

Backenstoss

FAMILY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Est. 1927

“For the perpetuation of the history and traditions of the family and its social enjoyment”

Summer 2021

**Plan to attend our 89th Reunion on Sunday, August 1,
And celebrate the
Family’s first 278 years in America!**

This year’s reunion will be held on Sunday, August 1, 2021 at Berks Leisure Area; 1901 Tulpehocken Road; Reading, PA 19610. The park opens at 8:00 A.M. and we have reserved the pavilion from 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Come early if you like and enjoy the fishing, walking paths, and volleyball court. All anglers 16 and older must have a PA fishing license.

The reunion schedule is 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.	Election of Officers and Directors
3:45 P.M.	Adjournment of reunion

Picnic fare will be provided - hot dogs, ice tea, lemonade and sodas. We suggest you bring side dishes, snacks or desserts in quantities that can be shared. Remember place settings for each family member and serving utensils for covered dishes. Lawn chairs and blankets will allow you to enjoy the lawn areas bordering the Tulpehocken Creek.

President's Message

The Backenstoss Family Association of America is emerging from the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic with renewed determination to maintain the traditions on which it was founded. We look forward to meeting with family members in person(!) at our reunion on August 1. The association website (backenstoss.org), containing the entirety of our published genealogy, as well as many entertaining and educational features, continues to be maintained and updated. The B.F.A. newsletter, downsized to four pages this year, will return to its traditional eight page format in 2022, although beginning next year the newsletter will be available exclusively on our website. While this change was prompted by financial realities, it will also promote the use and enjoyment of our website. For those who wish to read an actual newsletter (myself included), the new format will allow members to print, fold and enjoy the newsletter in its traditional form.

The costs of printing and mailing the newsletter have become unsustainable and, in response to that reality and the changes caused by the pandemic, the officers and directors of the B.F.A. met in a virtual ZOOM meeting on June 3, 2021. At that time the following proposals were adopted

- Officers and directors will be elected during the 2021 reunion. Officers will be elected to two year terms and directors to one year terms. In 2022, directors will be elected to two year terms. This will return our organization to the alternating cycle of two year terms (officers elected in odd years and directors in even years) that existed prior to the pandemic. **MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT OFFICERS LISTED ON THIS PAGE TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS.**

- Backenstoss Family Reunions will be scheduled on a recurring five year cycle of sites. This will enable members to plan their attendance well in advance. For example, Belleman's Church, located only a few miles from the original Backenstoss homestead near Leesport, PA, will be the site of our reunions on the five year anniversaries of our family's 1743 arrival in the New World (ie. 2023 and 2028). Other sites under consideration to complete the cycle are Hunsicker's Grove in Mertzown, PA, Grings Mill/Berks Leisure Area in Wyomissing, PA, Kutztown Park in Kutztown, PA and Conrad Weiser Homestead in Womelsdorf, PA.

- Beginning in 2022, the Backenstoss Family newsletter will be available exclusively on the B.F.A.'s website. The B.F.A. will continue to mail annual notices containing details of each year's reunion, reminding members to view the newsletter on our website and requesting annual contributions.

The officers and directors wish you well as our organization maintains the history, traditions and social enjoyment of the Backenstoss Family Association. We hope to meet you on line and at our reunion!

WEBSITE AND GENEALOGY NEWS

Chris Bagenstose - Webmaster

Hello, and thank you for continuing to be a part of our great family history. It should go without saying that 2020 was tough for everyone. We tried very hard to make our annual reunion happen, but a surge in COVID cases made it impossible to do it safely at the time. We look forward to a much safer and vaccinated 2021. Keep checking our website, and please make sure we have your email address and general information. Information should be sent to webmaster@backenstoss.org. I hope you and your family are safe and have not been too affected by this world wide health event.

As webmaster and historian/genealogist, I am involved in every part of our family association. I very much enjoy these duties and the time I spend with our other family members. I have been updating our family information and keeping it as current as possible. My goal for this year is to simply the contact forms, email contacts and new family submissions.

You can submit new and updated information by going to our website and clicking on the "GENEALOGY" link at the far right of the screen. Use the form that will appear on the first page of the link (you may have to scroll down just a bit). You **DO NOT** have to complete all the fields! Just use the fields that apply to your information. Then click on "SUBMIT" at the bottom of the screen. At that point, your job is done! Thank you for your help in keeping our family records up to date.

2021 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, recent contributions have not matched 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 2021 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 2021 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.

