



HFFA NEWS

A Publication of the Heinrich Frey Family Association
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Wilbur C. Frye - Editor

Some Thoughts from the President

There was a German settlement in Loudoun County, Virginia called Germania. Some people have confused this settlement with Germantown, now a part of the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Our Frey ancestor settled in Germantown in Pennsylvania. There were Frys in Germania in Virginia, but they came to America at a later date.

Just because someone has the name Frey or a derivative of it or had an ancestor so named does not mean they are related to us. They could be related, but chances are they are not related even by going back to the "old" country to find a connection. Though it may surprise you, Frey is not a rare name. You will find this true in most places.

When looking at lists of names, do not assume you have found an ancestor just because the name you have found is the same as your ancestor. For instance, suppose you have run across the name of an ancestor in a list of soldiers of the War of 1812. The name by itself is not proof your ancestor fought in the War of 1812. You need other references to prove it is your ancestor. Another instance: one of our members found a reference to a woman who obtained membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution because her ancestor, Chris (Christina) Frey contributed to the Revolution. Chris Frey was actually Christopher Frey who fought in the Revolution and later was a prominent citizen of Winchester in Frederick County. I do not

know if Christina, the wife of Benjamin, was still living at the time of the Revolution. If she were, I doubt she would have been in any position to contribute to the war effort. Of course, living or not, she contributed sons to the revolutionary cause.

We genealogists have a hard time admitting we have made a mistake, even when the truth is staring us in the face. I once wrote that Heinrich Frey came to America in the spring when I knew it was in the fall. I had mis-read a reference and had taken a note to that affect. So I quoted my note and was wrong. But don't worry; there is always someone who will set you straight.

Charles J. Burgess

2007 REUNION

June 22, 23 & 24, 2007
Des Moines, Iowa

SAVE THESE DATES

Details in the November 2006 Newsletter

NEW MEMBERS

We have one new member this past quarter:
Robert B. Hood, Sr.
159 W. Ridge Street
Lansford, PA 18232

Lineage of Robert Hood

Heinrich Frey/Anna Levering → John Frey/
Mary Kiesler → Samuel Frey/Diannah Wells
→ Gabriel Frey/Sussannah Deardorff →
Benjamin G Frey/Eve Elizabeth Clark →
Malinda H. Frey/Harmon Jones → Ibra Evans
Jones/Sciency Sophia Arnold → Grace Mabel
Jones/Fred Hood → Ronald Bruce Hood, his
wife's name is Edna Whitehead. It's nice to
have more members from Heinrich's children
other than Benjamin.

MEMBER'S INPUT

Hi Wil,

Someone just sent me this "Murphy's Law of
Genealogy." You could use it in the HFFA
newsletter. Don't credit me though; I'm just
passing it on.

Mike Speers

Subject: Murphy's Law of Genealogy (Very
interesting & True!!)

Murphy's Law of Genealogy

1. The public ceremony in which your distinguished ancestor participated and at which the platform collapsed under him turned out to be a hanging.
2. When at last after much hard work you have solved the mystery that you have been working on for two years, your aunt says, "I could have told you that".
3. You search ten years for your grandmother's maiden name to eventually find it on a letter in a box in the attic.
4. You never asked your father about his family when he was alive because you weren't interested in genealogy then.
5. The will you need is in the safe on board the Titanic.

6. Copies of old newspapers have holes occurring only on the surnames.
7. John, son of Thomas the immigrant whom your relatives claim as the family progenitor, died on board ship at the age of 10.
8. Your great grandfather's newspaper obituary states that he died leaving no issue of record.
9. Another genealogist has just insulted the keeper of the vital records you need.
10. The relative who had all the family photographs gave them to her daughter who has no interest in genealogy and no inclination to share.
11. The only record you find for your great grandfather is that his property was sold at auction.
12. The one document that would supply the missing link in your dead end line has been lost due to fire, flood, or war.
13. The town clerk to whom you wrote for information sends you a long handwritten letter which is totally illegible.
14. Your ancestors' name changed from county to county due to local accents, and according to whether or not the registrar could spell.
15. None of the pictures in your recently deceased grandmother's photo album have names written on them.
16. No one in your family tree ever did anything noteworthy, owned property, was sued or was named in a will.
17. You learn that your great aunt's executor just sold her life's collection of family genealogical materials to a dealer in his local pub.
18. Ink fades and paper deteriorates at a rate inversely proportionate to the value of the data recorded.
19. The 37 volume, 16,000 page history of your county of origin isn't indexed.
20. You eventually locate your great grandparents' wedding record and discover that the bride's father was John Smith.

21. When, finally, you have a wonderful collection of ancestors and documents, you discover there was an alternative spelling for your father's hometown, and that he was adopted...

The End

UPDATE – NEW WEB SITE
www.hfrey.com

Chris (my son and HFFA Web Master) is down from Boise to attend a couple days of Lotus Notes workshops in San Francisco. He will be here with us over the Labor Day weekend through the following weekend.

I'm taking advantage of his visit to have the two of us work on our new web site. We will be adding pages for the next reunion, for printing out a HFFA membership application, adding copies of the most recent Newsletters, adding to the web copies of the first five issues of the Journal and a membership roster as of September 1st. Newsletters, Journals, and the Roster will be in the member's only area and can be printed out on your local computer printer. Check for the instructions on the home page for getting your assigned pass word for member's only area.

Hopefully we will have the updates completed by September 10, 2006. So begin checking our web site then. We will let you know what is available in the What's New area.

INQUIRIES

No new inquires. However I did get several responses to my query as to Price G. Frye's middle name. It was Gemella. Thanks to all.



Price Gemella Frye

Her picture was sent to me a number of years ago by the late Harold Frye, our Association's first Vice President. A letter she sent to my Uncle Harry in 1955 in turn which he gave to me in 1978 sparked my interest in pursuing my family history.

Harold mentioned that she was a school teacher in Charleroi, PA. She was the daughter of John H. (1852 – 1931) and Irene J (Chalfont) (1856 – 1028) Frye, granddaughter of Reazen and Caroline (Eckles) Frye, and first cousin to my grandfather Charles H. Frye.

If anyone has memories of her or knew of her, please send me your recollections. If you have a copy of her obit, please send it as well. I'll publish them in our Newsletter

In the same packet that Harold sent me Price's picture was a copy of her grandfather Reazen's obituary. Reazen's line is Heinrich → Benjamin → Abraham Sr. → Abraham Jr. → Thomas → Reazen. There was no indication as to the source of the Obituary.

Obituary Reazen Frye

Reazen Frye, one of the oldest and most respected citizens of West Monongahela, dropped dead at his home Wednesday evening immediately after getting up from the evening meal. Apoplexy induced by general debility was the cause of his death.

Mr. Frye was well known in this community, and was a descendant of one of the oldest families of this county. Mr. Frye, who was in his 86th year, was born July 5, 1821, on the old home farm near Lock No. 4, and was a grandson of Abraham Frye, who was one of the pioneer families of Fallowfield township, having come here from North Carolina.

Mr. Frye received his education in the old log cabin school houses which were erected at that early period, and assisted in clearing the pioneer farm during his leisure hours. On November 20, 1845, he was united in marriage to Miss Carrie B. Eckles, a daughter of John and Nancy Eckles. Mr. Eckles was also a pioneer resident of this county and fought in the war of 1812 under Major Warne with distinction. In 1895 Mr. and Mrs. Frye celebrated their golden wedding.

After marriage Mr. and Mrs. Frye settled on a farm of 120 acres in Fallowfield township and after years of assiduous toil paid for the land. He then realized a good sum for the coal underlying his land and purchased a farm in Carroll township, where he moved in 1847. After spending some years on this farm he moved to West Monongahela, where he lived a retired life. In politics Mr. Frye was originally a Democrat, but after a visit to the south before the war he changed his ideals and had since been a staunch follower in the Republican ranks.

Mr. Frye had always enjoyed good health, and up to his death was in the best of spirits and his death was very sudden. He is survived by his wife, who is now past 80 years of age, three sons and one daughter. These are T. F. Frye of Coffeetown, Kan., John H. Frye of Wooster, O., formerly vice president of the First National Bank of Charleroi, Mrs. Margaret E. Richardson of Charleroi and S. K. Frye of Monongahela. Two sisters also survive: Miss Anna Frye of Charleroi and Mrs. John Wilson of Beallsville.

The funeral will be held tomorrow from the late residence, and interment made in the Monongahela cemetery.

SEARCHING DUSTY FILES OF COLORADO

by
Wil Frye

My parents met and married in Denver with their first two children born in Colorado Springs. I decided I would like to visit both cities to see what I could find in the libraries and government agencies. My objectives were to get a copies of my parent's marriage application and certificate, copies of my oldest sister's birth and death certificates, a copy of my brother's birth certificate and search city directories for addresses where they lived and newspaper notices of birth and death announcements. I made the trip in early June – following are my findings.

My wife Arlene has no interest in genealogy or in traveling therefore I made this trip solo. Since retirement allows one to be generous with one's time, I decided it would be of interest to take the train both ways and enjoy seeing parts of our great country from the ground. I had heard that AMTRAK is notoriously late but since timing was not a concern, I booked the train trip in coach (sleepers are expensive and I had only one night to get through).

I boarded the train in Emeryville at 9:00 AM (on-time) on Saturday, June 4. Side note, AMTRAK offers free parking for one's car for the duration of the trip in an enclosed secured parking lot, nice extra. The coach car seats are the size of first class air and the car was less than half full; I spread out over both seats – nice for sleeping later on. We left on time (this was the beginning of SF to Chicago route), however, it took us an extra four hours to get out of the Bay Area due to track repairs, according to the Conductor. We still passed over Donner's Summit during daylight,

therefore were able to see the beautiful scenery of the high Sierras.

Seating in the dining room is European style, you are placed at an empty seat at a dining table, get to spend meal time with other travelers. Night fell shortly after leaving Winnemucca, NV. Not much to see in the dark, train moving right along trying to make up for lost time. Stop for a short time about 2:00 AM in Ely, NV. Lots of lights at the casinos. We arrived in Salt Lake City just after dawn. Had a schedule crew change then headed south for a couple of hours then turned east through the mountains stopping for a short period in Grand Junction for another crew change (in 1900 census I had found my great uncle Wilbur Keyes Frye was a locomotive engineer stationed here).

From here to just short of the top of the Rockies we followed the Colorado River for some 240 plus miles. The scenery long the river and through the Rockies made the train trip worth while. Just truly beautiful. We arrived late Sunday afternoon in Denver about two hours late. The view coming down the eastern slope of the Rockies was spectacular.

On Monday morning, I arrived at the Denver County Recorder's Office just after opening. I was directed to the archives office and found a helpful clerk who made a copy of my parent's marriage certificate while I waited. For the application, he said it would have to be retrieved from their warehouse and offered to mail a copy of it to me within two weeks (it was waiting for me when I returned home a week later) I wished it was available when I was in Denver as it had their Denver address on it when they applied, 2119 21st Street. I checked a current map of Denver and found that address would be now located in the middle of the railroad yards. When I looked more closely at the application, I found my mother had spelled her maiden name as

Kersha rather than the spelling I had known of Kresha. I rechecked the spelling on the marriage certificate and found it also spelled as Kersha.

In the afternoon I went to the Library to check city directories for addresses. I found no entries for either my mother Irene Kresha or my dad Jack (or Charles) Frye. I, at the time did not know of her spelling her last name as Kersha) Lesson learned – check name spellings on documents as soon as you get them (i.e. their marriage certificate).

The witnesses to their marriage were Winifred Reed and Ben E. Sullvion. I was unable to find any Sullvion in the city directories but did locate a Mrs. Winifred Reed. This is interesting to me as Reed was my material grandmother's maiden name. I thought Winifred might have married a cousin of my mother but in checking my Reed findings I find no males having a wife named Winifred – a new unknown to run down, does it ever end?

The marriage certificate showed they were married by "Rev. K. Yoshioha, pastor of the Jap M. E. Church" located at 2801 Curtis Street. The city director gave me the full name of the church, Japanese Methodist Evangelical Church. I didn't have time to see if the church was still located at 2801 Curtis Street.

While in the Library, I checked newspapers for marriage announcements, found none for my parents. Another side note: the Denver Library has their genealogical holdings covering the whole fifth floor. One could spend weeks there doing research if you have family located at one time in Colorado.

(To be continued)

UPDATE

Mary E (Frye) Willett

The death year on Mary's stone now is complete. My next major project is to find what became of Mary's son Garry who in the 1910 census was shown as seven years old and living with his parents, Jack and Mary Rohr (Mary's first husband) in Okmulgee County, OK. See story in May 2006 Newsletter.



RESEARCH AIDS

(From CalGenSoc News)

Iowa WPA Graves Registration

This Web site at: <http://iowawpagraves.org/> provides researchers with the complete Works Projects Administration 1930's Graves Registration Survey which contains 650,193 grave records within eighty-two Iowa counties. Searches can be done by last name or by county. If you get a "hit" it will contain birth and death dates, the cemetery location and any additional information that might be available, such as the name of a spouse.

More Iowa Burials

The Iowa Genealogical Society also provides burial information through its publications. Go to: <http://www.iowagenealogy.org/> and then click on "publications." From there, click on "Explore the Publications Catalog" to see what counties have birth, marriage and death information that can be ordered.

Finding Newspapers

The United States Newspaper Program at: <http://www.neh.gov/projects/usnp.html> is a cooperative national effort among the states and the federal government to locate, catalog, and preserve on microfilm newspapers published in the United States from the eighteenth century to the present. By clicking on the state you are interested in, you can find out the status of the archiving and information about repositories.

DNA Testing Information

Try this Web site: <http://worldfamilies.net/> if you want to locate more about DNA testing and how it works in the genealogical world. The World Families Network lists projects underway, offers reading suggestions and other information.

NGS Posts Family Group Sheets

The National Genealogical Society has just placed online its massive collection of members' family group sheets (Member Ancestry Charts or MACs) available to those who have NGS membership. For more information go to:

<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>. The MAC database, which dates from the 1960s, is more than an index as it contains name, date, and geographic location data for births, christenings, marriages, wills, deaths, burials, and probates abstracted from each MAC. According to NGS, eventually the MACs themselves will be scanned into PDF format and uploaded to their Web site.

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