

# Grundy County Swiss Historical Society Stoker Stampfli Farm Museum NEWSLETTER

swisshistoricalsociety.org

July 2023

## SWISS HERITAGE CELEBRATION Saturday, July 29 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Greetings!

The 49<sup>th</sup> Swiss Heritage Celebration is coming up on July 29, and plans are moving right along!

This year, we will be honored to welcome as our guests the Consul General, Urs Bronnimann, and his wife, Katrin, from the Swiss Consulate in Atlanta. It has been four years since we've had a Consul General in attendance. We look forward to meeting them and thanking them for joining us.



*Grundy County Swiss Historical Society  
Stoker-Stampfli Farm Museum*



**Urs Bronnimann**

merry helpers. Dale Layne will once again offer hayride tours of the grounds on his colorful wagon. Vendors will be on hand with brats and sauerkraut and other good things to eat. Crafters and artisans will display their skills and sell their wares. This year, the Tullahoma Ham Radio Club, MTARS, will demonstrate how emergency preparedness involves the use of radio communication.

As always, visitors will have access to the farmhouse to view the historical documents and memorabilia and get

Our featured musicians this year are the Musik Meisters from Nashville, a prominent polka band known in the city's German restaurants. We hope that a local group that jams regularly on the mountain will offer additional musical entertainment.

Wine and cheese tasting, our very popular attraction, will be hosted by our friend Pam Zimmerman and her



**The Musik Meisters**

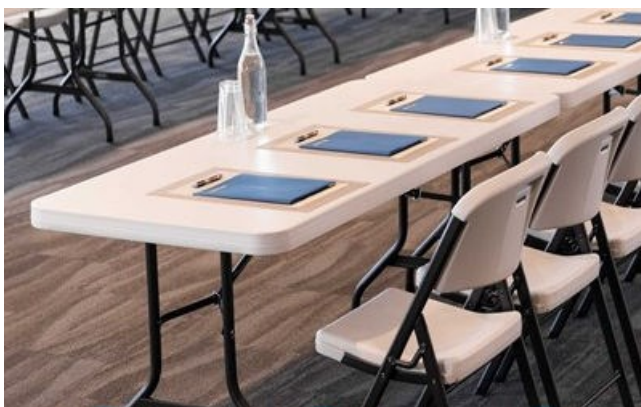


**Wine & Cheese Tasting**

a glimpse of what life was like for our Swiss predecessors.

While 2022 was a rather quiet year, it brought an energetic new couple, Noah and Peyton Bean, to the caretaker position at the cottage. The Beans were married last year and moved into the cottage in May, 2022. They have recently welcomed a baby girl named Quinlynn. They have demonstrated their willingness to work hard by staining the front porch and deck and working on the back deck. They are keeping the property well mowed and maintained as part of their contract to live in the cottage.

A group of volunteers cleaned and prepared the cottage for the Beans. We installed a mini-split air conditioning system and they are very happy with the results. Some upgrades to the plumbing and electrical systems were done.



**New Tables & Chairs**



**Hay Ride**

We have purchased new tables and chairs for the pavilion. Hopefully, this upgrade will attract and encourage more groups to use the Farm for weddings and other events. We encourage these types of activities because they generate donations for the Farm and its operations.

Our goal is to raise enough money each year to pay for general expenses, property taxes, termite protection and insurance on the cottage. (We have no insurance on any other buildings.) We pay \$1,200 annually to the Grundy County Heritage Center in Tracy City for the Swiss Room. It ensures a safe environment for many of our artifacts, a number of which will be on display at the Farm on July 29.



**Needs Replacement**

We received a grant of \$5,000 from the South Cumberland Community Fund to help pay for the farmhouse's final six windows. The additional \$5,000 we needed came in the form of a gift from the City of Gruetli-Laager. We thank these groups for the support they provide! They help sustain the future of the Museum and Farm.

Grundy County Swiss Historical Society received a gift of \$10,000 from incentive funds from the City of Gruetli-Laager to help offset lost revenue during the pandemic when we were unable to hold our annual festival. We will put this money to good use.

For the past 10 years, as the publisher of this newsletter, I have promised that one day we will rebuild that little log structure which we believe to have been the first lodging

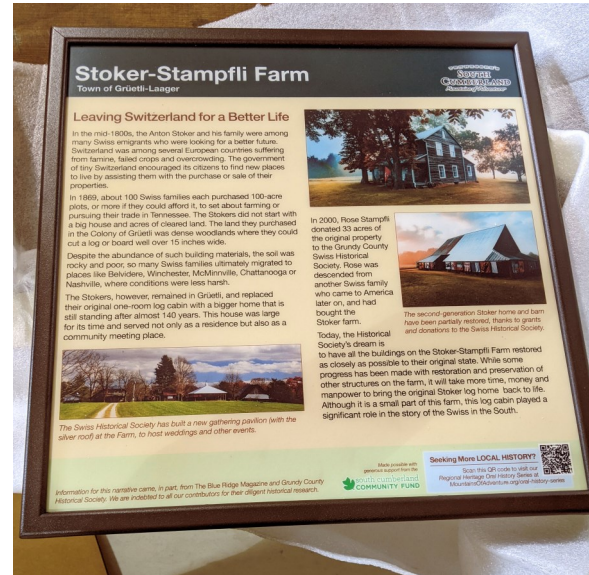


## Log Cabin

place of the Anton Stoker family when they established the Farm in 1869. It is still a dream. First though, powder post beetles must be eradicated from the barn and other buildings. Work continues as funds permit.

Thanks to the many emigrants who toughed it out that first winter of 1869 and others who came later, we still have an old historic site to share with future generations, such as the lively group of Discovery Kids who visited recently. The Farm is where we can sustain that educational and cultural experience.

The Farm is on the National Register of Historic Places. A plaque has been installed by the South Cumberland Tourism Partnership. It will greet you at the entrance, so



please take notice when you visit our gathering on July 29 or any other time.

Contributions of many forms have helped maintain the Farm this year: the new young family at the cottage, the participation in various events by folks of all ages, and the generous grants, gifts and donations. We are so grateful!

We need your financial help to continue our mission. Please send your gifts and donations to the Grundy County Swiss Historical Society, P.O. Box 69, Gruetli-Laager, TN 37339.

Plan to stay on the mountain for the whole weekend and shop at the Monteagle Market on Saturday and Sunday. Consider hiking and enjoying the beautiful waterfalls and trails of the Savage Gulf State Park. The 30 acres of the Farm can accommodate camping and mobile units that do not require electrical hookups. So come and stay a while!

Thank you,

Jackie Suter Lawley, President  
Grundy County Swiss Historical Society

Send donations to:  
Grundy County Swiss Historical Society  
P.O. Box 496  
Gruetli-Laager, TN 37339



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