

HFFA NEWS

A publication of the Heinrich Frey Family Association

Editor — Marilyn Fry

Published quarterly—

Last week in February, May, August, and November

www.hfrey.org

Hello, Cousins, Kin, and other Readers,

I hope that all of you have managed to stay away from Covid-19 and to stay healthy and safe! We were doing so well in California through February, March, and April—low counts of cases. But then I guess we opened too soon because the cases (and, alas, deaths) have shot up until now California has more Covid-19 cases and the highest death toll than any other state! Our restaurants, bars, gyms, barber shops, beauty shops, and nail salons had to close down again after a few weeks. We can still pick up meals from restaurants as take-out, and we often do that.

I continue to self-isolate at home. Daughter Gretchen does my shopping for me, and so does son Steve when he comes down every week to take care of the yard, do handyman chores, and give Ron's cat some extra loving. He spends the night, and we either cook dinner or have it delivered from a restaurant. I am missing spending time and eating out with friends and relatives, and I certainly miss going to the beauty salon! All my doctor appointments are by phone.

As always, thanks to Gretchen Fry Harvey and Ginny Fry Santos for helping with the newsletter! Gretchen takes care of photographs and prints out the newsletters to be sent by USPS mail, and Ginny does all the formatting. I couldn't do it without them! This photograph is from the Kansas City reunion in 2015.

Stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely,

Marilyn Fry,
HFFA Newsletter Editor
Costa Mesa, California
mfry101@aol.com



Treasurer's Report



Summary
01/1/2020—
7/31/2020

Initial balance **11,733.85**

Income

Dues	2900.77
Links Book	30.00
Heinrich cemetery	221.02
Swiss genealogy	-380.00

Total Income **2771.79**

Expenses

Internet security	150.98
Office expenses	18.96
Postage (inc. Newsletter)	128.28

Total Expenses **298.22**

Net Gain **2473.57**

Closing balance as of 7/31/20
14,207.42

Ralph Fry,
Treasurer



Dear Cousins, Family, and Friends,

It's hard to believe that it's nearly the end of August and that summer is almost over. As the seasons change, it is still feeling rather surreal because we are not all following any kind of "normal" routine

such as summer vacations and back-to-school shopping. One of my granddaughters, Riley, is starting high school next week. Much to my delight, she made cheerleader! As a former cheerleader myself, I am so excited to come and see her cheer at the Laguna Beach High School football games....but, no, wait, what football games? My oldest grandson, Nate, is starting college next week, and normally I would be all caught up with helping him move into his dorm room, but, alas, no students are living in dorm rooms next year at his school, California State University at Dominguez Hills. In fact, all six grandchildren will be attending school virtually, at least for this semester. Let's hope that the world will be getting back closer to normal by the end of 2020!

Speaking of the world getting back to normal, we are moving ahead with making plans for our next HFFA reunion. Please save these dates: Wednesday, June 16, until Sunday, June 20. People will be arriving as usual Wednesday, and we will meet on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and leave on Sunday perhaps after a church service. We are in the process of securing accommodations in or around Xenia, Ohio. Jon Frye has already planned many wonderful excursions for us to interesting places related to Fry(e) history, and tours will include viewing the National Museum of the Air Force and touring the historic town of Lebanon, where the Golden Lamb Hotel is located; it has hosted a number of historic figures, including 12 United States Presidents from as far back as John Quincy Adams to George W. Bush. We will be keeping you informed with the details as we move forward with additional plans. But for now, please save these dates. I look forward to once again being able to see each of you next summer—live and in person!

Stay safe and healthy!

Gretchen Fry Harvey
HFFA President

NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

Returning Member

Welcome back to HFFA—

Andrew Ward (Leigh Ann)
407 Rosehill Court
Goodlettsville, Tennessee 37072
(615) 456-9136
andrewbward@AOL.com

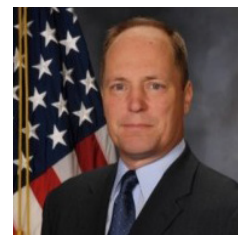
New Members

Kathi (Linda) Vontz
4921 South 71st Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68516
(402) 525-9908
huskerkate@gmail.com



1. Heinrich Frey/
Anna Catherine Levering
2. Benjamin Frey/Christina
3. Abraham Fry/Agnes Ann Young
4. Abraham Fry/Hester Johnston
5. Smith Frye, Sr./Nancy Shepler
6. Henry Abraham Frye/Amy Ellen Gheen
7. Marion K. Frye/Alcy Kethcart
8. Marion Merle Frye/Claude Gardner
9. Norma Leota Gardner/Louis K. Emry
10. **Kati (Linda) Emry**/Ronald Gerner/Allan Carr

David Whipkey
4138 Wildstar Circle
Wesley Chapel, Florida 33544
(813) 751-5190
whipkeyde@gmail.com



1. Heinrich Frey/
Anna Catherine Levering
2. Benjamin Frye/Regina Christina Merckle
3. Samuel Frye/Christina Speers
4. Rebecca Fry/Henry Shepler
5. Margaret Shepler/Solomon Cooper
6. Lousianna Cooper/John S. McCracken
7. John McCracken/Tabitha Ellen Miller
8. Ethel Rae McCracken/Jacob Atlee Slonaker
9. Lucille Lina Slonaker/Henry Wilbur Whipkey
10. Jams Wilbur Whipkey/Marjene Louise Kistler
11. **David Errett Whipkey**/
Gloria Jean Spears/Sandra Kay Beasley

Obituary

Ashley Marie Raber, 24, of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, passed away Sunday, May 10, 2020. She was born in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, to William Raber of Mechanicsburg and Stephanie Flick of Carlisle on December 9, 1995.



Ashley loved her family, especially her paternal grandparents, Mammy (Bev) and Pappy (Terry) Raber, formerly of Ickesburg, Pennsylvania, and now of Brooksville, Florida. She also enjoyed

spending time with friends. She was especially proud of her daughter, Zoe Marie Raber. She liked creating different looks with cosmetics, taking long drives, and caring for her mother. Music was an important part of her life as she found it soothing and healing.

In addition, Ashley is survived by her mother, Stephanie Flick; her maternal grandparents, Rick and Deborah Morrison of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania; her stepmother, Shirley Raber; her stepsister Felicia Kiehl; niece and nephew Adelia and Wyatt; uncle Howard (Theresa); cousin Justin Raber; and aunt Beth Goodyear. Ashley was predeceased by her uncle Charles Goodyear and her cousin Jeremy Goodyear.

Heinrich Frey Family Association Journals

I would like to ask for your help. I am attempting to create a complete history of the **HFFA** Journals to put with **HFFA** files. The following are issues that I do not have to date. I hope that some of you might have an extra copy you would like to donate or would let me borrow to make a copy. I am more than happy to pay the postage.

Becca Proffitt

Beccamayfield1157@hotmail.com

Vol. 1, Issue 1 through 5
Vol. 1, Issue 9 (Aug. 1996)
Vol. 2, Issue 5
Vol. 4, Issue 5
Vol. 4, Issue 6 (fall 2010)
Vol. 5, Issue 4 (fall 2014)

By the way, some members may not know, but Mike Speers has been keeping old copies

of **HFFA** Journals at his house. Becca was able to get 8 copies of issues she wanted, but he didn't have these 6 that she is still looking for. If you are missing an issue of a **HFFA** Journal, you can contact him at speers.rvrose.mike@gmail.com to see if he might have it and what the cost will be.

Here is his current inventory in case you are looking for a copy of a journal that you are missing.

Volume 1 (the only volume with 11 issues instead of the usual 10)

Issue 5:	5 copies
Issue 7:	1 copy
Issue 8:	8 copies
Issue 10:	23 copies
Issue 11:	59

Volume 2

Issue 1:	8 copies
Issue 2:	1 copy
Issue 3:	12 copies
Issue 4:	31 copies
Issue 6:	18 copies
Issue 7:	26 copies
Issue 8:	23 copies
Issue 9:	60 copies
Issue 10:	60 copies

Volume 3

Issue 1:	52 copies
Issue 2:	37 copies
Issue 3:	52 copies
Issue 4:	57 copies
Issue 5:	30 copies
Issue 6:	34 copies
Issue 7:	55 copies
Issue 8:	48 copies
Issue 9:	60 copies
Issue 10:	54 copies

Volume 4

Issue 1:	61 copies
Issue 2:	66 copies
Issue 3:	4 copies
Issue 7:	1 copy
Issue 8:	6 copies
Issue 9:	1 copy
Issue 10:	16 copies

Volume 5

Issue 1:	16 copies
Issue 2:	1 copy
Issue 3:	3 copies
Issue 4:	15 copies
Issue 5:	12 copies
Issue 6:	1 copy
Issue 7:	24 copies
Issue 8:	20 copies

Marilyn Fry

News from Members:

Mother Heather Brown, Grandmother Gretchen Fry Harvey, and Great-grandmother Marilyn Fry congratulate **Nathanial (Nate) Brown** on his graduation from San Francisco's City Arts and Technology High School. This summer he is working on collecting data for the 2020 Census. Then in the fall, he will attend California State University at



Dominguez Hills. However, because of Covid-19, all the CSU campuses will be holding only online classes. So he will stay in San Francisco with his mother and brother, Owen Brown, at least for the fall semester.



Mike and Rosemary Speers proudly congratulate their grandson **Owen Seto Chong** on graduation from Mount Vernon High School in Alexandria, Virginia. That high school is less than half a mile from George Washington's Mount Vernon, and the land the school is on was once part of his 8,000-acre estate. In fact, Owen's home and school were once part of Washington's hunting grounds.



Graduation this year was a very scattered event with all sorts of email celebrations occurring both online and in small settings. The class of 2020 in every high school, college, and university

was deeply affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Through it all, Owen felt that the right of passage of becoming a high school graduate was deeply felt by himself and his classmates.

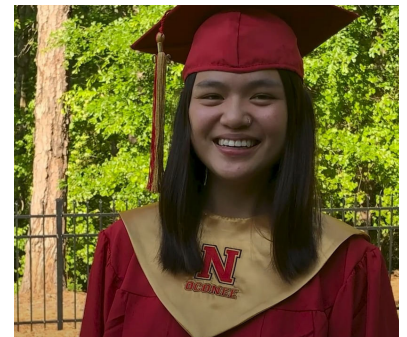
His high school academic and sports achievements at Mount Vernon High School were very impressive. He has received certificates in high grades and achievements. His GPA of 4.5 certainly made him a school leader as he combined his regular high school coursework with Advanced Placement classes, Advanced Baccalaureate classes, and dual-enrollment classes (high school combined with college credit). When he starts college, he will already have earned 32 credits. He also won top student awards in Music, Social Studies, and Language (he took German and won the top student award over all others in German, Spanish, French, and Japanese classes). His instrument in the orchestra was the double bass. As you can see, he does not choose the normal path and excels at the path he is on.

He also won a complete four-year, full-ride scholarship to Mary Washington State University in Fredericksburg, Virginia. His plan is to study mathematics.

Owen also lettered in Soccer and Cross Country while at Mount Vernon High School. He was chosen as the best player on the Soccer Team. He also plays for a traveling soccer team that competes in national tournaments and in soccer matches in at least three states: Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. Owen is an outstanding scholar, athlete, and citizen. It will be fun to see where his talents take him.

Thelma McKenzie is proud to announce the high school graduation of her granddaughter **Kate Minxiu McKenzie**.

She was graduated in an online ceremony posted on May 23, 2020. Each graduate had pre-submitted two photographs taken at home. One was shown as names were called, and one was shown at the ceremony's end for



the traditional turning of tassels. That afternoon, a celebration reception was held via Zoom with everyone providing punch and cupcakes to virtually share.



On July 22, 2020, Kate reported to Aurora, Colorado, for AmeriCorps training. Kate has come a long way since she arrived from China in 2008! Congratulations!



Brianna Frye became engaged to Nicholas Baker on June 1, 2020, on the beach at Chrystal Beach, Texas. Grandparents **Ralph and Marti Frye** are very happy for them both.

Dick Bell and his wife, **Sue**, are proud to announce the birth of their first grandchild, **Otis Richard Bell**. He was born January 20, 2020, in Livingston, Montana. His parents are Ashby S. Bell and Amber Friedl Bell. Dick and Sue were able to visit in March to see him.



Connie Johnston is delighted to announce the birth of her first grandchild, **Jack Herman Dykstra**, son of Jessie Denham and Mookie Dykstra, born in Grass Valley, California, on July 12, 2020. Little Jack is also welcomed by **Great-grandmother Carolyn Denham and Aunt Claire Voegtley and Uncle Robert Denham**.



Medical appointments and procedures having been rescheduled due to Covid-19, between June 1 and June 18, either **Thelma McKenzie** or **Jerry McKenzie** had an appointment or procedure every weekday. Keeping everything straight was a major accomplishment. Then, on June 20, Thelma suffered a severe back strain in an automobile accident and was completely bedridden for two weeks. Since July 22, she has been allowed out of bed as much as she wants but still limits activities as she rebuilds her strength. Get better fast, Thelma!

Molly Patten, a member of **HFFA**, the youngest daughter of **Gretchen Fry Harvey**, was diagnosed with an acute aggressive type of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma on July 1, 2020. Molly is 38 years old and has two young children, Maggie, age 9, and Harrison, age 5. What devastating news! The entire family was in shock as her doctors put her on medical leave from work and started very aggressive chemotherapy treatments.



Molly decided that the best way to handle the situation was to journal her experience of *"cancer in the time of Covid-19"* by creating a website and blogging her journey. Through her blog and social media, she has connected with many other young women with cancer, and they encourage and support each other. If you would like to follow her journey, you can go to mollyhascancer.com and read her blog and see her photographs. Molly's new favorite quote is *"You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do the thing which you think you cannot do"* (Eleanor Roosevelt).

Harold Frye reported on the activities of the charity he and wife, **Carol**, set up for their son, **Jeremy Frye**, after his tragic death of cancer at age 23. The Music 4 Jeremy's Cherubs Foundation (M4JC) continues to collect, rehab, and donate instruments to children, youth, and traumatically injured soldiers even during the pandemic. Saxophones, violins and flutes have gone out to students who are confined to home. A really sweet set of conga drums was donated to Harmony Project KC (<https://www.harmonyprojectkc.org>), an initiative that provides music education to children in the northeast community of Kansas City. The drums will be shared with a group of musicians in their use of native music at Christ Presbyterian Church, located with Harmony at the Northeast Community Center; this raises total donations to Harmony from M4JC to more than \$45,000. M4JC donated a Yamaha Grand

keyboard to a local middle school and a full trap-drum set to an inner-city high school that had nothing for its pep band. During the pandemic shutdown, plans were finalized to collaborate with War Horses for Veterans Foundation (<https://warhorsesforveterans.com>) to provide guitars for individuals participating in PTSD therapy involving equine resources. The program also works with first responders suffering from PTSD. Adding a music therapy component will expand the effects of their program. M4JC closed the spring semester by awarding its 13th annual scholarship award to a Shawnee Mission South High School musician selected as "Jazz Musician of the Year." M4JC also awarded two scholarships to music education students at Baker University. All of these awards were initiated 12 years ago in memory of Jeremy S. Frye.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS



Ralph Edward Frye
Treasurer

I was born Wednesday, February 13, 1946, and was the 7th and last child of John Grant Frye, Sr., and Emma Brucher Frye. I was born into a huge family with my closest sibling, Helen Craig, being 10 years older than I was, and my oldest

sibling, Betty Bradberry, was 20 years older than I. In addition to my two sisters, there were four older and often rambunctious brothers between the two girls. I lived my early years in what was then Illmo, Missouri. My brothers worked on the farm, and I mainly played in the dirt. My brothers John and Bill served in World War II, and my father would write them. In the letters, my father would refer to me as "baby Ralph Edward." I was named after my father's brother, Ralph and my mother's Uncle Edward. My father would read to

me as a child. I remember vividly that my father was reading me *Pinocchio* the year when he died in a car wreck in 1956. My mother sold our home and moved to Cape Girardeau in 1959. I was a member of the Boy Scouts and an active member of the First Christian Church.

While I attended Central High School, I worked extensively in the drama club because of a cute girl. After high school, I attend Southeast Missouri State College (SEMO), majoring in Chemistry with minors in Math and Physics. During college, I worked in a local pharmacy as a delivery man nights and weekends. I also managed the store's stock. During my freshman year, I noticed a very pretty girl, and I followed her home late one night. It was my wife-to-be Marsha (Marti) Uptegrove Frye. After I scared her by doing that, however, she agreed to go out on a date with me. We had three dates before either of us knew each other's full name. I also had to break up with my high school girlfriend, and she was not happy with my new girlfriend. Marti and I were married in June after my sophomore year at the age of 20. We lived in a one-room apartment above the local burger joint named Wimpy's.

After graduating in 1968, I went to graduate school at Pittsburgh State College in Pittsburgh, Kansas. While in Kansas, my son, David Edward Frye, was born, premature by three months, on December 19, 1968. He was a small 3 pounds

and 14 ounces. He was scrawny but long and came out a fighter. After my son was born, I realized I had a good chance of being drafted into the Army. To mitigate being drafted, I joined the United States Air Force and was in the Air Force Reserves until I finished my first semester of graduate school. I attended basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. My wife and son went back to Cape Girardeau to stay with my mother while I was in basic training. I was stationed for 3 to 4 months at Shepard Base in Wichita Falls, Texas, to become trained as a Medical Technician. While in Texas, I watched Neil Armstrong walk LIVE on the moon on a small 12-inch black-and-white TV. Since I had pharmacy experience in college, I was able to take a bypass test, which enabled me to become a Pharmacy Technician assigned to Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. My wife, son, and I moved from an apartment to a small house on a farm inside the beltway of Washington, D.C. I worked in the pharmacy at Andrews Air Force Base (Joint Base Andrews) and was in the hospital working when my daughter, Christina Leigh Frye Fecher, was born February 1, 1972. I worked all four years in the military as a Pharmacy Tech with three years at Andrews and one year at Boling AFB.

As I was working as a pharmacist, I met a sales representative for Lederle Laboratories named Bob Frick. He subsequently got me a job interview with the company, and I was offered a job located in Dayton, Ohio, as a Pharmaceutical Sales Representative. My family and I moved to Dayton, Ohio, in 1973. We lived in Dayton for six years, and then I was transferred by the company to Bowling Green, Kentucky. I left Lederle in 1987 and went to work for the Kentucky State Police as a forensic chemist. After three years, I had a chance to take a job as manager in an Environmental Laboratory back in my home town of Cape Girardeau, Missouri. After multiple deaths in the family, my wife and I moved to Lafayette, Louisiana, in 1998. We were tired of shoveling snow and wanted to enjoy the warmer weather. Currently, I am a Project Manager for a large environmental laboratory, SGS North America (retirement is in my near future).

We became interested in genealogy because of a question from my daughter, Christina, for a

class project requesting a family tree. While my wife and I struggled to identify our information, we became increasingly interested in our family histories. Many times, my wife would have our family trek through graveyards and court houses. Sometime in the early 1980's, Marti was contacted by Hank Adams and introduced to the Heinrich Frey Family Association (**HFFA**).



In all honesty, the genealogist in the family is Marti. She initially traced her family back far enough to become a member of the DAR and was for a time Regent of the Princeton, Kentucky, chapter. She, along with my sister Betty and sister-in-law Pat went to "our" first reunion in Gallatin, Tennessee in 1998. I didn't start going to reunions until the next one, in Morgantown, Pennsylvania (2000). We have only missed the Iowa one (2007) since. Somewhere in this timeframe, Marti became Membership Chairman and also maintains the Links Book.

My brother Dan and my sister Helen both were active members of the **HFFA**, and both were at one time Directors. Mike Speers has many of Dan's humorous stories and has published many in the newsletter. I think he still has some to submit for publication.



Thelma McKenzie Director

From my youngest days, I have been surrounded by extended family who believed it is important to know about past generations.

I was born in Orlando, Florida, because there were no facilities on the Army Air Corps base in

Zephyrhills, Florida, where my dad was stationed. Expectant women had to live in Orlando, beginning a month before their due dates, and remain there a month after the baby was born. One of my father's sisters was stationed nearby, and she met me before he did! My mother's brother was stationed in southern Georgia and was able to travel to Zephyrhills before I was a month old.

Just prior to my first birthday, Dad drove Mom and me to live with her parents on the Frye farm just outside Peoria, Illinois, while he was assigned to a base northeast of London, England. Here I was introduced to numerous Frye and Allen relatives. When he returned, my parents purchased a house a few miles away in the small community of Dunlap.

I remember hearing stories about how past generations came to the United States and then to Peoria County, but I didn't pay much attention to details then. Grandpa Frye had mostly German ancestors. His grandparents were among the first settlers in Peoria County; his paternal great-great-great-grandfather Heinrich had come from Germany. His mother's family came mostly from Germany with a few from Ireland. Grandma Frye's maternal grandparents were born in Germany; her paternal ancestors arrived in New Jersey from England. Grandpa and Grandma Allen both claimed English ancestry. Dad's eighth great-grandparents were John and Priscilla Alden.

Grandpa Frye (Phillip Earl) was the youngest of ten who lived past infancy. Six of his siblings lived in Peoria County. Although we often visited them individually, there were seldom large

gatherings. Grandma Frye had one-half brother; his family lived nearby. Several of her cousins lived in Peoria County as well and those families held a big reunion every summer. There were easily 100 of Dad's family members living nearby and many others came to summer reunions. In elementary and high school, it seemed as if a third of my classmates were cousins. Even some of my teachers were relatives.

After high school I attended the University of Illinois. There I met and married my husband, Jerry. We moved to Anderson, Indiana, where he worked for Delco-Remy Division of General Motors for 18 years. Our children were born there. For 17 years I was a full-time volunteer. I led Girl Scout Cadette (junior-high ages) troops and held several other positions within the council. When Philip was old enough to be a Cub Scout, I became a den leader (the women in our local pack all decided we were NOT den mothers). I also served as a Red Cross first aid instructor working with Scout leaders and Special Olympics. I even found time to be a library aide in the elementary school.

During this time, our country celebrated its bicentennial. One project that both Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts encouraged was researching family trees. My great-aunt sent a mimeographed sheet (remember those?) listing ancestors from my great-grandmother back to the Aldens. Each time my parents visited that year, Mom would tell another part of the Frye saga and recite her lineage to my children: Heinrich, Benjamin, Abraham, Abraham, Smith, Smith, Phillip, Phyllis. After that, she would frequently send a list of names and years for grandparents back to Heinrich. I must have received about fifty copies over the years.

Jerry left Delco-Remy for Phillips Magnavox in 1981, and we moved to Greeneville, Tennessee. Then we moved to Durham, North Carolina, when he joined Nortel Networks in 1984. I did some volunteer work with Girl Scouts, the Red Cross, and United Way in both cities that required many reports. Jerry thought using a computer would help me produce these reports. However, I had never taken a typing class and would make numerous mistakes. I took some continuing education courses to learn how to use the computer. Before long I had an Associate Degree in

Personal Computing from the local community college. One of my instructors convinced me to join the Continuing Education Department as the lead computer software instructor and lab technician. I held those positions for eight years.

One of my students was taking the basic computer class to learn how to operate a computer so he could record his genealogy information and have the computer generate family tree charts. He hated drawing all the boxes by hand. He suggested to the dean that there needed to be a class that combined the existing one for researching family roots (mostly by obtaining county records) with information on using software and online records research. Soon I was co-teaching the class with a genealogist and recording my data in Family Tree Maker.

I had always been more interested in recording the family stories I had heard over the years than in verifying dates and places. Even though I learned to appreciate the value of researching family details from my co-instructor, I still consider myself a recorder of family stories rather than a researcher of family facts. While I was teaching this course, my mom informed me she had joined **HFFA** as a charter member. She had not been able to attend the organizational meeting, but her first-cousin-once-removed Charles Burgess encouraged her to join. When reading the Journals and newsletters, she would mark passages for me to read when I next visited. That's how I discovered we were descended from another of Heinrich's grandchildren. So now I had a second lineage to learn: Heinrich, Benjamin, Samuel, Rebecca, Nancy, Smith, Phillip, Phyllis, Thelma.

When my parents moved into a retirement apartment, she dropped her **HFFA** membership and gave me all her materials. I joined in 2001 because I knew she still was interested. Now the tables were turned: I made copies of the articles I knew to be of interest to her.

In 2003 Jerry finished his career, and we bought a home just outside Springfield, Illinois. This was between his family in Vienna, Illinois, and my parents in Peoria. Our children were also in Illinois. The 2004 **HFFA** Reunion was to be held in Iroquois County, Illinois. Mom was looking forward to attending with me. Unfortunately, it was cancelled. She died in January of that year.

I let my **HFFA** membership lapse as I had mainly joined for her benefit.

Fast forward to late 2010. One of my (Flanegan) third cousins asked for information about the Fries. I didn't have it, so turned to the Internet and found a Website for **HFFA**. I learned that the 2011 **HFFA** Reunion was to be held in Winchester, Virginia, and would feature a tour of Frey Fort. Now that got my attention! Mom and Dad, using directions from Charles Burgess, had driven past the property on one of their trips. But they were not able to get very close, let alone go inside. My interest in learning more about ancestors was kindled. I rejoined **HFFA** and attended the reunion.

I volunteered to help at the registration table and met most of the attendees that way. For some reason, Mike Speers thought I could fill the shoes of long-time **HFFA** Secretary Helen Staiger, who had recently resigned. It took some arm-twisting on his part and many questions on mine, but I agreed to be nominated. After all, **HFFA** had given much enjoyment to Mom, and I could thus repay the organization. I served until the end of the 2015 reunion, when I accepted the position of a Board member.

As to hobbies, I have collected porcelain houses and accessories, mostly produced by Department 56, since 1985. At one time I had 513 buildings and 1,113 accessories. After moving to Ocala, Florida, in 2017, I downsized to 244 buildings and 428 accessories. I am active in three clubs and attend national events. Jerry and I are members of CORSA (Corvair Society of America). Currently he has a 1965 air-conditioned four-door. Our involvement started in 1990 when I bought a 1964 convertible. Since 2002 we sold it to a friend three times! The last was in 2014, when he bought it for his daughter on her sixteenth birthday.



We also enjoy traveling. We have toured all fifty states and England, Scotland, and Wales. We visited Grenoble, France, when our son was there as a Caterpillar employee. During that time, we spent two days in Paris and one visiting the Normandy beaches. We also enjoy cruising the Caribbean and Alaska.

Our daughter (Adrienne) and her husband (Tom McCrady) live in Lewisville, Texas. She is a high school English teacher, and he works for AT&T. Their daughter (Emma) was graduated from Texas Tech last December. She has been accepted at several law schools but has decided to take a year off before continuing her studies. Their son (William) is ready for his last semester at the University of Nebraska. He hopes to be accepted at a dental school.

Our son (Philip) and his wife (Yvette) live near Athens, Georgia. One daughter (Dawn Saecker) remained in Madison, Wisconsin, after being graduated from the University of Wisconsin. She debugs software for a logistics company.

Their younger daughter (Kate) started her AmeriCorps training in Aurora, Colorado, on July 22. She was adopted from a Chinese orphanage in 2008 and knew no English when she arrived in the US. She learned English by repeatedly watching the "High School Musical" video.

It has been a pleasure to belong to HFFA. I have enjoyed meeting so many cousins, learned Frye/Frey/Fry history, and visited places where ancestors lived. I thank members for the privilege of serving as one of your officers.

Exploring Egypt

by Dennis Frey

My wife and I had always wanted to visit Egypt; however, with the uncertainty of the Arab Spring Civil Unrest and threats of terrorism, we stayed away. Then one day in October 2018, our travel agent called us with an unbelievable deal to visit Egypt. She explained that, prior to the unrest, there used to be thousands of tourists visiting these historic sites at any one time. Now, only a few hundred were appearing. Tour guides were begging for customers. We expedited our visa request for a November trip. We always like to have our visa prior to arrival as we have heard of some airlines refusing to let people board without a visa to foreign countries.

We arrived in Cairo for an overnight stay and arose early the next morning to fly to Luxor for our river cruise. Our tour group consisted of 18 people before meeting our "sister" group, which had a little over 20 tourists. The riverboat was only two-thirds full, and the crew were very attentive.

Our first stop was Karnak. We arrived early at this 250-acre site. Entering by way of the Avenue of the Sphinx, we found ornate pillars reaching 75 feet in height. The symbols and hieroglyphics were very much intact. If you follow me on Facebook, you will see photographs that show it was practically empty of fellow tourists. It was amazing! Since this was a short 9-day tour, we were



constantly on the go, visiting ancient sites and receiving multiple educational briefings. We visited some sites even at night, when the giant statues were illuminated with lights, making them even more spectacular. When visiting the Valley of the Kings, we were able to descend downward into several colorful tombs. These tombs were not air conditioned, so it got hotter and more humid the lower we traveled. The photographs we took and posted did not do it justice.

Our tours took us into several towns for other adventures. Since Egypt at that time was so deprived of tourists, we had to brave the gauntlet of vendors who hounded us to purchase their items. A word of advice to future travelers to Egypt—while on tour, should you need to use the toilet, have money in hand because you will always find restroom attendants supplying the necessary toilet tissue and paper towels. Without payment, you might be deprived of entry altogether.

At the Step Pyramid of Sakkara and surrounding tombs, those of us in our small group were the only tourists present for two hours. While in one of the tombs, I started taking photos and was promptly scolded and told that it was not permissible. However, slipping the “watcher” some money made the problems disappear. Later, as I collected some sand from this special site, I was jokingly warned that the Curse of the Mummy would befall me. (As of this writing, I am still of good health although my wife sometimes questions my sanity.)

On our Nile cruise, we enjoyed nightly entertainment. From whirling dance steps to belly dancing, the shows provided additional cultural experiences. One night we all dressed in traditional costumes, becoming part of the entertainment ourselves.

One of my favorite excursions was taking an optional flight to see Abu Simbel. It’s truly amazing to realize these gigantic statues had to be moved to higher ground so they would remain visible after the creation of Lake Nasser. Of course, who wouldn’t be impressed with an opportunity to climb up on the Great Pyramid of Giza along with riding a camel around them?

The only frightening incident I encountered was when a camel almost threw me off its back. Our bodyguard approached the camel handler and



spoke in a way that made him much more attentive. Even though our group had a bodyguard, I never felt uneasy on the trip.



If I were ever to return to Egypt, I would probably choose not to visit Cairo. It has 20 million people, resulting in traffic jams to beat any I’ve encountered in Los Angeles or New York City. Every surface outside our hotel was covered in dust, and the air continuously filled with smog. Once outside Cairo, we found the smaller cities to be far more attractive with clear air.

I feel extremely fortunate to have been able to visit so many amazing sites, especially while the tourist numbers were low. I encourage picking a reputable tour operator and visiting this ancient country. Egypt is definitely worth a visit.

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Membership includes four issues of the Newsletter and at least one of the Journal each year.

The Links Book cost \$15 per CD.
Please contact **Marti Frye**.