

Kilts Family Association
Spring newsletter 2011

Hello Kinsmen

Winter always seems way too long and spring sneaks in and is gone in a blink. Here we are in warm humid weather with possibly a hot wet summer ahead of us. We read about the tornados, floods, unemployment, high gas prices, and financial woes of the country. There have been times when I wonder why our ancestors settled in the Mohawk Valley. Then I look around at this beautiful Mohawk Valley on a sunny clear day and know that this is the reason why they settled here and fought to keep their land and planted their roots deep in this fertile soil. Our forefathers continuously had problems after they arrived on the shores of America in 1710. They struggled and survived and we too will be able to get through our current problems. Our family roots are strong and the little challenges of life just make us able to achieve the impossible and continue with our lives. We are a proud people and to think of what our ancestors had to endure just makes us stronger. I heard a remark at the 2010 National Conference Palatines to America. It was: "The Palatines had the 1st 'American Dream' which was to make their own destiny through their hard work, to own their land, to build their homes, to make this new land called 'America' great."

This year, I want to invite everyone to join with the Snell-Zimmerman-Timmerman family reunion on Sunday August 7, 2011. Our Palatine families were closely allied during the early days of our country. They fought together at Oriskany and throughout the Revolution – and earlier in the French & Indian wars. August 6 & 7 looks like an exciting time in the Mohawk Valley as the Battle of Oriskany memorial event is on August 6, 2011 and we will be able to visit the place where our ancestors marched to, fought and died to make this country free.

I would urge everyone to visit General Herkimer Homestead sometime this summer. There has been a great outcry from the local residents of Herkimer County and around the state because of the problems at the Herkimer Homestead. The state of New York, in January 2011, wanted to close the site and move the artifacts. Events have changed because of public outcry and now there is money to keep it open on a limited budget. The Friends of Herkimer Home will volunteer to be running events and thus saving funds to keep the site open. In addition, some paid staff will be on site Wednesdays thru Sundays. Many artifacts at Herkimer Home came from our ancestors.

The Montgomery County Historical Archives in Fonda had some financial issues but are able to continue with a limited staff. This site is a great place to research families and historical events of the Mohawk Valley.

August 7, 2011 we will be re-dedicating two Revolutionary/War of 1812 grave sites at Snells Bush Church. New markers from the Veterans Administration in Washington have been received for Jessie Lewis and Adam Garlock. The original stones in the cemetery are hard to read and in bad shape. The marker will be placed in front of the existing stone. This event will be at 10: 30 AM prior to the annual Snells Bush Church service at 11 AM. After the church service we will have a short business meeting and then our annual catered luncheon. Since the Battle of Oriskany event will be held on Saturday, we decided to expand this weekend by having our annual ice cream social the Friday night before the reunion. So when you arrive on Friday, you can come to the Snells Bush Church for dessert after dinner and enjoy the view of the valley and have ice cream. Peter and Anna (Kilts) Snell donated the land where the church is located. The

families worked together to build this church before the Revolution and to rebuild it after the Revolution. It seems right to have the Kilts descendants join with the Snells & Timmermans for a reunion.

The SZT board has worked in the past few years to repaint the exterior of the church, work on the roof & fix the steeple, and paint the interior of the church. A little more work is needed on the interior painting but the church looks really nice.

We are always looking for family members that have children or grand children that do not receive our newsletter or are not on our mailing or e-mail list. Please send us their names and addresses. We want to keep our family growing with the next generation of family members. Please e-mail us at srahtisrael@yahoo.com or ncioch@yahoo.com to send us updates. Or mail to S-Z-T Family Reunion Inc, P O Box 623 Little Falls, New York 13365. We have genealogy books available to buy. They contain many interesting little stories that are not available on the web site. These genealogy books give us an insight as how life was on the frontier those many years ago. As usual we are always looking for donations to keep our church and cemeteries in neat order and repairs that need to be addressed. Please send in your comments and ideas for making our family reunion better or ideas that we could implement in future years. Don't forget to send us your family updates or genealogy that we may not have.

As a final note, we want to send out condolences to all family members who have lost a loved one this past year. We have heard that we lost 2 long standing supporters of the Kilts Family association – Herman Witthoft passed away October 31, 2010. Herman was our genealogist and worked hard to keep the Kilts Reunion going. Alfred F. Kilts passed away August 8, 2009 – two months shy of his 100th birthday.

I hope to see you at the Snell-Zimmerman-Timmerman (and Kilts and other related families) Reunion on August 7.

Sincerely

Sarah Timmerman Israel

Nancy Timmerman Cioch

OTHER RELATED EVENTS:

June 5, 15th Annual Rhubarb Festival at Nellis Tavern

June 26 Kansas Kilts Reunion, Sedgwick County Park, Wichita, KS

July 3 11am Fort Herkimer Church Independence Day Service

July 4 – Fort Klock strawberry festival and militia encampment

July 17 – Nellis Family Reunion at the John Nellis home

August 5 5pm-dark ice cream social at Snells Bush Church

August 6 – Memorial of the 1777 Battle of Oriskany at Oriskany Historic Site

August 7 – Snell-Zimmerman-Timmerman Family Reunion at the Snells Bush Church

August 14 – Commemorating the Life of Gen. Herkimer – Herkimer Home State Site

Sept 11 & 12 – Fort Klock annual craft fair

October 2 – Herkimer Homestead Day – Herkimer Home State Site

November 26 – Holiday Open House – Herkimer Home

December 5 – Fort Klock St. Nicholas Day

For more information on any of the above, contact me. I hope to see you at the Reunion! SZT President and Editor, Nancy Cioch

DIRECTIONS TO SNELLS BUSH CHURCH
FOLLOW SR5 EAST FROM LITTLE FALLS (EXIT 29A ON I-90)
TO RTE 167 NORTH TOWARDS DOLGEVILLE. TURN RIGHT ON DOCKEY RD.

APPROXIMATELY 2 MILES FORM THE SR 5 INTERSECTION.
FOLLOW DOCKEY ROAD ABOUT ONE MILE TO THE
WHITE CHURCH ON THE HILL

The following notice is for our “Kansas Kilts Cousins”:

2011 Kilts Family And Friends Reunion June 26, 2011
Sedgwick County Park, 6501 W. 21st North, Wichita, Kansas
“Sunflower Shelter” starting at 12
Contact: Sharon Kilts kilts1@att.net 316-776-2806
Debbie Wampler debnlarry@pixius.net 316-990-9996