

SZT family reunion--- Church service August 25, 2024

A very exciting happening---- we have a handicap ramp at the church. We have been trying to get one for the past few years. They are expensive and hard to get at a lower cost. But we kept looking and finally we have a beautiful handicap ramp. Now it will be easier to attend the church service for the elderly and disabled.

On August 24, 2024- Saturday, we held a small garage sale as a fund raiser---- members donated items to sell and we did get some interesting items. At 6 pm we held our annual ice cream social---ice cream donated from Stewarts ice cream store. We had quite a few attend which included Snell-Zimmerman-Timmerman members and the neighbors in the surrounding community. Everyone had a good time eating ice cream and watching the sun go down over the valley.

Sunday August 25,2024 we held our family reunion. The St Johnsville American Legion came for the Flag raising ceremony. They come each year and we are happy to have them attend our reunion. Thank you members of the St Johnsville American Legion. This year we had the re-enactors of the Tryon County Militia attend and they brought their cannon as well and the Militia had their muskets with them. From the Flag raising the Militia and American Legion marched to the cannon for the re- dedication ceremony to honor our patriots buried at Snells Bush Cemetery. This year we honored Jessie Lewis, a patriot of War of 1812 and William Conrad Zimmerman, a patriot of the American Revolutionary War. It is interesting to note that on the back of Jessie Lewis marker----- his sons are listed who died on the battlefield in the Civil War. William C. Zimmerman was in the Revolution and was stationed all over the valley defending the forts for the entire conflict and bateaux service carrying supplies.

Our church service started a little late as Rev. Busch and his wife, and the accompanist Erin Thayer were finishing up the church service at Inghams Mills Baptist church and then they came over to conduct the service at Snell Bush Church. We thank the Bush family for their dedication of doing two church services back to back. This was the pattern of the early church services in the area. Some ministers preached 5 services in 3 different languages---(English, German, Dutch) in one day traveling across the Mohawk River to the various churches to conduct a service for the community.

We had about 75 people attend the service and it was nice to see the church filled with people. We had visitors come from South Carolina, Delaware, New Mexico, Arizona, Maine, and Australia and all over the state of New York. The family that came from Australia also brought a drone and took photos of the church and the cemetery and surrounding area. The photos can be viewed on our web site under photos. The web site is szt-genealogy.org. We also had a roving minstrel who played the bag pipes and it was nice to hear the music from a distance in the cemetery-as well as up close. We thank our bag pipe player for the interesting music.

The church bell was rung later than usual and the service started with our accompanist playing the piano prelude. Call to worship and the first hymn was sung. Invocation of the Lords Prayer and Gloria Patria was next. This was followed by special music entitled "*Here I am to Worship*" and after a silent prayer for the departed and pastoral-prayer. The next hymn was entitled "*Fairest Lord Jesus*". Scripture reading and message were conducted by Rev. Bush. The offering was

conducted and the special music by Gertrude Ortlieb and Anna Thayer-- "*You are my All in All*". This was followed by a prayer of Thanksgiving. Announcements by Bill Timmerman---president of the reunion and then final hymn--- "*Faith of Our Fathers*" our traditional hymn was sung by all.

A short business meeting was held where election of directors was conducted. A handicap ramp is in place at the front side of church for easy access to the building. The cemeteries look nice as our mowing people are doing a great job. The windows are fixed except two windows that have not been worked as we can't get in touch with the glass company that worked on the others. We are working on getting the front stained glass windows illuminated and will probably use a spot light to enhance those windows. We need a sign marking the lower cemetery which does not have one. It was suggested that we set up bookcases in the balcony for storage of books and files and possibly place a table there for members to do research. We had three weddings this year. We will get an estimate for touch up painting work to be done. The meeting was adjourned and lunch was served.

While having lunch we had a presentation of a new book written by R D Denny entitled "*The Time Captive*". This book is about the struggles of the residents of the Mohawk Valley during the French and Indian War, and the attack in 1757 on German Flats. The author is a descendant of those early settlers. The fictional heroine of the story was based on a family member that lived in that time period. It was an interesting presentation and many books were bought by the attendees. We thank Rhonda for coming to the reunion and bringing this new book for us to read. The militia also did a presentation of shooting their muskets. And of course the cannon was fired quite a few times. Thank you Tryon County Militia re-inactors for coming to our reunion.

Everyone had a great time!

We still have genealogy books for sale and have reprinted "*American Patriots at the Battle of Oriskany*" by Vera DeWitt.

Please visit our web site-- szt-genealogy.org.

Please contact us at our mailing address---SZT Reunion Inc., PO Box 623, Little Falls NY 13365

For information please contact us as we like to hear from you. Remember this is your family reunion.

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Sincerely

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