

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS -

Charles Althoff	Vicky Oliver
Mrs. Charles Althoff	Jeanne K. Pearson
Fredrica B. Baer	Miriam H. Phillips
John W. Bateman	Marianna F. Price
C. Richard Beam	Mary Cecil Repass
Alice E. Brown	Mary S. Riesner
Joan A. Carter	Lucille Rucille
Patricia A. Cramer	Leslie Robinson
Dudley H. Dohner	John F. Schnebly
Katherine Eltermann	Janice Seabolt
Helen B. Emanuel	David Showalter
William B. Fetters	Jeanne Showalter
John A. Frank, III	Cleta W. Smith
Jean Hahn	Robert Sommerwerck
Charlotte Hasslinger	Rudolph Sommerwerck
Harry Hasslinger	Elaine W. Spong
Gary T. Hawbaker	Mae E. Sturgis
Frankie Hull	Martha Jean Swann
Robert L. Hull	D. Daniel Swope
Elgin P. Kintner	Mrs. Daniel Swope
Mathias H. Kruelle	Dolores Venker
Raymond A. Lang	James Venker
Ruby Land	Nellie R. Walter
Howard G. Lanham	Roy H. Wampler
David A. Loizeaux	Melvin J. Warther
Phyllis Lott	Nora J. Wible
Sharon Martin	Robert Windemuth

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA RESEARCH

Hampshire County, being the oldest county in West Virginia, was formed from a part of Frederick County, VA in pursuance of an Article passed by the Virginia General Assembly on December 13, 1753. Originally, it included that which is now Hardy, Mineral and Grant Counties and parts of Morgan and Pendleton. It has contained its present boundaries since 1866, when Mineral County was erected. It is in the northern part of the Shenandoah Valley, west of the Blue Ridge, in what is known as the Northern Neck.

It is most unfortunate, for a county which was the source of much migration to many of the frontier areas, that the county records are incomplete. During the Civil War, the courthouse was used as a stable by the Northern Troops. The Deed, Will

and Estate Settlement Books were spirited away during the early part of the war to Winchester, then to Front Royal, later to Luray, all in Virginia and finally, to North Carolina where they remained until the war was over. Some of the earliest records were never in Romney, but kept in a private office of Lord Fairfax and lost beyond recovery. An article on page 49 of the December, 1927 issue of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly entitled, NOTES ON THE COUNTY RECORDS OF HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, by Joseph M. Kellogg gives an excellent review of the records that are available. Generally, Deed Books are available from 1757; Minutes of the Court beginning in 1788; Surveys from 1788 and Will Books beginning with Book 2, dating from 1780. Will Books, 1, 3, 4 and 6 are missing. There is an excellent book available, which contains information from Deed Books to 1800, Will Books to 1860 and Marriage Records 1824-1828, in addition to census information. The book is EARLY RECORDS HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, VIRGINIA, NOW WEST VIRGINIA, 1782-1860, by Clara McCormack Sage and Laura Sage Jones, Delvan, Wisconsin, 1939; available in most large libraries in Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia and from The Virginia Book Company, Berryville, Virginia 22611.

The Hampshire County Public Library, Romney, West Virginia 26757 has an extensive genealogical collection pertaining to West Virginia, but more especially to Hampshire County. Miss Mary Pugh, a MAGS member, is the volunteer curator of the genealogical collection. She maintains an index file of a great number of people throughout the country, who have roots in Hampshire County. She welcomes inquiries from anyone who desires general genealogical information regarding their ancestors or the library's holdings. Mrs. Nancy C. Feller, the County Clerk of Hampshire County, Romney, is most accommodating in supplying copies of documents. Her office does not answer queries, but will search for a document (if time permits) providing sufficient information is given.

"Hampshire County Research"

as printed in Kurier-Der Mid-Atlantic Germanic Soc.

Code: AMBR, Vol. 2, No. 2, Mo. Nov, Year 1983

ordered from PERSI, Allen County Public Library, P.O. Box 2276, Fort Wayne, IN 46801

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, WV (continued) -

In either case, always send an SASE with your query. One may visit the library or courthouse during working hours; always expecting helpful assistance.

For those who may desire some excellent maps of the county, they are available through the West Virginia Department of Highways, Advanced Planning Division, 1900 Washington Street, East, Charleston, WV 25305; request a price list for the General Highway County Maps. The maps contain many geographical features and are multi-colored, quite reasonable and most helpful. Speaking of maps, should one be interested in knowing the exact location of any tract of land which an ancestor was granted from either Lord Fairfax or the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is an excellent private source available. One must know to whom the land was granted, if it was purchased from another by your ancestor. Knowing this, Mr. Galtjo Geertsema, 515 West John Street, Martinsburg, WV 25401, a surveyor, will upon request and a small fee, send a copy of a USCGS map, usually 1:24000, showing the geometrical layout of the tract of land. Mr. Geertsema's files contain information covering the Northern Neck of Virginia, west of the Blue Ridge, including most of Frederick County, VA as well as, Hampshire, Morgan, Berkeley and Jefferson Counties, WV.

There is a monthly newspaper in Hampshire County which began publication in 1982. They devote space in each issue to the genealogical history of the county, usually a family history. The column is edited by Dr. Wilmer L. Kerns, Ph.D., who also conducts a query column on genealogy. He will print queries as space permits. Please enclose an SASE. To date, the following families have had their history featured: Miller, Hott, Hickle, Kern, Alkire, Streit, Whitacre, Good, Slane, Ellis Pugh, LaFollette, Hickle and McKee - (through Oct. 1983 issue). Those interested in the newspaper may write

the Editor, West Virginia Advocate, Box 171, Capon Bridge, WV 26711.

There are several books which are devoted to Hampshire County history and genealogy:

1. HISTORY OF HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, by Hu Maxwell and H. L. Swisher, 1879, reprinted with index 1972 by McClain Printing Company, Parsons, WV 26287 - and still available;
2. SHENANDOAH VALLEY PIONEER AND THEIR DESCENDANTS: A HISTORY OF FREDERICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA FROM ITS FORMATION IN 1738 TO 1908, by Thomas K. Cartmell, 1909, reprinted with index 1963 in two volumes. Available from the Virginia Book Company;
3. CAPON VALLEY, ITS PIONEERS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS, 1698-1940, Volume I and II, by Maud Pugh, 1948, reprinted in one volume with indices 1982 by William E. Lynch, Jr., 1433 Heather Lane, West Chester, PA 19380 and still available. The two volumes deal with family genealogy;
4. HISTORIC HAMPSHIRE: A SYMPOSIUM OF HAMPSHIRE COUNTY AND ITS PEOPLE, PAST AND PRESENT, edited by Selden W. Brannon, 1976 and available from the McClain Printing Company;
5. EARLIEST SETTLERS, WEST FREDERICK-EASTERN HAMPSHIRE COUNTIES IN VIRGINIA by Grace Kelso Garner, 1978, W457 Shoshone Place, Spokane, WA 99203;
6. EARLY MARRIAGES, WESTERN FREDERICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA-EASTERN HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, 1975, by GKG and Ralph L. Triplett;
7. EARLY BIRTHS-----, 1976, by GKG.

Ralph L. Triplett, Route One, Box 43, Gore, VA 22637 has published a number of monographs or books of cemetery recordings for cemeteries throughout Frederick County, Virginia and Hampshire County, West Virginia. His work is most accurate and one would be well

served to peruse the volumes. One Monograph of particular value is HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA CEMETERY RECORDS, compiled by Mary K. Ashbrook, Genealogical Records Chairman, Oklahoma City DAR Chapter, 1954-55. This monograph concerns only veterans of wars starting with the Revolutionary War. It covers most all of the county's cemeteries, both small and large, many of which are small family plots. The two copies of which I have knowledge repose in the County Clerk's Office in Romney and in the Hampshire County Public Library.

Other books which are of value with respect to family genealogy in the county are:

1. GUNSMITHS OF PENN-MAR-VA, 1790-1840, by William S. Bowers, 1979 and still available. Has a chapter on counties of Frederick, Berkeley, Shenandoah and Hampshire. It is available from the Virginia Book Company;
2. SHANHOLTZER HISTORY AND ALLIED FAMILY ROOTS, by Dr. Wilmer L. Kerns, 1980. It is available from the McClain Printing Company;
3. SIMS INDEX OF LAND GRANTS IN WEST VIRGINIA, privately printed. Available in the Hampshire County Courthouse, Clerk's Office;
4. HAMPSHIRE COUNTY CENSUS, 1782-1850, by Michael, 1976. Copies available from the Capon Bridge Public Library, Capon Bridge, WV 26711.

There are, of course, many other books and publications which contain information on Hampshire County, but are too numerous to mention. One may obtain a bibliography of pertinent publications by writing the West Virginia University Press, Morgantown WV 26505 and requesting, WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY-A BIBLIOGRAPHY AND GUIDE TO RESEARCH, by Harold M. Forbes, 1981. Please send an SASE with inquiry to obtain cost of publication. Most large libraries in the tri-state area have these books and publications. Two, in particular, are the George Peabody

Library, One East Mount Vernon Place, Baltimore, MD 21202 and the Hampshire County Public Library.

* F-L-A-S-H ! ! ! !

* The bad news is that we don't have a query column this time, because we received so few queries. C'mon out there in MAGS-land, send in those queries. You never know who might read your query and discover he or she is a cousin. The good news is that we have a new Queries Editor, Elsie Lewis Smartwood, who is just dying to receive those queries. So let's all make Elsie feel at home and start sending her those little genealogical gems! Send your queries to Elsie Lewis Smartwood, 9421 Warfield Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20879..

BOOK REVIEW EDITOR NEEDED -

MAGS is looking for a book review editor to contribute at least one review in every issue of Der Kurier. Anyone who is interested, please contact: Deborah Showalter, Editor, 9753 Good Luck Road., #12, Seabrook, MD 20706.

ARTICLES - - - WE NEED ARTICLES -

Der Kurier is desperately in need of articles and fillers for each issue. Anyone who has any information to share, please type it up and send it to the editor. If you're shy about your literary talents, don't worry --- that's what the editor's here for! We want to hear from all parts of the country, because that's what MAGS is all about -- sharing information. So let's get with it out there in MAGS-land and contribute your share. Send your articles and fillers to: Deborah Showalter, Editor, 9753 Good Luck Road, #12, Seabrook, MD 20706. Next deadline is February 1, 1984.

*****we repeat, next deadline is
FEBRUARY 1, 1984!!!!!!