

Schmucker • Smoker • Smucker



John Schmucker Homestead

Family Association Newsletter

Winter 2024-2025

President's Corner

by Jim Smoker

Notes of Gratitude:

It is volunteers that keep our Family Association intact and moving forward to meet the needs of our members. I am especially appreciative of the years of support and service provided by Darrell Smucker, SSS FA Treasurer. Darrell has filled this role for 25 years!

Thank you, too, for the efforts of Tom and Sam Smucker these past two years. Tom, a professor at Ohio University, has been working on an SSS Google Earth Project which captures SSS historical sites on Google Earth throughout Switzerland and America. This is a work in process. If you have an interest in sharing photos of SSS sites you have visited or SSS historic farmsteads please contact Tom via tsmucker@gmail.com. Sam, a doctoral candidate, has taken on responsibility for our website which is yet another work in progress. As this website evolves it will contain texts of interest to family members for which we have obtained permission to copy and post, past newsletters, and other family-related documents. Please contact Sam via samuel.smucker@gmail.com.

Email Project:

We are still hoping to migrate to electronic delivery of our newsletter and notices to our membership. We currently have over 1400 addresses of family members on file, but only 180 current email addresses. Printing and mailing the newsletter now exceeds \$2,300 per issue.

Please update or share your email address with Eber Rice-Smucker, Board Member and Registrar via ricesmuc@gmail.com.

We will not share your information with any organization other than Mennonite Life (the former Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society).

Call for Volunteers:

We are still seeking volunteers interested in any of the following positions: Board member, President-elect, Newsletter Editor or Co-editor, and Family Genealogist and Historian. Ours is a volunteer staffed organization. Volunteers make this organization what it is. If you have a particular talent in one of the above roles, please contact Jim Smoker via jsmoker725@comcast.net or 717-650-4878 and I'll gladly share what is expected in each of the above roles.

Mark Your Calendar:

We held our last SSS Family Gathering in Smithville, Ohio in 2022. COVID upset our plans to hold our Gathering in 2021. The Board is grateful for the outstanding effort of Stacey Delsh (SSSFA Secretary) and Darrell Smucker (SSSFA Treasurer) and his family members who made the Smithville Gathering a success. It has been our practice to hold our Family Gatherings in Pennsylvania and alternate every five years with Gatherings in Ohio and Indiana. We are in the early stages of planning the 2026 Family Gathering (Our 50th Anniversary of the Founding of our Family Association) which will be held July 17& 18, 2026 at the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead in Wyomissing, PA. You may recall that the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead was the home of Barbara Stoltzfus who married John, son of Christian "the Immigrant". There is some note that John and Barbara lived on the Homestead for a time before moving to the "Stone House" in Wyomissing. Emily Smucker-Beidler and I will be working on plans for the Gathering and are open to your thoughts as to what you would like to experience regarding bus tours, speakers/topics, etc. Please contact Emily via emilysart@gmail.com or me via jsmoker725@comcast.net.

Presidents Corner	1
An Eight Year Journey	2
From the Archives.	3
New Genealogy Information	4
Bits and Pieces	4
SSS Family Membership	5
Treasurer's Report.	5
SSS Database	5
2024 SSS Donors Rolls	6

Your SSS Family Association Officers, Board Members, and Volunteers

Jim (James M. Smoker), President
Eber Rice-Smucker, Vice President and Registrar
Stacey Delsh, Secretary
Darrell Smucker, Treasurer
Helen Ault, Board Member and Genealogist
Emily Smucker Beidler, Board Member
Samuel Smucker, SSS/FA Website Coordinator
Thomas Smucker, SSS/FA Historian
Jenna Seeley, SSS/FA Facebook Coordinator

An Eight Year Journey

by Sue (Stoltzfus) Hooley

I was born and raised in south eastern Kentucky where my parents were missionaries in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, but my ancestry roots are planted deep in the rolling farmland of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

Twenty-five years ago I worked at preserving some family stories, that had been passed down through the generations, by meticulously writing them in an archival scrapbook. The Stoltzfus and Hooley stories were readily available, but not my mother's side—Lapp and Kauffman.

Years later I met Loren Johns who, after asking who my parents and grandparents were, presented me with a six-generation family tree of my Stoltzfus and Lapp ancestors. Ancestor's names and dates are a great place to start, but how and where did they live, what was life like for them? I decided to find out, and the amazing 8-year journey ended in the publication of a 325-page full color Lapp and Kauffman Family History book. Additional surnames include King, Stoltzfus, Umble, Fisher, Mast, Blank, Schmucker/Smucker/Smoker, and Lantz.

By what I believe to be a miracle I met mom's cousin Omar Lapp in 2015. A close relative who was very interested in family history, and who was very excited to help me learn more. Omar introduced me to three books that tremendously helped me understand the early family lines, their stories, and their burial spots.

Amish and Amish Mennonite Genealogies by Hugh F. Gingerich and Rachel W. Kreider

The Amish of the Chester Valley by S. Duane Kauffman

Lancaster County Old Order Amish Cemetery Record by Thomas E. Gallagher

Omar introduced me to Gordonville Amish historian Sam Stoltzfus who introduced me to Leonard and Anna Groff, and my small write down a few stories world was greatly enlarged. It was like a match made in heaven. Sam knows the farms and who owned them for generations past. Leonard and Anna know the cemeteries, the skill for researching historical documents, AND how to utilize the World Wide Web. The internet, as it turned out, was the biggest and best thing that had changed in the genealogy world since I started with a pen and scrapbook – even in my Amish ancestral world. Gone were the days of spending hours in the courthouse searching for documents. With a few clicks on my computer, while sipping hot tea, I could find Lancaster County deeds dating back to the 1700's.

The passion for family history and preserving its stories grabbed ahold of me and wouldn't let go. I took many trips from my home in Indiana to Lancaster County. My winters were spent pouring over books written by other passionate family history authors, and hunting down ship lists, deeds, census

records, township maps, and wills. That may not sound like a big deal to you but did you know in a deed you can discover a man's occupation, which township and county he was living in at the time, and in which township and county he was buying his new property. You can discover who his wife was and a lot of times his children, the neighboring land owners, and a history of the property - who else purchased it and when. That is a lot of valuable information. That is a big deal!

My goal in writing family history is always accuracy, and I love a good mystery. When I visited the Smucker farm on Pond Road in Ronks, PA, I was told David and Mary Smucker/Smoker's son John lived just north of his parents. Since John is my ancestor, I went on a search to prove it. Using deeds, census records, and township maps I proved it. Yay!! The historians were correct. But that was not always the case. I will never forget the day my detective skills proved an important "fact" as incorrect. It was a breakthrough for my Lapp story. Another fun find was discovering both my Kauffman and Smucker/Smoker ancestors, who married into my Lapp family, owned and probably lived in the famous Ferree House in Gordonville.

**The Amish community was very accommodating and very happy to help figure out my history, especially when they found out I am highly respected Bishop John A. Stoltzfus' great granddaughter. Farm history is very important to the Amish and I often got invited into their homes. They would spread out their hand written notes and original deeds, some of them very old. Their information often provided large pieces to my growing puzzle. I am very grateful for their passion and knowledge of family history, and their generosity in sharing.

If after a thorough search I cannot find strong evidence, I will say something likeit seems.... or, one theory is.... or, I don't know for sure but.... One example of using several pieces of evidence to come up with a theory is the question of how John and Barbara (Stoltzfus) Schmucker met. John lived in Berks County and Barbara in Lancaster County, 28 miles away. You'll have to read my book to learn my theory.

Along with the many high points of insight and findings, there were moments of sorrow. When I researched the ocean voyages and the hard things that went with that trip, it felt heavy. One heartbreaking story is about my great great great grandfather, John Lapp, who committed suicide in 1832. He was 44 years old. How do I write about that? How do I come close to giving justice to a life lived and then gone? John and Veronica's two-year-old son Jacob passed away eight months before his father. Baby Veronica, her mother's namesake, was 28 days old when her father took his life. It's hard to imagine the pain and grief Veronica suffered, for herself and for her children. And then her husband... how do you get over that, or do you?

I have learned so much about my family heritage through this journey. I have learned of their hard work and love for

family and their farms, their sorrows and hard times, but most of all I have learned of their love for God and His church. I have loved meeting new people and discovering new stories about the families who came before me – who helped shape who I am today. **My eyes fill with tears of gratitude when I walk onto my ancestor's farm or stroll among the stones in cemeteries where several generations of "my people" are buried. Spending my time researching generations past has led to a renewed sense of determination in my heart to live a life obedient to God and His word. A renewal to pass the baton of faith and family to my children and my children's children.

While at times I feel sad that my parents broke the six-generation family line residing in Lancaster County, I would not trade my childhood in Kentucky. At the same time, a large portion of my heart also belongs in beautiful Lancaster County.

I welcome your comments or questions, and for information about purchasing my book please contact me at bill-suehooley@gmail.com or 574-538-9882 or 70193 CR 127 Syracuse, IN 46567

From the Berks County Historical Society Archives:

John Smucker, Son of Christian the Immigrant, and husband of Barabara Stoltzfus died in 1809. "An analysis of Smucker's 1809 inventory reveals one of the most complete and detailed lists for the early 19th century Pennsylvania Farm. A sample of the items in the inventory include: 27 sets of cow chains, 12 barrels, 1 gun, 1 windmill, 65 earthen pots, 7 beds, 1 brown mare and colt, 1 pair of steelyards, 29 bags, 1 iron kettle, 2 spinning wheels, 5 plows, 4 beehives, 10 pigs, 1 crosscut saw, 15 bushel clover seeds, 3 black heifers, 2 looms, 23 pounds hackled hemp, 4 cows, 1 ten plate stove, 34 sheep, 4 pewter dishes, 1 coffee pot, 4 acres oats, 3 iron pots, 1 pair saddle bags, 4 acres barley, 1 corner cupboard, 3 chests, and various bonds. The total inventory was appraised at 2,504 pounds (Worth about \$11,000 in 1800 dollar value." In today's value it would amount to over \$275,000). (Abstracted from the Berks County Amish Historical Tour booklet developed by Elam Stoltzfus)

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>.



The John Schmucker "Stone House" in Wyomissing, PA. Photo Credit: Elam Stoltzfus

New Genealogy Information on Christian “the Immigrant”?

by Jim Smoker

Our daughter, Jennafer Megan Seeley, has had an interest in our family (Smoker, Harvey, Good, Jones, Houser, Fenninger) genealogy for many years. She contacted Mennonite Life and requested that they provide her with more information on her family roots.

Mennonite Life provides this service to members and interested others for a fee. We were surprised when she shared the results of their work. We received a fan chart which traced many of the family lines back beyond nine generations.

I was stunned that we also received a 166 page document that traced our roots more completely than I had expected. Within that one document the genealogy of Christian “The Immigrant” came to light tracing his lineage back to 1510.

The following provides that information:

Christian Schmucker: (B. 2/2/1720 in Bern, Switzerland, D. 12/1/1782, Intercourse, PA) Son of Jakob Schmocker and Verena Haesler.

Jakob Schmocker (B. 10/20/1693 in Grindlwald, Bern, Switzerland D. 12/3/1758) Son of Hans Schmocker and Elizabeth Glatthard.

Hans Schmocker (B. 7/1/1641 in Grindlwald, Bern, D 1693) Son of Heinrich Schmocker and Anna Margaretha Boren. Hans married Elizabeth Glatthard 9/24/1669. Elizabeth was born 3/1652 in Grindlwald and died in 1693 at 41 years of age.

Heinrich Schmocker (B. 3/1614 in Grindlwald, died in Grindlwald) Married Anna Margaretha 3/24/1634. Heinrich was the son of Bernhard Schmocker and Elsebeth Trachsel.

Bernhard Schmocker, (B. 1577 D. 1602) Son of Bernard Schmocker and Margareth Gorner Married Elizabeth Trachsel in 1602. Son: Heinrich

Bernard Schmocker (B. 1535 in Grindlwald, Bern. D.?) Son of Heini Schmocker. Married Margarethe Gorner. Son: Bernhard

Heini Schmocker (B. about 1510. Son: Bernard

It is been stated, “In order for us to be born each of us needed: 2 parents, 4 grandparents, 8 great grandparents, 16 second great grandparents, 32 third great grandparents, 64 fourth great grandparents, 128 five great grandparents, 256 sixth great grandparents, 512 seventh great grandparents, 1024 eighth great grandparents, 2048 ninth great grandparents.

For you to be born today from 12 previous generations, you needed a total of 4098 ancestors over the last 400 years. Think of how many struggles, how much happiness, love stories, and hope for the future that your ancestors had to undergo for you to exist in this present moment. You are the dream of many ancestors.”

(Source: Unknown)

Bits and Pieces

Email Addresses:

If you requested that you receive your newsletter via email and are receiving a hard copy it is likely that we do not have your current or correct email on file. Please update your email address by providing Eber Rice-Smucker with your current email address via ricesmuk@gmail.com. Doing so will enable us to reduce the mailing costs of our annual newsletter.

Mark Your Calendar:

To get back onto our five year cycle for our SSS Family Gatherings we are in the early stages of planning to hold our 2026 Family Gathering at the Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead on July 17 and 18. We are most interested in holding Family Gatherings in other locations such as Indiana but key is the interest of volunteers who are willing to step in to coordinate same. We are most interested in ideas you have to make the 2026 SSS Family Gathering a meaningful experience. Please share your thoughts with Emily Smucker Beidler via emilysbart@gmail.com or Jim Smoker via jismoker725@comcast.net.

From the Berks Couty Old Order Amish Tour:

On November 2nd, Elam Stoltzfus conducted an Old Order Amish Tour of early Amish farmsteads in Berks County. The Amish were provided with land grant by the sons of William Penn. These land grants placed the Amish in the frontier of Pennsylvania. The French and Indian War was part of a worldwide nine years' war that took place between 1754 and 1763. It was fought between France and Great Britain to decrease colonial expansion in the ongoing European War between France and England. The French enlisted numerous native groups to support their efforts in defeating the British. Native people were encouraged to take back their lands. This placed the Amish in the crosshairs of numerous massacres. Surviving members of the Northkill Amish fled the region and moved to Lancaster County.

SSS FAMILY MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

The SSS FA holds an organizational membership in Mennonite Life (Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, Lancaster, PA). As such you are welcomed to access the member only sites on their website as well as our SSS FA genealogy database. Mennonite Life also provides members with:

- Member rates on learning tours, classes, museum admission, and merchandise
- Free on-site access to their unique library, archival collections, and to Ancestry.com
- Genealogical research services at member rates
- Member-only access to online resources through "mennonitelife.org" Login
ID: member Password for 2024 is "mlife24access" and for 2025 is "research25mlife"
- To access our SSS FA database:
 - Log onto www.mennonitelife.org as a member
 - Go to the bottom of the home page and Click on "Archives and Library"
 - Click on "Search Archival Catalog"
 - At "Choose a Database", Click on "Genealogy"
 - At "Search Collection", Click on "Schmucker-Smoker-Smucker Family..."

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Darrell Smucker

Period Ending November 23, 2024

GENERAL FUND

Cash Balance on Hand \$3,843.63

SUMMARY OF YTD FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

Receipts:

Donations YTD 2024 \$320.00
Interest YTD \$0.69

Expenses:

01/10/24 - MasthofPress(1,366) \$2,336.07
06/27/24 - Website/domain \$372.34
07/09/24 - Postage \$13.60

YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER?

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.

Many "members" on our membership list do not contribute financially to the ongoing support of the Schmucker-Smoker-Smucker Family Association (SSSFA). Our "membership list" contains over 1300 addresses. Only 63 individuals on this list have contributed to the SSSFA over the past 5 years. Our "Constitution" states that to be a member requires that the individual attend a Family Gathering (held very five years) or contribute to the SSSFA.

The newsletter is a significant cost to have printed and mailed. Likewise, we pay annual fees to Lancaster Mennonite (Formerly the Mennonite Historical Society to maintain access to our SSS genealogy database, maintain historic documents and to another firm for our website domain.

If you wish to remain an active member of our family association and have not:

- Attended the 2022 Family Gathering held in Smithville, Ohio, or
- You have not made a contribution to the SSSFA in the last five years to:

Send a contribution of \$10 per year to maintain your membership status. If you chose not to make a contribution by March 31st 2025 you will be removed from our membership list.

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

PhoneNumber: _____

Amount Donated: _____

Mail to: Darrell Smucker, Treasurer, SSSFA,
1497 Morgan Street, Wooster, Ohio, 44691-1541

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

PRST STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 415
Reading, PA



Schmucker • Smoker • Smucker

2024 SSS Donors Roll

Darrell Smucker, Treasurer

The SSS FA Board extends its gratitude to the individuals who contributed to furthering the purpose of their family association.

Arlen Schmucker
Ronald and Janet Smucker
Kendall and Victoria L. Nash
Curtis & K Jeanne Johnson
Jon N & Phyllis Diller
Arlene M Moore
Leon J & Susan E Kindt
Marilyn & James R Miller
Janet M Smucker
Jacqueline J & Steven Steen
James & Betty Manning
Judith & Randy Windle