

# Snell-Zimmerman-Timmerman Family Reunion

## Winter 2022-23 Newsletter

### **\*\*Announcement\*\***

*The annual SZT Family Reunion will be held August 27, 2023-----the last Sunday in August.*

Hello--- Happy Holidays

The S-Z-T board held the fall meeting in October. We decided to try to have the family reunion the last Sunday in August like it was for many of the early years. Each year we are getting less and less members attending the reunion this is due to traveling, vacations, covid virus, no interest in history from the younger generation, old age, and expensive to travel. We need to try and get family members interested in our history. The history of the SZT family tells the story of how America developed thorough out the years and should not be forgotten as it seems to be happening. Back in the 1990's it was decided to change the date to the first Sunday in August as families had to take the children to college and school started earlier, especially sport camps and it was felt that the change would have more members attending the reunion. Now it seems that maybe we need to change it back again to the last Sunday in August to try and get more members to come to the reunion.

**The SZT board made a motion to try to have the reunion the last Sunday in August 27, 2023 for a trial run.**

If it works out better, we will have the bylaws changed to that effect. So, this is an announcement of the bylaw change, and hope we will have a better show of members coming to the reunion on the last Sunday in August. We need more members to come and take an active part in the reunion or there will be a problem of not having an annual reunion. The board is made up of aging members and we need younger members to get involved. Anyone can attend the board meetings. They are held the beginning of October and May of each year.

**Please send us your comments on the change of S-Z-T Reunion date to August 27, 2023. We want to hear from you.**

Another item we did was to have the Patent of 1755 moved to the Dolgeville- Manheim Museum. We felt that the Little Falls Museum was difficult to get to due to the covid virus. Since the land patent is located in Manheim it should be in a museum which tells the history of the Town of Manheim and Dolgeville. The museum in Dolgeville is located in an historic old fire house that Alfred Dolge built in 1889. The director Bob Maxwell found out that many residents of the area do not know about the history of Dolgeville, Manheim. We are combining to have SZT family and the historical society of Dolgeville-Manheim work together on events to promote the history of the Town of Manheim.

The Zimmerman and Snell families settled Snell Bush on the land grant of 1734 later 1755 and still later become the Town of Manheim. After the Revolutionary War land was available and many homesteaders came from New England to settle on the land. Alfred Dolge came to Brocketts Bridge (the name at that time) to find lumber for building piano sound boards. He developed a thriving town of various industries that included piano, tannery, shoe factories. He also brought many Germans to work in his factories that were coming to America. Alfred Dolge built up a village for the residents including entertainment, schools (the first kindergarten), churches, and a retirement plan for the workers (first in the country). He built a factory for shoe making, a school, a gymnasium, high park (recreation area) and the first generator for electricity to run the factories and later the town was electrified. Dan Green slippers were later developed in the shoe factory. Wood was available and all kinds of lumber industries were developed and continue today, now baseball bats. Farming became important for the homesteaders. Crops and cattle produced items for market especially milk. Then the cheese industry came and every farmer was making cheese to ship to NYC. Manheim was the first

rural electrification in the country due to Breadlee dam and the Old City. Later a large power plant at Ingham Mills was established there. During the Civil war, the underground trail went thru Dolgeville (at that time called Brocketts Bridge) and there were many abolitionists in the area who hid the slaves traveling to Canada. A railroad was built by Dolge from Little Falls to Dolgeville to Salisbury which included the highest trestle rail bridge in the country for many years. Dolgeville is located in the Town of Manheim, Herkimer County and a little of the town is located in the Fulton County on the other side of East Canada Creek. Fairfield Academy (college) was built to educate the children of the area and many doctors and lawyers graduated from this establishment which was located in Fairfield, just north of Manheim. During the Town of Manheim Bi-centennial of 1997, Snells Bush Church was featured on most of the memorabilia.

Most of our ongoing projects will still be worked on as there is always something to work on in an historic building. The grounds of cemetery are well kept and some of the stones need to be straightened but that will be done in the spring. We hired a new painter to complete the steeple painting and again it will be completed in spring. Spraying for the post beetles was completed. Nancy and Sarah are continuing to work on the records of the reunion and newsletter to be sent to our web site. It is important to keep our old records up to date. The e-mail and snail list also keep changing, **please send up dates on changes of e-mail and snail addresses. We need to hear from you.**

#### Contact us at the following:

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with items to be placed on the web.  
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We have books for sale and they make great gifts for family members. Maybe a genealogy book will get the younger generation interested in our history of the SZT family.

The SZT Board would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.

Bill Timmerman president