

PEFFLY FAMILY

OHIO

The Family Gets Together

-- It's the 65th Reunion

By JACK M. OSLER, Sunday Editor

“THE SIXTH annual reunion of the Peffly Family met on the Montgomery County Fairgrounds at Dayton, Ohio with about one hundred and thirty-five present. The morning was spent in getting acquainted and having a good social time . . .”

These are minutes from the Peffly family reunion in 1908 and signified the official organization of the reunion which started six years before.

So, this year the Peffly family reunion will celebrate its 65th birthday and, as in the past, will be held in memory of Henry and Sarah Peffly.

When the family gathers at Triangle park on Sunday, July 16, there will be talk by the women, horseshoe pitching by the men and games played by the children. It's sort of been like this down through the years.

There have been a few changes, however, brought on by modern times. In the old days, home made ice cream was always on the menu and proved popular—but now it's not home made.



THE EARLY reunions had a religious connotation which was natural since the family produced many ministers of various denominations. The program included prayer, inspirational talks, hymn singing and closed with "God Be With You Till We Meet Again."

When a member died this resolution was adopted:

"One year has passed since we had our last gathering and in that time it has pleased Almighty God to take from our fold one of its loved members. On the — day of —, 19—, the Angel of Death called our beloved daughter (sister, etc.) —, from the activities of this life to the better world where there is no more pain and sorrow. Therefore, be it resolved: That we as a family bow in meek submission to the will of Him who doeth all things well, knowing that they have passed through the

pearly gates, and are sweetly resting from their labor, singing the song of victory, and wearing the crown of life, promised to the faithful."

As time has gone on the closing hymn and the resolution have also gone on.

BUT ACCORDING to Mrs. Robert McCoy of Kettering, who has done extensive research on the reunions, the minutes are still kept and all births and deaths are recorded.

Officers are also elected. The president now is Richard Peffly of Centerville.

This year's affair probably won't attract the 135 it did back in 1908 when postcards bearing pictures of Henry and Sarah were sent to Pefflys and descendants as far away

as New Mexico, North Dakota and Chicago.

It was in 1925 when the group voted to include all descendants of Jacob Peffly, Henry's father. Jacob, who changed the spelling from Peffley to Peffly when he moved his family near Dayton in

Some Spell Name With the 'e', Others Without

1826, is the common ancestor of all Pefflys in Ohio. Thus, the organization became known as the Ohio Peffly Family reunion.

APPARENTLY it isn't known why he dropped the last "e" but some of his sons spelled it with the "e" and some without.

One of Henry's brothers, Aaron, preferred the spelling Peffley. He was president of the reunion in 1909. Aaron, a minister, was the father of T.D. and P. A. Peffley, who started the auto dealership in Dayton.

Other discrepancies have popped up in spelling the name. This was probably because of the translation from German to English, when clerks recorded it the way they thought it was spelled. The name has been Paffli, Peffele, Pef-feley, Pelfi, Pfeffley, Piffili, Pefly, Peffly, and Peffley. The latter three are the ones used today with Pefley being the most widely accepted and used spelling. The Pef-fleys originated in Switzerland and the root of the word means "small" or "little priest." The German word Pfafflist means "Priestcraft."

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