

**This family history was told by John Paul Sirney on
January 7, 1971.**

Mother - Maria Urban. possibly from Austria.

Father - John Simie (?)

Children - Mary, Annie, Paul, John

Baptized - John Sirnie?

Confirmed in Mammoth, PA near Greensburg, PA, John Paul Sirney.

Was an altar boy in the town of Mammoth. The Priest died while John was an altar boy there. The Priest was buried in the cemetery of the Catholic Church in Mammoth.

John felt they lived in Whitney, PA which is about 5 miles from Latrobe and about 5 miles from Mammoth. They moved in the deep snow riding in a horse drawn sled.

Their name was possibly originally spelled Sirnie and the spelling was changed by one of his teachers to, Sirney.

Wilber Albright, childhood friend, was a farmer in Lycippus which is about 3 miles from Mammoth.

John's father, mother, sisters and brother lived in Mammoth. When John P. was about 10-12, his mother left with the three other children and it is assumed that she went back to the "old country". He was left with his father and they boarded with a sister of his mother's named Ann Simon (Seman). Ann had previously lived in Cleveland. John helped his father at work until his father left him and he continued to live with his uncle and Aunt Ann. At this time he was between 10-12 years old.

After his father left, he went to work in the Henry Clay Frick coke mines in Mammoth. Sterling was the superintendent that he worked under. John handled the horses who drew the carts that took ashes from the coke ovens. John worked there until he was 14.

John's uncle and Aunt Ann left Mammoth because of work layoffs. He then went to live with Sterling driving a coal wagon and living in his barn. He stayed in Mammoth until 14. John worked at Udell for a private coke outfit. Udell was a name the railroad had given to the railroad stop. Udell was very close to Southwest town, about 3 miles from Mammoth.

The school teacher who gave him the spelling of his name was a Miss Carpenter who came to Mammoth to teach school each day from Carpentertown, about 2 miles from Mammoth. Her father was a blacksmith in Carpentertown. The town was named for the school teacher's family. Mr. Carpenter was possibly a big political figure of the town.

Miss Carpenter arranged for John to take summer classes in Kecksburg about 1 mile from Mammoth.

Mike Kletcher was a school friend. John left Sterling at 14 and traveled by train to Greensburg and from there to Wilmerding to Westinghouse Electric Co. looking for Mike Kletcher who worked there.

Mike Kletcher's parents had a store in Youngwood, about 6 miles from Mammoth. The family went broke and moved to Turtle Creek. Kletcher went to work at Westinghouse Electric in Wilmerding. He probably was several years older than John P.

Sirloin was a nickname from school for him. He went to work at Westinghouse Electric on a Lathe. He told them he was 18 years old to get the job. He really was 14. McKelvey was his supervisor. He worked for about 1 ¹/₂ years at the lathe. Work on the lathe was discontinued and he moved to the shop next door where he worked with brass. Not liking it, he worked for 3 days and left. He went to Westinghouse Air Brake where Bishop was his foreman. He worked at the job doing piece work and earned about \$5.00 a day. He was moved to a lathe where he earned about \$1.50 a day. He worked at \$1.50 per day job about 2 days. Approximate time at Westinghouse Air Brake about 1/2 year.

John P's next job was at Pittsburgh Locomotive Works in 1906, age 16. He worked in the chipping department chipping molds for fire boxes. Chipping was done with an air powered chisel.

Creddie (John P. had a picture of him) worked on a lathe in the same shop. Creddie introduced him to Olga. Creddie that first day of work gave him part of his lunch and loaned him a dollar. John worked at the locomotive works on and off between Ford Motor Company.

In 1920 John P. was in Butler with Ford.

Aunt Millie recalled the name Sirnie written in an old prayer book in a childish scrawl. Miss Carpenter first called him Sirney and had a stamp made up with his name on it.

Dates:

Father and Mother of Olga Kuschel Sirney

Gottlieb Kuschel 4/4/1840 - 10/30/1919

Johanna Kuschel 8/22/1848 - 6/19/1927

John Paul Sirney 12/26/1889 - 1/11/1978

Olga Minnie Kuschel 10/8/1889 - 2/27/1957