

Schmucker • Smoker • Smucker



John Schmucker Homestead

Family Association Newsletter

Winter 2021

President's Corner

By Jim Smoker

There has been a lot of work going on by your Board members and family members who have volunteered to work on your behalf this past year.

The 2021 SSS Family Gathering:

Stacey Delsch, our Secretary, agreed to chair the planning effort for our next SSS Family Gathering. In past practice volunteers came forward from the region where the Gathering was to be held and pulled together a planning committee to handle the myriad of functions to make our Gatherings the past successes they have been. Guidebooks from previous Gathering planning committees served as "blueprints". Members of the Board assisted Stacey in the planning effort.

Plans were laid out, our meeting location was selected and confirmed, speakers were lined up and confirmed, then the uncertainties of the SARS Covid 19 virus and its impact on our country confronted us. During the January SSS FA Board meeting, the Board members agreed that for all attendees to be safe, the **SSS FA Family Gathering would be postponed to July 21, 22, 23, 2022**. The Gathering will still be held in Smithville, Ohio.

Passing of our Registrar:

My brother Jerrold M. Smoker, who served as our Registrar and maintained our SSS FA mailing list and coordinated registration for many of our SSS FA Gatherings suddenly passed away on November 22, 2020. He was an active member of the Lancaster (PA) Church of the Brethren, served as President or the Lancaster Conservatory of Music for 20 years, volunteered as Superintendent of the Lancaster Cemetery, and worked on the planning committees of Family Gatherings held in Lancaster since 2005. Eber Rice-Smucker, a long-standing member of the SSS FA Board and Vice President, has agreed to also take on the role of Registrar. Many thanks are extended to Eber. Members wishing to update their contact information may contact Eber via email: ricesmuc@gmail.com

Passing the Flame:

D. Richard Miller has served as our Family Genealogist for over 20 years. Richard picked up the work of Rev. John Smucker and Art Smucker who "enticed" Richard to assist Art in researching, updating and maintaining the SSS FA genealogy database. Richard greatly assisted the effort in migrating our genealogy database to the Lancaster (PA) Mennonite Historical Society where it is currently housed. Richard asked to be relieved of the responsibility. Helen Ault, a long-standing member of our Board and an avid family genealogist, has agreed to add to her duties as a Board Member and to assume the role. Helen is available to assist members in accessing SSS FA database and updating the database with information members provide. Helen can be reached via email at: hsmucker@msn.com.

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Your SSS Family Association Officers, Board Members, and Volunteers

- ~ Jim (James M.) Smoker,
President and Newsletter Editor
- ~ Eber Rice-Smucker,
Vice President and Registrar
- ~ Stacey Delsh, Secretary & Co-
genealogy Database Coordinator
- ~ Darrell Smucker, Treasurer
- ~ Helen Ault, Board Member and
Family Genealogist
- ~ Emily Smucker Beidler, Board Member
- ~ Alvin Smucker, Board Member
- ~ Jenna Seeley, Facebook Coordinator
- ~ Tom Smucker, Family Historian
- ~ Sam Smucker, Website Coordinator

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New Website Formed:

Scott Stoltzfus set our SSS Family website more than 10 years ago. Scott also is the webmaster of the Nicholas Stoltzfus House Preservation group website. Some time back I asked for a volunteer to update and upgrade our website. Sam and Tom Smucker rose to the occasion. Please review their article in this issue of your newsletter.

Article by C.Z. Mast:

While searching through some SSS "archives" I came across an article written many years ago by C.Z. Mast, a noted Mennonite Historian. The article describes some of the tribulations of our early ancestors.

Membership Dues:

If you have contributed \$10 per year or you attended the 2016 Family Gathering, you are considered an active member in the SSS Family Association. Your contributions enable the Association to:

- Publish and mail an annual newsletter.
- Maintain the SSS family genealogy database at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society along with our "archives". (active members have access to the database)
- Develop a funding base to enable us to expand the genealogic database.
- Maintain and develop our SSS website.

If you have not contributed recently, I encourage you to do so. You will note in this newsletter where your contributions can be sent. Thank you!

2020 SSS Family Association 2020 Donors

The Board of Directors of the SSS Family Association gratefully acknowledges the following individuals who contributed to your association in 2020:

2020 Donor Recognition

Jacqueline Steen	Thomas A. Smucker
Jodi Stallard	A. Pearl Kurtz
Thomas C. Smucker	Ralph E. Aschilman
Christy Bass	Jerry & Louis Wyse
Tom Smucker	Bertha Schmucker-Dickerhoff
Sam Smucker	Jack L. Fryman
James Smoker	JE & Dorothy Worthing
Sarah Larco	Donna (Schmucker) DeCosta
Sarah Phipps	Stacey (DeCosta) Delsh
Karen Smucker	Lowell E. Schmucker
Cynthia Smoker	Jon N. & Phyllis Diller
Leon Perkins	Roger D. Rowe
Sue Fielding	Sherry Worthing Wilsbach
Karen Howe	
Ted Smucker	

Thank You!

SSS Family Association — Treasurer Report

FY Ending December 31, 2020

Beginning Cash on Hand (1/1/2020) \$5,662.21

Summary of Financial Activity

Receipts:

Donations (12)	\$195.00
Interest	\$1.18
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$196.18

Expenses:

N/A	
TOAL EXPENSES	\$0.00

Ending Cash Balance on Hand (12/31/20) \$5,858.39

Newsletter Expense Recap:

May 2014	\$1,789.40
September 2015	\$1,161.51
April 2016	\$1,753.10
Januar 2017	\$1,757.45
Fall 2017	\$1,757.45
Fall 2018	\$1,732.03
Fall 2019	\$1,739.87

LMHS Expense Recap:

November 2016	\$4,195.75
April 2017	\$3,804.25
February 2019	\$250.00

Respectfully Submitted,
Darrell Smucker, Treasurer

SSS Family Association Gains Two Volunteers

Your SSS FA Board is pleased to announce the addition of two new volunteers who serve as key resource members to the Board. Below we introduce brothers Sam and Tom Smucker. Sam has agreed to take on the role of Family Website Coordinator and Tom has agreed to take on the role of Family Historian. They make a wonderful addition to our Association. Their bios follow:

Eber Rice-Smucker To Serve as Family Association Registrar In Addition to Serving as Vice President

+ Christian – John - Christian III - David — – Jonas – —
Simon – —Francis

+ Christian – John - Christian III - Jonathan - Amos -
Emma Rohrer - May Smucker



My parents had both attended Goshen College then worked as teachers but raised my three sisters and me on a mixed dairy farm North of Orrville. We were members at Smithville Mennonite Church, Ohio.

We often attended many family reunions at Oak Grove Amish Mennonite Church: Smucker, Rohrer, Schrock, Good where I became fascinated with family histories and genealogy. In 1975 I traveled to Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland on an Anabaptist History bicycle tour and stopped at our Schmucker ancestral village of Grendelvald, Switzerland.

In 1978, Beckie Rice and I married in Goshen. We both use each other's last names going by Rice-Smucker. In 1981, we traveled from Phoenix, AZ, with our 6-month-old son Noah Smucker, to Oak Grove Mennonite Church for our first SSS family reunion. Before retirement, I used my BA in Religion from Goshen College and Master of Social Work from ASU to work as a therapist and an administrator.

In 1993, we moved back to Goshen with our children Noah, Nathan and Naomi.

We all helped my second cousin, John Robert Smucker

process several SSS Newsletter mailings. I attended SSS Family Gatherings in Pennsylvania, Wayne Co. Ohio, and Goshen, Indiana. I continue to be fascinated with family trees, histories and now how DNA affects it. I hope relatives near and far of all denominations and careers will make their connections with us. I am eager make contagious my excitement about our SSS Family Gatherings by working with our Committee and local relatives through events, programs and tours that motivate many more families to eagerly plan vacations to Wayne County in July 2022.

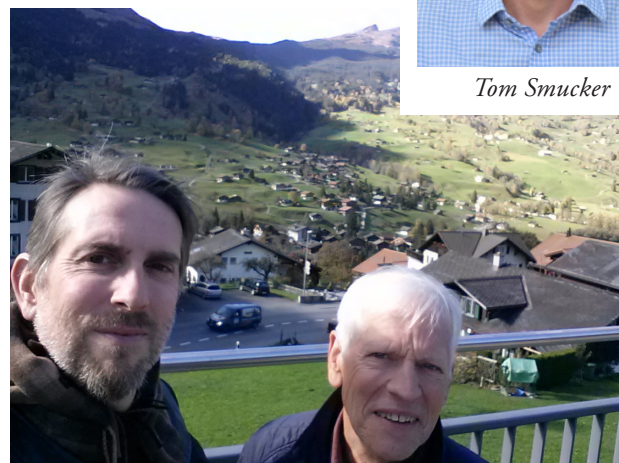
My contact information is: 1703 Woodward Place, Goshen, Indiana 46526-4739; ricesmuc@gmail.com; 574-849-2266 Cell and text.

Meet our New Family Historian and SSS FA Webmaster

Sam and Tom are the sons of Ken and Judy Smucker (more ancestral info?). They grew up in southern Illinois but now live in Indiana and Ohio, respectively. Both attended previous reunions in Orrville, Ontario, Lancaster, and Kidron. Sam is working on a Ph.D. in Media Studies at Indiana University. He previously worked as a union organizer and in film distribution. Tom is an Associate Professor of Geography at Ohio University where he teaches and conducts research on environmental change in East Africa. His wife Edna also teaches at Ohio University. They have two children, Nadia and Theo, both 11 years old.



Tom Smucker



Tom Smucker and his Father, Sam Smucker

Helen Ault, Long Standing SSS Family Board Member Assumes Role of Family Genealogist

Hello, I am your new Family Genealogist for the SSSFA. My line comes from Christian III's sons John and David. I grew up and still live in the Wayne County, Ohio area. Genealogy has been my passion for the past 20 yrs. I am knowledgeable in navigating data bases and have access to the Ancestry.com site. Would you like to understand how you fit into the SSS family tree? Do you need help with the SSSFA data base in Lancaster? Or, do you just have some general questions? I am your contact person Helen Smucker Ault. I can be reached by email hsmucker@msn.com, phone at 330-703-0003, or mail at 1488 Wayne Street, Barberton, Ohio 44203. You may also text me on my phone.



Privations of the Early Colonial Days: The Schmucker Family

*By C.Z. Mast (Transcribed by Jim Smoker)
Date of origin unknown*

“The earliest record of the Schmucker family was Christian Schmucker. We was the emigrant ancestor of a large and representative family in Mennonite communities of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana. His entire group of descendants, including both dead and living, reach an estimated figure of 10,000.

The name is variously spelled Schmucker, Smoker, Smocker, Smuker, and Smucker, the latter form has become almost universally accepted in the last half century.

Christian Schmucker was a native of Switzerland, and when he signed his oath of allegiance to King George of Great Britain, he wrote it “Schmucker”.

He crossed the ocean in the ship “St. Andrew”, controlled by James Abercrombie, which landed in Philadelphia May 8, 1752. As to his first settlement we are not able to ascertain. We suppose him to have established himself soon after his arrival to America within the present borough of Wyomissing, PA. A correspondent of over 20 years stated that the Schmucker family had chosen their location in Bern Township, Berks County, Pa, where other Amish Mennonites established their first place of abode as the Burkeys, Beilers, Fishers, Masts, Stutzmans, Zugs, Detweilers, Hollys, Troyers, Lapps, Yoders, and others.

Only a few of these families remained in their first organized congregation in America known as the Northkill Congregation. This all occurred during the “years of bloodshed” which was between 1754 and 1764 (the time of the French and Indian War) when the Indians had returned to reclaim the land of the white settlers who were incited by the French. Some descendants believe that Christian Schmucker and his wife are buried in the vicinity of Hamburg (Pennsylvania) vicinity. We may conclude that in Hamburg was their first place of abode, but they did not remain in that township for a long course of years, as we have reason to believe that Christian Schmucker, progenitor, had lived in Cumru Township where he erected a stone farmhouse in 1788 as indicated in the date stone on the east wall.

In the past quarter of a century the original farm has become the spot of modern homes. But the old quaint looking farmhouse of the early Schmuckers now stands on Parkside Avenue in Wyomissing. It is known as the “Stone House” and is the recreation center for the town. The old meadow with its delightful creek, the Wyomissing, has been changed into a park. The farm was owned and operated by the Schmuckers for five generations. Isaac Schmucker, a great grandson on Brethren minister, was the last member of the family to vacate the homestead in 1841, and be moved with his family to Ashland County, Ohio.

The Christian Schmucker passport reads as follows: “The Govenor, President, and Counsellor of the regency of Montbeliard (France) by his serene highness our Lord the reigning Duke of Wortemberg, Sa Sa. To all those whom shall come known that Christian Schmucker, his wife Mary Eichelman, with one child, Doratius Alleman, his wife called Baumgartner, Jacob Fame and his wife Catherine Eicher Y.A. – on all of them Swiss Germans from the Canton of Bern, wishing to leave this country to find a convenient place abroad to seek their fortunes, they have applied for a passport for the surety of their voyage which was granted, therefore it is requested and required of all those to whom appertain to let them pass freely without embarrassment, which offenses we will reciprocate. In such cases in faith of which the present is authorized with the ordinary seal of the chancery and signed by one surely in Council he 8th of May One Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty-Two, by Ordinary Jeanmarie, Sec.”

The eldest child of Christian Schmucker (and Mary) is the ancestor of all Schmuckers found in Mennonite circles throughout the United States. He is known as John Schmucker, born September 24, 1749 in Switzerland. He died on a farm near Gordonville, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He was united in marriage with Barbara Stoltzfus from Zweibucken, Pfatz, Germany at the age of 14 years. She died in 1838 at the age of 86 years, 8 months and 2 days. Both are buried in Myers Cemetery located near Intercourse, Lancaster, Co. PA. TO this union were born nine sons and four daughters.

In the early tax lists of Cumru Township, Berks County, we find John Schmucker assessed in 1791 to 1807 with 140 acres of tillable soil and twenty acres of woodland, five horses, and seven cows, the total sum of annual taxes was \$53.50 and 1791 the entire taxation was ten pounds.

The first Schmucker pioneer to push westward across the border line of Pennsylvania and settle in Wayne County, Ohio, near the present Smithville was Christian Schmucker with his family in 1819. He was born February 11, 1775, the eldest son of John Schmucker (and Barbara). He was married to Elizabeth Stutzman, who died in Mifflin County, PA. To this union were born ten children. He married as his second wife, Fanny Lebengute. She died at 89 years. Both are buried at the Oak Grove Mennonite Church cemetery near Smithville, Ohio. There were eight children born to the second marriage.

However, we dare not fail to make mention of a son of this first marriage known as Bishop Isaac Smucker. He was ordained to the ministry in Knox, County, Ohio in 1838 and in 1848 elected bishop in Elkhart County, Indiana. He was married June 10, 1832 to Sarah Troyer who was born in November 11, 1811 in Holmes County, Ohio. She was the daughter of John Troyer, married to a Reichenbach, who was the son of Michael Troyer, who had emigrated with his brother, Andreas, at the age of eight years under the care of his stepfather, Michael Holly, a native of Switzerland, landing in Philadelphia November 3, 1750.

For more details of the Smuckers see “Mast Family History”, 1911, on page 211 to 222; also “Annal of Conestoga Valley 1942”, in Chapter 32.

Christian Schmucker Among Pioneers Spared Through Help of Reformed Pastor

He was severely tried and was imprisoned with a number of Amish Mennonite who refused military service on account of their religious convictions (during the revolutionary War). They were sentenced to be shot and a day set for their execution. A meeting was held in the Reading Prison where the Abraham Lincoln Hotel now stands at Fifth and Washington Streets to administer the Lord’s Supper to the condemned brethren.

However, the execution was never carried into effect. Through the leading providence friends interfered, particularly Henry Hertzell, a pastor of the German Reformed Church, who interested himself in their behalf and made a strong appeal to the authorities for the freedom of these innocent, unassuming, and quiet people. The ground of Pastor Hertzell’s appeal was that these people had fled from Europe to escape military service and that they could not now be expected to do what their conscience forbade them to do in Europe.

Amish Benefactor

For many years the writer had endeavored to learn more about the aforementioned Henry Hertzell, who was born in 1738, until in recent years he received the following from a reformed pastor who was a noted church historian. Reverend Hertzell first appeared in the old Huguenot Church in Kutztown, PA, prior to 1772. About 1744 we meet him in Jacob’s Church, Jacksonville, Lehigh County and at various churches in Berks and Lehigh Counties after 1795.

‘He was tall and stout in stature and a mason by trade. Some folks held him in decision because he may have been

inferior to his fellow ministers in theological training, but he concluded that he was just as capable to build the Kingdom of God as to build houses, although as a minister he was never admitted to the general assembly.’

Here was a godly man who saved the lives of Christian Zook, the writer’s great-great grandfather, and his brother John Jacob Mast, John Hertzler, and others who have offspring numbering thousands today.”

SSS Family Website

By Sam Smucker

We are happy to announce that new website for the Schmucker-Smucker-Smoker Family Association has launched, though it remains under development. The website address is www.schmuckerfamilies.org.

Website costs for the first two years have been covered by 15 individual donations. Thank you to all who donated!

An important advantage of the new website is that people will be able to more easily join the association, provide family updates (e.g., births, marriages), and register for reunions. The newsletter will continue to be produced on annual basis and paper versions sent out to members who prefer that option. If you know a family member who does not receive the newsletter, please invite them to join the Association using the new website so that we have their information in the run up to the 2022 reunion.

We hope the new website will serve as a resource for family members to discover more about their family history. In the short term, we want to make available resources documenting past reunions as well as existing genealogical and family history research developed by Jane Davidson, Rev. John R. Smucker, Silas Smucker, and C.Z. Mast. In the future, we plan to develop resources that will interest the next generation in family history.

We hope that the site will eventually serve as a platform for further research and discussion among family members. One of our goals it to get more people involved in developing the site. Specifically, we are looking for contributors in the following areas:

Documenting past reunions - We are looking for people who can share resources (e.g., scanned pictures, programs, etc. in jpg or pdf formats) from any of the past reunions.

Written contributions – Please consider making a written contribution on history of the family, Anabaptist history, interviews with family members who are doing interesting things, or whatever else may be of interest. If you have an idea for a story but would rather not do the writing yourself, please let us know.

For all website related questions or contributions, please contact Samuel.smucker@gmail.com

D. Richard Miller “Retires”

Richard Miller has served as our family association genealogist ever since he was “brought under the tent” by Rev. John Smucker and Art Smucker. His early interest in computer technology and databases were a perfect fit as he worked to compile family genealogic data into early versions of genealogy databases. Richard was an active member of SAGA, the Swiss Anabaptist Genealogic Association. One of his dreams was to have a cadre of family members to assist in collecting and maintaining our “family tree” as it continues to branch out. Richard was extremely helpful in assisting with the move of the SSS Family database to the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society where it is currently housed and maintained. Now in his young 80’s, Richard has asked to be relieved of his responsibilities. We so appreciate your efforts on our behalf over these past 20 years, Richard!

SSS Family Association

c/o James Smoker
3435 Bull Road
York, PA 17408-9755

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ACCESSING THE LANCASTER MENNONITE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE SSS FAMILY DATABASE:

1. Go to LMHS.org
2. Click on the Left column-"Online Resources"
3. On next page, on the Right hand column, Click on SSSFA Database
4. Enter the Username: sssfa_member
(remember to separate sssfa from member with an underscore)
5. Enter the Password: sssfa2017

MEMBERSHIP IN THE SSS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Our SSS Family Association was duly constituted with the creation of our constitution in March of 1985. Article IV (Membership) states that, "Membership is granted at one of the five year meetings, making a contribution, or paying for a subscription to the Newsletter. One of these acts must be continued every five years to be a member.

If you did not attend the 2016 SSS Family Gathering in Lancaster, PA, or have not made a contribution in the past five years, please make adonation of at least \$10.00 payable to the SSS Family Association. Mail your donation to: Darrell Smucker, Treasurer, SSS Family Association, 1497 Morgan Street, Wooster, Ohio, 44691-1541.