

# A friend is more than a friend when you're in Friend family

The history of the Friend family is as old as that of the United States.

One of their members signed his name to the Declaration of Independence.

Another served as a model for the Indian head penny.

From the days of pioneers, churchmen and settlers to our present day society, people named Friend have played a part in the country's development.

To help discover how important a part and to help preserve their genealogy, people named "Friend" have started their own association.

The brainchild of Col. Lester Friend of Warren, Ohio, the association was formed in 1976. Today it boasts about 260 family memberships which entitle Friends and Friend cousins to receive a newsletter and attend a family convention.

Among its members are Barbara and H. Robert Kull of Farmington Hills.

Mrs. Kull, whose maiden name is Friend, became interested in the family history through a cousin who was a librarian for the association.

She and her husband were hooked on genealogical research after their first research trip.

"It was a beautiful weekend," remembered Kull.

They spent the time in southern Ohio looking for Friend family members who left their home in Kentucky and went west.

NEVER MIND that the family members moved more than a century ago and that their acquaintances was made through court records and grave-stones. Following the family's movements through Ohio as they long ago made their way west was exciting for both of them.

"We're always looking for things that interest my wife that I like, too. We do things together like that," Kull said.

His interest in the business end of the family organization led to his election as treasurer, this summer.

As they've researched some interesting Friends.

John Morton, a descendant of Gertrude Friend was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Earlier, in 1765, another branch of the family was engaged in exploring the wilderness.

John Friend, his son, Gabriel and brother, Andrew took over an Indian village by purchasing it for blankets and some of their own personal effects.

The village was called Friendsville, Maryland.

The small settlement remained unbothered by Indians or other settlers until 1774 when the Shawnee War prompted the Friends to build three block houses on the banks of the Young River. These forts proved to be only a precautionary measure. They weren't attacked.

TODAY, the village still stands. It still is inhabited predominantly by members of the family, descendants of the original trio of Friends, according to Kull.

Kull had entertained the thought of conducting the Friend family meeting at Friendsville, next year. But the remoteness of the small town and the lack of hotel facilities made the plan impractical.

The Friend family plans haven't always been as fortunate as Friendsville. In 1696, Anne Friend, the second wife of Sir John Friend, a London brewer was executed at Tyburn, England for conspiring against King William III.

Another Friend family member moved into a predominantly Scandinavian town and promptly changed his name to match that of his neighbors. When he moved from the town, he discarded his Scandinavian surname and returned to using Friend, Kull said.

But the Friend family member whose face is most familiar is the daughter of an engraver for the U.S. Mint. When he needed a model for the Indian head penny, he chose his 14-year-old daughter.

"You can't really tell under the headpiece, but it is a girl's face," Kull said.

MEMBERS of the family are every-

where, it seems. Once, Kull was visiting a Farmington nursing home and spotted the vanity license plate spelling the family's name. He asked at the home about the visitor, who was located and introduced to Kull.

The man wasn't only a member of the family, he was a member in search of the family's roots. Kull persuaded him to attend the family's convention this past summer to work on some of the problems he had encountered in tracing the family history.

"In 12 or 14 minutes he had located things he didn't know about the family," Kull remembered.

"He was so elated."

Although Kull helps in his wife's search for her ancestors, his own family's genealogy is a little more difficult to trace. Although his sister has made an effort to trace their background, she's stymied after their great-grandparents' generation, the last to remain in their native Germany.

Although Mrs. Kull can trace her history back to the American Revolution, their daughters don't take an active role in the family's genealogical quest.

"It's an interest which develops at a later age," Kull muses.

"There are many older persons in the association. I'm 51 and most of the members are older than I am."

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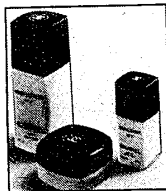
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