

# HFFA NEWS

A Publication of the Heinrich Frey Family Association

Published Four Times a Year - Last Week in  
January, April, July and October

**Watch for coming news of the Y2K Reunion Plans!**

## Y2K Millennium Newsletter

The first Newsletter of the year 2000 is a little different from previous ones. First, it contains a Financial Statement from HFFA Treasurer, Ron Frye. It also contains an insert for the Y2K Reunion. The enclosed envelope and letter about the Reunion is to be returned to Jim Frey, HFFA President, for your reservations for the PA Reunion in June. The earlier you make your reservations the better. Jim has worked hard to set this reunion up, and it sounds as though it will be fantastic. I am really looking forward to it.

Harry Morrison, our Vice President, and I had discussed putting the suggested changes for the By-laws that will be on the agenda at the Y2K Reunion. However, because of space limitations, they will be Spring Newsletter. So look for them, read them, and be prepared to vote on the changes to our By-laws.

We will also be voting for the new HFFA officers, and your input is needed. Let us know if you would be willing to serve as an officer. Send us suggestions for nominees.

I have been sending the Newsletter to 25 members who did not pay the dues for 1999. Because of the expense, Newsletters will no longer be sent to those who do not renew their membership. If there is a mistake about the dues being paid, and you feel you should receive the Newsletter, please let me know.

In addition there are only 72 members who have paid the dues for 2000. This will also be their last Newsletter unless the dues are paid by March 1, 2000. The dues should be paid to Jeanne Jeffrey, Membership Secretary, at the address on the last page.

Some names have been dropped from our E-mail list because any E-mail sent to them is returned. If you have an E-mail address listed with HFFA please check it, and let us know if it is correct or has changed.

I sincerely hope that we can start the Millennium off with a strong and growing Family Association. We have grown from less than 150 members to over 200 in the two years I have been doing the Newsletter. Let's all try to keep up the good work.

Lynn Vitasek-Newsletter Editor

Volume 5, Issue 1		Heinrich Frey Family Newsletter			Winter 2000	
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HFFA 1999 Treasurers Report					Table of Contents	
Balance as of 12/31/1998			\$ 1333.06			
Month	Desc.	Income	Expense	Total	ARTICLE	PAGE
Jan.	Dues Collected L. Bert Frye-Postage/cards Jon Frye Journal/Interest	\$ 1020.00  2.00	\$ 62.40 900.00	\$ 2353.06 2290.66 1392.66	Renion Info Membership Info	1
Feb..	Dues Lynn Vitasek Newsletter/Interest	1050.00 2.36	236.35	2442.66 2208.67	Treasurers Report	2
Mar.	Dues Interest	262.00 3.71		2470.67 2474.38	Lighter Side Genealogy Humor Too Much Genealogy? Taking Genealogy	3
Apr.	Dues Interest	40.00 3.56		2514.38 2517.94		
May	Dues Interest	100.00 3.45		2617.94 2621.39	Inquiries Benjamin Frey Chart Members News	4
June	Dues Lynn Vitasek Newsletter/Interest	200.00 4.04	155.99	2821.39 2669.44	Everton's Family History Newsletter Uncommon Courtesy	5
July	Jon Frye-Journal Postage/Interest		808.78 200.00	1860.66 1660.66		
Aug.	Dues Lynn Vitasek-Newletter Jon Frye-Journal/Int	440.00 3.69	140.30 338.11	2100.66 1960.36 1622.25	E-mail Address List Members Changes	6
Sept.	Dues Jeanne Jeffrey Expenses/Interest	220.00 4.91	33.66	1845.94 1812.28	Late Very Sad News  Editor's Comments	7  7
Oct.	Dues Interest	60.00 4.51		1877.19 1881.70	Membership Info	8
Nov.	Dues Lynn Vitasek Interest	1163.00 4.73	185.93	3044.70 2858.77 2863.50	Eligibility  Benefits	
Dec.	Dues Interest	4.79		2863.50 2868.29		
Total		\$ 5929.81	\$ 3061.52	\$ 2868.29		
HFFA WEB PAGE--For all of our members who have computers and are on the Internet, the NEW URL for HFFA Web page is: <a href="http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~twiggins">http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~twiggins</a> Thanks to Tommy Wiggins for taking on the Web Page Webmasters job.						

## The Lighter Side of Genealogy

### Too Much Genealogy?

Perhaps you have spent too much time on family history. See how many of these fit:

- You're the only person in the bridge/poker club who knows what a Soundex is.
- You have more pictures of tombstones than of the kids.
- "I need to spend just a little more time at the library or courthouse" means forget the cleaning, washing, dinner, chores. The day is shot anyway.
- The mailman can't believe that you got this much mail from someone you don't even know.
- You explain to your mother why you can't go 25 miles for Sunday dinner, but can go 100 miles to check out another cemetery.
- "As soon as I check out this census record, I'll fix dinner" means "call the local pizza parlor."
- Your kids think picnics in cemeteries are normal or that EVERYBODY does it.
- Some of your best friends live over 200 miles away.
- You can't drive past a cemetery without wondering if your ancestors are buried there.
- You have to watch the credits of a movie to see if any of the surnames are ones you are researching.
- You ask all the people you meet, what their grandparents surnames are.
- You move to a new town and the first thing you look for is a historical or genealogical society in the area.
- You go on vacation and beg your hubby to please drive 80 miles out of the way so that you can try and find your granddaddy's grave in 100 degree heat.
- Youthful fantasies of traveling to exotic places are replaced with plans to get to those little towns with graveyards, or larger towns with Archives!
- Your fear of snakes and bugs is overshadowed by the need to get through those brambles to that old gravestone.
- Old friends who knew you before you were into genealogy begin sending clippings about dead or live people with your surnames (and you know you have been talking about genealogy too much!)
- You worry about the roof's leaking only if the drips threaten your genealogy section.
- When you can recite all the counties of a State you've researched but where you've never lived.
- When you find your ancestor's execution by hanging or burning at the stake, far more interesting than the mass-murder that just took place next door.
- You're not invited to family functions because your relatives are tired of filling out family group sheets.
- Your neighbors think you are crazy, your friends wonder, and YOU know you are.

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### You know you're taking genealogy too seriously if...

- You are the only one to show up at the cemetery research party with a shovel.
- To put the "final touches" on your genealogy research you've asked all of your closest relatives to provide DNA samples.
- Your house leans slightly toward the side where your genealogical records are stored.
- You decided to take a two-week break from genealogy, and the US Postal Office immediately laid off 1,500 employees.
- Out of respect for your best friend's unquestioned reputation for honesty and integrity, you are willing to turn off that noisy surveillance camera while she reviews your 57 genealogical research notebooks in your home. The armed security guard, however, will remain.
- You plod merrily along "refining" your recently published family history, blissfully unaware that the number of errata pages now far exceeds the number of pages in your original publication.
- During an ice storm and power outage, you ignore the pleas of your shivering spouse and place your last quilt around that 1886 photograph of dear Uncle George.
- The most recent document in your "Missing Ancestors" file is a 36-page contract between you and Johnson Billboard Advertising Company.
- Ed McMahon, several TV cameras and an envelope from Publishers Clearing House arrive at your front door on Super Bowl Sunday, and the first thing you say is, "Are you related to the McMahons of Ohio?"
- "A Loving Family" and "Financial Security" have moved up to second and third, respectively, on your list of life's goals, but still lag behind "Owning My Own Microfilm Reader."
- A magical genie appears and agrees to grant your any one wish, and you ask that the 1890 Census be restored.

Submitted by Hank Adams from the West Virginia Hillbilly, November 11, 1999

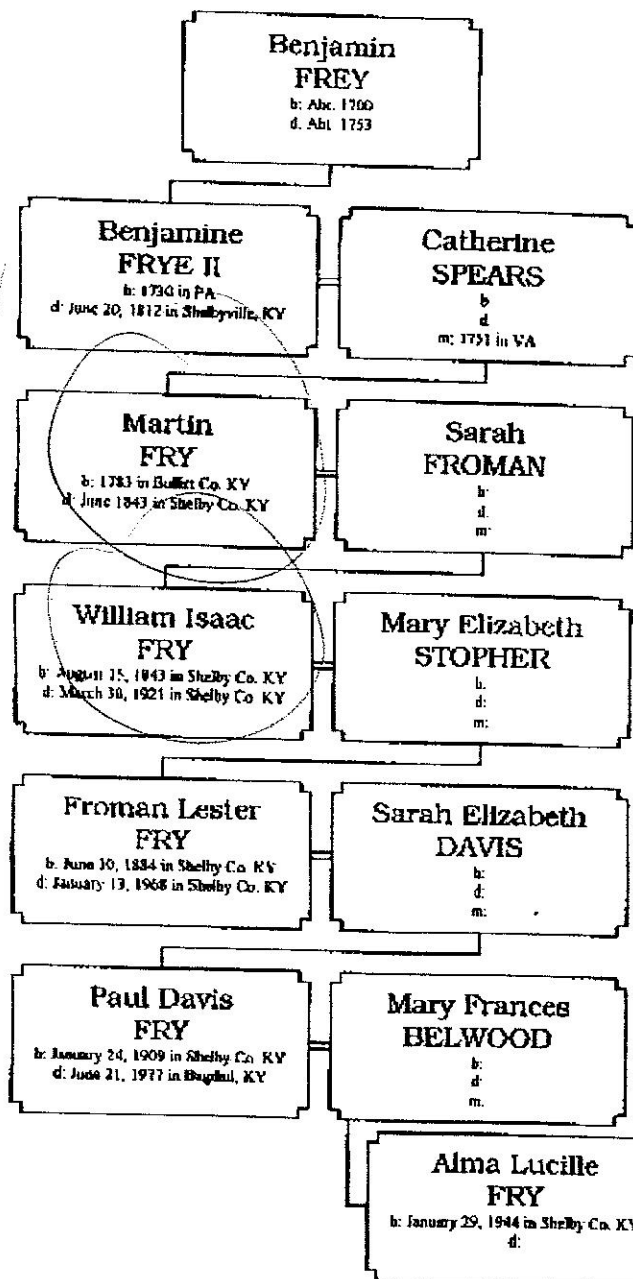
## Inquiries to All HFFA Members



Inquiries is a column in the Newsletter where requests for information will be posted. Any letters or correspondence from anyone seeking information can be mailed to me for it to be included in the next Newsletter.

The following was received to include in the Newsletter for this quarter.

### Descendants of Benjamin Frey



### Chart of Benjamin Frey

Volume 3, Issue 1 of the Newsletter contained the Will of Benjamin Frye II that I received from Lucille Fry Gray. I didn't have the space in that issue to include the direct descendancy chart that she also sent. I apologize for not printing it in the next issue, but I completely forgot about it. The following is the chart which she sent again to remind me. Thanks Lucille.

If anyone has more information please let Lucille know and all of us know.

Found: A Yankee on my Tree.  
Will trade for Horse Thief  
or Black Sheep

### Member News Bulletin

Dear Friends,

I will not be able to read any e-mail messages starting Dec. 6 until spring of 2000. The last e-mail that can be received will be Sunday, Dec. 5 so please do not send anything after that date.

In the spring I will probably have a new e-mail address due to the fact that Juno has taken away our local phone number and the long distance numbers we are forced to use now are too expensive. I will contact you with the new address sometime after April 15, 2000.

In the meantime, we wish you a very happy holiday season and a happy & healthy New Year.

Barb Herron



## EVERTON'S FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLINE

Friday, 5 November 1999

Frank Beacon: Uncommon Courtesy  
frankb@everton.com

A common complaint of some genealogists is that the officials they write to fail to respond to their letters. They've written to a county clerk, but did not receive the deed or will they are sure their grandfather must have left in that county. A letter to a parish priest has failed to result in several pages of extracts of their family names from the church registers. They are certain that a county history must contain the names of their ancestors, but their letter to a local librarian has failed to generate any response.

"Inconsiderate people!", they shout. "Don't they realize that serving the public is their job? Don't they know that my family is important to me? Just what is wrong with them?"

A common complaint of some officials is that the genealogists who write to them fail to understand their position. County clerks receive letters demanding that all records in that county pertaining to their family (probate proceedings, deeds, court minutes, and anything else the writer may have failed to mention) should immediately be copied and sent without cost to the author. Parish priests receive rude letters suggesting that the sender is convinced that their registers are rife with valuable family data that should be returned forthwith, regardless of expense. Librarians are in receipt of letters arriving from thousands of miles away filled with urgent mandates that they immediately neglect their other duties in favor of a search of their stacks for family information that is vaguely defined, but which can surely be found if only the librarian will climb out of his or her lethargic state.

"Inconsiderate people!", they whisper. "Don't they realize that I have a real job? Don't they know that the people who pay my salary depend on me? Just what are they thinking?"

For some, the solution to this dilemma is to sit the two groups of people down and have them talk out their differences, face to face, mano a mano, until a compromise is hammered out. There may be some merit in that approach, but I favor a different one. One that is both more feasible, and which can provide far quicker results.

My suggestion is to "mind your manners". When we were young our elders would almost constantly remind us to do so. If we got a little too frisky, a little uppity, a little too forward, we would be told to mind our manners. Rein in our enthusiasm. Take a moment to consider what we were doing.

More to the point: To consider other people. Not just their feelings, but their circumstances. We were expected to remember that not only were we the only important people in the world, we were not the most important people in the world.

If I make a fool of myself in public, I can usually see right off that I've done so. The pain I cause others will usually be exhibited so clearly on their faces that they will often turn away. Yet in person the reaction is difficult, if not impossible, to see.

But a foolish act at a distance, such as a boorish letter or email message, can cause just as great a reaction without the negative feedback that can cause me to reconsider my actions. I can't always see how poorly I've presented myself. So I've destroyed my character in other people's eyes without realizing it.

If you find that you have been guilty of this fault in the past, consider yourself warned. It may be too late to apologize for past sins, but it is certainly not too late to do it right from now on.

If you are a "corresponding" genealogist (and these days, aren't we all?), get into the habit of being polite to a fault -- whether your correspondence is in script or onscreen. Always consider the effect of your written words on their recipient. And always consider the person to whom your words are directed.

Whatever official you write to to request assistance, remember that he or she has a full-time job. Even if part of that job is to handle requests like yours, your request is not the only one in the queue. And the person to whom you write is a human, not a machine. Treat him or her with respect. State your business briefly and politely. Make a polite request, not a strident demand. Always inquire if there is a fee involved. And be unfailingly polite, even if the answer you receive is less than you hoped.

If you are a librarian, county clerk, or parish priest, first of all, please forgive the rude actions of some of us. Try not to judge all of us by their actions. Treat each piece of correspondence with dignity. Your own, even if the author has exhibited none toward you. If you can fulfill the request quickly, that would be great. But even if your best reply is to send a form to be filled out and returned, try to send a polite note with that form. Such a gesture will be appreciated beyond the time it takes you to include it, and will also remind the genealogist that there is a person on your end of the line.

Whether you are the genealogist or the official, remember that the focus of your work is people, not documents or machines. Don't try to reduce those who you deal with to the status of an inanimate object, and never act like an unthinking machine yourself.

## Resources:

Handbook for Genealogical Correspondence

The Genealogist's Address Book

Twenty Ways to Avoid Genealogical Grief

<http://www.everton.com/specials/b13><http://www.everton.com/specials/b65><http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-1/20ways.html>

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**HFFA E-mail Addresses  
& Address Changes  
& New Members  
Addresses**

The E-mail list now has several members added to it with new E-mail addresses so you might want to make a note of it.

Also we have new members. They are:

Gerald D. Frye  
1603 Frost Dr.  
College Station, TX 77845-5677  
409-764-8396

Winston Grundmeier  
1331 N. 4th St.  
Mankato, MN 56001

Catherine Rochell  
214 N. Commerce  
Harlingen, TX 78550-5404

**Members Changes:**

Sally Russell  
411 SE Delaware Ave.  
Ankeny, IA 50021-3481

Ralph E. Frye  
1769 Castile  
Sulphur, LA 70665  
318-558-5156

Chet Frye should be changed from: PO Box 5702  
Lafayette, IN 47903

To: 1 Shawnee Ln.  
Ft Myers Beach FL 33931-2513

I hope that I haven't missed anyone, but there have been a lot of changes this quarter. The 4 names with asterisks E-mail is always returned so if they need to be changed please let me know as they will be deleted from the list otherwise.

### Sad News

Kay Nelson, our Webmaster for our web page and E-mail list editor, has sent a letter of resignation to the officers of HFFA. She says that further research into her Fry family line, and a complete review of her notes over the last 10 years she has come to the conclusion that she is not descended from Heinrich Frey so she will not be renewing her membership in HFFA. This came as a shock to me, as I am sure it did to everyone else. We all hate to see Kay leave our family fold. She has been a great asset to the Association, and will be greatly missed. I would like to wish Kay the best of luck in the future and in all her endeavors. I think it goes that without saying she would be welcomed back as a Special Member at any time she chose to come back.

She is working now on a new links book project and says that she will finish the book as it is very near completion now.

For the moment, I am going to maintain the E-mail address list since I already keep it up to date for the Newsletter list. Tommy Wiggins is taking charge of the HFFA Web Page as our new Webmaster. Kay and Tommy worked together to get it moved to Rootsweb for its new home.

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~twiggins>

The above URL Link is the address to go to the HFFA's home on the Internet if you have a computer. If you have anything you would like to see added to the web page please contact Tommy at: 2011 Vicki Dr., Irving, TX 75060-3619, 972-254-101, a0009126@airmail.net. For those of you who don't know, Tommy is my double cousin, and I twisted his arm a little on this one. But it really didn't take a lot of twisting. Hope you all get to meet him at the Pennsylvania Reunion, and I am looking forward to meeting everyone I didn't get to or have time to meet in Tennessee in 1998.

Kay, please keep in touch, and remember that you are very dear to us and will be missed.  
Newsletter Editor

**Please make your reservations early for the Y2K Reunion in  
Pennsylvania to HFFF Family Reunion  
James Frey, President.**

### Editor's Comments

We are very fortunate to be alive right now and see the new Millennium fast approaching. To end one century and begin another is special, or at least to me it has always seemed so. I wonder if there will ever be another century with the accomplishments that have been made in this last one. I sometimes wonder if our ancestors felt the same way at earlier turns of centuries.

I am always looking for interesting family stories to put in the Newsletter. I am also open to suggestions of anything different you would like to see in the Newsletter. This is your Newsletter so everyone can contribute. I am always seeking news and information about our members, and our new members don't need to be bashful about sending me anything to include so we can get to know you better.

Hope you all had a great Holiday season, and will have the best year ever.

*Lynn*