

Snell -Zimmerman-Timmerman Family Reunion

Sunday August 24, 2025

We had a wonderful event at the ice cream social held Saturday August 23rd at 6 pm. The rain held off, and everyone enjoyed ice cream sundaes (coming back for seconds) and watching the sun set over the Mohawk Valley. Families came from near and far to attend the event, and children were everywhere-- they even rang the church bell and had a great time doing it. We had cars parked everywhere.

On Sunday (August 24th) the day of our reunion we held the flag-raising ceremony, which was followed by the re-dedication of our soldiers buried at Snells Bush Church. Each year, we honor two soldiers that are buried in the cemetery. This year, we honored Adam Klock and Peter Woolever.

Adam Klock served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War in the Tryon County Militia and was in the Battle of Johnstown. He was taken prisoner and taken off to Canada for two months. Later he finally returned back to the Mohawk Valley. When the conflict broke out for the War of 1812-- he again joined the militia. He became a corporal in Colonel Getman's regiment.

Peter Woolever had also served in the Revolutionary War in the Tryon County Militia where he served as a drummer. Though the years of the war, he served in many different places and even became a corporal. He was stationed at Fort Dayton and fought in the Battle of Stone Arabia. We ended the presentation with taps -----a cannon salute----- from the re-enactors of Tryon County Militia who attended our event.

At 11 am the bell rang to call everyone to worship in our historic Snells Bush Church. This year we had a lay speaker Paul Ammerman who led us in our worship service.

"Back in 1938 we obtained ownership of the church and cemeteries. It was officially incorporated October 5, 1943 as the Snell-Zimmerman-Timmerman Reunion Inc. by Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York- Abram Zoller. As long as we hold at least one church service each year the Snells Bush Church can retain the name of St. Paul's Dutch Reformed Church." (from the revised booklet "Snells Bush Church").

This year we had Nancy Schuyler as a accompaniment who played the old pump organ and piano. Gertrude Ortlieb organized the Bulletin and music for the worship service. Gertrude and Dawn Ortlieb, Andrea and Ann Thayer presented our special music, and the beautiful flowers were provided by Jim Berry and wife. We wish to thank them for their wonderful presentation which added to our church service.

The worship service started with pump organ prelude by Nancy Schuyler. Greeting from Paul Ammeramn. Our traditional hymn "Faith of our Fathers" was sung by the congregation. The invocation was given, followed by special music by Gertrude, Dawn, Andrea and Ann. The *first note*-- scripture text was Gen:3:1, Numbers 21:9 and John3:14 &25. A silent prayer for the departed members and pastoral prayer.

The *second note*--- was a hymn was "We've a story to tell to the nations". The offering was collected while music was presented. The Doxology was next followed by a prayer of thanksgiving. The scripture reading was Psalm 22.

The *third note*--- was scripture text Isaiah 53 and prayer.

The *recap*--- Scripture text- John3:14-17 & Luke 23: 39-43, Next we had a prayer and hymn "To God Be the Glory" which the music was included in the bulletin.

Announcements - Bill Timmerman----our president asked everyone to stay for a short business meeting and to stay for a catered luncheon and presentations.

Annual meeting

The meeting was called to order by our president Bill Timmerman

Secretary report was read and accepted.

The treasurer's report was explained by Peter Burkdorf and accepted.

Corresponding Secretary Sarah Israel reminded everyone to please update their mailing and e-mail addresses when changed. She is also working on organizing files by year of the reunion so it will be possible to review them when needed. We are working on the cemetery markers to straighten them. It was suggested that we could look into getting maybe the Boy Scouts to volunteer to help. It was mentioned that some stones need cleaning.

Wedding - This spring (April) we had Baptism for two little girls. We have 3 weddings this year, September 9 & 13 and one in October. A motion was made at our business meeting earlier to raise the wedding fees at the church to \$350 as of January 2026. The wedding party is responsible for cleaning the church, but we take care of the mowing.

Old business--- A sign was donated by Nancy Cioch to place at the lower cemetery as there is no sign there and we need to make sure the public knows it included with the Snells Bush Church. Jim Berry is working on getting the sign repainted that fell in the ditch announcing the-- Historic area of Snells Bush. It will be placed by the lower cemetery where it will be viewed by passer byes. David Haughton is working of placing a LED small spotlight for the stain glass windows at the front of the church to illuminate them.

New business----The ceiling painting is done and it looks great. We need to repaint some spots on the north side exterior of the church as the winters are bad and the paint chips off. Some fixing needs to be done around the exterior at the front entrance of the church. We are looking for storage bookcases to be put in the balcony for storage of genealogy books and files. This area could be used to do research of the genealogy books that we have for our members.

Election of officers and trustees----- A call for members who would like to serve on the board was presented. Ken Johnson wanted to be a trustee. There were no other nominations, so a vote was cast to retain the current officers that their terms were up. The following are the officers for the coming year.

Officers	
President	Bill Timmerman
Vice President	Sarah Burkdorf
Treasurer	Peter Burkdorf
Secretary	Stephanie Timmerman
Corresponding Secretary	Sarah Israel
Wedding coordinator	Wendy Marchese
Historian	Sarah Israel
Webmaster	Kevin Jorrey
Mail box	Patrick Babcock

Trustees
Nancy Cioch
David Haughton
Sue Vickery
Kim Stein
Ken Johnson
Jim Berry

Mailing Address

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Web site szt-genealogy.org

Facebook [Snells Bush Church](#)

Contact Sarah Israel 518-489-2725 sarahtisrael@yahoo.com

Nancy Cioch 315-866-3419 ncioch@yahoo.com

The meeting was adjourned, and everyone went out to have lunch. Many members stopped at the book room to look and buy the genealogy books that we sell. Many of these books have little stories of the various families settling on the frontier and traveling west to homestead in later years. The lunch was enjoyed by all with cakes and pies for dessert.

The re-enactors of Tryon County Militia presented a small program and demonstrated the cannon firing.

We also had Sue Brewer a member of the reunion who wrote a book entitled "[The Best Land](#)" about the Oneida Indians and a homesteading family living next to each other and how they existed in those times. It is interesting to note that the Indian, Denny family was Hon Jost Doxstader family who fought in the American Revolution and received a pension from the American government. The homestead family was descended from Lt. Henry Timmerman and the Vedder family line.

Sincerely

Bill Timmerman

President

Sarah Israel

Corresponding secretary