

Schmucker • Smoker • Smucker



John Schmucker's House in Grindlwald

Family Association Newsletter

Fall-Winter 2023

President's Corner

by Jim Smoker

Heritage Tour:

In this issue we are pleased that many cousins expressed interest in another Switzerland-France-Germany Family Heritage Tour. The majority of this newsletter is focused on the 2024 Heritage Tour that the Masthof's have once again agreed to host. About 35 of us took this tour and were enthralled and humbled by the sites we visited. From Grindlwald to Beatenberg/Schmocken to Trachselburg Castle, Lois Ann and Lemar Mast were superb hosts. Lois Ann and Lemar have hosted many Anabaptist family heritage tours of this region. It has been said that our roots give us a sense of who we are. Where do our interests in gardening and arts and crafts originate? Could there be a genetic link that grew from Christian I and Catherine and their forefathers? I encourage you to consider this trip of a lifetime and to visit the lands and sites where our ancestors lived.

Call for Volunteers:

We are still seeking volunteers interested in any of the following positions: Board member, President-elect, Newsletter Co-editor, and Family Genealogist. If you have any interest or questions regarding any of these positions, please contact me at jsmoker725@comcast.net and we'll arrange a time to discuss the particulars of each position.

Email Project:

We are still hoping to migrate to electronic delivery of our SSS Family Newsletter and other updates. We currently have over 1000 addresses of family members on file, but only 180 current email addresses. Mailing the newsletter incurs a significant cost to your association. Please share your email address with Eber Rice-Smucker, Board Members and Registrar (ricesmuc@gmail.com). We will not share your information with any organization other than Mennonite Life (the former Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society). We are contractually obligated to share our membership list with them as they maintain.

A Key Question:

Attendance at our Family Gatherings is slowly dwindling. Please voice your opinion. Should we continue holding Family Gatherings? Should we remain on a five-year cycle? I am open to your thoughts. Please share them with me via email: jsmoker725@comcast.net. Our SSS Board will be meeting soon and I'll share your collective feedback with same.

We Are On The Web!

Our Facebook page is a private group site and access is coordinated by Jenna (Smoker) Seeley. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/smucker>
Our Website address and content is changing thanks to the efforts of Sam and Tom Smucker. To access the new site: <https://www.schmuckerfamilies.org>.

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Your SSS Family Association Officers, Board Members, and Volunteers

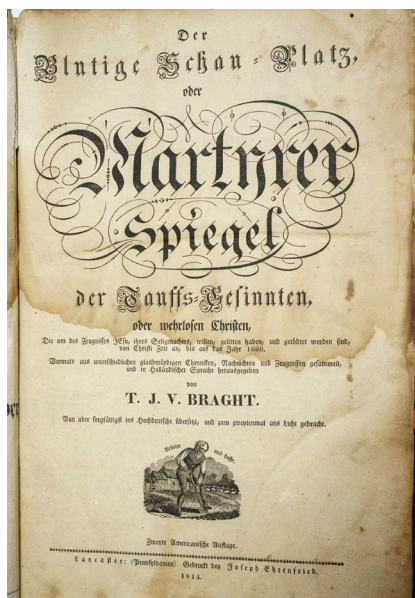
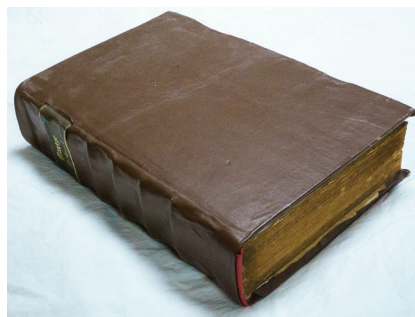
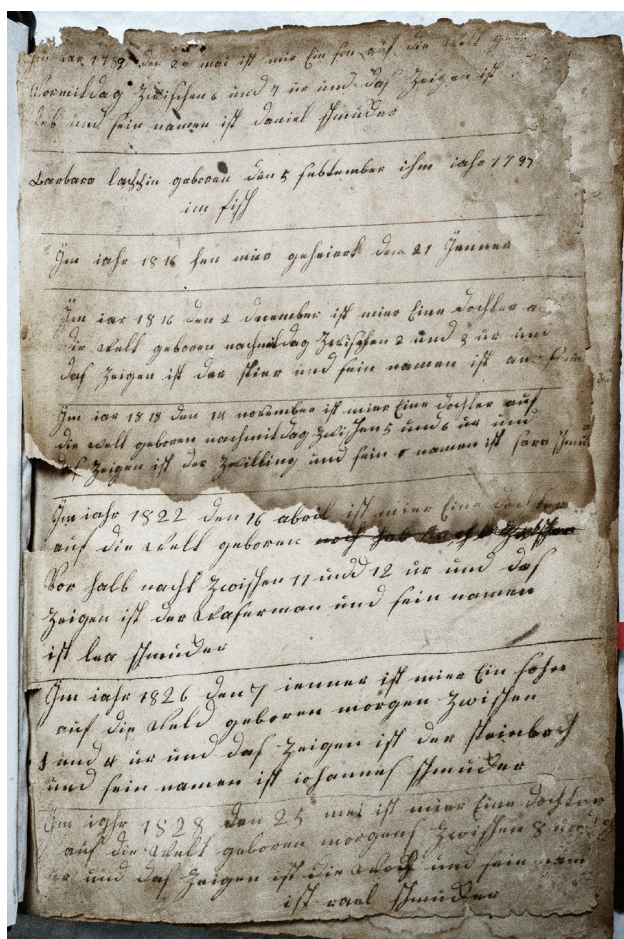
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Coordinator



Lost? And Found

by Jim Smoker
(photos complements of Elam Stoltzfus)

My paternal Grampa "Jossie" (Christian I-John-Daniel-Joshua-David Renno) apparently inherited his great grandfather Joshua's "Ausbund" and "Martyr's Mirror". When Grampa Jossie passed these books found there way to my Uncle Raymond Smoker who passed away several years ago in the "Panhandle of Florida". He was recruited by a wealthy doctor to farm his land "like the Amish". Uncle Raymond took up the challenge and moved onto the doctor's farmstead and the doctor held "Old Time Days" as an annual event on his farm. When Uncle Raymond passed, his caretakers, Ben and Carol Yoder, in-laws of Elam Stoltzfus, contacted Elam Stoltzfus, the current Managing Director of the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead. Elam sorted through Uncle Raymond's personal effects and found the "Ausbund" and the "Martyr's Mirror". The books contained Old German Script which Elam has shared he will translate. The books remain in safe keeping at the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead. I feel fortunate that these family treasures were not lost and that they reside with one of our cousins.



THE Nicholas
Stoltzfus
HOMESTEAD



This book belong to
Cathie & Smoker.
from David Lapp who
bought it at my Great
Aunt Sarah Smoker's sale
written April 1, 1942
it belonged to my Great
Grandfather.



From the Archives

by Jim Smoker

“With a Name Like Smucker....” Continued by Silas Smucker a Founder and former SSS Family Association President

“In the 1883 issue of the Schmucker Smoker Smucker Newsletter, mention was made that the name Schmucker conveys the idea of adorning and beautification. And according to Gottfried Buchmiller, in his book, “St. Beatenberg, Geschichte einer Berggemeinde”, there is a tradition of, some people adorned themselves with mountain flowers when they went to church at Sigriswil. They were called “Geschmuckten” people and the area where they lived became known as Schmocken. Some etymologists do not agree with Dr. Buchmiller concerning the origin and meaning of the name Schmucker. In recent months, I have received two letters from Europe concerning the origin and meaning of our name.

Dr. Rudolf J. Ramseyer, University of Bern, Switzerland, a foremost etymologist of Swiss German family names, said in the German language of the Middle Ages there was a verb “smiegen” with the past participle “smogen” which means “to nestle against or cling”. If we visit that part of Beatenberg known as Schmocken, we will readily see the houses of Schmocken are nestled against the slope of the hill, or clinging to the slope. The oldest recorded ancestor of the Schmucker family is “Heinrich ab Smoken” dated August 23, 1316. Some etymologists attribute other meanings to the name Schmucker. This is probably partly dependent on the place and circumstances under which the name Schmucker may have originated in other places.

Dr. Ramseyer’s explanation of the meaning and origin of our line of Schmuckers in the Middle Ages appears as a viable possibility.”





Interior of the Beatenberg Reformed Church where Schmoklis still worship.



The Beatenberg Reformed Church where we will worship just as our ancestors did.



"Schmokli" home at Schmoken—yes, Smuckers still live in Switzerland today.

To Switzerland, Germany, and France in 2024 to see where our Schmucker/Smoker/Smucker ancestors lived

If you have never visited Switzerland where our Smucker ancestors lived before coming to America, October 2024 is your opportunity! We will walk where



The Ueli & Erika Schmocker family.

Immigrant Christian Schmucker lived in 1754 before he emigrated to America.

We will visit Switzerland and Germany and France where our Schmucker/Schmokli ancestors lived. One of the highlights will be meeting the Ueli and Erika Schmocker fam-

ily including their three

children (Melanie, Andrea, and Marcel) who live on a farm near Beatenberg, Switzerland. Worshipping in the Beatenberg Reformed Church where Schmoklis still worship today will be another memorable moment.

Then next day, we will drive to see the Grindelwald Reformed Church where our Immigrant Christian Schmucker was baptized as an infant on February 4, 1720.

While still in Switzerland, we will also visit an open-air outdoor museum at Ballenberg with more than 100 century-old build-

ings from all over Switzerland, 250 farmyard animals, traditional, old-time gardens and fields, demonstrations of local crafts and other events that create a vivid impression of rural life when our ancestors lived in Switzerland.

Of course, we will walk to the *Täuferhöhle* (Anabaptist Cave) where Anabaptists worshipped in secret. After a delicious meal provided by the our friends, Peter and Esther Fischer, in a nearby restored old mill, we will walk the streets of Zürich, Switzerland—the birthplace of Anabaptism in 1525.

Since 1990 when we led our first Heritage Tour to Europe, we have learned to know many persons who we are eager to introduce you—one is Lydia Baumgartner who will serve our first meal in Switzerland: Alpensoup, Swiss Bratwurst, and a scrumptious Swiss dessert.





Plaque in the foreground about Anabaptist Felix Manz who was drowned for his faith here in the Limmat River in Zürich. The Grossmünster can be seen in the distance.

Above: Beautiful Beatenberg with snowy Swiss Alps in the background is where our Smucker ancestors lived—how could they have left?

Right: Regula Fankhauser in the center sharing about the Täuferversteck—wait till you hear her “touching” personal story!

* * * * *

We will never forget our visit with Simon and Regula Fankhauser at the Täuferversteck—a hiding place for Anabaptists that dates back to the 1600s! And then Simon and his friends will entertain us with yodeling after dinner one night. Oh yes, we will also see an amazing performance from Swiss Adolf Zobrist on several different alphorns (pictured on the right)!



You can't go to Switzerland and not be treated by a Yodeling Choir—after dinner one evening!



One of the many ancient castles that we will float by on our Rhine River Cruise to see the very same castles our ancestors did enroute to America.

If you have Stoltzfus ancestry (and even if you don't), you will love our lunch stop at Ringweilerhof on Peter and Karin Schowalter's farm—this is where Immigrant Nicholas Stoltzfus lived before coming to America.

Other unique stops will include a ride up a cablecar to Felsenegg overlooking the Zürich Sea; see the house where Johanna Spyri lived when she wrote *Heidi*; visit the Schmocker Store in Luzerne; ride another cablecar from Beatenberg to the Niederhorn for lunch; visit Erlenbach where Jacob Ammann was born; sample over 30+ different Swiss cookies at the Kambly Swiss Cookie Factory; shop at the Jakob Markt where the Swiss residents shop; shop at the Cowbell Factory; visit a Stork Park in France; enjoy the delicious *Flamenküchen*; and cruise up the Rhine River past the very same castles our ancestors did enroute to America.

The Masts (Lemar and Lois Ann) have led these Heritage Tours since 1990 and said that they are really eager to share this Tour with the Smuckers/Smokers! The four-page itinerary is available either on-line or through the mail. See box on the bottom right for more information.



Above left: Flower boxes on European houses will give you the desire to do this back home—can you see those cowbells hanging above the flowers? Wait till you see the large cow bells! And don't you love those half-timbered buildings pictured above right?



This is the entrance to our hotel in Obernai, France. We believe in finding three- and four-star hotels so that we can rest well after traveling all day, usually from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. each day.

Wait till you experience the windy Swiss roads with snowy Alps in the distance!



Smucker European Heritage Tour
October 1-11, 2024

Photos above taken at Beatenberg and Schönbühl where Schmuckers live for today and where the U.S. Smuckers originated.

Thursday, October 1, 2024
After flying all night (seven and one-half hours), we arrive at Zurich, Switzerland to help foot on European soil! Our first stop is at the Schönbühl in Ringweil where the U.S. Smuckers originated.

Friday, October 2, 2024
After flying all night (seven and one-half hours), we arrive at Zurich, Switzerland to help foot on European soil! Our first stop is at the Schönbühl in Ringweil where the U.S. Smuckers originated.

Saturday, October 3, 2024
A morning drive will take us to near Basel (where the Smuckers lived here) to visit the Ringweil (Schmucker) where the Smuckers lived and the Schönbühl (Schmucker) where the Smuckers lived. We will spend the day in Basel, Switzerland where we can experience today to witness the Ringweil in Ringweil, Switzerland to visit the Ringweil in Ringweil, Switzerland.

Sunday, October 4, 2024
This morning, our first stop is at Basel, Switzerland, the site of a monastery founded in 954 in Canton Schaffhausen, Switzerland. Our lunch stop will be at Lucerne—the first city in the Swiss Confederacy—where the famous wooden chapel bridge dating to 1333 welcomes us with its painted gables. Then we will enjoy an evening drive through the Swiss Alps before arriving at the Ringweil (Schmucker) where the Smuckers lived and the Schönbühl (Schmucker) where the Smuckers lived. We will spend the day in Basel, Switzerland where we can experience today to witness the Ringweil in Ringweil, Switzerland to visit the Ringweil in Ringweil, Switzerland.

Monday, October 5, 2024
Our first stop is at Basel, Switzerland, the site of a monastery founded in 954 in Canton Schaffhausen, Switzerland. Our lunch stop will be at Lucerne—the first city in the Swiss Confederacy—where the famous wooden chapel bridge dating to 1333 welcomes us with its painted gables. Then we will enjoy an evening drive through the Swiss Alps before arriving at the Ringweil (Schmucker) where the Smuckers lived and the Schönbühl (Schmucker) where the Smuckers lived. We will spend the day in Basel, Switzerland where we can experience today to witness the Ringweil in Ringweil, Switzerland to visit the Ringweil in Ringweil, Switzerland.

Tuesday, October 6, 2024
Our first stop is at Basel, Switzerland, the site of a monastery founded in 954 in Canton Schaffhausen, Switzerland. Our lunch stop will be at Lucerne—the first city in the Swiss Confederacy—where the famous wooden chapel bridge dating to 1333 welcomes us with its painted gables. Then we will enjoy an evening drive through the Swiss Alps before arriving at the Ringweil (Schmucker) where the Smuckers lived and the Schönbühl (Schmucker) where the Smuckers lived. We will spend the day in Basel, Switzerland where we can experience today to witness the Ringweil in Ringweil, Switzerland to visit the Ringweil in Ringweil, Switzerland.

Wednesday, October 7, 2024
Our first stop is at Basel, Switzerland, the site of a monastery founded in 954 in Canton Schaffhausen, Switzerland. Our lunch stop will be at Lucerne—the first city in the Swiss Confederacy—where the famous wooden chapel bridge dating to 1333 welcomes us with its painted gables. Then we will enjoy an evening drive through the Swiss Alps before arriving at the Ringweil (Schmucker) where the Smuckers lived and the Schönbühl (Schmucker) where the Smuckers lived. We will spend the day in Basel, Switzerland where we can experience today to witness the Ringweil in Ringweil, Switzerland to visit the Ringweil in Ringweil, Switzerland.

Thursday, October 8, 2024
Our first stop is at Basel, Switzerland, the site of a monastery founded in 954 in Canton Schaffhausen, Switzerland. Our lunch stop will be at Lucerne—the first city in the Swiss Confederacy—where the famous wooden chapel bridge dating to 1333 welcomes us with its painted gables. Then we will enjoy an evening drive through the Swiss Alps before arriving at the Ringweil (Schmucker) where the Smuckers lived and the Schönbühl (Schmucker) where the Smuckers lived. We will spend the day in Basel, Switzerland where we can experience today to witness the Ringweil in Ringweil, Switzerland to visit the Ringweil in Ringweil, Switzerland.

Friday, October 9, 2024
Our first stop is at Basel, Switzerland, the site of a monastery founded in 954 in Canton Schaffhausen, Switzerland. Our lunch stop will be at Lucerne—the first city in the Swiss Confederacy—where the famous wooden chapel bridge dating to 1333 welcomes us with its painted gables. Then we will enjoy an evening drive through the Swiss Alps before arriving at the Ringweil (Schmucker) where the Smuckers lived and the Schönbühl (Schmucker) where the Smuckers lived. We will spend the day in Basel, Switzerland where we can experience today to witness the Ringweil in Ringweil, Switzerland to visit the Ringweil in Ringweil, Switzerland.

Saturday, October 10, 2024
Our first stop is at Basel, Switzerland, the site of a monastery founded in 954 in Canton Schaffhausen, Switzerland. Our lunch stop will be at Lucerne—the first city in the Swiss Confederacy—where the famous wooden chapel bridge dating to 1333 welcomes us with its painted gables. Then we will enjoy an evening drive through the Swiss Alps before arriving at the Ringweil (Schmucker) where the Smuckers lived and the Schönbühl (Schmucker) where the Smuckers lived. We will spend the day in Basel, Switzerland where we can experience today to witness the Ringweil in Ringweil, Switzerland to visit the Ringweil in Ringweil, Switzerland.

Sunday, October 11, 2024
Our first stop is at Basel, Switzerland, the site of a monastery founded in 954 in Canton Schaffhausen, Switzerland. Our lunch stop will be at Lucerne—the first city in the Swiss Confederacy—where the famous wooden chapel bridge dating to 1333 welcomes us with its painted gables. Then we will enjoy an evening drive through the Swiss Alps before arriving at the Ringweil (Schmucker) where the Smuckers lived and the Schönbühl (Schmucker) where the Smuckers lived. We will spend the day in Basel, Switzerland where we can experience today to witness the Ringweil in Ringweil, Switzerland to visit the Ringweil in Ringweil, Switzerland.

This "Smucker European Heritage Tour" has a few available seats yet—send an email or call for the above pictured itinerary: lois@masthof.com or 484-798-8556.

SSS Family Association

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

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2023 SSS Donors Roll

Darrell Smucker, Treasurer

The SSS Family Association Board of Directors extends its gratitude to the individuals listed below who donated to their Family Association. Their contributions, and yours enables our organization to continue to thrive and to continue to explore our family history.

Walter & Vera Schmucker
Nathan Smucker
Greta Heibert
Thomas & Kathleen Smucker
David E & Carol Smucker
Kim K & Anna Marie Smucker
Randy B & Judith Windle
Janice E (Smucker) Street
Stephen Street
Janet M Smucker
James W Clark
James A & Betty J Manning

How to Access the SSS Database at Mennonite Life

Log onto www.mennonitelife.org

Click on the “Research” tab on the left side of the page
At the bottom of the page find and click on “Research
Online”

Login ID for 2023 and 2024 is “member”

Login Password for 2023 is “mlife23research” and for
2024 is “mlife24access”

You may need to log in twice to access the database.

Please contact Julia Wiker via
archives@mennonitelife.org
should you have difficulty logging on.