

SOMERSET & FAYETTE COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA FAMILIES - April, 2006.

Following is a list of the CD-ROM Books in our collection of Somerset & Fayette County, PA, Family information.

The list of titles now includes:

1) "A Cramer-King History - 1730-2001" by O.L. Flaningam, R.L. Hartinger, & M.C. Emanuel & many others, [868 pg, Hard Bound, archival paper, 16,000 descendants, both male & female lines of descent from Adam Cramer & Hannah Rambo and Philip & Catherine King, \$80]; Book on CD-ROM with 500+ sources, maps, references & photograph files, etc. - **CD \$20.** [2004] **BOOK CLEARANCE SALE: BOOK + CD \$60**

2) "Early Baptismal Records of the Sanner Ev. Luth. & Ref. Ch. 1782-1850" 150 pages, by Dorothy (Yoder) Coffman. Only 50 original copies printed in 1988. CD-ROM version made with permission of Mrs. Coffman. **CD \$6.** [This is also part of the Cramer-King History CD-ROM above]

3) "Rush & Skinner Family Records - 1600s to 1940s," The collection consists of more than 60 Misc. unpublished documents, and the the following books: **1. "Historical and Genealogical Account of the Rush Family,"** Sylvester R. Rush, 1925, 167 pg.. **2. "The Rush Family of Northwest Jersey,"** Pearl Rush Cressman & Kaye N. Cressman, 1965, 44 pg. **3. "The Rush Family of the Appalachians,"** John L. Rush, 1965, 80 pg. **4. "Supplement to "The Rush Family of the Appalachians,"** John L. Rush, 1966, 30 pg. **5. "Rush and Skinner Families of Turkeyfoot Township, Somerset Co., PA,"** Harry Speer Rush, 1943, 199 pg. **6. "Rush Family of Somerset County, New Jersey: Descendants of Some of Peter, Senior's Children."** Carrie Reeve Gutleber, 1951, 26 pg.. All completely re-transcribed. Computer scanned copies of the originals included. **CD \$20.**

4) "Descendants of Nancy Kerlin & John Lanning -1745-2002." 1998, by Ethel Albin. All originals sold. Information updated to 2002. CD-ROM version by permission of Miss Albin; 130 pg. **CD \$20.**

5) Subject Index to the "Laurel Messenger" Newsletter of the Historical & Genealogical Society of Somerset Co. Compiled by O.L. Flaningam. It indexes the entire 46 year collection [1960 through 2005] **CD \$20.** It contains 10,100 index records in three different sorts of the data. If printed it is about 180 pages long for each of the three versions [1] by Category [200 categories]; 2) by Subject; 3) by Vol, Issue, Page). CD just updated to add Volume 45 (2004) and 1975 names of principals in Wills & Estates. It will be updated in future **After June 1, 2005. Is will be available through Clossen Press [clossonpress.com].**

6) The Second Edition CD-ROM has just been made [Apr. 2006] of Somerset County families. Early Vital Records [Birth, Marriage & Death] CD \$20. This Second Edition consists of 22,797 records in the Births, 8731 records in the Marriage, and 50,264 records in the Deaths databases. In the Births Index, the parents are listed, if they are known. In the Marriages Index, the ministers and witnesses are indexed, where they are known. In the Deaths Index, where possible, the birth date is calculated, and also where possible, women are indexed under both maiden and married surnames. So be sure to check the Deaths Index for Births and women's maiden and married surnames. This Project will continue and more data will be added in the coming years. Purchasers of the First Edition can request **future updates** of this CD-ROM at 1/2 the usual copy Fee [**\$10**].

7) EARLY CHURCH RECORDS OF SOMERSET COUNTY, PA - 1789-1870: 1. Trinity Lutheran Church, Somerset; 2. Reformed Church, Berlin; 3. Gebhart School House; 4 Reformed Church, Salisbury. 1085 Baptisms; 27 Marriages. 70 pages. by Ellen Leaghty Ballas Translated into English from the original German Records. Re-compiled Nov. 1976 by Della Reagan Fischer 1976. This electronic version was re-transcribed by Ora L. Flaningam from a photocopy received March, 2004, kindly supplied by Cynthia Mason of the Meyersdale Public Library, Meyersdale, Somerset Co., PA. Scanned images of the original document included. **CD-ROM \$20**

8) Reformed and Lutheran Church Records of Somerset Co., PA: 1. Stoyestown Reformed; 2. Stoyestown Ev. Lutheran; 3. Freidens Reformed; 4. Glade Reformed & Lutheran; 5. Grace White Oak Lutheran; 6. Mt. Tabor Union (Zimmerman): 1799-1920; 203 pages; 2680 Baptisms. Compiled by Laura Hay Braddock & Charlotte Hay Beard, 1940: Recompiled by Della Reagan Fischer, 1968. Electronic version made 2004 by Ora L. Flaningam. **CD-ROM copy - \$20.**

9) Somerset Co., Pennsylvania: W.P.A. Cemetery Readings: A ReCompilation. A complete reCompilation from the original 1930s & 1940s Works Progress Administration Worksheets. 39,432 Grave Records in a single Data Base Index. Deaths from 1779 to 1940s. Calculated Births from 1700 to 1940s. 900 pages if printed out. Also includes Images of the original 2782 pages W.P.A. Worksheets. Compiled by Ora L. Flaningam. 2006. Distributed by Clossen Press. www.clossonpress.com. CD-ROM.

For more information: Ora L. Flaningam, 10045 Pennsylvania Ave., Bonita Springs, FL 34135
OraFlan@aol.com **Summer Address:** 3227 E. Stewart Rd., Midland, MI 48640

MY PHILOSOPHY

Above is information about my CDs. I have deliberately NOT mentioned cost on ROOTSWEB to avoid offending those who believe that all genealogical data should be free on the internet. I call the cost of my CDs, a "Copy Fee", because I individually copy each CD on request and plow the income back into more research and my costs of getting records to index. My \$20 per CD makes no allowance for the hundreds of hours that I've spent in research, and in the transcription time, and proofreading, etc. I will eventually be making "Update" CDs to the Indexes, and to my "repeat Customers" I'll make copies at 1/2 (\$10) because they are only getting a update to the original CD, even though the update will also contain all the original, plus the new material sorted into the database. This is definitely not a money-making enterprise. My most popular CD has generated well under 50 requests, over a 2 year period. I have donated, and will continue to donate copies to any library in Somerset & Fayette Co. who might wish them. I feel it is a minimal cost to those interested in the families.

Thanks for your encouragement.

Best wishes,
Ora Flaningam

CRAMER - KING FAMILY HISTORY PUBLISHED - SEPTEMBER 2001

This newly published history is a Not-For-Profit, One-Time, Limited Number of Copies printing. It covers the families of Philip King Sr. (abt 1709 - aft 1783) & his wife Catherine (abt 1710 - aft 1752) and of Adam Cramer, Sr. (1745-1819) and his wife Hannah Rambo (1756-1826), and all their known descendants in both the MALE and FEMALE lines to the present (2001). The Cramer surname variations of Cremer & Creamer are also found. The reason for including both the CRAMER and KING families is that they are heavily intermarried in all three centuries covered here. More than one hundred intermarriages are detailed.

The families are first found in eastern Pennsylvania, (Philadelphia, etc), about 1730-40. They later moved to York & Montgomery counties and after the Revolutionary War to Somerset Co., PA. After 1800, some of the families moved into other South-Western Pennsylvania counties, Fayette, Westmoreland, Allegheny, Greene, Washington, etc. The migrations continued into West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois by the time of the Civil War. Since then the family dispersal has continued until there are members in almost every state in the Union.

Because we have followed the Female as well as the male lines, there are hundreds of allied lines with many of the common names of the families of the above counties. Some examples: Ansell, Antill, Bailey, Baker, Beal/Beale, Breese, Brown, Burkholder, Clark, Clinton, Conn, Connelly, Critchfield, Cummings, Cunningham, Danley, Davidson, Davis, Dow, Dull, Dunmyer, Evans, Fagerlind, Ferguson, Firestone, Flowers, Foreman, Fulton, Gallagher, Gove, Gray, Grimm, Grindle, Hager/Hauger, Hall, Harbaugh, Harned, Harris, Hartzog, Harvey, Haven, Henry, Hill, Holland/ Hollanda, Humbert, Hunter, Husband, Imel, Jackson, Johns, Johnson, Jones, Kalp, Keefer, Keeler, Knight, Krager, Landers Lanning, Lepley, Levan, Lint, Long, Lucas, Martin, Mason, Mazie, McIntire, Meyer, Miller, Mitchell, Moore, Morris, Mounts, Myers, Nelson, Newell, Ohler, Paris, Parsons, Patterson, Pettit, Phillippi, Phillips, Pierce, Pletcher, Pritts, Pumphery, Putman, Putnam, Rambo, Rayl, Ream, Redfoot, Reese, Reeves, Reiman, Ridenour/ Ritenour, Roadman, Roberts, Robertson, Robinson, Rugg, Sanner, Selner, Shaffer, Skinner, Smith, Snyder, Solida, Stewart, Strawn, Strickler, Stroud, Taft, Talley, Tannehill, Taylor, Tedrow, Thomas, Thompson, Tissue, Tomasson, Tressler, Trimpey, Truman, Uber, Vance, Vaughn, Waibel, Waldron, Walk, Walter, Walter/ Walters, Weimer, Westergard,, Wheeler, Whipkey, White, Whitney, Wilden, Williams, Wilson, Woods, Wright, Yeskey, Young, Younkin.

Women are indexed under BOTH Maiden and married names. Also, where known, the parents of spouses are included and indexed.

Descendancy charts of the first three generations are given. The book consists of Acknowledgements, Introduction, 12 Chapters (one for each generation), Index. The book is hardbound on acid-free archival paper. There are about 750 pages of text and 200 pages of a names index. There are about 11,600 descendants all connected to Philip & Catherine King and/or Adam & Hannah Cramer.

In order to preserve privacy of living persons, all dates will be omitted on living persons. For those wanting dated material on their OWN living family, we can print personalized pages for them through separate requests. In addition to the usual A Begat B who Begat C, we have attempted to add extensive notes, such as obituaries, war records, westward moves, etc., about the family so as to make it a true family history.

THE AUTHORS:

Ora L. Flaningam, is a retired analytical chemist with a strong interest in history of all kinds. In 1991 he published a well received history of the Flaningam Family (Gloucester County (NJ) Historical Society). This current work is the result of more than 10 years work on his mother's family, with the collaboration of Rosalie L. Hartinger and Mazie Cramer Emanuel.

Rosalie L. Hartinger of the Philip King, Jr. (1748-1818) Family has researched the Kings for 40+ years. For her many contributions, Rosalie was made an honorary life member of the Somerset County (Pennsylvania) Historical and Genealogical Society. Her particular interests are of the King families who migrated to Perry Co., Ohio.

Mazie Cramer Emanuel has researched the Benjamin Cramer (1779-1843) family through personal interviews. Her family still owns land where the Cramers settled in Fayette Co., PA. Mazie's daughter, Lois Flatley, has done extensive work compiling the family data.

In addition to the main compilers, more than 40 others have actively contributed data on their family branches. All are acknowledged, and have been sent copies of their digested data for approval.

THE PRINTER

The Printer will be the well known Closson Press, of Apollo, PA. Closson Press specializes in Historical and Genealogical books with an interest in Pennsylvania, and especially South-West Pennsylvania.

The cost is \$70 + \$10 shipping & handling. = \$80.

[2004 NOTE: BOOK CLEARANCE SALE - BOOK+CD-ROM \$60]

A CD-ROM with photographs, source documents, and a geographical index is also available. The CD-ROM cost is \$20, shipping & handling included.

Make checks payable to Ora L. Flaningam

For more information or to order, contact:

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**EARLY BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE SANNER
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN AND REFORMED CHURCH 1782-1850**

Somerset County, Pennsylvania

Also records of MULL'S Church

Compiled and Indexed by Dorothy Yoder Coffman 1 9 8 8

With permission of Mrs. Coffman, this book was scanned into a computer, and the graphic file was translated to text by an Optical Character Recognition program so that it could be again made available to researchers. Pagination was kept identical with that of the original book.

A CD-ROM version will be made and distributed, at cost of \$6, including postage, by the transcriber: Ora L. Flaningam, 3227 E. Stewart Rd., Midland, MI 48640 or [Winter: 10045 Pennsylvania Ave., Bonita Springs, FL 34135]. [oraflan@aol.com] November, 2001.

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Baptismal records in chronological order are extant from the Sanner Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed Church, formerly located in Milford township, Somerset County, Pennsylvania. These were translated from the German in 1926 by Dr. Ezra C. Saylor of Berlin, PA. He was assisted in this task by Mrs. Emilie Pollnow Wilkow. These records were later copied from the longhand by Eber Cockley of Somerset County. There is a second list of baptisms which appear on LDS microfilm C 12017, #022056. Because Sanner's church was a union church, some of the names appear on both lists. The lists reprinted here are in the order given by the early transcribers. In order to facilitate their use by researchers, indexes have been added of parents, children and sponsors.

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EDITOR'S NOTE, OCTOBER, 2001: As best as Mrs. Coffman can remember, only 60 copies of the book were printed in 1988. At that time, with no computer all the indexing was done on 3 x 5 cards

RUSH and SKINNER FAMILY RECORDS

INTRODUCTION

Compiled by Ora L. Flaningam and Rosalie Hartinger 2002

We started this project after finishing and publishing our book, "A Cramer-King History," in November, 2001. The Rush's, Skinner's and a number of other families are allied by marriage to the Cramer & King Families of Somerset & Fayette Counties, Pennsylvania. Rosalie had collected data on many of them in her 40 years of research, but on the Rush & Skinner families there was MUCH more than for the others. And, like the Cramers and the Kings, the two families are HEAVILY intermarried. Not only have the Rush's married Skinner's and vice-versa, but some Rush's married Rush's, and some Skinner's married Skinner's.

So, rather than letting the books and other data collect dust in our files, I (OLF) thought it would be good to do a quick collection of the data and put it on a CD-ROM for posterity. The thought was to then send copies to a few libraries in the areas where the families had lived.

The collection now consists of the following books:

- 1) **"Historical and Genealogical Account of the Rush Family,"** Sylvester R. Rush, 1925, 167 pg..
- 2) **"The Rush Family of Northwest Jersey,"** Pearl Rush Cressman & Kaye N. Cressman, 1965, 44 pg.
- 3) **"The Rush Family of the Appalachians,"** John L. Rush, 1965, 80 pg.
- 4) **"Supplement to "The Rush Family of the Appalachians,"** John L. Rush, 1966, 30 pg.
- 5) **"Rush and Skinner Families of Turkeyfoot Township, Somerset Co., PA,"** Harry Speer Rush, 1943, 199 pg.
- 6) **"Rush Family of Somerset County, New Jersey: Descendants of Some of Peter, Senior's Children."** Carrie Reeve Gutleber, 1951, 26 pg.

These books are all available in the FHL and in a number of other libraries. However, the copies are poor and difficult to read, and expensive if you want copies of them all. All of the above, (except for number 6) have been transcribed and are available in this collection as both the transcript, and as image copies of the original. The advantage of the transcripts is that they are much more readable, and the text files can be searched by the computer

Beyond the books, there are about 60 transcriptions of articles and other source data on the two families. Much of this is not available in libraries, or is available only with difficulty.

Data from the above books was input into the Family Tree Maker (R) program, along with data from the Cramer-King book, and a file on the Rush Family by Gary Chambers. Some data contributed by others was also used, such as a 27 page 3 generation report on descendants Of John S. Skinner by Glenda Barnes. The combined data has then been used to generate a book for each of the families. Each book can stand alone. As noted above, because of the high degree of intermarriage, there will be considerable overlap

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THE DESCENDANTS OF NANCY KERLIN AND JOHN LANNING

The book, "THE DESCENDANTS OF NANCY KERLIN AND JOHN LANNING" was originally published by Ethel Albin in 1999. All of her original copies have been sold and she does not intend to reprint it.

In 2001, one of her last copies was purchased by Ora Flaningam. The Lannings along with the Rushs and Skinners are one of the many families allied to his Cramer and King families of Somerset County, Pennsylvania. Thus they are all part of the history of these family's migrations from New Jersey to Pennsylvania in the 1700s and on to the west to the West Virginia panhandle, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, etc., in the 1800s.

Believing that there would be continuing interest in Ethel's book into the future, Ora Flaningam offered to convert it into a CD-ROM version. In an electronic version, it would be simple and cost effective to make copies for future researchers. Ethel has generously given him permission to do this conversion.

There are three versions of the book on the CD-ROM. The first is identical to the first edition as published in 1999, except that the original un-numbered photograph pages are now numbered. The "Second Edition" has added data which was collected by Ethel since the original 1999 printing. This added data amounts to about 30 more pages of text. The added material in the book contains data as recent as some births after 2000 and some marriages in the late 1990s.

It is also very much an additional record of the Rush and Skinner Families as can be seen from the following Table of Contents showing the marriages of the main family lines.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART ONE - INTRODUCTION - JOHN & NANCY (KERLIN) LANNING

PART TWO - JOSEPH LANNING & CATHERINE SKINNER FAMILY

PART THREE - PETER LANNING & ELIZABETH KING FAMILY

PART FOUR - JOHN LANNING, Jr. FAMILY

PART FIVE - JAMES LANNING & MARY PHILLIPPI FAMILY

PART SIX - CORNELIUS LANNING & CATHERINE RUSH FAMILY

PART SEVEN - ELIZABETH LANNING & DAVID KING FAMILY

PART EIGHT - MARITTA LANNING & JOHN RUSH FAMILY

PART NINE - NANCY LANNING & A. NELSON RUSH FAMILY

PART TEN - CATHERINE LANNING & FRANCIS PHILLIPPI FAMILY

PART ELEVEN - HENRY LANNING & ELIZABETH HOY FAMILY

Copies will be made for interested persons for a fee of \$20, including shipping.
For further information, contact Ora L. Flaningam.

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INDEX TO LAUREL MESSENGER - 1960-2005

The compiler of this Index was given a nearly complete set of the "Laurel Messenger" newsletters of the Historical and Genealogical Society of Somerset County (H&GSSC) as part of writing of the book, "A Cramer-King History" published in 2001 which focuses on those families of Somerset County. We have added to this, until the collection of 45 years of the newsletter is now complete.

However, we had only a partial Index, covering the years 1960 to 1970. Further Indexes of later issues (1971-1980) and (1981-1995) exist, but are, as far as we know, only available as part of the reprints of the applicable issues of "Laurel Messenger." No combined index covering all the issues exists. After we started this project, we were told that an index was planned by H&GSSC in the future, but would be limited to paper copies and a version for use on the computer of the Visitor & Historical Center of the H&GSSC

This Index is envisioned as a complete Subject Index of all existing issues. Also it is available as a CD-ROM version that the user can search or extract data or print on their own computer. It will also be sorted in several ways; by "Subject", by "Category", and by "Volume, Issue & Page." Most articles will be Indexed by at least two Categories, that is, By Title and By Subject. Some will be indexed by more than two Categories. [See below for the category list. It will NOT be an every-name Index. Each of the 3 indexes is about 180 pages long, if printed out. There are about 9700 entries in the database.

The Index of 2003 has now been updated to include the 2004 and 2005 volumes. The Index is now about 185 pages long and contains 10,324 entries.]

We hope that we can keep the Index "up-to-date" by adding new data as further issues are published. This should be simpler than in the past, since the new data can easily be added to the database and allow the computer to re-sort the data. CD-ROM copies can then be made as needed instead of having to re-print new paper copy versions.

The Indexer is a descendant of the Cramer, King, Miller, Rambo, Meese, and Henry families of Somerset & Fayette Counties, Pennsylvania.

CD-ROM copies of the Laurel Messenger Subject Index will be made for interested parties, for a fee of \$20 including shipping. After June 2005, the Index is available through Closson Press [clossonpress.com] For additional information, or to order, contact:

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7 Apr 2006

LAUREL MESSENGER INDEX - SORT CATEGORIES

Agriculture	Estates	Iowa	Poor House
Almanac	Europe	Jail	Post Office (See Mail)
Anniversaries	Factories	Journals	Pottery
Antiques	Fairs	Kentucky	Pranks
Archaeology	Family	Ladies	President
Architecture	Fans	Lancaster	Printers
Archives	Farming	Land	Prohibition
Art	Festival (See Celebration)	Landmarks	Quilts
Assassin	Fire	Language	Railroads
Author	Flight 93 (See Plane Crash)	Laws	Religion
Automobiles	Flood	Legends	Resort
Barns	Flowers	Log Cabins	Restaurant
Bedford Co.	Foods	Mail	Reunions
Bibles	Foods	Maple Sugar	Rev. War
Bicentennial	Freemen	Maps	Rivers
Births	French & Ind. War	Marriages	Roads (See Highways)
Book	Frosty Sons	Maryland	Saddlers
Borough (See Village)	Fulton Co.	Massachusetts	S.A.R.
Bounties	Furnaces	Mayflower	Sayings
Bounty Lands	Gambling	Medicine	Schools
Bridges	Gazetteer	Meteorite	Settlement
Buildings	Genealogy	Militia	Ships
Calendar	German	Mills	Slavery
California	Germany	Mining	Somerset Co.
Canada	Gifts	Mississippi	Somerset Soc.
Celebration	Gold Rush	Museums	Span. Amer. War
Cemeteries	Government	Music	Stone Houses
Census	Gunsmith	Names	Superstitions
Centennial	H&GSSC (See Somerset Soc.)	Naturalization	Taverns
Churches	Handwriting	New Jersey	Taxes
Circuit Riders	Hatters	News (See Old News)	Theater
Civil War	Herbs	Newspapers	Title
Clockmakers	Highways	Notes & Queries	Township (See Village)
Clothes	Historian	Obituary	Traders
Coins	Historic Center	Occupations	Travels
College	History	Ohio	Units-Measure
Colonial	Holidays (See Celebration)	Oklahoma	Utilities
Companies	Homestead	Old News	Villages
Cooking	Hotels	Ontario	Virginia
Coopering	Houses	Oregon	Wagons
Corrections	Humor	Orphan's Court	War of 1812
Courthouse	Illinois	Parks	Warrants
Courts	Immigration	Patrons	Weather
Covered Bridges (See Bridges)	Indenture	Pennsylvania	Weavers
Crafts	Indiana	Picture	West Virginia
Culture	Indians	Pilgrims	Whatsit
Customs	Industries	Pioneers	Whiskey
D.A.R.	Inheritance	Places	Wills (See Estates)
Deaths	Inmates	Plane Crash	Windvanes
Diseases	Inns (See also Taverns)	Poem	Wisconsin
Distilleries	Inn Keepers	Poet (See Poems)	World War I
Drinks	Internet	Politics	World War II
		Pony Express	York Co.

SOMERSET COUNTY, PA FAMILIES: EARLY VITAL RECORDS

Following is a brief summary of the databases, so that you will know what they contain. Note that ALL the databases in their several sorts of the data will be on a single CD-ROM, which if printed out would amount to over 1000 pages; and my copy fee also covers any mailing costs.

First of all, though, you must realize, that there will NEVER be a complete listing of what could have been recorded if the 1682 Pennsylvania Law providing for the recording of Births, Marriages and Deaths had been followed. Even

if the current Births and Deaths Indexes were to double in size, I believe that less than 50% of the possible records will be captured. The record for Marriage Records is much worse, and I believe that less than 10% of the couples mentioned in "Laurel Messenger" articles have even a marriage year given, much less also the month and the day. In the Introductions I have written for the databases, this caveat is spelled out in more detail.

With that in mind, here then, in extracts from the Introductions, is a description of what they contain.

The Second Edition of the compilation is from data extracted from (1) the 46 years of publication of "**Laurel Messenger**" [LM] (1960-2003), the quarterly journal of the **Historical and Genealogical Society of Somerset County, Pennsylvania**. We are limited by what data the authors and editors included in the articles. (2) The W.P.A. Compilation of 500 cemeteries in 1930s & 1940s, Several church records - see the list below.

Even if **all** the known available data were compiled into one database, because of the large amount of data which is known to be unrecorded, the total would still probably be under 50% of what data could have been recorded, and possibly much less than 50%.

Examples of the lost, unrecorded data can be seen in the W.P.A. cemetery readings of the 1930s, where every cemetery contains notations of unmarked graves, graves marked only with field-stones, graves and gravestones which have been destroyed, and graves marked only with initials of the person buried. Another example is the fact that for every marriage date recorded in the LM articles, there are probably 100 marriages which are mentioned, but for which no date is given.

The data in the present compilation which is NOT from LM is from four other sources as follows:

- 1) CK Cramer-King Cemetery - Milford Twp., Somerset Co., PA
- 2) HSR Harry Speer Rush - Rush & Skinner families of Lower Turkeyfoot Twp. Jersey Baptist Church, Ursina.
- 3) MB Meyersdale Borough - Union Cemetery - Readings of W.P.A, 1930s
- 4) SBR Sanner Church Baptismal Records - Compiled by Dorothy Yoder
- 5) LEL Laurel Emanuel Lutheran Church
- 6) SBR Sanner Baptismal Records - Compiled by Dorothy Yoder [CD-ROM version by O. Flaningam 2001]
- 7) SL Stoystown Lutheran Church
- 8) SR Stoystown Reformed Church

In later editions of the compilation, we will add many miscellaneous birth and marriage records from church records.

The **Second Edition** consists of **22,797** records in the Births, **8731** records in the Marriage, and **50,264** records in the Deaths databases. Due to repetition of names from different sources, there are many duplicate names in each database. Also because there are so many identical, or similar names, It is **imperative** that the researcher examine the original sources to be sure they have truly found the person of interest to them.

In the **Births Index**, the parents are listed, if they are known. Some births calculated from cemetery records are included in the Births Index, but not all. Be sure to check **both Indexes** for births. Many times the given name of the mother is omitted and even where a given name is recorded, a maiden name is almost never given. If a mother's given name is recorded, but no maiden name, the mother's surname field is filled with the married name. Many times I found myself wishing I could go back in time and ask the recording ministers, "who carried the baby for nine months?" "Doesn't she deserve to be recorded, or recorded more than as just, 'Wife?'"

In the **Marriages Index**, the ministers and witnesses are indexed, where they are known.

In the **Deaths Index**, where possible, the **birth date is calculated**, and also where possible, **women** are indexed under **both maiden and married surnames**. **So be sure to check the Deaths Index for Births and women's maiden and married surnames**

In the **Laurel Messenger** articles, the information is compressed and abbreviated, and there may be additional information in family files held by the **Historical & Genealogical Society of Somerset County**. The researcher is therefore urged to explore the original data for more complete information.

Where a person appears multiple times in various articles and sources, they will be indexed at each appearance. However, where they appear multiple times in a single article, such as once as a child, and again as a parent, they may be indexed only once in that article. Each record references the source of that data.

The compiler intends, as long as possible, to continue adding newly available data, and generating, at least yearly, updates to the compilation.

The data compilation will be made into a CD-ROM, which can easily be updated. Copies of this collection will be donated to libraries in Somerset & Fayette Counties, and eventually to the Family History in Salt Lake City. For those wishing a personal copy, the compiler will make copies for a modest Fee of \$20 per CD-ROM. This will be plowed back into further data gathering, etc.

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SOMERSET COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
W.P.A. CEMETERY READINGS:
A RECOMPILATION

By Ora L. Flaningam

A complete recompilation of the 1930s W.P.A. cemetery readings has been done from the original worksheets. This was a joint project between the compiler and the Meyersdale Library who kindly loaned a copy of the entire set of datasheets for this work. There are 2782 pages in the WPA compilation archived in the Biesecker Public Library in Somerset. Della Fischer recompiled the WPA Readings in 1977. However, there are major flaws in her compilation which this new database will remedy. One flaw is that there was no over-all index. A person needed to search all 550 cemeteries individually. Another is that many graves are omitted in Mrs. Fischer's compilation. Also, only a few copies were made, and the print quality was poor.

The new compilation has all 39,423 WPA grave records in a single file. It is about 900 pages in size, and is sorted in multiple ways. A notes field gives relationship data on "wife/of," "husband/of," "son/of," "daughter/of," etc., and military service. Graphic Images of the 2782 original worksheet pages are included for reference. The earliest death is 1779, and the earliest birth is 1700. Most of the readings were done in the 1920s to 1940. However there are about 1000 deaths recorded between 1940 & 1990.

The W.P.A. Index is on a CD-ROM with multiple sorts of the data. Bookmarks are used to enable the user to jump to any desired location in the files. In addition to the usual Name Sort, there are sorts by: Age, Birth Date, Death Date, Alpha by Cemetery, As-Read by Cemetery, Relationship. A 23 page Introduction is included.