

NEWSLETTER

Grundy County Swiss Historical Society Celebrate 150 years of Swiss Families coming to Grundy County, America.

Swisshistoricalsociety.org

December, 2018



Stoker-Stampfli Farm Museum

The Celebration will be July 27, 2019. Coming to perform for the day will be the Mountain Polka Band from North Carolina. They performed in 2018 and were well received. We would like for more vendors to come and share their wares. Bring families, friends and anyone who would like a weekend away. Hotels and cabins are available in Monteagle, Seawanee, Beersheba and other places on the mountain. Talk with your family

about gathering for a stay on the farm. We will have the fields mowed so campers can stay right on the property. Hope you will consider putting together your family tree back at least to those first Swiss who came to Gruetli.

Meeting January 12, 2019

Merry Christmas to all. This is a planning meeting for the 150th year since Swiss Families came to Grundy County. The Celebration is July 27 at the Stoker-Stampfli Farm Museum. The meeting is at the Suter Farm (home of Jackie and Marvin Lawley) at 10 am with a Chili Lunch being served. Please come. Call Jackie at 931-235-3029 or email at jackie@lawleyfamily.net. The address is 370 55th Avenue, Gruetli Laager, TN 37339.



Mountain Polka Band

As I sit here thinking about the newsletter that typically talks about all the good things that take place at the Stoker-Stampfli Farm Museum, I am overcome by the loss of lives and property from hurricane Michael. People try to preserve pieces of their history and it can be taken away in a matter of minutes. Be thankful for what you have, the talents you have been given; use them to improve the lives of others as well as yourself. Now I am following up during the fires in California and the same feelings come to mind. Enjoy life today!!

On election morning tornados came across the Mountain and did quite a bit of damage. The Stoker-Stampfli Farm was spared but less than a mile away many trees were taken down and some houses received some damage.

The South Cumberland Community Fund issued a grant of \$9,820 to the Farm to replace seven windows. "Wonders of Wood" with Dean Lutz of Tracy City has the skills to duplicate the old windows and he should be starting them soon. We hope to have them installed for the July Celebration. We will try to seal all new materials so that they will last for another 100 years.



Window Repair

Visitors to the Farm this summer included several classes of students from the University of the South who are becoming familiar with what it is like on the Mountain where they may spend the next four years.



The Honda Gold Wing Riders from around the world took a tour on their way to a visit to Jack Daniels Distillery. They came from England, Australia, Israel, Chattanooga and other places. Some borrowed motorcycles from friends in the states and others rented them from Atlanta. Mr. Ethridge who arranged the trip had taken motorcycle trips through this mountain

before and thought it would be a good stop over for the trip from Cleveland to Lynchburg. Brenda Schlageter Ruehling and Jackie Suter Lawley greeted them and served light refreshments.

The Family and Consumer Science group, a women's group associated with the Agricultural Extension Service toured on October 12th. They followed up the tour of the farm with a tour of the Lawley house on Suter farm which was rebuilt in 1885 and has recently been upgraded. There they shared lunch.

The sign is almost ready. The Swiss Cemetery Association and the Historical Society decided some time ago to erect a sign at the intersection of 20 Avenue and Cemetery Road. Jack Baggenstoss designed the sign, Desi McDaniels has completed the wood work, Jason Tate has completed the lettering and David Hamby has completed the stone structure. We now must put it all together.



A work day on April 21 was successful. We built railing on the front porch of the caretaker cottage. It was requested by the insurance company. One wall of the porch was sanded and painted and the front door was painted burgandy. The porch in back was cleaned and pressure washed and the yard was cleaned.



Caretaker House

Others worked on things around the farm like painting interior windows inside the Farm House and a new door was made and installed on the wagon shed.

A big chore yet to be done is the replacement of a post on the rear of the barn and some of the tin roof is missing. The little log cottage is calling for us to put it back together again. We have acquired some pine logs to help make that happen.



The Log Cottage



Grundy County
Swiss Historical Society
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Happy Holidays
from
Grundy County Swiss Historical Society
Stoker Stampfli Farm Museum
Meeting Jan 12, 2019