

NEWSLETTER

Grundy County Swiss Historical Society

swisshistoricalsociety.org

February 2021

GREETINGS!

Put July 31, 2021 on your calendar for a day of celebration, reunion, music, food and wine and cheese tasting!!! The farmhouse and old buildings will be available to tour. They date back to the origin in the Swiss Colony of Gruetli. In 1869 families arrived from Switzerland and established the Colony.



Grundy County Swiss Historical Society
Stoker-Stampfli Farm Museum



Despite the fact that we were unable to have the Swiss Celebration in 2020, the board of the Grundy County Swiss Historical Society is making plans to hold the Celebration in 2021. Fortunately, the Mountain Top Polka Band of North Carolina that performed in 2019 will be back to entertain us in 2021. That's music to our ears!

Even though we couldn't gather in 2020, we have been busy focusing on preserving the Stoker-Stampfli Farm. The farm had exceptional expenses in 2020. As a result, we request that you make a donation now to help continue the work of the organization and the farm. If you gave in 2020, we ask you to consider an additional gift at this time.

Some Budget Impacts



New Windows Awaiting Installation

- Preparing for a new caretaker and updating the cottage.
- Replacing much of the barn roof and shoring up the structure to carry the new sheathing strips and metal roofing. Storm damage was extensive over the past three years.
- Seven beautifully prepared windows have been built and delivered for \$6,125. The cost of installation will be partially covered by the \$10,000 grant.

A LOOK AT THE YEAR 2020

Thank you to all who sent in your membership dues of \$25 and thanks to you who donated to support the work of the Stoker-Stampfli Farm Museum despite the inability to celebrate in 2020.

It was a year of very few tours and events. Photographers continued to use the grounds.

The year, however, was filled with volunteer work, labor costs, upgrades and repairs.

CARETAKER COTTAGE REHAB

In March, getting the caretaker cottage ready for a new occupant was critical. Several donations helped with this project. The new caretaker, Russell Layne, and his family were a big help. We removed the old carpet and cleaned the floors. Michael Mainord laid new vinyl plank flooring throughout the main floor. We repaired the sheetrock and primed and painted the entire interior of the house. We were able to clean the upstairs carpet. The kitchen received a major overhaul. We removed a wall between the kitchen and the great room and added a peninsula.



Remodeled Cottage Kitchen

The Lawley family built the peninsula cabinet and finished it in bead-board from a 1906 house in Jasper, TN. Desi McDaniel made and donated a butcher block top. We installed a new range and microwave, cleaned and painted the cabinets and added new hardware. Tile flooring, which was donated by a member, was installed in the main floor bathroom. We installed a new vanity, toilet and faucets. We gave the tub/shower a thorough cleaning. A new doorway was installed from the entry into the front bedroom.

Russell has done other upgrades since he moved in. We are grateful to him for his good work and care of the property. He mows and maintains the yards and farmhouse gutters and other minor repairs. The farm fields are maintained by Tommy Birdwell.

BARN

These pictures tell the story of most of the work that took place on the barn roof. The interior and structure under the metal roof required extensive repairs and new support structures.



Left Rear Before



Barn Rear After



Right Rear Before



Barn Front Before



Barn Front After

General expenses include

- ◆ Property taxes
- ◆ Insurance for the cottage
- ◆ Termite insurance (10 year renewal, \$1,800)
- ◆ The organization shares in expenses for the Heritage Center where we have a room for displaying artifacts (\$1,200 per year)
- ◆ The Celebration

Proposed expenses

- ◆ Cottage crawlspace encapsulation. Cost unknown.
- ◆ Treat for powder post beetles. Possible cost is \$3,000.
- ◆ Install a ductless mini-split HVAC unit for the Cottage which currently has fans and a gas wall heater. Possible cost is \$3000.
- ◆ Repair and replace sections of previously installed windows that are rotting. Cost unknown.
- ◆ Restoration of the little log cabin.

This farm is on the National Registry of Historic Places and the Society is a 501c3 organization.

We have had to use operations money to do much of the repairs and upgrades this year. Consequently, the funds we use to maintain the farm and have on reserve are now under \$6,000.

We need your gift to preserve this farm for future generations to understand and appreciate their ancestry.

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

Thank you,
Jackie (Suter) Lawley, President
Grundy County Swiss Historical Society



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Staker-Stampfli Farm Museum*



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