

WIERBACH
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WEYERBACHER DESCENDANTS

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SPRING LETTER

1995

Greetings:

Reunion time again! Mark your calendars. July 9th we will observe our 30th annual reunion. Early church services will be held at Trinity Lutheran (Springfield) Church in Pleasant Valley at 8:00 and 9:30. 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 be held at 2:00 P.M.

This year will be our 30th reunion! Let's make it one to remember. Our program will be in charge of John W. Heisey of York. Mr. Heisey was with us in 1980 when he spoke on 'Early American Coverlets' and again in 1981 when he told us about 'The Germany Our Ancestors Knew'.

This year he will explain the Fraktur, which was one of the first forms of Pennsylvania German folk art to be recognized and studied. Birth, baptismal records and sometimes marriage vows were copied in a wonderfully illustrated manner and became household keepsakes. Fraktur has become a generic term for Fraktur-schriften that includes not only birth, baptismal and marriage certificates but also writing examples, reward certificates and house blessings.

Springfield Township, our base township, and the surrounding ones, were the source of many of these folk art treasures and there are many in our homes which record the advent of our ancestors.

The 1976 publication by the Pennsylvania German Society of THE PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN FRAKTUR of the Free Library of Philadelphia carries two relating to our family. One was made for a Maria Weierbach, written March 20, 1857 and the other for Maria, daughter of Johannes and Maria (Gerhart) Weierbach, born January 27, 1839, Haycock Township, Bucks County. The Dietrich Fraktur Collection holds a Vorschrift which belongs to Henrich Weyerbacher, written the 21st of February 1794. This, I believe to be John Henry (1779-1863), son of Isaac and Anna and the ancestor of most of us. I know there are many of these fracturs in our homes so let's bring them along to the reunion and share them with the cousins.

Mr. Heisey is a well-known authority on the Pennsylvania German, his life and his customs. He graduated from the University of Maryland with a B.S. and a M.A. from Penn State University. He was a former director of research and librarian at the Historical Society of York County. He presents genealogy courses at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society and authors a weekly column on genealogy for ANTIQUEWEEK.

As we have so much space in the reunion pavilion where we can exhibit our family collectibles, please bring along with you to the reunion some of those family items which you treasure and share them with us. Isabel, bring that carpet beater; Harry, those Weierbach Store memorabilia; and James, that collection of baptismal fracturs which match those I have. Does someone have the Dutch Folio Bible which was listed in the estate inventory of Johann Nicholas? If so, please bring it with you on the 9th!

Was cu ererbt von deinen Vatern hast
Erwirb es, um es zu besitzen.

(Whatever you have inherited from your forefathers
Earn it, so that it is truly yours.)

George J. Beichl, President
German Society of Pennsylvania

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.

Hilda Hedrick	81	So. Charleston, West Virginia
Sarah E. Foster (Mrs James)	89	Belle, West Virginia
Ellen M. Funk (Mrs William)		Telford, Penna.
Emma C. Hicks (Mrs Elmer)	81	Glasgow, West Virginia
Elizabeth Hoppes (Mrs Linwood)	76	Kutztown, Penna.
Webster F. Lines		Upper Black Eddy, Penna.
Cynthia J. Maurer (Mrs Michael)	42	Upper Saucon Twp., Penna.
Alma B. Richard	90	Cedar Grove, West Virginia
Joe Allen Speck	80	Palmyra, Penna.
Marion Koch Winters (Mrs Howard)	75	Allentown, Penna.
Verna L. Weirbach (Mrs Calvin)	93	Leighton, Penna.
Wilma B. Wirebaugh (Mrs Fred)	95	Lansing, Michigan
Paul R. Weirbach	56	Mount Airy, Maryland

Love's last gift - remembrance!

Report of the progress of the Weyerbacher Genealogy! I have been getting many questions about the progress of my work on this long-awaited book. Well, Cousins, I will have to level with you! My forty years of research falls far short of what is needed for publication. In analyzing the blocks to progress is the lack of current information. During the past twenty years many of you have had births, marriages and deaths in your families and never sent that information on to me. Yet you are hoping to see that last grandchild listed in our book. I am isolated here in Middletown from all of the many branches of the family and my only source for information is correspondence.

Many of you cousins have been very helpful and have kept me up to date on all your family happenings. Several of you, especially Anna, Edna and Helen, have been the best newspaper clippers! But your brothers and sisters are all part of the family and should be in there with the rest of us. I am trying to catch up, but it is a slow progress.

When Cousin Lily and I began the family history we both were single and had no family to pass it along to. But we felt a desire to honor those ancestors of ours who made that very important decision which has meant so much to all of us, the decision to emigrate to AMERICA! So Johann Nicholas and his wife Catharina Magdalena brought their large family to America and, thanks to their decision we have had a wonderful life to enjoy. But this is not just the story of Cousin Lilly and myself. It applies to all of you. If we did it for our ancestors we also did it for you, their descendants and our cousins. We had no family, but we made all of you our family and so came about the reunion.

What do we need from you? Please answer our letters when we ask for information. Please come and share with us, your cousins, on the one day in the year when we gather to honor our ancestors, and please be patient. It all will happen when we get together and help.

See YOU July 9th

May 15, 1995 Warren W. Wirebach, President
109 Holly Hall, Pineford Weyerbacher Reunion
Middletown, Penna. 17057-2406

REUNION OFFICERS

Vice President

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Secretary

Treasurer

Harry T. Weierbach
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HOUSE BLESSING FROM THE VILLAGE OF WEIERBACH

Friede den Kommenden Peace to those who are coming
Freude den Bleibenden Joy to those who are staying
Segen den Scheidenden Blessing to those who are departing

(Alter Hausspruch)