

# NEWSLETTER

GRUNDY COUNTY SWISS  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

STOKER-STAMPFLI FARM  
MUSEUM



**25th Celebration July 29, 2017**

**Planning Meeting March 25, 2017**

We are getting ready for the July 29, 2017 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Swiss Celebration. Lots of planning is yet to be done. A planning meeting will be held March 25<sup>th</sup> 2017 at the Suter Farm at 10 am central time. The meeting is open to anyone who has any interest in the Celebration and the support of the preservation of the Stoker-Stampfli Farm Museum. Lunch will be served. Call Jackie at 931-235-3029 or email at [jackie@swisshistoricalsociety.org](mailto:jackie@swisshistoricalsociety.org). Come with wishes, ideas, suggestions, requests and or donations of things that might be representative of life on a farm of long ago. Remember we lost a few things when the robbery occurred November 13, 2015. We have replaced the lawn mower and a travel chest. Other items still lost are scythes, cherry buffet, small wine press, old plows, Swiss dolls, oxen yokes, large oak mirror, typewriter, rocker to name a few.

The year at the Farm has been a good one, with the July 30 Celebration, 6 or 7 weddings, a class reunion and a new caretaker and family. The freshman history class from the University of the South came for a local history lesson. Jackie talked about the contrast in children's entertainment from the past with



current phones and games of today. She then gave them a lesson about a toy from the past and taught them how to make "hum-dingers", a button spinner made with a button and some string. They require a little dexterity to operate. It was great seeing the bonding that took place among students who had been together only 3 days trying to help each other get that "hum-dinger" to spin. No one answered the physics question of what causes the button to reverse itself after the twist comes out of the thread and twist again going the opposite direction. Do you know?



The Discovery Class, a summer learning program from Tracy Elementary School came for their Farm History Tour. About 40 students participate and they come every other year then have lunch under the pavilion.

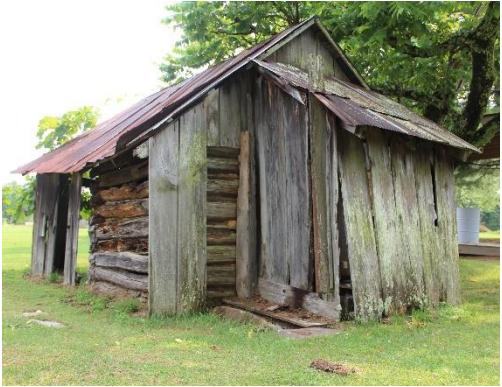
Our new caretaker is Greg Layne, brother of the previous caretaker, Micah Layne. He has helped Micah in the past and we are looking forward to working with he and his family.



The grant from the South Cumberland Community Fund of \$4,500.00 has been used to install the new gutters and they really do look nice. Thank you SCCF for your generous donation. We still must install an underground drain from the back of the house to carry the water from some downspouts away from the base of the house. After a most recent rain, we saw water coming into the cellar from under the stone wall which tells us those downspouts have water pooling around them and the water is flowing under the house. Fortunately, the sump pump is working and we do not have the 2 feet of water collecting in the cellar but some of the floor still has water running along it. Perhaps someday we can put in some safe steps to the cellar and people can go down there.

The little cabin

Some severe winds have blown some of the tin roof off the little cabin. We need to at least repair enough of the roof to get those back on until something more can be done to restore the entire structure. We had a visit from a fellow and his wife from the area who have an interest in log structures and with some help and supplies could direct us in the restoration. To do that every piece must be labeled and removed and many replaced and then the rebuild



can take place. If you have watched Barnwood Builders, then you know how the process works.

We received a private gift of \$6,000.00 to help with installing additional post mounted power outlets for vendors to use and to upgrade the power in the house. A security pole in the back yard might be a good addition at that time. A big thank you for that gift.

### Story about the theft

We are almost certain that the theft of November 13, 2015 took place during the day after the caretaker and his wife had left for work. The young man who was charged with the theft of over \$6,000.00 worth of goods has been serving some time by the state at the Grundy County Jail. Someone thought they saw him out in public recently. Two other people were thought to have been involved, one was investigated but the investigator found no evidence of stolen goods. I would like to share with you the story of how the investigator found some of the tee shirts. When he arrived at the suspect's grandfather's house, he saw some red material hanging out of a cabinet and asked the girl friend



about them. She said that her boyfriend (the suspect) had told her to use them (Swiss labeled) t shirts as cleaning rags. He confiscated the remaining tee shirts and then found the dishes in the big chicken house out back. The sheriff's office had been given a full list with pictures and it is surprising that more things were not found there. In the box of dishes there was one small piece of china with a tag on it with the name Dola Tyler as the donor, which identifies it as belonging to the Farm. The sheriff's office reported that no other items have been found, nor has the convicted man offered any information about who fences these stolen goods or where they might be.

Some of our expenses for the year have included the replacement of the stolen riding lawn mower and lots of t shirts. The Celebration attendance was down from 2015, possibly because of the tax-free weekend for school shopping. We hope that does not happen this year.

Please help save a little piece of history in one of the poorest counties in Tennessee. You can do that by coming to the celebration, donations, sharing ideas, and volunteering. We can make this place and the Celebration an even more significant part of Grundy County and Gruetli-Laager.

We are seeking new board members, a secretary, a new president and a Facebook page keeper. We need someone to oversee the painting of the caretaker house, installing new windows in the Farm house, rebuilding the log building, general maintenance and restoration of all the buildings.

Some of the current action items that need to be done include; the scheduling of meetings, advertisement, TV presentations, contacting vendors, musicians and workers for the Celebration, composing the newsletter, talking with those planning weddings at the Farm. Please consider volunteering to take on one of these tasks and relieve the current president.



Thanks, are offered to many of you who have worked diligently over the years to sustain the Grundy County Swiss Historical Society and The Stoker-Stampfli Farm Museum. Joe Stoker for keeping the web pages up to date; Charisse Joslin for serving as the treasurer and seeing that all things for the membership and souvenir's booth are kept up to date

and there at the time of the Celebration; Brenda Ruehling for keeping our history up to date and serving to inform folks when they are touring the Farm House during the Celebration. She supplies all the beautiful flowers. She also helps with ordering the souvenirs. Thank you, Judy and Jim Mitchel and John Kunz for being the keepers of the gate. Thank you, Brenda, Sue, Margaret and Martha for getting the house in order for the big day. Thank you, Pam and Walter Zimmerman and Jim Parrott for being our wine and cheese hosts. Thank you, Bazzania Band for your many years of music. Thank you, Hope and John Baggenstoss for your many hours in so many ways. John has offered another design for the sign that is to be shared with the Swiss Colony Cemetery Association. The stone design was estimated to cost over \$8,000.00.

Thank you, to all who support us in so many other ways.

Celebrate with us July 29

Meeting March 25