

# "The Deems Connection"

July 30, 1995 4th Edition

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN:

Pack up that old picnic basket and load the kids in the car and head for Deems' Park. It's time for an old-fashioned clan-gathering and some good old fun time, getting reacquainted and walking down memory lane together.

I tried to use some pictures and the program from the 1939 dedication of "Old " Marks monument at the old burial plot but my copier wouldn't pick up the details of the pictures so instead you have another invitation to this years reunion.

I'll have those pictures at the reunion and you can see for yourself why I couldn't find that monument several years ago. I rode up and down the road from Richeyville to Deems Park several times looking for that open field on top of that sunny hill, where the monument was dedicated.

I finally gave up and went down to Lester and Georgia Carsons and ask for help. Don't ask me why I expected it to look the same after so many years. Guess I was just lookin' the other way when those years flew past.

Why is it, the older you get, the faster the years go, when we slow down?

Anyway, on the dedication pictures there are cars parked up behind the monument. I guess at one time a long time ago there may have been a road there. I've often wondered what it looked like when Mark and his family lived there. Maybe then the hill was covered with trees too just like today.

Now that fifty-six years have passed since the dedication I guess it is almost impossible to get up through the underbrush. I know, last year when Grace McSparron was here, we couldn't get close enough for her to get a picture of the monument.

Among my pictures and newspaper clippings I was going through to start this issue of the newsletter I found a clipping describing the reunion in 1935. It said that was the first reunion but I can remember going to an annual picnic there when we were young enough to fall in the creek and skin our knees falling off the Maypole Type swings that we used to have to hang onto.

Those were the funtimes, maybe the picnic hadn't really been organized as a reunion but we were surely there enjoying ourselves.

The clipping identified Mr. Iiams as president, Evelyn Snyder, secretary Melvern Iiams as treasurer. Mrs. Clark from New York attended and several letters were received from folks that couldn't attend. Among them Judge J.B. Deems from Poplar Bluff Pueblo, Missouri, Major Irving Deems from Colorado, Mrs. David Rhodes from Pittsburgh, Mrs. Cornelia Fox, Chula, Missouri and Mrs. Helen Johns of The Dales, Oregon.

I can place most of them on my charts but Judge J.B. Deems is a mystery. I have a county history of him and believe the B. stands for Bruce. Two different Deems married into the Bruce family. Can you help me with this one?

1786

1995

**DEEMS REUNION**  
DEEMS PARK  
West Pike Run Township  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1995  
BASKET PICNIC - 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
~ PLEASE BRING ITEMS FOR FLEA MARKET ~

**TABLE COMMITTEE**

Dolores Sprowls & Cora Sprowls

**GAMES**

Mr. & Mrs. Gene Deems  
Washington, PA 15301

President - Edie Sosnak, 1024 Scenic Drive, Coal Center, PA 15423  
Vice President - Gene Deems, 1100 N. Franklin St., Washington, PA 15301  
Treasurer - Dolores Sprowls, 800 Bentleyville Road, Charleroi, PA 15022  
Secretary - Marie Sprowls, 355 S. California Drive, Coal Center, PA 15423



Several years ago I wrote the following as a memorial for Mark for the Washington County Gen. Society. I'm going to include it here for you. References are from the Pa. Archives in Harrisburg.

"MARK'S FINAL RESTING PLACE"

When Captain White's Melitiamen returned to their homes with their discharges in 1782 after protecting the surrounding countryside. Mark Deam was among them. (Spelling on his land warrant) He probably returned to a log cabin on Pike Run, Fallowfield Township in Washington County, Pennsylvania.

His wife, Elizabeth and at least some of his children welcomed him home. We assume they were already living on the land he later bought.

Mark was a private in Captain White's company so he did not receive free land after the war as some of the officers did. He filed a warrant for 400 acres of land on March 1, 1782. A notation on the warrant states the property had "improvements in 1782 so it is hard to say when he picked that particular spot to call, "Home".

When the final survey of 341½ acres was signed by Thomas Mifflin, Pa. Governor, in October of 1791 Mark and his wife had paid four pounds, three shillings and four pence in gold, silver, paper money or certificates.

"Deam's Dependence" finally legally belonged to Mark and Elizabeth and the small children that shared their happiness.

George, the oldest, born in 1774, and during the following years, John, Adam, Mark Jr., Jacob, Catherine and Mary arrived. Other children may have been born but these are the ones that survived Mark and Elizabeth.

According to the land survey, their neighbors were: Joh Diem, Michael Riggle, Wilhelm Claus, Isaac Pedan, Robert Reilly, John Reily and John Flemming.

As time went by a plot of ground was set aside as the family burial ground. How far away from the original home is not known. But on a lonely forgotten hillside a monument now stands in Marks honor.

A smaller marker, placed by the D.A.R. sits close by.

Both dedicated in 1939 during the Deems Reunion. There are only small field stones left on the site that might have marked various graves at one time but no record has been found of who else may be buried there beside Mark and Elizabeth. It is surmised eight graves were there by the placement of the field stones.

A lonely reminder of generations gone by...

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Beside the other research we have done for records etc. to try and piece the past records together I have been fortunate to receive help from a box Georgia shared with me of Colorado family records and now in the past month a Lee Edward, president of Ventura Gen. Society in California has sent me all of the Deems research Grace McSparron had done on the Deems family.

In all of the items in those boxes we have been able to find letters and pictures that bring us closer together with the everyday lives of our ancestors.

In the earlier box from Georgia there was a letter from the Mrs. Clark that attended the 1935 reunion. She wrote to Irving Deems in Colorado and reported on the reunion, some of her remarks weren't very complimentary but she did report on the grand tour that Wilbur Deems had given her of the cemetery and surrounding property.

She mentioned that Wilbur told her of a spring not too far from the cemetery that had been the water supply for Marks cabin that was no longer evident so I'm wondering if maybe the cabin was built down the hill from the burial ground.

In a letter in the box from Grace McSparrons research Theresa Hall had written to Grace and told her she was sending her inquiry to me and she told Grace of two log cabins that had been on the Deems property, one partially in the park area and one across the road. Georgia had told me before of one down in the meadow in front of her home and one up in back of the her home.

Of course, none of these have been around for years and years but some time I wish I knew just who lived there and when.



I have received some letters about the last newsletter and an inquiry about the date 1761 for Adam Deems that settled in West Virginia. I should have given the reference I had to prove that date.

You know of course, Adam was "old " Marks brother, son of Johan and Anna Christina. For years it had been said he was born in 1757 in Hagerstown. This was always a problem to accept after we found births in Berks County for Mark in 1754, John. Nicholas in 1756 and Maria Margaret in 1759. Then I received a column written by Marge Meyes a descendent of Adam, before marriage she was Marjorie Fought. She stated Adam migrated to Harrison County, Va. (now W.Va.) about 1796. He was born the 10 of January, 1761 at Hagerstown, Md. She writes of his family, his Rev. War records and where he and his wife, Catherine lived while raising their children. She says Adam died on 7 September, 1856, probably at the home of his daughter, Mary Foutty. At the October 1856 term of Wirt County court, Willam D. Timms was appointed administrator of his estate. He and his wife are buried at Freeport on the old Deem homestead. They had eleven children. So this is where I found the 1761 birthdate and it really makes more sense than 1757. We did not know how soon Johan and Anna Christina went to Maryland after Maria Margaret was born in Berks County in 1759 but did know they were there.

I also received a letter asking for a family chart of some sort so you might follow the Deems I mention in this newsletter. I know it is confusing when so many of the first names are the same.

That is why I call our Mark born in 1754, "old Mark". Each generation after him has several Mrks in them.

I will enclose a chart for the families of the first <sup>THREE</sup> ~~four~~ generations in this newsletter if I can get it all on one page so you can follow it.

You will find the empty spaces I have and hopefully someone might be able to help fill them. I'm always interested in any new leads on Lewis' family, you will see that is the biggest empty spot I have. The information on Jacob and Adam of West Virginia I received from Mary Ann Bowry and Estelle Pomroy of West Virginia. The family of Johan Nicholas I received from Pat Frappier of Ohio. Many other facts of Marks family and others I have received over the years from Betty Deem, Pat Lester and many of the others I correspond with. Grace McSparron contributed so much on Mark and Ann Rileys line but I need information on the remaining children of Mark and Ann. Grace had information of John R. He was not the oldest son of Mark and Ann.

In the last month I have received two letters with information concerning Lewis, old Marks brother. Elizabeth Finney tells me a long time ago she found a notation about a Lewis Deem in Vol. 33 Nat. Gen. Soc. Quarterly of March 1945, No.1.

It read, page 119 - Blair Family- In 1851 Smith Twp. Whitley Co.

Indiana - Guardian of my children - Lewis Deem. - *It might be a*

Can anyone check this with a followup in Indiana?

*descendent of Lewis?*

I also received a wonderful three page letter from Mrs. R.L. Triptow



Of Salt lake City, Utah with much information in it. She has been helping Nancy Veron and others on Deems research for years. Nancy had sent her my newsletter. She offered help and I certainly will keep in touch with her. She feels as I do Nancy may be descended from Lewis. Some of her information i was not aware of so want to confirm it with her before I print it here.

I mentioned in an other newsletter Nancy Verons John Deem was born in 1816 in Fayette County so I believe he was Lewis' grandson. In the Census records of Fayette county in 1800 and 1810 it is very confusing and hard to understand. We know Johan and his son Lewis both died about 1802 so especially the 1810 census are probably Lewis' family.

Mrs. Triptow sent references about Lewis Deems wife Rosanna paying off debts to George Craft in 1793 and three times in 1794. I had never seen this before. Lewis would still be living then. A Fayette County history states Lewis built his log cabin on land later belonging to the Crafts. Was Rosanna a Craft before marriage or did a daughter marry a Craft?

Two of the Deems in Washington County later married into the Craft/Croft family. Each new bit of information creates more questions. I need to spend more time with Mrs. Triptows letter and study it more before forming any firm conclusions. She sent so much good information I'm really happy she shared with me.

In the last newsletter I said I would cover the 1790 census in this one. Before I do I want to remind you that at the same time old Mark was recording his land and having it surveyed Lewis was doing the same in Fayette County. I have never gone to the Pa. Archives and bought his survey etc. but a Fayette County map I have records it as "Reward" , about the same acreage as Mrks and surveyed in 1786.

His neighbors were John Reily, Charles Porter, George Smith, Absalom Little, Jehu Conwell, Roger Roberts, Thomas Roberts, George Gusnard and Henry Swindler.

Odd, that no land was shown for Johan that supposedly lived in Fayette County with him. Later Lewis did sell to Johan, his father some acreage from the Surveyed "Reward" land for a few shillings so I guess that may have been a family agreement when they went west from Maryland. Odd too, that on Marks survey for Deems Dependence there was a John Deems land to the north of his land. I don't believe his sons were old enough in 1786 to own land maybe it was a tract of land Johan Nicholas had acquired before moving to Kentucky and Ohio.

Well, I will leave you to ponder these facts. Let me know if you know the answers.

Now we will move on to the 1790 census. This was the first official US Census although there are many earlier records including tax records, voting records in the Revoluniary and Colonial records of Maryland, and church records of births, deaths and marriages.



From the Bibliographic Ref: Heads of Family at 1st Census of US taken 1790: Pennsylvania, Gen. Publ. Co. Baltimore, 1965. (In NA microfilm reading room)

Maryland 1790 - Balt. Co.

1. Deams, John pg. 29

2. Deems, Frederick, pg. 34

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Pa.

Deems, Adam pg. 91- 1 free white male 16 & over 1 free white male u/ 16 Dauphin Co.

2 free white females including heads of household  
Deems, Adam " 164 1 free Wh. male 16 & over, 3 m's u/ 16-6 females Montgomery Co.

✓ Deem, Adam pg. 255 1 free Wh. Male 16 & over- 4 m's u 16- 2 females Washington Co.

✓ Deem, Mark pg. 255 1 free Wh. Male 16 & over 4 m's u- 16 2 females Washington Co.

✓ Deems, Jacob pg. 107 1 free Wh. Male 16 & over, 1 male u/16 2 females Fayette Co.

✓ Deems, John pg. 107 1 free Wh. Male 16 & over and 2 females Fayette Co.

✓ Deems, Lewis pg. 107 3 free Wh. males o. 16-2 males u/ 16 2 females Fayette Co.

Deen, Benjamin pg. 120 2 M's o /16 2 females Franklin Co.

Diehm, Peter pg. 40 1 male o/ 16-2 u / 16 2 females Berks Co. Reading B.

Diem, Chris pg 40 1 male o/ 16 1 m/16 6 females Berks Co. Reading B

Diem, William pg. 40 1 m/16 2 m's u/ 16 2 females Berks Co. Reading B.

Dean, Phillip pg. 137 6 males over 16-4 females Lanc. Co. Lanc. Boro

From the census from Washington County and Fayette you can see Jacob and Adam were still in Pennsylvania.

Pat Frappier of Ohio feels that Johan Nicholas was in Campbell Co. Kentucky in 1790.

If this is so then the John in Fayette County above in 1790 would be Johan, his wife, Anna Christina and possibly their daughter Maria Margaret. We have never been able to find any information on Margaret except her birth in 1759 in Berks County.

Assuming this is right and Lewis was living with just his wife, Rosina and their children the census would indicate they had 2 sons over 16, 2 sons under 16 and 1 daughter in 1790. Lewis and his wife would be the others on the list- Lewis as 1 of the males over 16 and Rosina one of the females.

We know Lewis and Rosina had a daughter named Christina born Sept. 25, 1786 and baptised on Oct. 2, 1786, sponsored by Johannes Diehm and Anna Christina.

Their sons, names are a puzzle, although I think they had a Lewis, a George, a John or Abraham and maybe a Phillip.

Mary Ann Bowry and I have wondered for years if the Phillip she has born in Bedford may really belong to Lewis since he was listed as living in Bedford in 1773.

As you can tell by the typing and mistakes they are both getting out of hand so I believe this time I will just make up the sixth page of this newsletter as a family chart instead of the query section.

I have tried to answer some of the queries already and I am running out of space and time.

I want to get these newsletters in the mail so I can spend next week getting ready for the reunion. Keep those queries and letters coming. The next time I will print them all...

*Sincerely*  
*Wm. Edward D. Smith*



Germany on "Janet" - 1751      Johan Dietrich & Anna Christina      in 1797 Will.  
d. 1802

All information I have on  
children of Lewis & Rosina is in the  
newsletter.

Lewis 18. Rosina.	Mark b. 1754 wf Elizabeth 7 children	John. 1756 Nicholas wf. m. m. Diehl 10 children	Adam b. 1761 wf Cath. 10 children	Jacob 1764 wf Eva A. Bay 9 children	Catherine md Wm Claus	Maria Margaret b. 1759	(I dont have any children listed for Cath & Wm Claus)		
				md. 1812 ① Abraham md Jennima Badgely	b. 1790 ② Jacob Jr. md. Marg. Hill ② Eliz. R. Florence	b. 1792 ③ Peter md. Nancy Rollins	b. 1796 ④ Hiram md. Martha Sams	⑤ Elizabeth md. Charles Price	
				⑥ William md Nancy Holden	⑦ Catherine md. Thomas Lowers	b. 1801 ⑧ Juniper md Louisa Thornton	b. 1806 ⑨ Alex W. ② Cath. Deem ② Martha S. Masters	b. 1808 ③	
				① Jacob 1782 md Mary Lazure	② David 1783 md. Catherine Thornton	③ Philip 1785 md Rachel Kidwiler	④ James md Rachel Sargeant	⑤ John Sr md Polly Turvey Sarah E. Flenner	
				⑥ Hannah md Adam Deem II	⑦ Isaac H. md. Nancy L. Enoch.	⑧ Mary md. J Wm. Foutty	⑨ Catherine md. John Foutty	⑩ Margaret md. John B. Lazure	⑪ Adam Jr b. 1803 md. Nancy Murphy
				① Adam 1779 md Jane Campbell	② Christina b. 1781 md Thomas Israel	③ Mary b. 1783 John Chambers	④ Betsy b. 1783 md. Daniel Black	⑤ Barbara md. Wm. Chambers	
				⑥ John H. b. 1782 md Eliz. Darr	⑦ Thomas b. 1796 md Sarah Campbell & Sarah Renor	⑧ Joseph b. 1801 md. Frances Tarr or Darr	⑨ Wilhemina md John Miller	⑩ Margaret md. George Leigey	
	① George b. 1774 md. Elisabeth	② John md. Jane Greene	③ Adam md Sarah Roland	④ Mark md Ann Riley in May	⑤ Jacob md Mary Jennings & Barbara	⑥ Catharina md. Nathaniel William Jones Claus	⑦ Mary md. Samuel Craw		

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