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WYERBAUGHER

WEYERBACHER DESCENDANTS

SPRING LETTER

1990

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Greetings:

REUNION time again! July 8th we will observe our 25th annual reunion. Let's make this year's reunion the best ever! When we had our first reunion in 1966 our kin-folk came from Florida, California, Ohio, and Michigan to meet with the local cousins. In these twenty-five years many of our cousins have passed on and now it is time for you younger cousins to give support and cooperation as you pick up the interest your grandparents had. Our ancestors have left us a goodly heritage and one well worth handing down to future generations.

Early church service will be at Trinity Lutheran (Springfield) Church in Pleasant Valley at Nine. The altar flowers will be in memory of our ancestors. This is the church where Johann Nicholas Weyerbacher was one of the six men to establish the Lutheran and Reformed Faiths in 1761. Weierbachs still worship here.

Picnic time is from Noon to 2:00 P.M. at Silver Creek Park, Route 412 between Pleasant Valley and Springtown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. A business meeting, followed by entertainment, will begin at 2:00 P.M.

Our guest speaker at the Reunion will be Ronald Hallowell of Coopersburg. Ron is an authority on Pennsylvania Dutch folklore, is active in Pennsylvania Dutch Ronsow Lodches, teaches Pennsylvania Dutch language courses and is a well known speaker on the history and humor of the Pennsylvania Dutch. His talk should be of interest to us Pennsylvania Dutch men and women!

I have just reviewed the minutes of our 1966 reunion! They were taken by Dr. Lily Weierbach, who, with myself, cofounded the Weyerbacher Reunion. It was her 'dream' which became reality and we have kept it alive all these years. Let's not allow it to die now! On July 10th, 1966 we met in Silver Creek Park after morning worship at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasant Valley. Over 150 cousins came out for the first gathering of the family. The opening prayer was given in the dialect by Elvin Weierbach of Cleona, followed by our singing of America led by the Gordon Allem family. Cousins were introduced, memorabilia was discussed and the vote to have an annual reunion was unanimous. John H. Wirebach was elected vice-president, Lily Weierbach, secretary, Russell Weierbach, treasurer and myself president. Arthur Weiss was requested to be our official photographer. The Allem family led us in singing 'God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again' as we closed a wonderful reunion of our cousins. After a group photo a tour of the Springfield cemetery was given by Jane Louise Weierbach in colonial costume. Aided by her brother John Anthony, she pointed out the original corner stone and early Weyerbacher/Weierbach graves which were marked with flags. So ended our first reunion as related by Cousin Lily in her minutes.

On July 10th 1966 we started the Guest Book in which cousins have signed ever since. But many of those early signers are no longer with us. Elvin C. Weierbach and his sister Cora Meily, Clarence Weierbach, Harry and Helen Wirebach, Forrest and Elsie Koch, Russell Weierbach and Dr. Lily Weierbach, Marion and Stanley Beck, May Wirebach, John Adam and Elizabeth Weierbach, Gerald and Evona Weierbach, Ira and Hannah Weierbach, Urbanus and Laura Wirebach, Arthur and Janet Weiss, Clyde Mease, Gordon Allem, Lillie Wirebach Moore, Estelle Wirebach Sherman and many others.

Again I need to remind you that when you move drop me a line with the new address! And please work on those family names and dates! Cousin Harry has prepared a letter to go out with this Spring Letter telling you about our plans for a Family History but we still need much information about you cousins and your families, dates of birth, marriage, divorce if any (year date only), and death. If you have copies of family obituaries please send them on to me. And why not tell us something about your family, your grandparents and parents. The important years are those between the date of birth and the date of death! What were they like? what did they do? This is the information which 'makes' a family history.

JUST A THOUGHT

No matter how much you disagree with your kin, if you are a thoroughbred you will not discuss their shortcomings with the neighbors!

Tom Thompson

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.

Richard W. Burke	55	Whitehall, Pa.
Charlotte Winters Harley	38	Allentown, Pa.
William Jenkins	69	Richmond, Virginia
Paul E. Hedrick	70	Charleston, West Virginia
Adam F. Koch	78	Coopersburg, Pa.
Fred Lenhart	41	Coopersburg, Pa.
Sharon Ann Link	19	Lebanon, New Hampshire
Ruth Bauder Schuster (Mrs. Albert)		Hellertown, Pa.
Mark G. Stauffer	79	Perkasie, Pa.
Eva L. Welker (Mrs. Ernest)	99	Philadelphia, Pa.
Ernest L. Waltz	69	Williamsport, Pa.
Edward Winters	78	Allentown, Pa.
Velma Ihrig Weierbach (Mrs. Paul)	76	Hellertown, Pa.
Helen Yoder Wirebach (Mrs. Harry)	86	Fort Worth, Texas

'One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the Earth abideth forever.'

Ecclesiastes 1:4

OVER THERE!! Right now two of our cousins are stationed with the Military near the area from which Johann Nicholas and his family came in 1751, Baumholder, near the village of Weierbach in the Palatinate, Gregg Patchell of Springfield, Pennsylvania a descendant of Isaac and Eugene Marietta of Michigan, a descendant of Isaac's brother Johannes. According to degrees of relationship they are sixth cousins once removed! Perhaps their paths will cross someday.

I have just finished rereading a very interesting book given to me by our late cousin Maynard McCammon of Ashland, Ohio. It is **THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN OHIO** by Roy B. Leedy, A.B.,B.D. The first circuit rider to introduce the Evangelical Church in Ohio was John Adam Henney, son of Anna Wirebaugh and John Adam Henney Sr. Anna was a daughter of Johannes and we are assuming she was the other daughter stolen by the Indians who escaped and returned home. She had four children and died at the early age of 27. She is buried in a farm cemetery at Woodward, Pennsylvania and her grave stone is the earliest extant in the family.

The Rev. John Adam Henney was born March 9, 1794. His mother died five months later. At sixteen he accepted the Evangelical faith and at eighteen went out to preach the gospel. His field was the pioneer work in the State of Ohio. The story of his work makes fascinating reading. In my opinion he made the path into Ohio which was followed by his brother Peter Henney and sister Catharine Williams. His Uncles also migrated about this time into Ohio, John went to Canton Township, Stark County and Nicholas to Columbiana County. So spread the Wirebaugh name Westward, along with the gospel!

This is just a brief item about one of our ancestors of whom we can be proud. There are many more, leaders in Industry, Education, Manufacturing, etc. We are trying to get all this information together and your help is needed.

A brief report from Cousin Carl McCallus states that his negotiations with the Seneca Nation concerning information about stolen Cousin Elizabeth have broken off. Hopefully, they will be resumed in the near future. If you are following the News about the tribal problems on the St. Regis Reservation I can tell you that it was a very peaceful place when I visited there about ten years ago. I was looking up several Leef families hoping to find one which knew that Elizabeth Wirebaugh Leef was their ancestress. As the Mohawks were also involved in the Indian maraudings across Pennsylvania in the 1770's they could also have been involved with the capture of Johannes' two daughters, Elizabeth and Anna. So the search go on...

See YOU July 8th.....

May 1, 1990
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HOUSE BLESSING FROM THE VILLAGE OF WEIERBACH

FRIEDE DEN KOMMENDEN
FRUEDEN DEN BLEIBENDEN
SEGEN DEN SCHEIDENDEN

PEACE TO THOSE WHO ARE COMING
PEACE TO THOSE WHO ARE STAYING
PEACE TO THOSE WHO ARE GOING

To forget one's ancestors is to be a brook without a source, a tree without a root...
Old Chinese proverb