

The Hunterdon/Warren County, NJ to Columbia County, PA Connection

by Michael Gesner

Columbia County researchers are acutely aware of the migration of citizens from New Jersey to Columbia County. My wife Janet and I also recognize the reality of people trying to improve their lives. In the 1700s, many Hunterdon and Warren County, New Jersey families traveled west to Northumberland and present-day Montour and Columbia Counties. The ones that interest us most are our own ancestral families that include **Case/Kase** (my line), **Baylor** and **Creveling** (Janet's lines). Then there are the **Hellers**, Janet's relatives from Northampton and Monroe Counties.

To date, we've published six books on family genealogy with three in the works: **Baylor**, **Creveling** and **Barnes**. I've also been working diligently on the Case/Kase family (over 60,000 descendants at this time) for a long time but am not close to considering the publication of a book. There has been much work done on the **Creveling** clan with at least three books already printed on the subject. The most extensive work has been Louis Creveling's 2003 genealogy but absent was my own wife's line! We aim to correct that and with any luck, the two-volume genealogy will be out later this year. Although I believe Louis Creveling's effort should be applauded, no family history is ever complete and certainly none will ever be "finished." How well I recall the publication of my last book because scarcely twelve hours later I was confronted with an obituary that added to the family.

We've been to the Columbia County Historical and Genealogical Society a number of times; the first being over a year ago when we joined. We've been to many historical societies over the years and discounting our home base--the Hunterdon County Historical Society where we are volunteers--this is our favorite. First of all, the library has a good historical collection. Secondly, the staff members go out of their way to help you! And thirdly, it's fun! I can't stress the enjoyment part of being a part of a historical society enough. In my opinion, if it's not fun, it's simply not worth doing. At Hunterdon, we have fun in an atmosphere we like to think we helped create. It has brought new life (and more volunteers) to a society that not-that-many years ago was the exact opposite.

A prime example of overt friendliness in Bloomsburg was displayed last month on our latest visit. When a library assistant heard that we were working on the **Hagenbuch-Creveling** (Henry Hagenbuch & Elizabeth Creveling) connection, she called a CCHGS member and then put me on the phone! Within an hour, Janet's cousin and her husband arrived and we went over each and every name in the line. I received information that otherwise would be difficult to obtain. Thank you!

It's been a pleasure to meet so many fine folks at the Columbia County Historical and Genealogical Society. If you'd like to see photos of Janet and myself, go to our website at www.gesnergenealogy.com and maybe you'll find that we've already met. We'll definitely be

returning to Columbia County for additional research so there's a good chance we'll meet more nice people as well as more cousins.