

# Shambaugh Family News - Letter

— EDITORIAL STAFF —

F. A. Leightey - Cleo Shambaugh Gervin - Harry Gleim

New Series No. 24 - A project of the Shambaugh Families Society, March 1951

Mrs Cleo S. Gervin, P. O. Box 1430, Knoxville 1, Tenn.  
Had such a wonderful surprise, when Mr and Mrs R. C. Shambaugh of Ft. Wayne, Ind. gave us a call, they were passing through Pompano Beach and having read in the last N - L that I was here, they decided to contact me. Mr Shambaugh is a very distant cousin of mine, coming down from Christian, George Jr. and George of Bucks Co. We are doubly related, each having a Walter line.  
It wa so good to have them stop to see me and I enjoyed their brief visit.

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Mrs E. L. True, 921 Maple Ave. New Phila. Ohio

We have a new grandson, Douglas Lee, born Jan. 1, 1951 to Edmund and Alice May True McGee. He was the first baby born in the new year in Tuscarawas Co. They now have four A B C's - Alexis, Betty, Claudia and Douglas, but, says Alice, we have no intention of finishing the alphabet.

Lucy Gilmore Gallatin, daughter of the late Joseph Gilmore, returned from touring Florida. She went to Jacksonville and visited a week with our daughter and husband, Mr and Mrs F.O. Butler of 2904 Peach Drive, then went on to Miami, Tampa and St. Petersburg too.

Mr and Mrs Edson Creal and son Charles with his wife and baby left March 18, for a three weeks trip to Miami, Fla.

The News - Letters surely are very interesting.

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Mrs Ulla Kirkland, R 6, Box K 259, Jacksonville, Fla.

Our father, Thomas Newton Shambaugh of 40 N. W. 77th. st. Miami, Fla. passed away Sept. 16, 1950. He went in his sleep while taking an afternoon nap. He would have been 83 years old had he lived until Nov. 2, 1950. Surviving, is a sister Mrs Mattie Shambaugh Grapes and four children - Cloy D., Wichita, Kan. Ulla Kirkland, Jacksonville, Fla. June Harvey, Miami, Fla. Iris Shambaugh, New York City.

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A.M. Shambaugh, 2128 Halleck Ave. S. W., Seattle 6, Wash.

There are always items of interest in the N - L. We have had one of the mildest winters this year, more snow this month than in the entire winter. Again the Nation suffers under the flasco of "Controlled Economy", What a pity.

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Miss Mamie Kline, 303 Fairmont Ave, Winchester, Va.

I enjoy reading the N - L very much and would not want to miss a copy. We enjoyed seeing Cleo Gervin and Mary Alice Dantzler so very much.

Here is a clipping of Corporal Robert Shambaugh who was killed in action Sept. 22, 1950 in the Battle for Seoul, Korea. He was the son of Mr and Mrs A. J. Shambaugh of Sunnyside, Va. ( which is just out of Winchester about a half mile ) and was born April 20, 1929.

He enlisted in the U. S. Army for Three years in 1948, and after his training in Ft. Bragg, N. C., was sent to Japan for Occupation Duty and later transferred to the Seventh Infantry Division at Camp Haugen, then later to Mt. Fuji where he assisted in training a division of South Koreans. The Seventh Division made the initial amphibious assault on Inchon. His unit captured the Kimpo Airport, but he lost his life in the Battle for Seoul.

Besides his parents he is survived by his grandparents, Mr and Mrs C. W. Shambaugh of Unger, N. Va. and Mr and Mrs J. E. McDonald of Stotlers Cross Roads, W. Va.

Please send a News - Letter to Mrs Wade Moss, Elk Ridge, Md. Mrs Moss was Virginia Peery, a descendent of Ann Shambaugh.

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Arthur and Orel Trautwein of Upper Sandusky, O. recently sold out, "lock, stock and barrel" and having purchased a trailer, are now on their way south, present destin-

ation, Statesboro, Ga. further destination unknown. Anyway, where ever they go, we shall miss them back here in Upper, and we wish them Happy landings.

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## LOG OF SEPTEMBER TRIP -- SOME FAMILY HISTORY -- A BIT OF RESEARCH REPORTED

By Cleo Shambaugh Gervin

It seems to me that a log of our trip after the reunion last Fall may be the best way for me to present this article. Little new history was gained, but the renewal of friendships made several years ago and getting acquainted with many new people made our trip very delightful and worth while and tended, I believe, to draw us all more closely together. We visited points of family historical interest, several that I had not seen before and almost all of them new to my brother and the others of our party.

As we started Eastward we stopped for a brief call on the Stanley Morrisons at East Springfield, Ohio, where we were received graciously and enjoyed our few minutes visit very much. Mrs Morrison is quite interested in genealogical research and has recently sent in some interesting data. I'm sorry that I have no proof that her Ludwick Wertenburg ( N-L No. 22 page two) may have been the Ludwig Wirt, who was of her line, but it is good logic and altogether possible that the name of Wertenburg may have been shortened to Wirt. There are many instances of such changes in the German names.

Then on to Stubenville, where we spent an hour or thereabouts with a cousin on mama's side of the family. Crossing over the Ohio River into Pennsylvania we proceeded to the Pennsylvania Turnpike, which we traveled to Carlisle, stopping off at Breezewood to spend the night in a lovely large motel there, then continuing on the Turnpike the next morning. The road is most beautiful and knowing that a distant cousin, Tom Shambach, who lives at Everett was responsible for much of the landscaping of the road made us enjoy it all the more. You may remember that Tom Shambach was a member of the Snyder County branch, who are the only ones I know of who have retained the old spelling. Later we found that a son of Tom's was connected with the motel where we stayed and we were indeed sorry that we had not known it while there. We did so much want to stop to see the Tom Shambachs, but it was getting late and we were anxious to find a place to spend the night so had to pass up Everett. Tom is a brother of Jesse Y. of Harrisburg and of John E. of Hiram College, Ohio. We had a few minutes visit with Jesse Y. Shambach at his office in the educational building at the capitol the next morning.

There were so many places of interest and people whom we would like to have contacted on our route, but we had so little time and would have had to do quite a bit of searching to have located persons and places. I do hope that some time I will get to brouse around some more and really have time to get at some of the records in that section between Harrisburg and westward beyond Carlisle and in the Gettysberg section. I believe I will find a tie-up there with some of the other clans and my Philip and

perhaps his brother Ludwig for I feel sure my Philip (Bucks Co. ) was in that section between his residence in Virginia and perhaps going to Ohio.

We proceeded directly from Harrisburg, where we enjoyed going thru the capital and other places of interest, up the beautiful Susquehanna River to Selinsgrove, Pa. There we visited the Ralph Rohlands, double cousins, the distant, being related thru Shambach, Walter and Bowersox. We called on other acquaintances, among them Dr. Chas. A. Fisher, the noted historian from whom I have learned much of our families in the middle section of Pennsylvania. While at Dr. Fisher's I acquired another of his books " Early Wills and Administrations of Northumberland County." The County of Northumberland was at one time the largest county in Pennsylvania. Union County ( later divided into Union and Snyder) was one of the counties, which was originally Northumberland. We enjoyed our visit with the Rohland's very much, and spent the night in a new motel in Selinsgrove.

The next day we visited in the Middleburg section, spending most of the day there in the company of our beloved distant cousin, Miss Victoria Shambach and her mother, also a brief call on Miss Clara Winey, of the Middleburg Post, and her sister at their home. It seemed so good to see them all again. We spent some time at the graves of Christian Shambach and others of the Shambach and allied families. As yet we do not know where our ancestor George Jr. and his wife are buried, but we do know that they died in what was then Union County, now Snyder County. We saw many of the old Shambach family homesites.

Leaving late that afternoon we travelled across the Susquehanna River again and over the ridges to Montgomery County, then to Bucks County, spending the night at Doylestown, County seat of Bucks county. The next day being Sunday we decided to find our way to the Old Goshenpoppen Church, which many of our family attended before 1790, several were baptised there and there were other records of importance. These we did not see, but I have had copies of the records for years. Of course the present very lovely church is not the original, two more earlier churches have been on the same site as the present, possibly one to the rear.

It was raining when we finally arrived at the church, but a more beautiful church and setting I have never seen. We parked across the road from the church in a parking area and sat there entranced for a few seconds by the beauty of the church and its surroundings. There were lovely old trees around the church and to the left as we were facing it was a well kept large cemetery. How I did long to get those old records and to go thru the graveyard to see if I could find any of the old names, but we did not get to do that. We attended the services, which were very beautiful and I felt little chills up and down my spine to think that we were worshipping on ground that had been hallowed by our ancestors.

As we were standing by our car near the sheds, which were very old and had probably housed many a horse and buggy in the old days, I happened to see above one of the openings in an old carriage shed the name of "Jacob Groff." The lettering was quite old, but very legible and had been lettered perfectly in oldtype print. Did it thrill me for it had just been recently that I had learned that there was a Jacob Groff who lived in that section and to find that a Jacob Groff had attended the same church where my George Shambach and family had attended was a thrill such as one does not often get -- you wonder why? Just this; way back yonder a George Shambach had married Ursula Groff, a daughter of Jacob Groff!!! Could this have possibly been his stall-- no surely not, but it had to be some of his descendants for the Jacob Groffs lived only a few miles away thruout most of the elders lifetime.

Now why do I feel so thrilled over the above connection -- Jacob Groff at old Goshenhoppen Church, where my ancestors attended? Perhaps his daughter Ursula was the wife of my George Shambach! That I have never been able to connect for; until recently I had record only of a Jacob Groff having lived in Lancaster County and he was of the line of our great historian, the late Lois Shambaugh Castleberry! Could this possibly be the link that would tie Lois' line to ours. I have felt that there might possibly have been another generation between my Georges, or perhaps he has been married twice, but tho I have tried to prove or disprove the idea, that I have not been able to do. Could that sign over the entrance be the beginning of my unearthing something of vital interest to connect our lines?

Let me give you here the information I referred to above, which I recently ran across in the Lawson McGee Library in Knoxville, Tenn. It was in a "History of Bucks County" page 530; "Groffs (Jacob) from Germany. Settled in Rockhill and there spent their lives. Sellersville, (probably just a few miles from where my George Shambach lived) is built on a portion of his (Jacobs) tract. Several hundred acres. Came from Germany between 1740 - 1750. There were three brothers and a sister. Jacob, engaged to a young girl who came over on the ship. In 1755 a tract of sixty-six and 1/2 acres was surveyed to Samuel Iden on the "Tohickon" by virtue of a warrant." We have a wonderful genealogical department at our library and I have gotten much of value there, but nothing that was more startling than above. I'm sorry I did not find it until after Lois' death for she would have been interested in the above record.

The Old Goshenhoppen Church will soon celebrate its 225 anniversary. It is in a splendid state of repair, showing that it is still held high in importance in its circuit. It was long ago the charge of the eminent Lutheran divine, the Rev. Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg and it was in the Great Swamp Circuit and remains an active and powerful church. It was good to be able to worship there.

Leaving the church we went to Norristown, had lunch and then drove to Valley Forge and other places of historical interest. Then it was time for us to make a trip to the Falckner Swamp Church, where many of the Shambachs had attended, possibly before Goshenhoppen, for Falckner Swamp Church was that day celebrating its 250th anniversary! The program was to be at three o'clock and so we were hurrying to get there, being a bit past three when we arrived.

There were hundreds of cars, or so I believe, parked as far as we could see ahead for blocks on both sides of the road and in the fields and driveways of the homes. We were surprised to see so large a church. It was of red brick and was set in a grove of many lovely large trees, but unlike the level large grounds of the Goshenhoppen Church, this lot was elevated considerably from the street or roadway. It was at least two stories tall. We decided tho we were a little late, to try to slip in quietly and perhaps we would not be noticed. Just my brother and I went into the church. It was as quiet as the tomb. In the vestibule on the ground floor could be seen men's coats, hats, umbrellas and rainshoes. We heard no voices! we tiptoed upstairs to the chapel or auditorium, expecting every moment to hear the minister, but no sound came!

When we reached the chapel we found all the pews vacant, not a soul was to be seen. but there were woman's and children's hats, coats and some purses lying in the pews! I felt as tho I might have been transplanted to a building where some terrible catastrophe had taken place -- I thought of Pompei after the eruption of Vesuvius, when later it was excavated and people were shown just as they were at the time the lava covered their homes, but in this particular place there were no people. It was a spooky feeling and we couldn't imagine what had happened!

We went out into the church yard and tho it was raining slightly we started walking around in the very large graveyard, which was on each side of the church and extended back for a long ways. We had just gotten into the graveyard when I thought I heard voices somewhere away across from the church to the back and side. We listened and decided they must be continuing the services in a large red barn across the field. We read some of the tombstones and saw some names that had inter-married into the Shambach family, but we found no Shambachs. In the short time we allowed ourselves to walk around in the rain. *found Hendricks!*

Then we got into the car and decided to drive over as close as we could to the old barn, thinking we might be able to at least get close enough to hear some of the service, but when we had driven about two blocks we saw signs to turn and soon came upon a huge tent with surely about three hundred cars surrounding it in the field. That was where the anniversary services were really being held! We parked, but felt it too late by that time to go in, but how I do wish we had gone in and been able to stay until the services were over and that we could have gone thru the graveyard and seen the old records, but again time was too short and the weather too inclement.

We spent another night in Doylestown and the next day called on distant cousins on our mother's side, the Frank Swains of Fonthill, <sup>at Doylestown</sup> Most of the day was spent in seeing our great great great grandfather George Shambach farm, other family places on both mother's and father's side, the Bucks County Historical Museum and places of historical interest, We saw the Whitemarsh Church and graveyard where our great, great, great, great grandfather and grandmother Roxworth (mother's side) are supposed to be buried, but there seems no way to be sure, and graves of others at the Montgomery Baptist Church. Then home thru Washington D. C. et cetera, stopping for brief calls in Virginia on relatives and friends -- home.

Dollars for the N - I -- Mrs Ulla Kirkland 1.-- Miss Mamie Kline 1.--  
A. M. Shambaugh 2.-- Audena Richlefs 1.-- Catherine D. Switzer 2.--

Next month we will start the travel log of Cleo's second trip into Virginia.