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WEYERBACHER DESCENDANTS
SPRING LETTER

1979

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Greetings:

REUNION time again: Mark your calendar for July 8th., 1979! The early church service at Trinity Lutheran Church (Springfield) at Pleasant Valley will be dedicated to the Weyerbacher Family. Picnic time is Noon to 2:00 P.M. at Silver Creek Park, Route 412, between Springtown and Pleasant Valley, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Business meeting at 2:00 P.M. followed by entertainment at the Park.

No further notice will be mailed due to the increased cost of postage and expanded mailing list (over 600 families of Weyerbacher descent are now on the mailing list). Local newspapers in Bucks, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh and Northampton Counties will carry reunion notices the week before July 8th.

The 'Spring Letter' goes out later this year due to Three Mile Island crisis, colds and now a bout with a slipped disc! The threatened evacuation of Middletown brought turmoil in my files and papers which still have not been returned to order. To be faced with the possibility of losing thirty years' work due to radioactivity posed quite a problem. Just what, and how much could be carried away in short notice? That was a difficult decision to make. To those of you wondering how we feel about those several weeks in April it could be summed up by saying that the worst problem was the 'mis-information' we were being given. And certainly the Faith about which I have so often spoken was, and still is, in evidence. It brought our ancestors across the ocean to the Wilderness of Penn's Woods, it stood by their descendants down through 225 years in America as they carved a livelihood from the earth, and it still is with us today. As we sing on our Sunday in Springfield church 'Faith of our fathers, living still!

I would like to thank the many Cousins who shared their concern with me by phone calls or letters during the crisis at Three Mile Island. Middletown was really in the news. I even had letters from England and Germany! Now the tourists have taken over and we are preparing for a summer exploiting tourism (depending on the gas situation).

To date I have not been able to confirm the guest speaker for the reunion. But it is hoped to be able to present an authority on what our 'Grossmutter und Grossvater' wore in those early days. As we have such a good record of the wardrobe of Johann Nicholas from his estate inventory it would be interesting to hear about, and perhaps to see a few samples, of the early garb.

We are also asking that if any of the older members have any tales of their younger days, especially about family history, they be prepared to share them with us. So many things were different in 'the good old days' and we'd like to hear about them.

Again may I ask you to look in those old trunks, boxes and attic for items with family history, bibles, pictures, baptismal certificates, etc. Our collection is growing but there is still need for more information. We are of an old, early Pennsylvania German Family and our ancestors left many records of their passage through this World...

Have you seen the beautiful Fracturs published by the Pennsylvania German Society in their Bicentennial publication of the Fracturs of the Free Library of Philadelphia?

Volume X, item #242 Vorschrift of Maria Weierbach, written March 20 in the year of Christ 1857

Volume XI item #399 Taufschein for Maria, daughter of Johannes and Maria (Gerhart) Weierbach, born January 27, 1839 Haycock Township, Bucks County, Baptized May 5, 1839

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?

OUR ANCESTORS LIVED WITHOUT SUGAR UNTIL THE 13th. CENTURY AND WITHOUT COAL FIRES UNTIL THE 14th., WITHOUT BUTTERED BREAD UNTIL THE 16th., TEA OR SOAP UNTIL THE 17th., WITHOUT GAS, MATCHES OR ELECTRICITY UNTIL THE 19th., WITHOUT CARS, CANNED OR FROZEN FOODS UNTIL THE 20th. NOW, WHAT WAS IT YOU WERE COMPLAINING ABOUT?

Lucille Goodyear

Our research has not yet established much about the physical features of the Weyerbachers. From Civil War records I am trying to evaluate information as to weight, height, hair and eye coloring etc. But one line of descent seems to stretch us out to be long, lean and lanky. Another to be stocky, short and hefty. Some of us had much hair, others not so fortunate...

Dr. Neil Soloman has a syndicated column in many newspaper on Health. In the Scranton Tribune, January 12th., 1979 he replied to a question about the cause of baldness in this way - "the only effective prevention for baldness would be a judicious selection of ancestors":

So here we might add, 'It is indeed a desirable thing to be well descended, but the glory belongs to our ancestors':

Deaths of the following Weyerbacher descendants (or spouse) have been reported to me during the past year. The sympathy of the Reunion is extended to their families

Ira Weierbach	(86)	Hellertown, Pa.
Warren W. Weirback	(78)	Ottsville, Pa.
Charles Shenk Wireback	(61)	Lancaster, Pa.
Lee Wirebaugh	(72)	Deer Creek, Oklahoma
Willie Wirebaugh	(60)	Minneapolis Minnesota
Herbert Bilsborough	(88)	Oxnard, California
James F. Buckley	(58)	Vienna, West Virginia
Roland N. Deemer	(54)	Allentown, Pa.
May Wirebach Frankenfield (Mrs. Wm)	(80)	Hellertown, Pa.
Edna Ann Hedrick	(86)	Nitro, West Virginia
Mabel Baringer Knechel (Mrs. Asa)	(87)	Bethlehem, Pa.
Elsie Weierbach Koch (Mrs. Forrest)	(88)	Coopersburg Pa.
Helen Jean Weil Mohr (Mrs. John)	(54)	Reeders, Pa.
Janet Weiss (Mrs. Arthur)	(83)	Tenafly, New Jersey

IMPORTANT! If you change your address please notify me, giving both your old and new address. We are planning on publishing a Weyerbacher Genealogy but at present are more concerned with locating missing lines and establishing the early family structure. As we approach the present century in our research we need updated records on you and your family. If you would complete and return the enclosed chart it will be much appreciated. (If none is enclosed that information is not needed for the present).

Period to be covered by a genealogy - 1751-1976 '225 Years in America'

We are not able to report progress on the restoration of the old farm cemetery at Woodward, nor the replacement of the gravestone for Elizabeth Weierbach (er) Frey in Springfield cemetery. Funds still are needed for both these projects. Descendents of Anna Wirebaugh Henney (buried at Woodward) and the Frey family who wish to contribute should contact our treasurer. It is still hoped that the Frey stone could be located as it was taken from the gravesite during the building of the addition to Springfield church. The work of clearing the farm cemetery waits until I can be there to make sure that all stones are left intact broken ones mended and a probe made for any buried under 200 years of debris. We are trying to locate the burying place of Johannes (died - 1790) and Catharine Best (died - 1804) Weyerbacher (Wirebaugh). It is their daughter Anna who is buried in this cemetery.

See you on the 8th... and bring yet another cousin with you --

Warren W. Wirebach
Warren W. Wirebach, President
Weyerbacher Descendants

May 1, 1979
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FRIEDE DEN KOMMENDEN, FREUDE DEN BLEIBENDEN, SEGEN DEN SCHNEIDENDEN
(old household saying from Village of Weierbach)