

WEIRBACH

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WEYERBACHER DESCENDANTS

SPRING LETTER

1991

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Greetings:

Reunion time again! July 14th we will observe our 26th annual reunion. 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 six men to help 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.

Come, spend the day where your ancestors settled, farmed, worshipped and from where some of them spread out to all parts of the Country with descendants living in all States of the Union!

When we first met together, 1966, as a reunion of the descendants of Johann Nicholas and Catherine Magdalena Weyerbacher we had three goals: 1) to meet annually 2) to erect a memorial to our immigrant ancestors and 3) to publish a history of the Weyerbacher Family in America! We have come a long ways in the past twenty years. This year we meet for our 26th annual reunion. In 1976 a sun-dial memorial was erected in Springfield Cemetery and now we are looking forward to putting together a family history. BUT, there is a lot of work ahead of us. It will not be an easy task but with the support of all you cousins, as we have had in the past, we can do it.

To begin with we have the records of three persons who spent many years gathering information about the Weyerbacher family. Sarah Amelia Frey Weierbach (1850-1935) spent many hours in cemeteries, Court Houses and just visiting to collect family records which she hand-copied into three books, one for each of her living daughters, Adda Weierbach Allen, Cora Weierbach Gangewere and Lily A. Weierbach. These books provide a wonderful base on which to build. Then Dr. Lily A. Weierbach became interested in collecting family data and added to her mother's wealth of information. To this we can add my own forty years of searching out our family's past. With my trip to Germany in 1973 we learned the German origin of the family. From the Village of Weierbach to nearby Baumholder one of our ancestors went in the early years and became known as that man from Weierbach or Weierbacher! That is how the name came into use. Now it has many variations.

So what is missing? Much! The sources used by our earlier researchers provided a good foundation but to build on this foundation we need YOUR input. We have to cover the many thousands of family members who are scattered across America, into Canada and Alaska and even in Saudi Arabia! We would like to sit down with you and make notes about your family, your work, your life-style, but we can't. We can only hope to have your cooperation so that when our book goes to the publishers we can relax and know that we did the best we could, with the help of every 'cousin' in the family.

With this SPRING LETTER is a form which we are asking you to fill in and return. You may have done this before but much has happened since that time and we need current information. And, as we may not have the addresses of your relatives, give us what information you can about them, or ask them to sent it to us.

Just what information do we need? All of it! Dates of birth and full name of person: Date of marriage, place and birth date of both parties; Date of divorce, year only; Date of death, date of birth of person and place of burial. If you can do this for your family, your parents' family and other relatives you will be helping greatly. If you have obituaries, or Bible records, send those. And any wonderful stories about your ancestors, their successes in life, their Community activities, send that on to us. If you need more paper just write us a letter!

A clan and a family resemble a heap of stones:
one stone taken out of it and the whole totters,

Genesis Rabbah

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.

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|---------------------|
| Vincent C. Curry, | 77 | Bethlehem, Penna. |
| Harvey C. Funk | 76 | Coopersburg, Penna. |
| Ernest F. Leshner | 80 | Hellertown, Penna. |
| Norman W. Nelson | 85 | Bethlehem, Penna. |
| Chester B. Nicholas | 78 | Bethlehem, Penna. |
| Marguerite Strohl (Mrs. William K.) | 50 | Emmaus, Penna. |
| Dorothy A. Stoneback (Mrs. Robert H.) | 66 | Quakertown, Penna. |
| Elda V. Weiss (Mrs. Merritt) | 88 | Myerstown, Penna. |
| Warren G. H. Weierbach | 69 | Butztown, Penna. |

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

Ecclesiastes 1:4

Further report on the search for news of Catherine Elizabeth, daughter of Johannes who was stolen by the Indians in 1781 from the family farm in Northumberland County (now Union). Last September I visited Mrs. Eleanor Doctor, a descendant of Cornplanter by whose Braves it is possible Elizabeth was taken 'to the banks of the Allegheny.' From Mrs. Doctor, and also from the Office of Indian Affairs in Ottawa, a glimmer of hope came with the information that Indian families are now 'into genealogy' and in tracing their ancestral lines may be looking for information about our Elizabeth if she 'married' into the tribe. It was a very interesting visit with Mrs. Doctor at Gowanda, New York.

I am still advertising in Canadian Genealogical publications as we are only assuming Elizabeth remained with the tribe which abducted her. Some day I hope we can learn more about this grand-daughter of Johann Nicholas whose life certainly had to be one of the most interesting and unusual in the 240 years of the Weyerbacher Family in America! This is the 'stuff' our book needs to make it live, not just a blank between the dates of birth and death of our ancestors. We need the dates but the in-between years have many stories to tell.

The study of history will never become obsolete, and knowledge of one's grandfathers is an excellent introduction to history.

Maurice Samuel

We are trying to record our own history, the history of our family members as they played their roles in the history of our Country. This is our goal. YOUR help is needed.

So why not join all your cousins on July 14th. Bring samples of your hobbies and crafts for display. Bring family memorabilia to share with us, old photos, Bibles, school books. Or get your cousins to come as a group for your own reunion within the big one. Last year the descendants of Ira and Hannah Weierbach came together from Texas, Maryland, Florida, Hellertown and Bethlehem to join with their cousins as they had done many years ago. This is Your reunion and only You can keep it going.

See YOU July 14th.....

May 1, 1991
109 Holly Hall, Pineford
Middletown, Penna. 17057
(717) 944 0296
Warren W. Wirebach, President
Weyerbacher Descendants

Reunion Officers

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| John H. Wirebach | Pat Stewart (Mrs. Mark) | Harry T. Weierbach |
| 28 Young Birch Road | 11 Terri Drive | 1431 Schoolhouse Lane MR 1 |
| Levittown, Penna. 19057 | Carlisle, Penna. 17013 | Perkasie, Penna. 18944 |

HOUSE BLESSING FROM THE VILLAGE OF WEIERBACH

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| FRIEDE DEN KOMMENDEN | PEACE TO THOSE WHO ARE COMING |
| FREUDEN DEN BLEIBENDEN | PEACE TO THOSE WHO ARE STAYING |
| SEGEN DEN SCHEIDENDEN | PEACE TO THOSE WHO ARE GOING |