



# HFFA NEWS

A Publication of the Heinrich Frey Family Association

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January, April, July and October

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

## Tribute to Kay Nelson by Hank Adams & Lynn Vitasek

As most of you know, especially if you have a computer, that Kay Nelson put the first HFFA web page on the Internet, and also maintained the list of all HFFA members' E-mail addresses who had computers and were on the Internet.

It was a shock to find out that Kay was resigning from HFFA and not renewing her membership. I, for one, will miss her terribly. She has been a great asset to our Family, and a great friend to all who have had close contact with her.

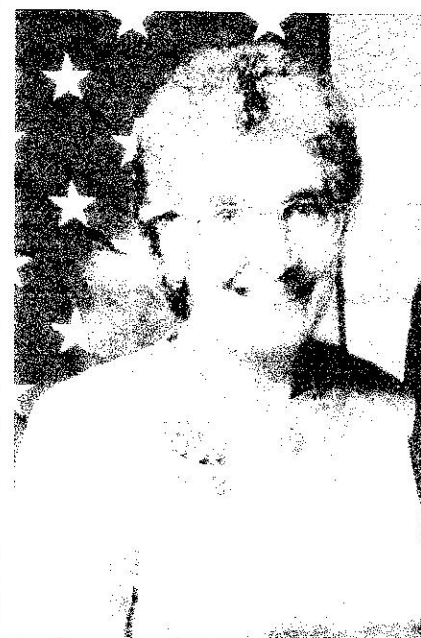
When Henderson (Hank) Adams received his first list of HFFA members from L. Jane Wilmer (then Membership Secretary) in 1996, she said a new roster would soon be mailed and that he was the 160<sup>th</sup> member. When it arrived, he thought what fun it would be to write each of them asking for their line back to Heinrich so he could determine his relation to each. His line & theirs would be a single sheet. He called each a "relationship sheet".

Kay Nelson learned somehow about his project. So one day he received a very pleasant letter from her in which she wrote "Hank, you send all of those relationship sheets you now have and all you'll get (along with ones I can gather) and I'll enter all into my computer. Then by the time of the Y2K Reunion we will have caused a "links book" to come into existence, and to be included in a packet given to each attendee of the Reunion June 22-26 in PA. Our President, Jim Frey, will print and bind the final results into its final book form.

Now, was it ever a dark day in the lives of us who know Kay when she wrote that she had determined that she did not descend from Heinrich, and would (naturally) drop out of the HFFA membership, but would help him and Jim Frey be sure the "links book" would exist.

Early on Kay referred to herself as being "our Delaware cousin". Since then she has used the phrase "former Delaware cousin". Kay, you will forevermore be our "Delaware cousin", and I'm not the only one who says so.

We all wish you would stay on as an Associate Member.



Kay transferred the HFFA web page to Tommy Wiggins who agreed to take on the responsibility of keeping it updated, and I agreed to keep the E-mail list up to date so please send information to Tommy or me. It will take two people to replace you.

Thanks, Kay, for a job superbly done for HFFA

Rebecca Frye 1767 - 1848  
(Wife of Joseph Forman 1763 - 1838)

Rebecca Frye was a younger daughter of Abraham Frye and Agnes Ann Young. In Samuel Kercheval's well known HISTORY OF THE VALLEY OF VIRGINIA he devotes two pages to the description and verification of Captain Frye's 1768 exploit in which he forces the release of Indian fighter William White from the jail at Winchester. The timing of this event would support Virginia as Rebecca's place of birth, though we know she grew into adulthood on Maple Creek, in southwestern Pennsylvania. By 1769, when the new Purchase Land Office opened to accept applications, Abraham Frye had already begun to sell his Virginia land. Many other families from Old Frederick County also had selected sites in this new territory, building cabins and making improvements along nearby tributaries of the Monongahela. Joseph Forman and his younger brother Thomas lived on Pigeon Creek, just north of the Fries on Maple Creek.

We have no church record or family Bible to establish the exact date of Rebecca's marriage to Joseph Forman, but a recently located Fallowfield Township tax record for 1785 lists Joseph Forman among the heads of households, not with the list of "single men". Joseph and Rebecca would have been 21 and 18 years of age at that time.

Though Joseph Forman was only 6 years old when the New Purchase Land Office accepted applications, somehow he was awarded 200 acres of land on Pigeon Creek. In 1786 he sold this land to his stepfather, then he and Rebecca headed to Kentucky, where they lived the remainder of their lives. They owned nearly 4000 acres of land at Joseph's death. Their lovely 10 room Georgian brick home, just outside of Bardstown in Nelson County, is restored and currently occupied. They raised 8 children there, but now lie at rest in the 1 1/2 acre family graveyard, surrounded by the original dry stone wall.

This past summer, in July of 1999, over 2000 colonial documents were rediscovered in the basement of the Hampshire County Courthouse (now WV). Among them were the original estate papers for Joseph's father Thomas Forman, who died in 1764, most likely killed by the Indians during Pontiac's wars. The Administrative Bond stated that Elizabeth Forman was now remarried. Who was this stepfather that cared for Joseph from the age of two years, investing his inheritance and teaching him to be a responsible and respected adult? His name was Vincent Colvin! Vincent's father John owned the property next to the Formans on the South Branch of the Potomac. And what happened to Joseph's little brother Thomas? Why he grew up to marry Rebecca's sister, Catherine Frye.

Descendants: Ruth Trim Mary Lou Klatt Doris Gleason  
(Additional documentation will be greatly appreciated)

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HFFA WEB PAGE--For all our members who have computers and Internet, the new URL for HFFA Web page is: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~twiggins/>  
Thanks to Tommy Wiggins for the Web Page. If you have a link to add to the HFFA's page just send it to Tommy: a0009126@airmail.net

## The Lighter Side of Genealogy

### Dollarhide's Rules For Genealogy

1. Treat the brothers and sisters of your ancestors as equals....even if some of them were in jail.
2. Death certificates are rarely filled in by the person who died.
3. When visiting a funeral home, wear old clothes, no make-up, and look like you have about a week to live...the funeral director will give you anything you ask if he thinks you may be a customer soon.
4. The cemetery where your ancestor was buried does not have perpetual care, has no office, is accessible only by a muddy road, has snakes, tall grass, and lots of bugs...and many of the old gravestones are in broken pieces, stacked in a corner under a pile of dirt.
5. A Social Security form SS-5 is better than a birth certificate because few people had anything to do with the information on their own birth certificate.
6. The application for a death certificate you want insists that you provide the maiden name of the deceased's mother...which is exactly what you don't know and is the reason you are trying to get the death certificate in the first place.
7. If you call Social Security and ask where to write for a birth certificate, tell them it is for yourself...they won't help you if you say you want one for your great-great-great-great-great-great-grandfather who died in 1642.
8. When you contact the state vital statistics office in your home state and ask if they are "on-line" and they respond, "on what?," you may have a problem.
9. A census record showing all twelve children in a family proves only that your ancestors did not believe in birth control.
10. Work from the known to the unknown. In other words, just because your name is Washington doesn't mean you are related to George.
11. With any luck, some of the people in your family could read and write....and may have left something written about themselves.
12. It ain't history until it's written down. (See #19)
13. A genealogist needs to be a detective. Just gimme da facts, ma'am.
14. Always interview brothers and sisters together in the same room. Since they can't agree on anything about the family tree, it makes for great fun to see who throws the first punch.
15. The genealogy book you just found out about went out of print last week.
16. A good genealogical event is learning that your parents were really married.
17. Finding the place a person lived may lead to finding that person's arrest record.
18. It's really quite simple. First you start with yourself, then your parents, then your grandparents... then you QUIT...and start teaching classes in genealogy.
19. If it's not written down, it ain't history yet. (See #12)
20. In spite of MTV, computer games, and skate boards, there is always a chance that your grandchildren will learn how to read someday.
21. "To understand the living, you have to commune with the dead, but don't commune with the dead so long that you forget that you are living!"  
(From *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt) by William Dollarhide

### Sad News for our Members

Sattellite Beach, FL - Esther Whitten Koski, a professional parliamentarian, died Saturday, March 4, at West Jersey Hospital in New Jersey. She was 92. She was a member of DAR and many other organizations and had held numerous offices including State Regent for DAR.

Esther recently joined HFFA, and was looking forward to her first reunion in PA. She is survived by her daughter, Patricia Peebles of Whispering Pines, NC; sister, Vera Barkley of Ocala, FL; three grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. Condolences to Patricia and Vera.

Beatrice Leckman, mother of Dr. Arnold Leckman of Albuquerque, NM and sister of Blanche Tompkins of San Bernardino, CA, passed away March 29, 2000. Memorial services were held April 14, 2000. She was born September 11, 1918. Condolences to both Arnold and Blanche.



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.

The Following letter was received by Jim Frey, and forwarded to me so I could include it in the Inquiry to see if anyone of our members recognizes this as one of Heinrich Frey's descendants.

Frey-Fry-Frye Family Association  
White School Road  
Honeybrook, PA 1934-9753

Mark G. Fry  
Sioux Falls, SD  
57104-2323

Dear Sir/Madam:

12/14/99

I found your address in a book at our local library. This afternoon I got an interesting phone call: It seems there is a man in Texas who did some research last summer in nearby Garretson, SD, and found the gravestone of one Isaac Fry, the father of Emyenetta, Walter L. and Arthur. Apparently, Mr. Isaac Fry was a war hero in the Civil War, and is eligible to have a unique "Congressional Medal of Honor" grave marker placed on his grave as a post-mortem token of his achievements. The one stipulation is that a relative, regardless of how distant, request that this be done. (It was the cemetery sexton who called me and gave me this information:) I had to tell him I didn't know if I was related to this man or not, since I moved to the local area in 1995, from Montana. Also, the "Fry" end of my ancestors is rather vague, to anybody's knowledge.

Here is what I know of my "Fry" side: My father was born William Marcus Fry, 12/27/27, in Missoula, Montana. His father, William Everett Fry, was born circa 1900 in Cripple Creek, Colorado, and died in 1963, in Missoula. I regret not ever getting to know my granddad, since he died two years before my birth, and he worked for the U.S.. Forest Service all of his adult life. Through the generations, my family has all a real appreciation for the great outdoors because of Granddad's influence.

At any rate, William Everett "We" Fry's father was a blacksmith from somewhere in New York, where the family had a foundry. My great grandfather was named Nathaniel Davis Fry, and I believe "Nate's" father was Gunder D. Fry. Not much is known of my great grandfather, because the story goes that he was an alcoholic and abandoned his family when his two sons were small. "We" was 10 and Uncle Clyde would have been a baby. In the 1950's, when Granddad learned of his father's death, he refused to pay for burial costs for his estranged father, who was penniless and living in California. Because of my granddad's understandable resentment, no much is known of Nate, Gunder, of the rest of the early Frys.

Apparently, one of my ancestors also fought in the Civil War. He married, had one set of children: went to war, returned; had another set. I'd love to know more about my Fry family history, and I'd also like to determine if I'm related to this Isaac Fry, so I can act accordingly on the gravestone prospect. (His name is out of place around here, since most of the rural cemeteries I've seen are full of Erickson's, Johannsen's, Larsen's, etc. of Norwegian descent!) I'm the only "Fry" in the Sioux Falls phone book, hence I got the call.

I've visited Lancaster County, PA. I feel affinity to the area as well since my church family is based out of Ephrata. (DOVE Fellowship-Larry Kreider. Acquaintance?) Thanks!

*Mark G. Fry*

From Ellen L. Martin

Does anyone know anything about Joseph Reese FRY (1811-\_\_\_), who married June 8, 1841 in Philadelphia, PA, Cornelia NEVINS (1819-\_\_\_)? Her parents were James NEVINS and Aschia WILLIS. I think they were considered "Philadelphia Society" in their day. If anyone has any information please send it to me. E-mail: ellenmartin@extrope.net  
Street address: 820 W. Broad St., Horseheads, NY, 14845-2201.  
Telephone: 607-739-9432. Thanks for any help.

*Ellen Martin*

### When My Grandmother Was a Child

I received this from a genealogy mailing list I'm on. Thought you would like it. It's from "When My Grandmother Was a Child" by Leigh W. Rutledge, and begins,

"In the summer of 1900, when my grandmother was a child..."

- The average life expectancy in the United States was forty-seven.
- Only 14 percent of the homes in the United States had a bathtub.
- Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone. A three-minute call from Denver to New York City cost eleven dollars.
- There were only 8,000 cars in the US and only 144 miles of paved roads. The maximum speed limit in most cities was ten mph.
- Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California. With a mere 1.4 million residents, California was only the twenty-first most populous state in the Union.
- The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.
- The average wage in the US was twenty-two cents an hour. The average US worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.
- A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, a dentist \$2500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1500 and \$4000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5000 per year.
- More than 95 percent of all births in the United States took place at home.
- Ninety percent of all US physicians had no college education. Instead, they attended medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and by the government as "substandard."
- Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen. Coffee cost fifteen cents a pound.
- Most women only washed their hair once a month and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo.
- Canada passed a law prohibiting poor people from entering the country for any reason, either as travelers or immigrants.
- The five leading causes of death in the US were: 1. Pneumonia and influenza, Tuberculosis, 3. Diarrhea, 4. Heart disease, 5. Stroke.
- The American flag had 45 stars. Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii and Alaska hadn't been admitted to the Union yet.
- Drive-by shootings -- in which teenage boys galloped down the street on horses and started randomly shooting at houses, carriages, or anything else that caught their fancy -- were an ongoing problem in Denver and other cities in the West.
- The population of Las Vegas, Nevada was thirty. The remote desert community was inhabited by only a handful of ranchers and their families.
- Plutonium, insulin, and antibiotics hadn't been discovered yet. Scotch tape, crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented.
- There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.
- One in ten US adults couldn't read or write. Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.
- Some medical authorities warned that professional seamstresses were apt to become sexually aroused by the steady rhythm, hour after hour, of the sewing machine's foot pedals. They recommended slipping bromide-which was thought to diminish sexual desire-into the women's drinking water.
- Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at corner drugstores. According to one pharmacist, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and the bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health."
- Coca-Cola contained cocaine instead of caffeine.
- Punch-card data processing had recently been developed, and early predecessors of the modern computer were used for the first time by the government to help compile the 1900 census.
- Eighteen percent of households in the United States had at least one full-time servant or domestic.
- There were about 230 reported murders in the US annually.

An index for the estate records found in the Hampshire County (WV)  
Courthouse basement in 1999 has recently been published.  
If interested, contact Ruth Trim: [frim@flash.net](mailto:frim@flash.net)

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### Ever wonder how names got so many different spellings?

Walking through Chinatown, a tourist is fascinated with all the Chinese restaurants, shops, signs and banners. He turns a corner and sees a building with the sign, "Hans Olaffsen's Laundry."

"Hans Olaffsen?", he muses. "How the heck does that fit in here?" So he walks into the shop and sees an old Chinese gentleman behind the counter.

The tourist asks, "How did this place get a name like "Hans Olaffsen's Laundry?"

The old man answers, "Is name of owner."

The tourist asks, "Well, who and where is the owner?"

"Me, is right here," replies the old man.

"You? How did you ever get a name like Hans Olaffsen?"

"Is simple," says the old man. "Many, many year ago when come to this country, was stand in line at Documentation Center. Man in front was big blonde Swede. Lady look at him and go, "What your name?" He say, "Hans Olaffsen."

Then she look at me and go, "What your name?"

"I say, Sem Ting."

Moral: Be careful answering questions about your name.

Editor's comment: Thank goodness the Census Takers didn't record the X as the name when someone couldn't read and write and signed with an X.

**Please make your reservations for the Y2K  
June 22-25 Reunion in Philadelphia early.  
Send to: James Frey, President.**

I recently received a message from Helen Staiger saying that she had met someone in TN at the 2000 Reunion that might come to PA, but had no one to make the trip with so if anyone wants to find a room partner they can get in touch with Helen. She offered to coordinate room sharing so if you would like to share a room with someone her E-mail address is HMSSAGT@aol.com and her phone number 724-794-4627.

### Editor's Comments

It is getting closer all the time to the PA Reunion June 22-25, and I am getting really anxious to get there. It is going to be a great reunion, and I am looking forward to seeing all the cousins I met in Tennessee, and meeting all the new cousins who have joined HFFA in the last two years. We have grown from less than 150 members to almost 250 now.

There are a lot of exciting things going on and HFFA is becoming a very large and active Family Association. I will be sending out a new address list of current members the first part of May. In it I will include a short list of by-law change suggestions. We need a lot of member at the reunion to vote on these and the new officers. We will also decide on the place for the 2004 Reunion. For you new members, we will have the 2002 Reunion in California, and Wil Frye has offered to host it and be the chairman. We need to pick the place for the 2004 Reunion. This gives us more time to get a reunion chairman and get early planning started. If anyone has suggestions of where to have it or would like to volunteer please feel free to come and make a motion at the meeting.

Since I am an Ewalt descendant I am planning on staying a few days after the reunion is over so I can go to Bedford County and look up some of the Ewalt history. I have never been there so this is going to be thrilling for me. I know we have a lot of new members that are on the Ewalt line as well. If you would like to get in touch with me maybe we could plan something together for the last week of June.

Looking forward to seeing all of you who can come.

*Lynn*