

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



Family history has always been of interest to me. Maybe I got this concern for ancestors from listening to my parents talk. They knew who their relatives were and where they lived and they visited them.

My grandfather Landis was one of 15 children and so my mother had many first cousins. My father

knew his ancestors and could name all of his great, great-grandparents back to Hans Adam Shreiner who came to America in 1729.

One does not always find what one likes when researching a family tree. Considering all of the hundreds of names, it is no wonder that a few were "black sheep". When

my children delve into genealogy, they'll find lots of teachers and professional people in their father's family. My folks were mostly farmers but that does not mean they had no education — they did.

A while ago a lady from Texas spent years studying the history of Hans Michael Weidler. He was the grandfather of the man who built the 1813 brick farmhouse in which I live. Despite my parents' interest in relatives, I do not think that they knew of any close relationship with this family.

To make a long story shorter, I have discovered that my three times great grandmother not only was a Weidler but she was the granddaughter of the original settler—Hans Michael. This makes me the ninth generation to live on this farm on the Conestoga River in Lancaster County.

I often think of how it must have been furnished when the family first moved into this house. It has never been remodeled and still has the openings in the walls for stove pipes and a hole in the ceiling for

the rope leading to the dinner bell on the roof. The corner fireplace and corner cupboard are still intact. But, wouldn't the original owners be surprised to see our modern conveniences?



Newly crowned Beaver-Lawrence Dairy Princess, Kimberly Bonzo, is flanked by alternate Sue Robinson, right, and former dairy princess, Christina McDowell.

Kimberly Bonzo Named Beaver-Lawrence Dairy Princess

ROCHESTER (Lawrence) — Kimberly Bonzo captured the Beaver-Lawrence Dairy Princess crown on June 18. The pageant, held at Laurel Elementary School, named Sue Robinson the county alternate. Other contestants included Charlea Braho and Laura Scheel.

Bonzo, a senior at Freedom High School, plans to study business management after graduation. At school, she is involved in marching band, jazz band, vice president of concert band, Beaver County honors band, drum majorette, Youth Traffic Safety Council, President of Pennsylvania Youth Education Association, fine arts club and was selected Who's Who Among American High School Students and is in the church choir.

Bonzo works on the family 150-acre farm owned by her parents, Gayle and Kay Bonzo. They milk 38 Holsteins.

Dairy Shorts

WHIP IT

Creaming butter for cookies? Rather than letting it soften at room temperature, remove it from the refrigerator only a short time before creaming, cut into small pieces, and whip.

MILK AS BEVERAGE

Milk was originally thought of by consumers as a raw product to make butter and cheese. It wasn't until the late 1800's that milk saw widespread use as a beverage.

SHELF LIFE?

How long can you keep cottage cheese, dairy sour cream, and yogurt? About one week in the refrigerator, for maximum flavor and texture. Dairy sour cream and yogurt may keep slightly longer than cottage cheese, up to ten days.

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