

Schmucker • Smoker • Smucker



John Schmucker Homestead

Family Association Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2014

SSS Family *Tour* of Switzerland

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Many SSS family members have commented that they are interested in a family tour of European sites that are of interest to us. I contacted two organizations that specialize in Swiss-Anabaptist tours and asked each to develop an SSS-Family specific tour. The first firm passed on the opportunity and recommended the Mast Family. The Masts were the other firm I had contacted. After many e-mails back and forth, Lois Ann Mast developed what is felt to be the best option. You will find four pages in this newsletter dedicated to the tour she has put together. You will note that there is an option to travel to Plymouth, England. Plymouth was the point where Christian “The Immigrant”, Catherine and family members departed Europe for the “New World”. We will need a minimum of 35 individuals to sign up to make the twelve-day Swiss-France-Germany tour happen. This tour is presently limited to a maximum of 45 individuals. The “Plymouth - England Excursion” requires a minimum of 20 participants and pricing is scaled based upon the number of participants. Lois Ann Mast has shared that the current tour pricing levels are contingent upon the dollar-Euro exchange rates and airline rates nearer the time of the tour. Specific questions pertaining to this opportunity should be addressed to Lemar and Lois Ann (Zook) Mast via Mennonite Family History, 219 Mill Road, Morgantown, PA 19543-9516, by phone: 484-798-8556, or by e-mail: mast@masthof.com.



Newsletter Expense

These newsletters are our largest expense second to our family gatherings. To help defray the costs of our newsletters, please:

- Send an e-mail to Jerrold Smoker, our mailing list registrar, at jmoker@msn.com. When e-mailing Jerrold, please include your full name and address to assure that the mailing list database is up to date.
- Send a contribution to Darrell Smucker, SSS Family Association Treasurer (see mailing information in the membership article on page 2).

SAGA Report

Highlighted by a tour of the Cumberland Valley area and area-related history, the Swiss Anabaptist Genealogical Association held its 2014 annual meeting April 25-26 at Cumberland, Pennsylvania. Mennonite Historical Association of the Cumberland Valley hosted the meeting.

Edsel Burdge, Jr., guided the tour of local historical/genealogical sites, Mennonite Churches, and Cemeteries, in both Maryland and Pennsylvania. Active as archivist and historian, the information flowed from him as he provided information and responded to questions.

Friday evening, the group convened informally for dinner at Ryan’s. Linden Showalter, MHVCA chair, presented a short slide presentation about his travels to Switzerland, France and Germany, and the immigration of the Showalters to America.

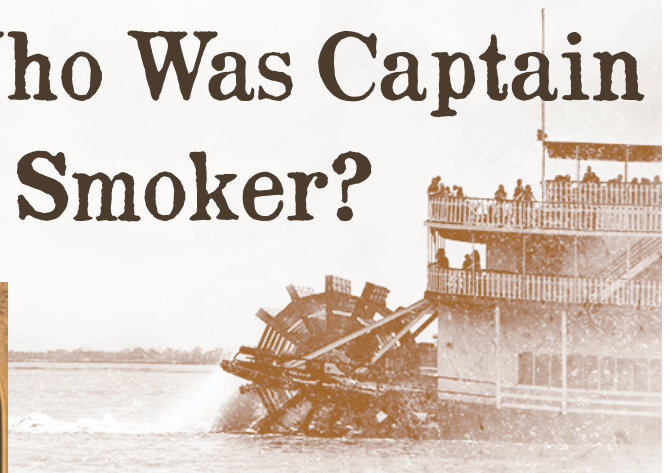
(continued page 7)

Year End Financial Statement

Treasurer, Darrell Smucker, reported to your Board members that as of December 31, 2013 the SSS Family Association had an ending balance of \$22,530.23. These funds are held in an interest bearing checking account at the First National Bank, Orrville, Ohio. Funding sources come from proceeds in excess of expenses from Family Gatherings held every five years and general donations. Funds uses include the costs of printing and distributing an annual newsletter, software and hardware upgrades to maintain the genealogy database, and seed monies to cover expenses for the Family Gatherings. Should you have any questions about our financial status or use of funds, please contact Darrell Smucker via morganst@sssnet.com.



So Who Was Captain John Smoker?



Ten or twelve years ago, Joanne accompanied me on a trip to New Orleans on a business trip. We had some time to take in some of the sights of New Orleans and we happened across a museum of New Orleans history. In the lower level of the museum Joanne came across a portrait of Captain John Smoker. Beside the portrait was another portrait of two steamboats racing on the Mississippi. I tried to find someone who could tell me something about the Captain Smoker portrait. No one could provide

Membership Database “Lost”

The family member who maintains our SSS Family Mailing List and demographic data experienced a computer crash which caused the loss of some of our most recently updated files. Kindly provide Jerry Smoker with any updated mail and e-mail information via jsmoker@msn.com or via 1514 Hollywood Drive, Lancaster, PA 17601.

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 2011 SSS Family Gathering in Kidron, Ohio, please make a donation 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.

immediate assistance, but I was given the name and contact information of the museum curator. I sent the curator an inquiry and learned that Captain Smoker was a riverboat captain, owned several steamboats, was highly regarded, and served as the starter for many steamboat races. That was the sum of the information that he was able to share. Well, my curiosity was only increased by the curator’s shared information. Was Captain Smoker a family member? How or why did he get to New Orleans in the early-to-mid 19th century? How did he become such a recognized member of the Mississippi riverboat-owners community?

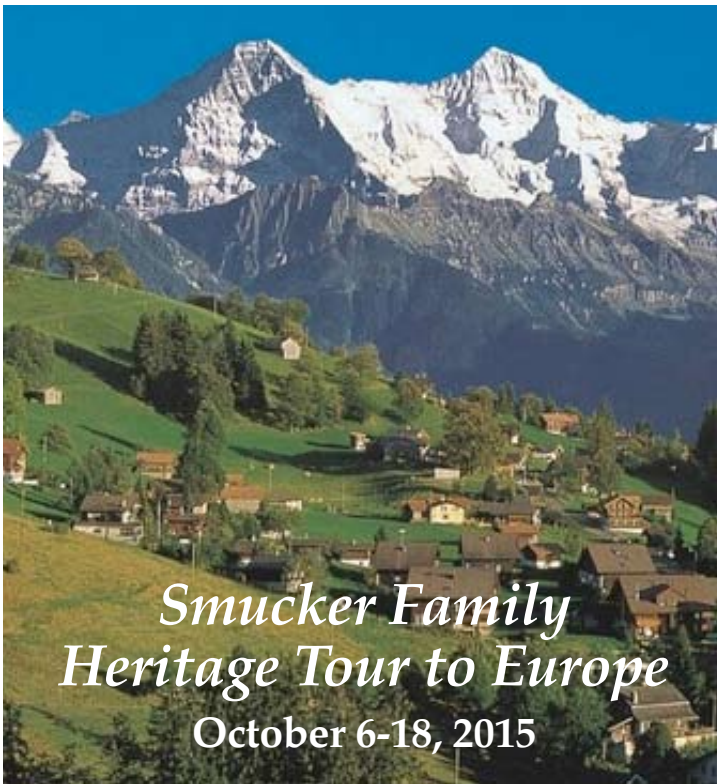
During a trip to Florida to escape a Northern PA Winter, we traveled to the Naples, FL “Winter Home” of Jane and Lester Davidson. During our visit, Joanne and I shared our limited findings on Captain John. Jane was excited about the findings and shared that she would definitely research this finding. A few years passed, Jane retired, Lester passed on, and the need to learn more about Captain John lingered. In the Summer of 2012, Jane and a friend started a quest that took them to Pittsburgh, PA and on to Memphis, Tennessee to research Captain John’s life and to learn what if any connections there were to the SSS Family. We visited Jane while she was recuperating from a hospitalization and she shared her findings. Her dream was to gain a grant to fund a documentary on the life and times of Captain John Smoker and to present her findings at the 2016 SSS Family Gathering. Her dream was not realized as Jane passed away in November of 2012. Jane’s son, Randy, and daughter-in-law, Sharon, provide me with Jane’s notes and research on Captain John. Her findings and suppositions on Captain John follow:

- It appears that John was the youngest son of John Schmucker (Christian-progenitor – Christian “Jr”) and Christina Eby. He was one of eight children. His father –John – died in 1818. Young John was born November 17, 1817 and died November 13, 1893.

- It was typical for the elder children to provide care for younger siblings when a parent died early in a sibling’s life. John had an older brother Samuel who is recorded to have lived in Galena, Illinois (near the Mississippi River) and there is reference in a Galena newspaper of a steamboat owned by Captain Smoker that exploded. Boiler explosions on steam-powered riverboats were a somewhat common event.

- It is thought that Young John and his brother Benjamin were likely to have been strongly influenced by Robert Fulton and the commercial development of steam powered locomotives and boats. 1817 was a turning point in riverboat history. Captain McIntyre piloted a steam-powered boat, the “Washington” upstream from New Orleans

(continued page 7)



Smucker Family Heritage Tour to Europe

October 6-18, 2015

Photo above is taken of Beatenberg and Schmoken where Schmokers live yet today and where the U.S. Smuckers originate.

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

A chartered bus will take those who wish from Morgantown, Pa., to the airport to fly to Frankfurt, Germany. Parking is available at Masthof.

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

After flying all night (seven and one-half hours), we arrive in Germany eager to step foot on European soil! A scenic drive through the Black Forest region of Germany will take us to a hotel in Triberg—center of the cuckoo clock industry! A hike up and down the dazzling waterfalls near our hotel will be just the ticket for exercise before eating our first European dinner in Germany!

Thursday, October 8, 2015

As we leave the Black Forest, we drive south heading for the beautiful country of Switzerland! If the weather is perfect, we will see our first glimpse of the majestic Swiss Alps way in the distance. This breathtaking scenery is absolutely exciting! Our first stop is at Schleithem where the 1527 Confession of Faith was written. Then it is on to see the Rhinefalls at Schaffhausen—the largest waterfalls in Europe. Our lunch stop is with our farmer friends Ernst and Ruth Bänninger at their farm for a delightful lunch and afternoon visit.



Ernst and Ruth Bänninger will serve a wonderful lunch for us on their Swiss farm.



Hiking to the Anabaptist Cave is not only a rewarding accomplishment, but also a solemn moment as we reflect on the freedom of worship we have.

Friday, October 9, 2015

A morning drive will take us to the *Täuferhöhle* (Anabaptist Cave) where Anabaptists are known to have worshipped in secret. We will ponder the freedom we can experience today to worship unmolested in stark comparison to how the Anabaptists hiked to this cave at night in the dark for secret worship. Our lunch today is with local friends at Bäretswil eager to meet you and serve you lunch! Then it is on to Zurich—the birthplace of Anabaptism in 1525—for an informative walking tour of center city. Our first stop is the Fraumünster Cathedral to see the five famous stained glass windows by Marc Chagall, and then the Grossmünster Cathedral and its massive bronze cast doors depicting the Reformation story, and see the memorial stone along the Limmat River—site where Anabaptist Felix Manz was drowned in 1527 and where Preacher Hans Landis was beheaded for his faith. As we walk the same cobblestone streets our Anabaptist ancestors walked, this journey becomes a spiritual journey. A delightful afternoon cable car ride at Felsenegg will give us a great view of Zurich and the lake.

Saturday, October 10, 2015

This morning, we visit Hirzel—hometown of Johanna Spyri, the author of *Heidi*. The Hirzel Reformed Church was built from money confiscated by Landis Anabaptist families forced to leave Switzerland. Our stop at Einsiedeln, the site of a monastery founded in 934 in Canton Schwyz, emphasizes the extreme differences in worship! Our lunch stop will be at Luzerne—the first city in the Swiss Confederacy—where the famous wooden chapel bridge dating to 1333 welcomes us with its painted gables. Another hour plus drive and we will reach Brienz along a beautiful lake with cheese fondue on the menu tonight!

Sunday October 11, 2015

The “Williamsburg of Switzerland” is on our agenda this morning as we visit Ballenberg (open air museum) to enjoy a stroll



Ballenberg Open Air Museum is a wonderful place to see Switzerland in the days when our ancestors lived there!



Mürren, Switzerland

through the past. More than 100 century-old buildings from all over Switzerland, 250 farmyard animals, traditional, old-time gardens and fields, demonstrations of local crafts and other special events create a vivid impression of rural life in days gone by. Then it is on to the mountain-top village of Mürren reached by cogwheel rail. Mürren is circled by the kind of mountain panorama you only dream about with bell-ringing cows, Alpine wildflowers, waterfalls, quiet hiking trails—all a fairy-tale Switzerland!

Monday, October 12, 2015

As the morning clouds lift, we will descend from Mürren to walk to the glacier fed Trümmelbach Falls—a series of ten waterfalls in a cave-like environment, hidden inside a mountain in the Lauterbrunnen Valley. It is a natural UNESCO World heritage site. Then, it is off to Grindelwald, home of the Smuckers after they lived at Beatenberg—our next stop! Schmoker families continue to live at Schmoken right next to Beatenberg. Enroute though, we will stop at Interlaken to do some shopping.

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

Our first stop this morning will be in the Simmental Valley at the birthplace of Jakob Ammann near Erlenbach, a town well-known for its honey. Then it is northward to the city of Thun where Anabaptists were chained already in 1532. Yoders, Kauffmans, Kings, and Lehman have roots at the town of nearby Steffisburg where

we will visit the Reformed Church that proves the Joder/Yoder family worshipped and lived and served in government positions. Driving through back country roads, we see the area where more Amish families lived before coming to America. We are now in the Emmental Valley where many of the Lancaster County, Pa., Mennonites originated. One of these nights in the Emmental, we will enjoy some yodeling and alphorn music!

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

This morning we tour the old Trachselwald Castle built in 1200 A.D. where Brechbill, Mosimann, Leichty, and Sommers Anabaptists were imprisoned. The prison cells that were there in the 1500s and 1600s can be seen yet today. Someone of our group will be shackled and photographed. From here we will go to a cowbell factory, and the Kambly Swiss Cookie Factory where we can sample different Swiss cookies—all free. This afternoon, we visit our friends, Simon and Regula Fankhauser, who will tell us about the *Täuferversteck*—a hiding place for Anabaptists. A visit to a local cheese factory will give us the opportunity to sample Swiss cheese and even purchase some shrink-wrapped cheese to carry home, if you wish.



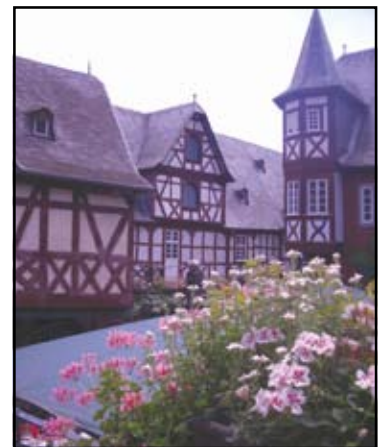
The *Täuferversteck*—a hiding place for Anabaptists—was used in the 1600s to escape from persecution. We will visit it here in this Swiss barn owned by Simon and Regula Fankhauser.



We climb to the top of the Trachselwald Castle tower to see where Anabaptists were imprisoned in the 1500s.



It is a solemn moment to consider placing one of our group into the stocks in an old prison cell at Trachselwald.



Flower boxes abound in both Switzerland and Germany—we can't get enough of their beauty!!



Sainte-Marie-aux Mines nestled in the valley where Jakob Ammann and many other Amish settled.

Thursday, October 15, 2015

Today we enter Bern—the capital of Switzerland. Watch the famous clock tower turn to a new hour, enjoy the bear pits, and tour the cathedral. Back on our bus, we drive through the Jura to Montbéliard where Schmuckers, Roths, Meyers, and Freys lived.

Friday, October 16, 2015

As we drive through the stork area of France, we will enter the Sainte-Marie-aux Mines Valley where Jakob Amman lived. Many Amish settled here after leaving Switzerland. We will find a special spot for our morning worship. As we leave France, we arrive at Worms, Germany, to tour the famed Worms Cathedral and see the Martin Luther monument surrounded by the main forerunners of the Reformation: Peter Waldo, John Wycliffe, Jan Hus, and Girolamo Savonarola.

Saturday, October 17, 2015

Today is a special day as we ride on a ship up the Rhine River like our ancestors did centuries ago on their way to America. See a different castle around every curve—castles where our ancestors had to stop to pay a toll! We stop half-way up the Rhine River for lunch to explore the unique town of Bacharach. After a time of strolling through the town, we get back on another ship that will take us to Rudesheim for our last night in Europe. A good-bye party will conclude this journey in the land of our ancestors.

Sunday, October 18, 2015

Fly home from the Frankfurt, Germany, airport. This memorable experience of visiting Europe needs to end sometime!



Ride past the same castles our ancestors rode past on the Rhine River—although our ship will be quite different than boats used years ago!



**Optional Add-on Excursion
— Rotterdam to Plymouth, England —**

Experience the journey that our Smucker ancestors traveled down the Rhine River to Rotterdam where they boarded a ship for the New World. We will instead board a ferry to go across the English Channel and then travel onland to Plymouth, England, where our ancestors ported before sailing on to America!

Sunday, October 18, 2015

Those persons choosing this optional excursion will travel by train to Rotterdam instead of flying home.

Monday, October 19, 2015

By 8:30 a.m., we are boarding a ferry to take us across the English Channel to Harwich, England, arriving about 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 20, 2015

Depending on the size of our group, we will board a chartered bus to bypass London (coming back in a few days) on our way to Plymouth where we will lodge for two nights.

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

A boat ride on the ocean waters, explore museums, free time to meditate, and shop, are on the agenda for today. Overlooking the immense ocean waters on the boat ride will be a wonderful climax for this entire heritage tour!

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Drive to London, but stop at the famous Stonehenge along the way. Sleep in London for two nights.

Friday, October 23, 2015

Spend the day touring London with a city tour guide.

Saturday, October 24, 2015

Fly home with many memories of our time together.



Stonehenge



— TOUR FEATURES AND CONDITIONS —

TOUR PRICE: \$4,400.00 per person based on double occupancy (add \$750 for a single room). The Plymouth Excursion at the end of this tour will vary in price depending on how many persons participate (\$850 per person for up to 15 persons; \$700 per person for 20+ persons; or \$500 per person for 30+ persons.) A chartered bus from Morgantown to the airport will be available to transport tour participants to and from the airport. Vehicles may be parked at Masthof (Morgantown, Pa.) while we are in Europe. No cost for parking at Masthof. The projected cost for bus transportation to and from the airport will be about \$50 roundtrip per person (depends on the number of persons).

AIR TRANSPORTATION: Tour price includes U.S.A. departure tax.

MEALS: Continental breakfast each morning and dinner each evening (excludes beverages) is provided. Lunch is on your own, although suggestions will be given.

BAGGAGE: Motorcoach capacity limits tour participants to one large suitcase per person plus a carry-on bag, so only one large suitcase plus “under-seat” baggage, **please**. The airlines permit baggage with a combined length, width, and height of 106 inches provided no bag exceeds 62 inches, plus “underseat” baggage with total dimensions of 45 inches, and cannot weigh more than 50 pounds.

SIGHTSEEING AND ENTRANCE FEES: A coach driver driving a private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach with additional local guides where necessary. Entrance fees are included to all places mentioned in this itinerary except for the optional Jungfrau excursion.

TIPS AND TAXES: Applicable taxes and service charges for program features are included. All tips to hotel staff for included services and meals and to bus driver are included.

NOT INCLUDED: Passport fee, travel insurance if your situation deems necessary, meals at noontime, beverages with included dinners, and personal expenses.

DEPOSIT AND PAYMENTS: A deposit of \$400.00 per person is requested to hold space on the tour. The remaining \$4,000 will be due before or on April 1, 2015, as space permits. Reservations will be accepted after April 1, 2015, although the cost of the airline ticket *may* increase pending availability.

CANCELLATION CONDITIONS: Full refund granted if cancellation is received by April 1, 2015. Cancellation after April 1, 2015, will result in a full refund less airline ticket.

A valid passport is required. If you do not have a passport, you should apply for one immediately, available at your local courthouse. If you have a passport, please verify that it is valid until at least December 31, 2015. No visa is required.

ALL RATES AND FARES ARE CALCULATED ON PRICES IN EFFECT AS OF MAY 1, 2014, AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. TOUR PRICE IS BASED ON PARTICIPATION BY AT LEAST 35 PERSONS.

Mennonite Family History, 219 Mill Road, Morgantown, PA 19543-9516 • mast@masthof.com • 484-798-8556

Please reserve space for _____ person(s) on the
2015 SMUCKER FAMILY HERITAGE TOUR
 with **Tour Guides Lemar & Lois Ann (Zook) Mast.**
 Check should be payable to “Mennonite Family History.”
 Enclosed is my deposit check of \$ _____.
 (\$400.00 deposit per person)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone & e-mail: _____

So who was Captain John Smoker? (from page 2)

to Louisville, Kentucky in twenty-five days. Shipyards began to be developed in many locations along the Mississippi River and its tributaries.

■ There is evidence that Captain John received a contract to provide express mail service between the Red River area and New Orleans in 1845.

■ 1846- Captain John purchases the "Latona" in Port Cado, Texas.

■ 1850, April 4th Captain John and Sarah Russ are married at St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana.

■ 1850-53- Captain John runs the "New Latona" between the Red River and Shreveport.

■ 1858-59- Purchases the "Robert Watson"

■ 1859-62 Co-purchases the "News Boy II" with R. W. Doyle.

■ 1862- Co-purchases the "Jeff Thompson" with R.W. Doyle

■ 1863- Pays for the construction of the "Missouri" along with Thomas Moore. The "Missouri" is given to the Confederate Navy. Following the Civil War it was noted that Captain John affirmed his allegiance to the United States and was "pardoned".

■ 1865 - US Navy sells the "Caddo" to Captain John and two others.

■ 1867 - "Governor Allen" is built for Captain John by the Howard Family Shipyard, Jeffersonville, Indiana.

■ 1867- "Louis d'Or" is purchased and dismantled for parts by Captain John.

■ 1869- November 12th Captain John purchases the "Belle

Lee" on the Louisville, Kentucky Courthouse steps for \$60,000 cash.

■ 1870- June 30th Captain John serves as one of the official timekeepers for the famous race between the Robert E. Lee and the Natchez. John is listed as the Master of the Natchez. The "Lee" won this historic race between New Orleans and St. Louis, Missouri and is chronicled in the text, "The Great Steamboat Race" by Roy L. Barkhau (1962). The portrait of the two steamboats beside the portrait of Captain John was that of the "Lee and Natchez Race".

■ 1871- John and Sarah reside at 274 Carondelet, New Orleans, Louisiana. It would appear from census records that John and Sarah had two surviving children who were Lucie, born about 1853, and William whose records indicate he was also born about 1853.

■ 1893- November 13th, Captain John dies at his retirement home in Arkadelphia, Arkansas and is buried there in the Rose Hill Cemetery.

So, there you have it. A bit of family history spun from a painting and a question.

Selected Sources:

Lloyd's Steamboat Directory and Disasters on the Western Waters, Cincinnati, 1856.

Ways Packet Directory, 1848-1983, Compiled by Frederick Way, Jr.

New Orleans Enrollment Records, National Archives, April 1820

History of Kentucky, Collins

Steamboats on the Western Rivers - An Economic and Technological History, Hunter, Louis C., Dover Publications, New York, 1949.

SAGA Report (from page)

Marion Mennonite Church was the site for the Saturday morning session, also providing an excellent lunch and morning refreshments. New to the Executive Committee, Loren Johns, Goshen, Indiana is Recording Secretary. Other officers are Treasurer/Coordinator: James Hermsen, Indianapolis IN, Chair: Troye Kauffman, Arcola IL, Members-at-Large: James C. Hostetler, Richmond VA and Thelma Martin, Goshen IN, Webmaster: Roger Geiser, Kidron OH, and Past Chair: Roger Geiser, Kidron OH.

Edsel Burdge, Jr., presented information about Mennonite of the Cumberland Valley during the Civil War.

Other illustrated presentations included "Genealogical DNA Made Simple" by Troye Kauffman., and "1661 Illegal meeting of Swiss Anabaptists in Steinsfurt, Germany" by Linden Showalter. Ancestors of many Cumberland Valley Mennonites were present in the illegal meeting.

Tours of the Mennonite Heritage Center were available in the afternoon.

Next year's meeting is being planned for Goshen IN, with the date to be announced later. Picture of persons attending this year's meeting, as well other SAGA information, is available at SAGA's website <http://www.saga-omii.org/>.

I dream of having a group of persons, mostly across the United States and Canada, who would forward information about Christian's descendants. People continue to be born, marry, raise families and die. This includes you and your extended family and persons you know or read about in newspapers. But this can also be a fascinating way to initiate contact with persons whose personal story may be very different from your own.

I dream of finding one or two persons who would coordinate the ongoing gathering of information. Probably no one would gather information exactly like John R. Smucker did it. But there would be a core group who pass current and historical information on to those working with the database, the newsletter, and website.

We need volunteers to assist in this effort if we are to continue to make headway on this endeavor. You are urged to contact Richard Miller if you have an interest in participating in this work. And the dream goes on.

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c/o James Smoker
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York, PA 17408-9755

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2016

North American SSS Family Gathering

Plans are Taking Shape for the 2016 North American SSS Family Gathering that will be held in Lancaster, PA in July of 2016. Current planning team members include: John and Suzanne Smoker (Chambersburg., PA), Jerrold Smoker (Lancaster, PA), Marie Smoker Breneman (Willow Street, PA), Emily Beidler (Lancaster, PA), Roy Smoker (Lancaster, PA), Paul Kurtz (Ephrata, PA), Moses Smoker, and Jim and Joanne Smoker (York, PA).

Committee members will be drawing on the experiences of the 2006 Lancaster Gathering and the 2011 Kidron, Ohio Gathering. In anticipation of this planning effort it would be most helpful to hear from SSS Family member and friends with regard to the types of activities and speakers of interest to you.

Please share your ideas and thoughts with Marie Breneman via e-mail at: rereHugs@aol.com. or Jim Smoker via we-mail at jismoker@verizon.net.

Have an Interesting Story to Share?

Do you have a story you would like to share about a family member or a piece of SSS family history? Please share your story or information with Jim Smoker, SSS Family Association president, and we'll include it in our next newsletter. Jim can be contacted through:

**jismoker@verizon.net or,
3435 Bull Road, York, PA 17408-9755.**

SSS Family is on the WEB

Thanks to the efforts of Scott Stoltzfus, we are back on the web. Our URL address is www.sssfamly.org. Come visit us!

I guess we've come of age. The SSS Family is on Facebook in a closed or restricted group. You must request to join by going out to www.Facebook.com, then search on Schmucker Smucker Smoker Family and ask to join. Jennifer Smoker Seeley is the membership "gatekeeper".