | Registration/Meeting of old and new friends |
| 12:30 P.M. | Opening announcements followed by lunch and socializing. |
| 1:15 P.M. | Introductions of family members
Officer reports
Election of directors (two year terms) |
| 2:00 | Tour(s) of Crystal Cave
Miniature Golf
Gift Shop Exploration |
| 3:45 | Adjournment of reunion |

President's Message

Recognized

Family Spellings:

BACASTOW
BACKENSTO
BACKENSTOE
BACKENSTOES
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Directors*

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Ethelmae (Backenstoe)Marushak
Esther(Backenstoe)Schiavone
Veronica Backenstoe
Dawn Rosenbaum
Newsletter Editor
Brian W. Bagenstose

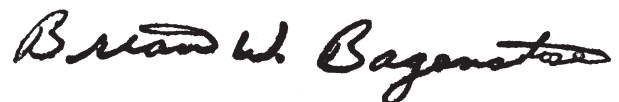
The Backenstoss Family Association has seen both good times and bad. Established in 1927, the year Babe Ruth hit 60 home runs and Charles Lindbergh flew the Atlantic, it was only two years later the stock market crashed and The Great Depression began. Members of America's "Greatest Generation" took the first steps on their journey through that economic catastrophe and the World War that followed. It is said that someone during that time told Franklin Delano Roosevelt that if he brought the country through those crises, he would go down in history as the greatest American President. Roosevelt supposedly replied, "If I am unsuccessful, I will be known as the LAST American President." We have seen bad times before.

This year, our nation has been wracked by the Covid-19 pandemic, economic disruption, and social and political division. The very real challenges of recent decades seem to pale in comparison to this year's events. Perhaps it is times like these when it is most important to celebrate and maintain the civic and civil ties provided by community and, yes, family organizations. We cannot individually solve the problems that confront our nation. We can, however, retain and demonstrate our respect for each other and our traditions and work toward better days to come.

Assuming Covid-19 restrictions permit, the 2020 Backenstoss Family Association reunion will be held at Crystal Cave, Kutztown, PA on Sunday, August 2. Please read the article on Page 3 for details concerning the reunion. Unlike previous years, it will be necessary for those of you who wish to join our group tours of Crystal Cave to contact us by phone or email so we can reserve your place. The Page 3 article contains contact instructions and other information.

Given the changing nature of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is possible the 2020 reunion will have to be canceled. If that unfortunately becomes the case, we will announce the cancellation on our website, backenstoss.org. We urge those who plan to attend the reunion to check the website, or email or call one of the association officers during the last week of July to confirm the reunion will be held as planned. We will also use the website to communicate any social distancing, masking, etc. requirements that will be in effect.

The officers and directors of the Backenstoss Family Association remain committed to "the history and traditions of the family and its social enjoyment." Accordingly, we look forward to seeing you at Crystal Cave on Sunday, August 2.



2020 B.F.A. REUNION TO BE HELD AT CRYSTAL CAVE

This year's Backenstoss Family Association reunion will be something of a departure from our recent gatherings. Instead of the relative quiet of a picnic grove, church hall or fish pond, the more commercially oriented facilities at Crystal Cave will provide a greater range of activities for our family members. This change also requires us to modify some of our previous procedures.

Most importantly, the B.F.A., in addition to providing hot dogs and cold drinks for our members, will schedule two groups, each consisting of up to 25 participants, for tours of the world famous Crystal Cave. The fees for these tours will be paid by the B.F.A. Association. It will be necessary for family members who wish to tour the cave to reserve their place by contacting either Brian or Ken Bagenstose. Please use email, if possible. If email is not an option, please contact us by phone. Reservations will be made in the order they are received. The deadline for reservations is Friday, July 17. Contact information is as follows:

Brian Bagenstose - Email - redknight67@comcast.net Phone no. 610-775-1760

Ken Bagenstose - Email - kbagen@aol.com Phone no. 610-926-1669

Please provide the names and ages of those who wish to tour Crystal Cave. Also, if leaving a phone message, be sure to include a phone number where you can be reached. We will confirm reservations in the same manner, email or phone call, in which the reservation was made.

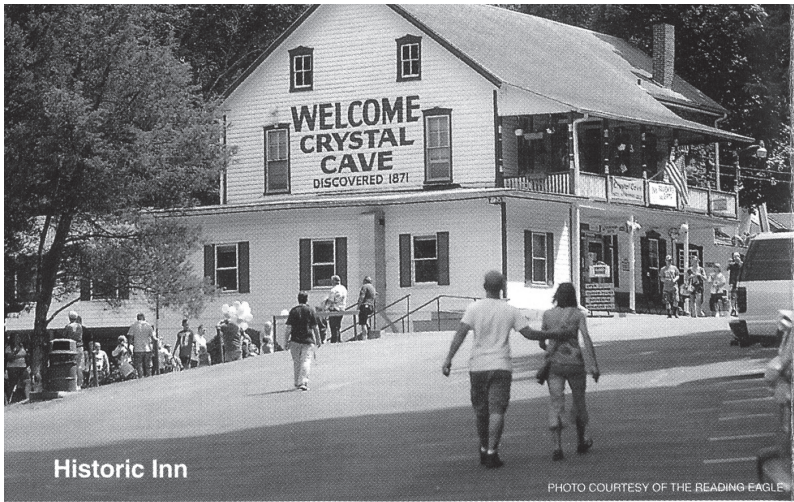
The 55 minute tours include a "comfortable walking" experience. The cave entrance is located uphill and at a moderate distance from where our reunion will be held. Please keep this in mind when determining which family members will be able to participate in and enjoy the tours.

Whether or not you tour Crystal Cave, there are many other attractions to occupy your time. The promotional information on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter describes many of the sites and activities. Some of the attractions are part of the site, but other activities, such as the miniature golf course and certain educational programs require additional fees. We encourage you to call Crystal Cave directly if you have questions about the offerings and facilities. Gift, rock and souvenir shops, a museum, ice cream parlor and cafe' should all be open on the date of our reunion.

Our reunion will be held in the pavilion area behind the Ice Cream Parlor. Picnic tables will be available. There is a lawn area located next to the pavilion, so feel free to bring lawn chairs, blankets, etc. The main parking lot and lavatories are located nearby.

2019 BACKENSTOSS REUNION HUNSICKER'S GROVE; MERTZTOWN, PA





HISTORIC Crystal Cave

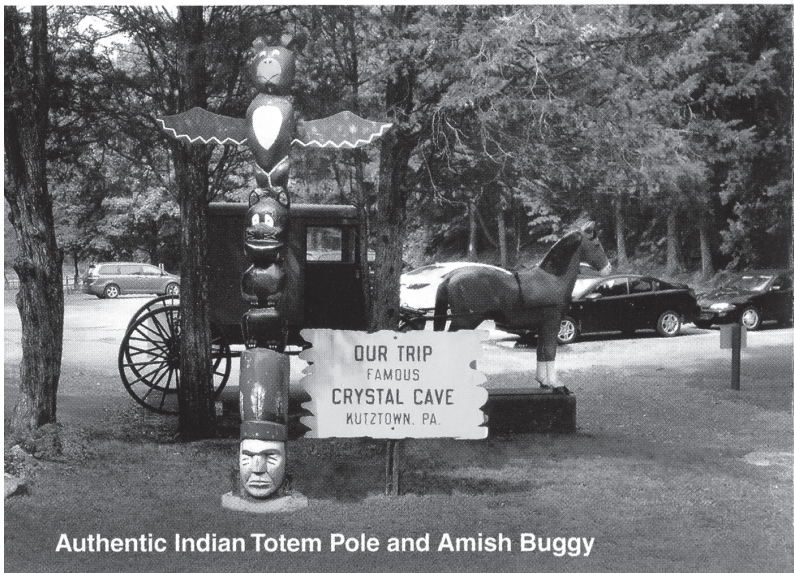
Discover the Exciting Beauty

FANTASTIC GEOLOGY

Step into a dazzling display of crystal magnificence carved slowly and exquisitely by nature through the passage of time. Known for its profuse and superb ornamentation, Crystal Cave's fascinating beauty has delighted millions of tourists for over 145 years. Thousands of sparkling calcite and aragonite crystals in various shades and color are believed to have been what gave Crystal Cave its name. This fairyland of geology contains an abundance of stalactites, stalagmites, delicate flutings, flowstone, drapery, rimstone, boxwork, and dripstone, cleverly accentuated by indirect lighting.

Crystal Cave is considered one of Pennsylvania's greatest natural wonders. Stone draperies in graceful folds, frozen fountains of rock, beautiful and startling formations at every turn – these are part of the vast array of stunning natural sculptures which bring thousands of visitors to Crystal Cave every year. Other marvels of stone formations include the Cathedral Chamber, the Prairie Dogs, the Ear of Corn, the Tobacco Leaves, the Natural Bridge, the Ice Cream Cone, the Totem Pole, and the Crystal Ballroom where dances were once held over 120 years ago. Crystal Cave is a remarkable wonder of nature.

Your 55-minute guided tour begins with an educational movie called "*Inside the Earth*". The comfortable walking tour continues along safe concrete walkways with steel railings while knowledgeable guides provide an informative tour. Millions of adults and children have been thrilled by this splendid subterranean museum of nature. The trip becomes an exciting experience for the whole family to enjoy and a pleasant memory.



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Crystal Cave is one of the oldest continuously operating show caves in the United States. It is also one of the most beautiful and heavily patronized national attractions.

of Historic Crystal Cave

ADDITIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Other things to see and do at Crystal Cave at *no additional charge* include a nature trail, historical exhibit, authentic Amish Buggy, real Indian Totem Poles, and shaded picnic park – all on 150 scenic acres.

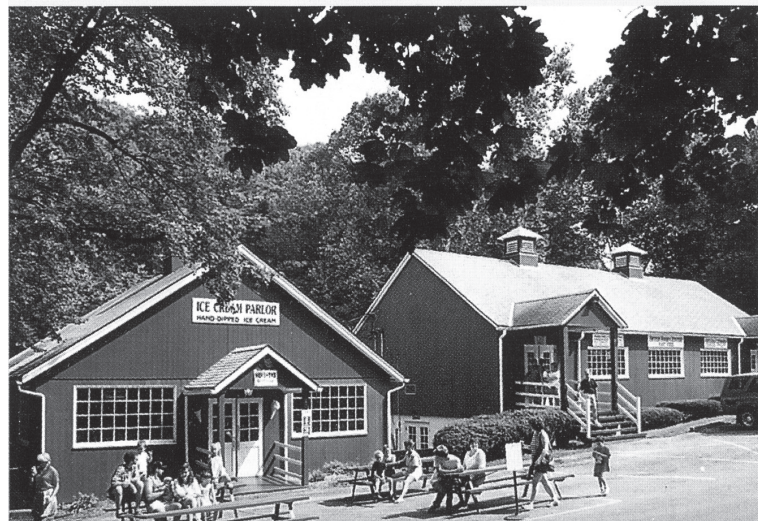
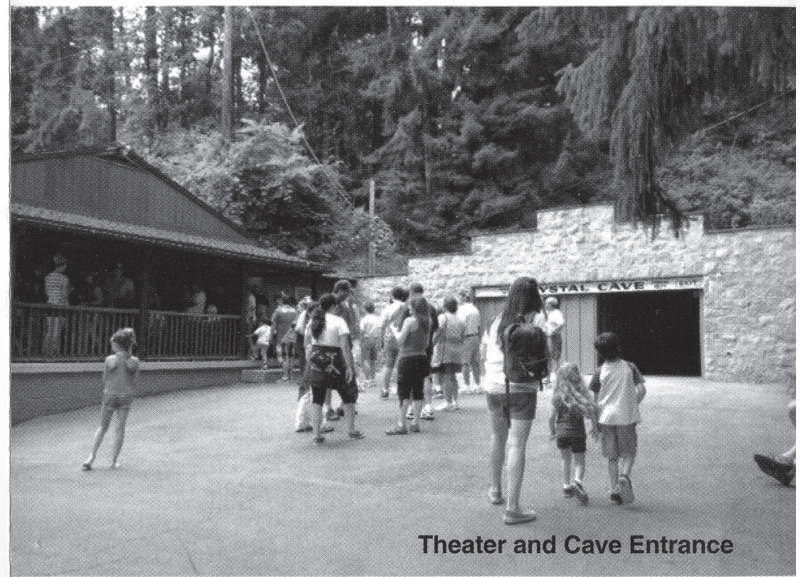
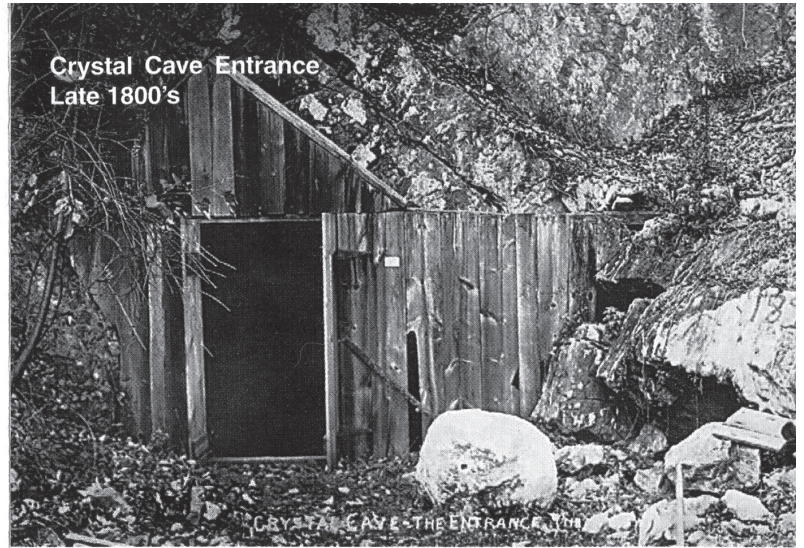
Other fun activities include Miniature Golf, Panning for Gemstones, and Theater, Gift, Rock, and Souvenir Shops. The Museum at Crystal Cave, Ice Cream Parlor, and Crystal Cave Cafe are available in season.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Crystal Cave is in the Capital of the Pennsylvania Dutch Area, midway between Allentown and Reading, near Kutztown, Berks County. It is only a short drive off U.S. Routes 222, 22, 78, and 61.

104 miles from New York City, 82 miles from Newark, N.J., 69 miles from Trenton, N.J., 60 miles from Philadelphia, 73 miles from Wilmington, Del., 112 miles from Baltimore, Md., and 69 miles from Harrisburg. Traveling good roads, Crystal Cave can be reached in 2 hours from New York and 1½ hours from Philadelphia. Always free car and motor coach parking.

Crystal Cave is a great field trip destination. Call for special rates and reservations for groups; schools, scouts, birthday parties, camps, church groups, youth organizations, clubs, and other organized groups. These special rates apply to organized groups of 15 or more. Call 610-683-6765 or click www.crystalcavepa.com for information. Plan your trip today!





PHOTOS FROM OUR 2019 REUNION

2020 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.

While the association treasury remains sufficient to support our current activities, 2019 contributions did not match the organization's expenses. We realize these are difficult times for many, but we ask those who are able to please continue your support for the B.F.A.

Please return this form along with your 2020 contribution. The B.F.A. budget is funded exclusively by our members' \$5.00 contributions and 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, Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

_____ Total 2020 Member Contribution(s) \$5.00 each

_____ Additional contribution

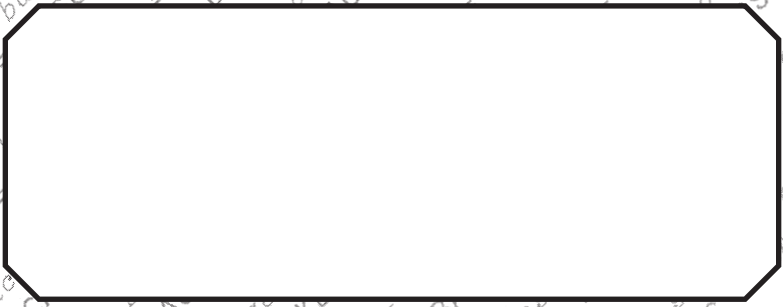
_____ Total Amount

Our current and past newsletters can be found on our association website, backenstoss.org. Please return this form to B.F.A. Treasurer, Kenneth C. Bagenstose; 1015 Conifer Road; Leesport, PA 19533.



Backenstoss Family Association of America
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Blandon, PA 19510

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Thank you for your continued genealogical support!

