

Snell-Zimmerman-Timmerman Family Fall Newsletter 2017

Dear Kindred Folks:

SEASON'S GREETINGS-----HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Fall is just about over and the winter snows will be arriving soon at Snells Bush Church. The church always looks so beautiful with the snow all around it. Even though winter is coming we the SZT members need to start thinking about our family reunion for 2018. We will be celebrating our 80th year since Emma Timerman got the family together to form a family reunion. We have worked hard during those 80 years to keep the church and cemeteries in good condition to honor our deceased family members that are buried in the cemeteries. The SZT board members are getting older and we need to have new younger SZT members come forward to continue the work that Emma started all those years ago. It is unfortunate that few family members still live in the area and it makes it difficult to find members that will continue the work of keeping the church and cemeteries in good order. .

We will be working throughout the winter months on correcting addresses both on e-mail and snail mail. We sent out the spring mailing in regular mail instead of bulk to find out the correct addresses of our members. Out of 700 mailed we received back over 200 that had wrong addresses. PLEASE contact us and let us know the correct address both for regular U S postage and e-mail address so we can correct our mailing lists. Thru the years we have LOST many members due to wrong address, death and moving to new address and not notifying us of the change. At one time around the year 2000 we had over 3000 members on our mailing list. Now we are down to around 700 e-mail and maybe 500 regular mail. There are many many SZT members that are not receiving our newsletters and we need to keep everyone involved as we have a great important history of our family and we should be proud of our heritage.

We have genealogy books which tell the story of the struggles our ancestors had on the frontier fighting Indians and the British. They make great gifts for the family members. The genealogy is fun to trace to see just one fits into the family and there are little stories in these books telling about life of your ancestors on the frontier.

Here is a quick little story about one of our family ways we celebrate the holidays.

Back in the 1860's my great grandfather Will Bellinger and sister Cora Bellinger were eating breakfast and as usual fooling around. There came a knock at the door and a man dressed in black with a long beard appeared at the door. He had heard that they were naughty children and he called the two out of the house and got on his black horse and chased them down the road with a whip trilling around his head making them dance and run and jump out of the way. They were so---- scared and frightened. Even when they were in their nineties they would tell the story of how they were chased down the road.

Because of this we the family have been celebrating Bells Nichol day (as we called it Bum-a-Nichol day) which we celebrated on New Year's . Supposedly children are to be very good during Christmas and New Year's. If they are bad-- Bum-a- Nichol will come New Year's Eve and take all their toys away and leave them coal instead. When they wake up New Year's Day there are no toys only coal and candy presents.

So when we were younger we would celebrate this event by having funny presents under the tree for New Years' day—big boxes with nothing in them, little packages with something we already had, candy, and so forth

If you do research you will find the following information of Belsnickel.

Belsnickel is a crotchety fur clad Christmas gift bringer figure in folklore of the region of southwest Germany along the Rhine the Saarland and Odenwald area of Baden Wurttemberg. ---Belsnickel is a man wearing furs and sometimes a mask with a long tongue. He is typically very rugged and disleveled, wears torn clothes and carries a switch in his hand with which to beat naughty children but also pockets cakes candy and nuts for good children. (from Wikipedia)

Let us know if your family has a special way of celebrating the holidays or any other type of event.

PLEASE contact us we like to hear from you. Tells about what your current family is doing. Our mailing address is **Snell-Zimmerman-Timmerman Family Reunion Inc. P O Box 623 Little Falls New York 13365.** You can contact us at **sarahtisrael@yahoo.com or ncioch@yahoo.com.** Phone us at **518-489-2725 or 315-866-3419.** Kevin Jorrey our web master would like you to contact him with stories of your family or any interesting items to be put on the web. Photos are also wanted. Check our web site at **www.szt-genealogy.org.** Patrick Babcock is our web mail server- please contact with updates on e-mail

Our church is in good repair. We have one side of the church painted and the rest will be painted in the spring. Our painter had medical problems this past fall and could not complete the work. He will also work on repairing the windows---- as many of the window need to rehang and the glass between the wood and wood needs repair. We sprayed for powder post beetles this past fall so we should be in good shape for another year. The cemeteries are in good shape but some of the stones need to be straightened. Last year I attended a workshop on repairing

grave stones and cleaning of them. We had two wedding this past year. A plaque will be hung in the spring for donations to SZT in the lobby of the church. Winter is here and it is difficult to enter the building because of all the snow to get to it.

We the SZT family wish everyone a happy Christmas and New Year and hope to see you at our next family Reunion---- Sunday- August 5, 2018

Ice cream social---- August 4, 2018-- Saturday at 6 pm

Sincerely

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