

WIERBACH

WEYERBACHER DESCENDANTS

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Greetings:

REUNION time again! Mark your calendars. July 12th we will observe our 27th 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 the 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 Springtown and Pleasant Valley, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. A business meeting, followed by entertainment, will begin at 2:00 P.M.

This year our guest speaker will be "Aunt Lillie" (Jean Stoneback of Alburtis) who will bring back THE GOOD OLD TIMES with her antique items and tales of those wonderful days. She may have her OLD TIME SINGERS with her. Be prepared for a nostalgic trip into the past!

Many thanks to the cousins who sent money to help with the publication of a family history. This has been put into an interest-bearing account until needed.

Several of the cousins have sent us their family line which will be great help when we come to assembling the entire compilation. If you have not sent back the Information Sheets which have been sent to you over the past years, please do so. Perhaps there have been births, marriages, divorces or deaths during the past few years. Do we have that information? Don't wait until the book is published and then complain because your information is not in it. You are the only source we have for your family's data since the Weyerbacher descendants have spread across the Country these past years.

With the release of the 1920 Federal Census the final phase of name searching will begin. This will be our last opportunity to locate information on the family name, establish 1920 family groups and update the information from the 1900 and 1910 Census records.

There are quite a few families of Weyerbacher descent about whom we know nothing in detail. It is easy to follow the family name but as the daughters marry we lost contact. Only by hearing from those of you who descend through daughters can we include you and your family in the history. It is even difficult to trace those with the family name (any spelling) as some of you will not reply to my requests for information, or I have lost touch because of change of address. It is YOUR family and YOU are a big part of it.

You may perhaps wonder just what a family history is about. There is much more to it than just dates, dates of birth and death. We have much information about your ancestors, information about the years between the dates of birth and death on their tombstones. Wonderful sources for this information have been County Histories, Old Wills, Deeds, Newspaper items, Obituaries, etc. And the information you can supply FROM YOUR OWN PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE of your parents, grandparents and those who came before will bring this history up to the present.

We need input from YOU! Your Bible records, stories about your ancestors, pictures taken before 1900, plus information about births, marriages, divorces and deaths. Whatever!

I have been asked why, if I have been working with the Weyerbacher genealogy for over forty years, it is taking so long to get the book published. When I first started searching our ancestors, and like other people in the same situation, we had never heard of Family Group Sheets, Pedigree Charts, Federal Archives Centers, Xerox (for the poor person), Mormon records, etc., etc., etc. No publisher would look at our early records, much less agree to publish them! Now we have to re-organize, delete, revamp, assemble, authenticate, all the while trying to fill in those missing links. In other words, we have to get with it!

Ben Franklin once said, "I have ever had a pleasure in obtaining any little anecdotes of my ancestors!"

And Edmund Burke was a little more specific in his opinion of ancestor research. "He only deserves to be remembered by posterity who treasures up and preserves the history of his ancestors."

This is the legacy we can leave our descendants, the story of THEIR heritage!

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.

Merritt E. Ahlum	72	Sellersville, Penna.
Helen K. Ahlum (Mrs. H. Raymond)	97	Frederick, Penna.
Warren Beck Jr.	70	Perkasie, Penna.
Doris Wilma Fair (Mrs. Dean A.)	83	Fremont, California
Edward L. Fritchman	63	Coopersburg, Penna.
Robert F. Gulick	63	Easton, Penna.
Mary H. McCammon (Mrs. Maynard)	88	Ashland, Ohio
Elizabeth Kreidler Mayes (Mrs. Carl G.)	65	Stowe, Penna.
Florence E. Paulus (Mrs. Harold)	87	Bethlehem, Penna.
Merritt P. Weiss	93	Myerstown, Penna.
Arlene A. Weierbach (Mrs. William H.)	76	Allentown, Penna.
Larry P. Wirebach	45	Robesonia, Penna.

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

Ecclesiastes 1:4

Love's last gift-remembrance!

I have also been asked why we are interested in all the descendants of a forgotten immigrant couple who came to America way back in 1751. Why don't we just have a Weyerbacher picnic? Well, picnics are picnics and reunions are reunions. Any group can get together and picnic. I imagine many of our family groups do just that during the summer. But a reunion meets together to share a common heritage as we do. All of us here have a shared ancestry. We had three goals when first we met, 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 meet this year for our 27th annual reunion; in 1976 a sundial memorial was dedicated in Springfield Cemetery; and the last goal is the project facing us now.

The late Alex Haley whose research into his family's heritage gave momentum to the study of the past is here quoted:

"In all of us there is a hunger, marrow deep, to know our heritage, to know who we are and where we have come from. Without this knowledge there is a hollow yearning. No matter what our attainments in life--there is the most disquieting loneliness."

And once again I will mention Johann Nicholas Weyerbacher, our immigrant ancestor. We don't know much about Johann Nicholas. He was born in Baumholder in 1700, married Catharina Magdalena Hermani in 1726, fathered at least eleven children, three sons and eight daughters. He came to America with his wife, the three sons, Isaac, Johannes and Henry and possibly five daughters, several as infants. He purchased Central Springfield Farm in 1754 and died in 1777. What did our immigrant ancestor, Johann Nicholas Weyerbacher have in common with these other famous immigrants, Meyer Guggenheim, American Industrialist, Heinrich Melchoir Muhlenberg, Famous Lutheran Minister, Christopher Sauer, American Painter, Conrad Weiser, Indian Interpreter and Peacemaker, Henry William Stiegel, Glass Manufacturer and Dr. Philip Schaff, Theologian and Historian? Possibly not very much in the way of contributing to the growth of the new Nation but they all shared one very important decision. This decision had the long reaching effect of touching your life and my life, even today. It was the decision to leave the Old World and come to the New, to America. Think it over. Study your American history a little. Could You have made that decision? We can thank Johann Nicholas for his decision. It was not easy.

Are we, as a family, proud of our heritage? We should be!

See YOU July 12th!

May 1, 1992
109 Holly Hall, Pineford
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(717) 944-0296

Warren W. Wirebach, President
Weyerbacher Reunion

REUNION OFFICERS

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HOUSE BLESSING FROM THE THE VILLAGE OF WEIERBACH

FRIEDE DEN KOMMENDEN
FREUDEN DEN BLEIBENDEN
SEGGEN DEN SCHEIDENDEN

PEACE TO THOSE WHO ARE COMING
JOY TO THOSE WHO ARE STAYING
BLESSINGS TO THOSE WHO ARE DEPARTING