

# Schmucker • Smoker • Smucker



John Schmucker Homestead

Family Association Newsletter

Fall 2018

## President's Corner

by Jim Smoker

It hardly seems possible that our last family gathering was two years ago. In another year we will begin planning for our 2021 Family Gathering. Although we surveyed family members on possible sites for the 2021 Gathering, we are still open to your input. Clearly the future of our Association and the continuation of the "Gatherings" rests with our younger families and individuals. The question I pose to you is what are your thoughts on how we can engage your extended and younger family members and make the SSS Family Association relevant to them? In years past our Gathering's attracted over 400 participants. In 2016 our attendance in Lancaster was about 230. Should we try to find a location in Indiana or Ohio for the 2021 Gathering which includes SSS historic sites as well as a location near other attractions which would encourage younger families to plan a vacation around the 2021 Gathering? Please share your thoughts with me and another member of the Board. Your thoughts and insights will be greatly appreciated and taken into consideration. Please contact me at [jsmoker725@comcast.net](mailto:jsmoker725@comcast.net).

In this issue we have contributions from a number of "Cousins" including Paul Kurtz and Susan Kindt. We will also include reprints of past newsletters from the "Archives". As your newsletter editor, I am always searching for family stories to include in our newsletter. Please note that all newsletters are archived on our SSS Family website.

We still are offering 2016 SSS Family Gathering three-way pen/led light/stylus pens for sale and there are still opportunities to sponsor one or more of the SSS Genealogy Binders which are currently safely stored at the Lancaster (PA) Mennonite Historical Society. A listing of the binders is available upon request. Please contact D. Richard Miller at [d.r.miller@maplnet.net](mailto:d.r.miller@maplnet.net).

## IT IS ALL ABOUT A DOOR

by Susan Lawrence Kindt, great, great granddaughter of Joseph Smoker, the 16th child of Christian Smucker, III.

Back in 2006 the SSS Reunion was held in Goshen, Indiana. It was my first Reunion. I love history and loved finding out more of my ancestry. Orpha Zook, my grandmother, was active in the SSS Reunions and she sparked my interest to attend. Orpha married Purl Zook, the son of Emma Smoker. Emma was the daughter of my great, great grandfather, Joseph Smoker, the 16th son of Christian Smucker, III and Veronica Livengood Peachey Smucker. I have often wondered why Joseph changed his name from Smucker to Smoker. If any of you know, please tell me.

Joseph Smoker married Nancy Hertzler and they had 2 daughters. Emma

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### Your SSS Family Association Officers, Board Members, and Volunteers

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#### Newsletter Expense

These Newsletters are our largest expense, second to our family gathering. To help defray the cost, please send an email to Jerrold Smoker, our mailing list registrar at [jsmoker@msn.com](mailto:jsmoker@msn.com). When emailing Jerrold, please include your full name and address to assure that the mailing list database is up-to-date.



*John H. Zook*

Smoker, my great grandmother, married John H. Zook and they lived on Joseph Smoker's farm in Topeka, Indiana about 10 miles south of Shipshewana. The brick house still stands today and the very large red barn. I have a tin type picture with Joseph, Nancy and their two girls in the front yard. Emma and John Zook had a son, my grandfather, Purl Zook.

At the Goshen Reunion on the bus tour, I believe Glen Yoder was our tour guide. We stopped at this farm and walk around and went in the barn. Mr. Yoder opened up the grain door and we all saw where John Zook had painted his name on the back side of the door and put the year 1896 under his name. I was in awe. This was my great grandfather. I had someone take a picture of me standing by the door for my memory book. We then went to the Maple Grove Cemetery where I saw for the first time the graves of Joseph and Nancy Smoker, Emma and John Zook.



*Emma Smoker Zook*



My mother, Helen Zook Lawrence, daughter of Orpha and Purl Zook, always talked about growing up on the farm in Topeka. I asked her if she remembered where it was. At this time she was nearly 90 and said no she didn't remember. From the reunion in our packet was an old hand drawn map of how to get there and so one day I put her in the car and we went to find it. It took quite a while and many stops at some Amish homes to ask directions showing them my map. We finally found it and I remembered it from the bus tour. The house had changes to it through the years and yet looking at the tin picture one could tell it was the same place she grew up in. I was so excited to be able to show her this and also visit the cemetery just down the road.

Well, here comes my reason for this epistle. Ever since that Reunion in Goshen and after seeing that grain door – I wanted that door! But who owns the property now and how do I find out? It has taken me this long to finally find out. I went to the house and knocked on the door. A young man there told me a Bontrager owned the house and they just rent it. There are many, many Bontragers in and around Topeka – now to find which one. Two years later I went back to the



*The barn today still standing where the door was.*

house, a different family was in there. I asked again who owned the property and it was still Bontrager. I asked where do they live and

they told me. So off I went to Terry Bontrager's home down the road a bit. He was in his driveway when I pulled in. I got out and ask him about the Zook grain door and showed him the tin type picture of the house and the door with me taken at the Reunion. He said he would think about it and let me know. A year later he called and said he was going to sell the property and if I still wanted the door I could have it. What a day it was for me! I had tried for so long to get it. So my boss had his worker drive down and get the door and bring it back to me. It cost me \$100 but was so worth it. I have it in my little quilt gift shop on our farm here in Michigan. I have the child's high chair made by Joseph Smoker, the dry sink with tin liner that was in the summer kitchen and a bedroom set all from that farm so I had to have that door.

It is my family history, and that door is so important to me.



*Susan Lawrence Kindt, great granddaughter of John H. Zook and "The Door"*

## **The Smucker Company Family Connection To The Stoltzfus House**

Paul Kurtz, an "adopted cousin" is very involved in the Nicholas Stoltzfus House Preservation Committee and has provided much insight into the connections between Barbara Stoltzfus (daughter of Nicholas Stoltzfus) and a portion of our family tree through her marriage to John Schmucker (Son of Christian "The Immigrant"). Paul was posed the question of the possible connection between the "Smucker Company Cousins" and the Stoltzfuses. His research follows:

From Wikipedia:

Jerome Monroe Smucker (December 5, 1858 in Wayne County, Ohio – March 20, 1948 in Wayne County, Ohio)[1] was an American farmer and businessman who founded The J.M. Smucker Company in 1897, starting out selling apple butter from the back of a horse-drawn wagon. He was of Swiss descent.

Smucker was the son of Ohio Mennonite farmers Gideon and Magdalena (Zook) Smucker.[2] He built the family business to four farms and a creamery, while spending his evenings tutoring his neighbors in good penmanship. When he added a cider mill in 1897, Smucker's first batch of apples came from some of Johnny Appleseed's original orchards. To extend sales of apple products year-round, Smucker began manufacturing apple butter from an old family recipe, and it soon became his most popular product. Smucker's began listing the ingredients of its many jams and jellies years before it was required by law, and the business was incorporated in 1921. The company's namesake died in 1948, but the business is publicly traded and still headquartered in Jerome Smucker's home town of Orrville,

Ohio. (Editorial Note: The corporate stocks are publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange and now, in addition to family members, are owned by employees, investors and stock traders. J.M. Smucker's descendants may be the holders of the largest number of stocks. <https://finance.yahoo.com/quote/sjm/holders/>)

Gideon is in AAMG p. 473, Father David (Anna Brandt) SM113, his father Christian (Elizabeth Stutzman, granddaughter of Barbara Hostetler) SM11, son of John SM1 and Barbara Stoltzfus Smucker.

### **“With A Name Like Smucker....”**

Reprinted from the article written by Silas Smucker in the May 1983 SSS Newsletter.

What does “Schmucker” mean? There are several meanings attached to the name but the basic meaning conveys the idea of adorning and beautifying (1,2). Related names are Schmoker, Schmuker, Smoker, and Smucker.

When and how did the name originate? It may have originated in several places under different circumstances. One likely place of origin is in the Bernese Oberland where there is a tradition of long standing that some people in a certain area of the community of Beattenberg adorned themselves with mountain flowers when they went to church in Sigriswill. Other people called then “Geschmuckten” which is German for adorned or decorated people. The particular area where they lived became known as Schmocken (3). Jane Davidson speculates that there might have been persons in the family who were calligraphers or artists who painted frescoes on chalet facades (4).

One of the oldest families in Beattenburg is the Schmocker (Schmucker) Family. There were called Schmokers because they lived in Schmocken (5). This must have been quite early. The oldest recorded ancestor of the Schmoken family is “Heinrich ab Smoken”. In a count record dated, August 31, 1316, at Thun, in the Canton of Bern, this “Heinrich ab Smoken” is named as a guarantor (6).

Another court record at Thun, dated October 23, 1326, states that Conrad von Tufenthal, a citizen of Bern and Thun, sold a house in the parish of St. Beat, to Johann ab Smoken” (7). In a bill of sale by “Wolti ab der Fluh”, to Conrad von Kirchof, dates February 3, 1347, concerning a garden on the Lauingen at Thun, Ruoff ab Smoken is mentioned as a witness (8).

In each of the above transactions the German word “Ab” means “from” or “of”. When family surnames became fully developed in that part of the country (or the “heimat or name place...added by the editor...the suffix “er” was added to the name which meant a person was from that particular place as we say a person from new York is a “New Yorker” (9).

The people of Schmocken early spread to the highland communities such as Grindlewald, Goldswyl, Habkern, Ringgenberg, Unterseen, and other places. Because of the harsh economic conditions, many of these mountain people emigrated in the

1600's to Alsace, Durlack, the Palatinate, Wurttemberg, and elsewhere. The religious intolerance of the (Swiss) state church was also a factor. These immigrants understood animal breeding and took care of cattle on the larger farms and were called “Sweitzer”.

1. Langenscheidt, New Muret-Sanders Encyclopedic Dictionary of the English and German Language, Second Volume, Completely Revised, 1974. Langenscheidt, Berlin-Munich-Vienna-Zurich, p. 1340.

2. Goetz, Alfred, Fruehneuhochdeutsches Glossar, 7. Auflage, Berlin, 1967, p. 192.

3. Buchmuller, Gottfried, St. Beattenberg: Geschichte einer Braggemeinde, Verlag K.J. Wyss, Bern, 1913, p.40 (Translated by Elizabeth Bender)

4. Jane Davidson, Christian Schmucker, 1976, p.16

5. Buchmuller, p 233

6. Fontes, rerun Bernensium, Band IV, p. 706, Urkunde Na. 687 Thun, Staatsarchiv Bern, Fach Interlaken, (Translated by Elizabeth Bender)

7. Ibid, Band VI, p. 316, Urkunde Na. 322

### **SSS Database Access:**

In our 2017 newsletter we shared that the SSS Database is accessible to all family members. This is a limited access database and the User Name and Password should not be liberally shared and should only be accessed by individuals who maintain their membership in the SSS Family Association.

Access the site via: <http://lmhs.org/memberdb/SSFA/index.html>

User Name: sssfa-member

Password: sssfa2017

### **Binder Sponsorship Opportunity and Continuing the Work**

The SSS Family Association Board authorized the engagement of the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society (LMHS) in entering the genealogic data from the 57 binders which contained the family data of the Christian III descendants. This was a monumental project that SSS family volunteers (John R. Smucker, D.Richard Miller, John Rohrer, Marvin Frey, Kathryn Aschliman, S. Glenn Yoder, Mary Lou Bowers and Earlene Nafziger). The cost of this project came in at \$8,000. We learned that there are earlier binders that have been held in a repository at the LMHS since the 1970s. We would like to undertake the entry of these genealogic data in the future. We are asking that members consider sponsorship of each of the existing binders with a donation of \$100 per binder. Your name and date of donation will be placed on a special label on the binder of your choice and maintained at LMHS. Interested family members should contact Jim Smoker (jjsmoker@verizon.net) or Emily S. Beider (emilysbart@gmail.com) to obtain a listing of each of the 57 binders. The binder listing contains information to enable you to choose the binder(s) you prefer to sponsor. On behalf of the Board, thank you for your consideration.

# *The* Bird-in-Hand Story

This two-part commemorative book tells the story of the Smucker family and how they have shared their land and way of life with thousands of visitors to the Village of Bird-in-Hand.

## **In the Business Section learn how...**

- Lancaster County tourism started as the result of a Broadway show.
- the Smucker Family successfully opened a motel and restaurant along a country road.
- in 50 years of business, they have developed authentic Lancaster County experiences for their guests, like eating in a cornfield and touring local farms.



## **In the Family Section read about...**

- how and why the Schmuckers, as Amish Anabaptists, immigrated from Switzerland to America.
- the Smucker Family's life on the Homestead including untimely deaths, renewed spirituality, and warm hospitality.
- deep rootedness and cherished traditions that have defined the family.



**50** | Celebrating Smucker  
Years | Family Hospitality

## From the Editor

The Bird-In-Hand story is a wonderful story of an SSS family success. Generations of family members contributed to the business it has become today. If you haven't visited the "Bird-In-Hand complex" in Bird-In-Hand, Lancaster County, PA, you are missing a treat. It consists of a wonderful family-style restaurant with excellent food and baked goods, a theater with regular performances, a motel, bake shop, a resort, and farmers market. A must visit destination in Lancaster County. The lineage of the "Bird-In-Hand Smuckers" follows:

Christian & Catherine (Hessler) Schmucker - John and Barbara (Stoltzfus) Schmucker - David and Mary (Lapp)

Schmucker - David and Leah (Petersheim) Schmucker - Eli and Mary (Blank) Schmucker - John E and Anna M (Stoltzfus) Smucker - Paul M and Elma (Glick) Smucker - John E and Myrna (Hershberger) Smucker

If you have a family business story you would like to share, please send your story, an ad, or related material to Jim Smoker via [jsmoker725@comcast.net](mailto:jsmoker725@comcast.net)

## SSS Family Association 2017-2018 DONORS

The Board of Directors of the SSS Family Association greatly appreciates the contributions of the many family members who in 2017 and 2018 contributed to the continuing success of our family association!

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## WE ARE ON THE WEB!

If you are interested in seeing back issues of the "SSS Family Newsletter", audio files of "Family Stories" collected during the 2016 SSS Family Gathering in Lacaster, PA and other information collected , to date, please check our website, "sssfamily.org". We appreciate the pro bono assistance of our webmaster, Scott Stoltzfus.

We are also on Facebook. Jenna (Smoker) Seeley is our Facebook "gatekeeper" and must be contacted via Facebook to gain access to our private site. To access our Facebook site contact: [jenna.seeley@gmail.com](mailto:jenna.seeley@gmail.com).

## SSS Family Association

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### **40th Anniversary SSS Family Reunion Pens Available**

We ordered more three-way pens (Stylus for smart phones and tablets, Pen, LED Penlight) than we needed for the 2016 SSS Family Gathering. These pens are chrome plated and are engraved to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the SSS Family Association. We are offering them for sale until the supply is exhausted. We are offering 2 pens (postage paid) for \$7.00 and 5 pens for \$14.00 (postage paid). Please mail your request and a check for the appropriate amount to Jim Smoker, 3435 Bull Road, York, PA, 17408-9755.

### **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.