



The Groseclose Family – Pioneering Spirits in America since 1750

Groseclose Family Newsletter

Special Edition, March 2015

Groseclose Family Reunion

June 12-14, 2015

With just a couple months to go, it's time to make arrangements to join your Groseclose kin from around the US and Canada, and attend the 2015 Groseclose Family Reunion!

The 2015 reunion will be held again at scenic Pipestem Resort State Park, WV -- a great getaway for golf, horseback riding, hiking and more! Fifty rooms (and an executive suite) are reserved at McKeever Lodge for Groseclose Reunion attendees until May 12th:

PIPESTEM RESORT STATE PARK

P.O. Box 150

Pipestem, West Virginia 25979

(800) 225-5982 | pipestemsp@wv.gov | www.pipestemresort.com

We will also gather again on the reunion Sunday in Ceres, VA, the Groseclose home place -- located about 60 miles south of Pipestem Resort in the verdant Rich Valley of Bland County. Historic Sharon Lutheran Church will welcome us for Sunday service, and we will enjoy ample time to tour the church cemetery where our patriarch and generations of our forefathers are buried. A Farewell Luncheon will be held in the Peery Senior Center at the old Ceres High School. There you can visit the Henry C. Groseclose FFA and Agricultural Museum. Also in Ceres you can visit the two 18th Century Groseclose homes still standing today. The Henry Home, still in family hands, will be open to visit and see the family relics remaining in the home, including the decorated dowry chest said to have been owned by Peter Sr. and wife Mary Magdalena.

The 2015 Groseclose Reunion registration form is included in this edition of the **Groseclose Family Newsletter**. Also included are maps of the highway route between Pipestem Resort and Ceres, VA, and the Ceres area itself. The latter map highlights the locations of Sharon Lutheran Church and Cemetery, the old Ceres High School and Groseclose Museum, the Peter Jr. and Henry homes, and selected other landmarks, including the site of the Sluss Family Massacre and the old mountain road to Rural Retreat over which Peter Sr. and his family first traveled into the Rich Valley.

At Pipestem Resort, the formal program (see draft program) will recount the story of Johann Peter Groseclose's coming to Colonial America (1750), settling in Western Pennsylvania and marriage to Mary Magdalena Ott (1755), raising seven children against the backdrop of the American Revolution (1775-1783), and finally migrating to the Rich Valley of SW Virginia (1780). Invited speaker, Beverly Repass Hoch, a noted genealogist and charter member of the Wythe County Genealogical and Historical Association, will discuss German-American fraktur art and especially the Wythe County "Wild Turkey" scrivener responsible for the Groseclose fraktur seen in the mast of this newsletter and online at bit.ly/1n5mZne. Finally, the formal program will draw to an end with the closing of the day-long (often exciting and fun-filled!) **Silent Auction** of nice items generously donated by reunion attendees and the **Grand Raffle** drawing for the 2015 Groseclose Quilt crafted specially for the reunion by family member Julie Vernon (all auction and raffle proceeds go to the upkeep of the Sharon Church Cemetery and the Groseclose Family gravestones!).

Donate a Silent Auction Item, Bring Family History Memorabilia to Display or Share an Amusing Groseclose Story or Two!



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McKeever Lodge, Pipestem, WV



Conference Center



Silent Auction & Quilt Raffle



Sharon Lutheran Church (Est. 1817)



Patriarch Peter Sr. (1730-1803)



Sharon Church Cemetery (c. 1800)



Son Peter Jr. (1757-1805)



Sluss Family Massacre (1774)



Son Henry (1771-1836)



Peter Jr. Home (c. 1782)



H.C. Groseclose Museum (2002)



Henry Home (c. 1793)



Ceres, VA (Est. 1880)



Museum & Senior Center



Dowry Chest, Henry Home (c. 1755)

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Ceres Area Landmarks

1. **H.C. Groseclose Future Farmers America Marker**
Dedicated at a Groseclose Reunion on June 15, 2003



2. **H.C. Groseclose Birthplace** – House to the right of the highway marker.
Founder of the FFA, Henry was born May 17, 1892 in the house which was built by Captain Henry Groseclose.

3. **Sharon Lutheran Church and Cemetery** – Gravesites of many Groseclose ancestors.

4. **Sluss Family Home Site**

The Sluss family was massacred on this site by raiding Indians. Mary Sluss, a baby at the time, was hidden in a cradle under a bed and survived. She married a Cregar and lived to be 104.

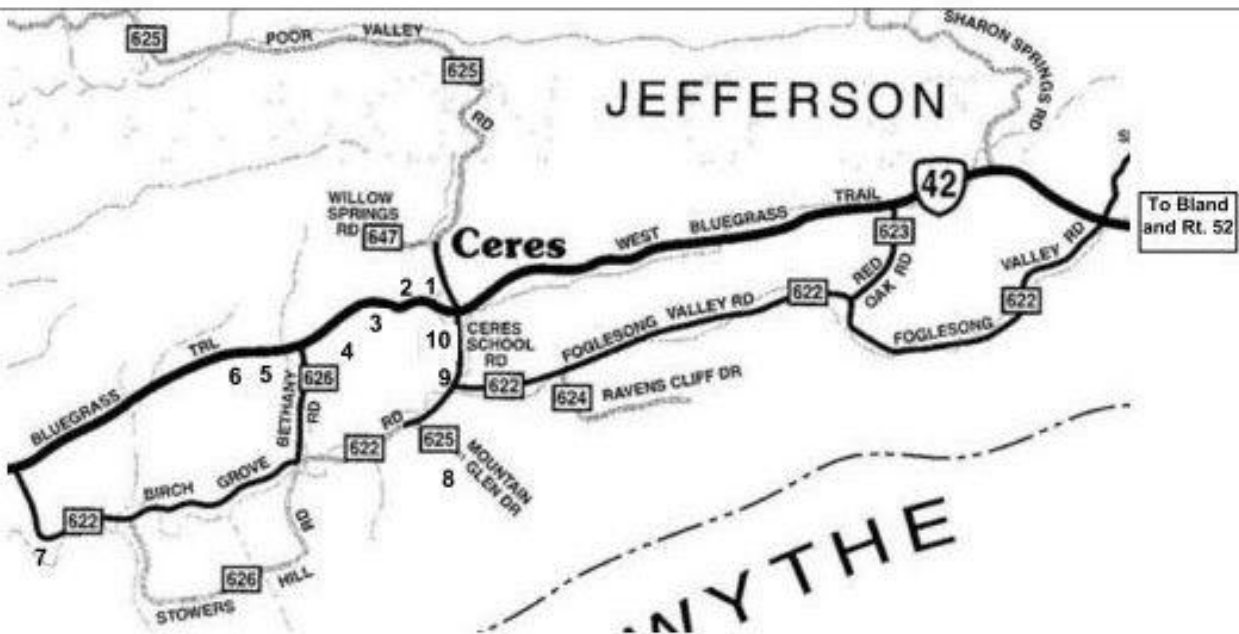


5. **Henry Groseclose Home**

Built in 1793 by Peter Sr. and Henry. It sits on land granted to Peter by Virginia Governor Patrick Henry.



6. **Peter Groseclose Sr. Home Site** – is believed to be just to the right of Henry's house where a lone Balsam fir stands in the pasture.



7. **Peter Groseclose, Jr. Home**

Peter Jr.'s home sits on the North Fork of the Holston River where his son Jacob ran the mill.



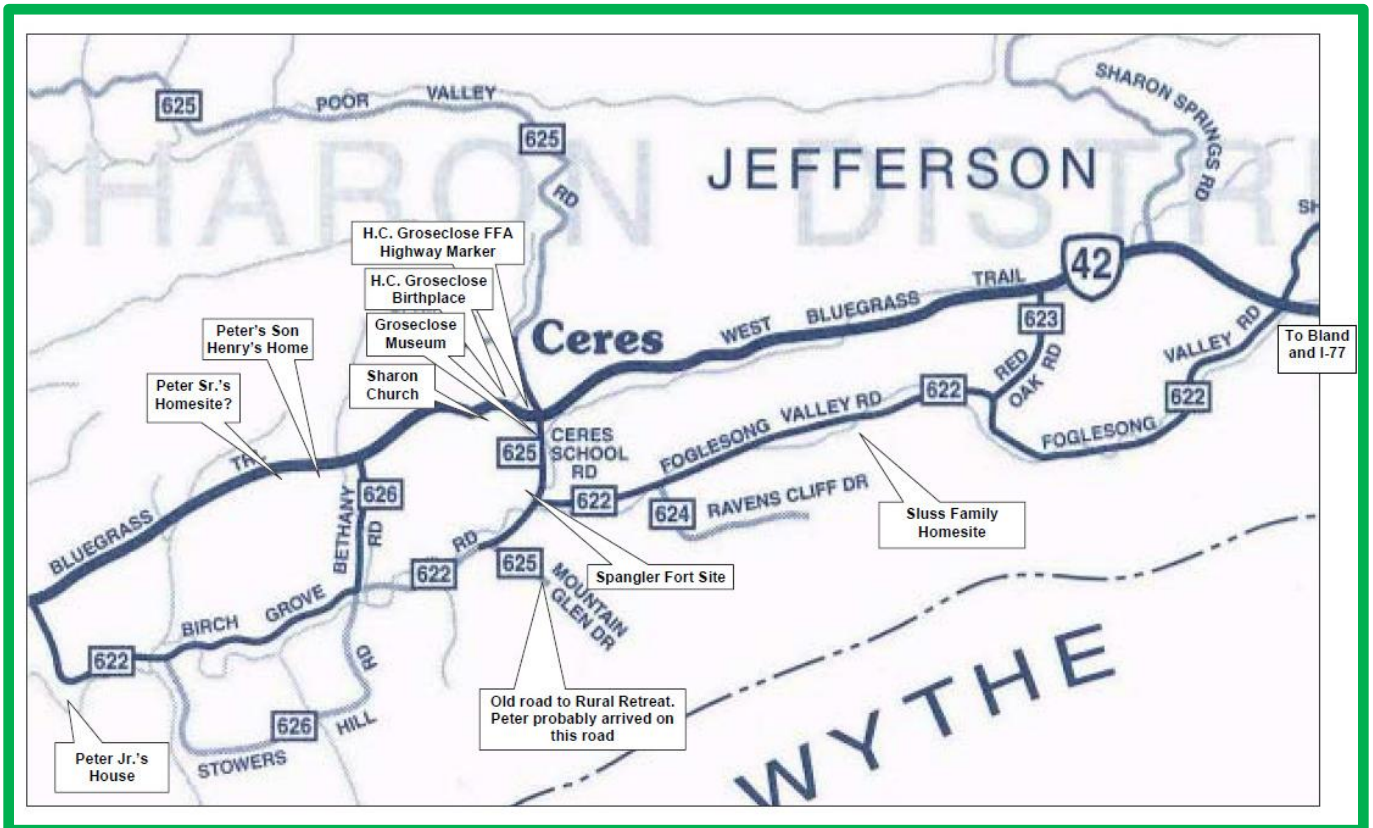
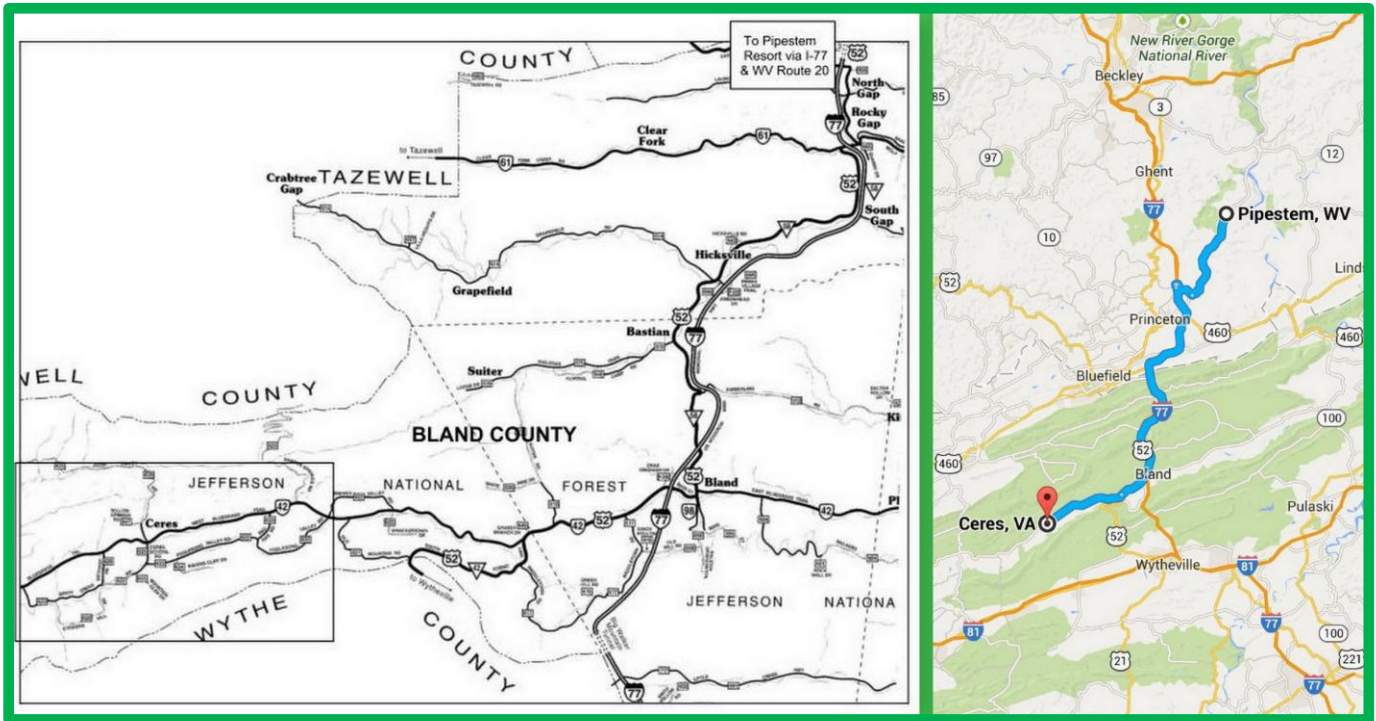
8. **Old Road to Rural Retreat – Rt. 625 Mountain Glen Drive**

Peter probably came this way from Pennsylvania. The road went over the mountain to Rural Retreat. Now it is a private road crossing a farm.

9. **Spangler's Fort Site** – Margaret Groseclose married Jacob Spangler who built the local fort as protection from raiding Indians.

10. **Groseclose Museum and Ceres School** – H.C. Groseclose Agricultural Museum.
Ceres Alumni Association – www.ceresva.org

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Area Maps -- Bland County & Ceres, VA



The Groseclose Family

Descendants of Peter Groseclose and Mary Magdalena Ott and Their Children
 Peter Jr. – Adam – Margaret – Elizabeth – Jacob – Barbara – Henry

Draft 2015 Reunion Program

All Friday and Saturday activities held in the Conference Center of McKeever Lodge, Pipestem Resort, WV

Friday, June 12

3:30 pm	Registration desk open, reunion setup
5:00 – 7:30	Dinner on your own
7:30 until	General visiting, Possible video on Deutsch Fraktur: <i>The Heart of the Taufschein</i>

Conference Center

Saturday, June 13

7:30 am	Registration desk open
9:00	Official Welcome
9:30	Groseclose Family and Descendants Updates
10:30	Break, refreshments
10:45 – 11:30	Migration to Colonial America
11:30 – 1:00 pm	Lunch on your own
1:00 – 1:30	Revolutionary War and Migration to Virginia
1:30 – 2:15	German-American Fraktur and Iconology
2:15 – 2:30	Free-for-All: Family Sharing and Discussion
2:30 – 3:00	Silent Auction Closes Reunion Quilt – Grand Raffle Drawing
7:00 – 9:00	General visiting, gossiping and reminiscing Video: <i>Welcome to the Henry C. Groseclose Museum</i> Refreshments

Conference Center

Dean DeRosa
 Clark Groseclose

 George Groseclose

 Dean DeRosa
 Beverly Repass Hoch
 Family Members

Sunday, June 14

10:00 am	Church Service
11:00	Cemetery Visit
11:00 – 2:00 pm	Henry Groseclose Home Open House
11:00 – 2:00	Henry C. Groseclose FFA Museum
12:00 – 2:00	Farewell Lunch
2:00	Closing of Reunion

Ceres, VA

Sharon Lutheran Church
 Sharon Lutheran Church Cemetery
 Ceres, VA
 Old Ceres High School
 Peery Senior Center, Ceres School
 Peery Senior Center, Ceres School

Groseclose Fraktur -- “To God Alone the Glory”

Detail from the Groseclose fraktur documenting the marriage of Adam and Catherine Groseclose in 1808, and the birth dates of their several children. The “wild turkey” motif is specific to an early German-American scrivener who prepared baptismal certificates and other commemorative documents for pioneer families in and around Wythe County and the Rich Valley.



The Balsam Fir Tree

Planted in front of the ancestral Groseclose homes are these grand balsam fir trees. They are not native to the valley but grow in the northern U.S. and at higher elevations in Virginia. Perhaps Peter Sr. and his family planted them to remind themselves of their home in Germany. Look for these trees as you tour the Henry Groseclose home or drive to see the Peter Groseclose Jr. home on Sunday.



Registration Form

Groseclose Family Reunion

June 12 - 14, 2015

Pipestem Resort State Park
Pipestem, West Virginia

Route 20, P.O. Box 150
Pipestem, West Virginia 25979
Reservations: (800) 225-5982 | E-Mail: pipestemsp@wv.gov
www.pipestemresort.com

I plan to attend the 2015 Groseclose Family Reunion on: Friday Saturday Sunday

I plan to reserve a room at the Pipestem Resort: Yes No

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I plan to bring the following persons with me:

(Please provide names and relationships of children under 18.) If you are listed in Clark Groseclose's book *Grosecloses and Descendants in America*, please indicate the page number.

Name	Relationship	Age (if under 18)	Page #

Enclosed is registration payment of \$_____ based on \$50.00 per adult and \$15.00 per child aged 12 years or under. Ceres residents who wish to attend only the farewell lunch on Sunday may do so for \$15 per adult and \$10 per child. **Please make checks payable to "Groseclose Reunion".**

Please return this form to: Dean A. DeRosa
2115 North Hollister Street
Arlington, VA 22205
703 532-4210
dderosa.va@gmail.com

Join the Groseclose Family on Facebook!