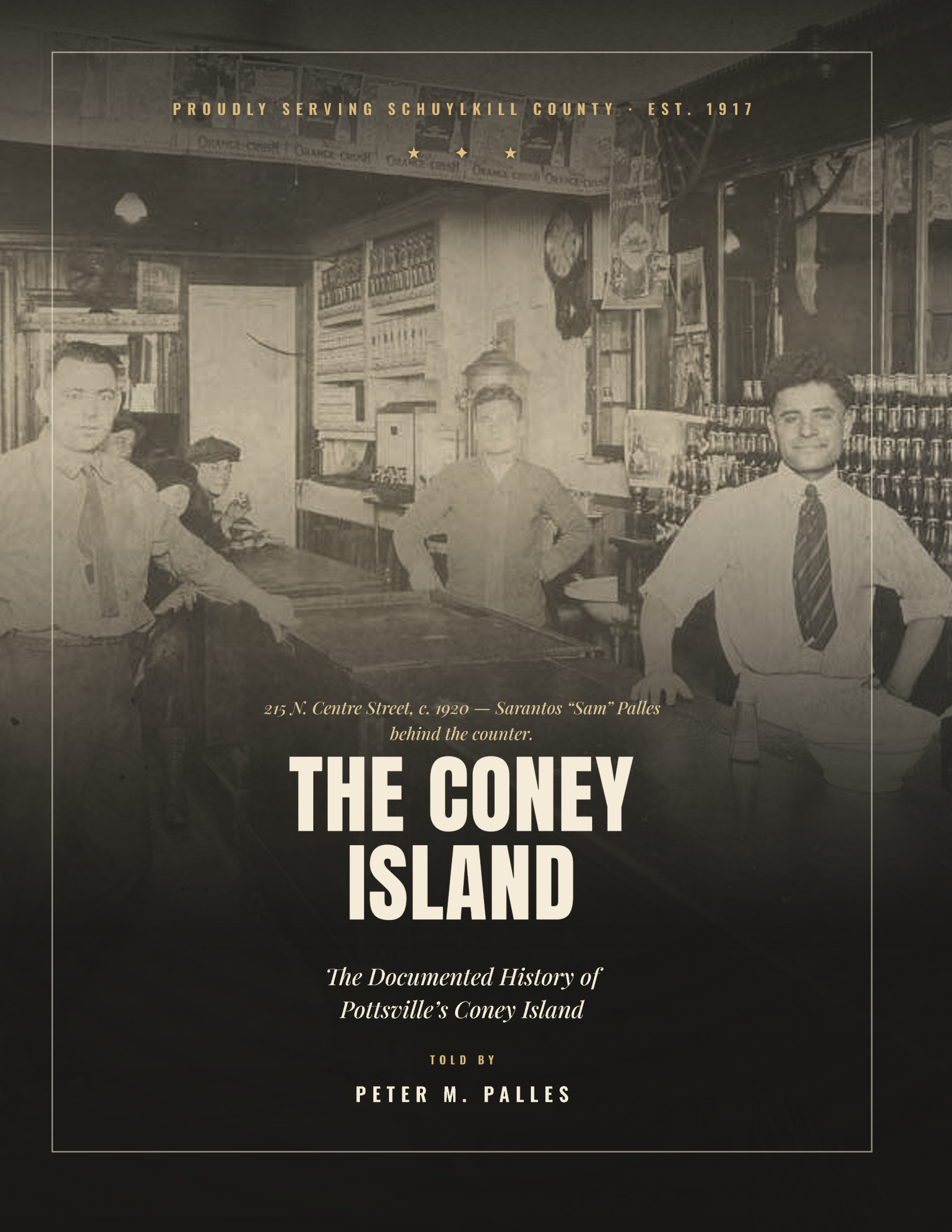




PROUDLY SERVING SCHUYLKILL COUNTY • EST. 1917

*215 N. Centre Street, c. 1920 — Sarantos "Sam" Palles
behind the counter.*

THE CONEY ISLAND

*The Documented History of
Pottsville's Coney Island*

TOLD BY

PETER M. PALLES

THE CONEY ISLAND RESTAURANT & TAVERN · POTTSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Documented History

The story the documents tell · Established 1917

The earliest verified contemporaneous paper trail identified for a named coney/chili-dog origin claim is that of Sarantos "Sam" Palles and the Coney Island of Pottsville, Pennsylvania.

FIRST EDITION · JULY 2026
PREPARED FOR INSTITUTIONAL DEPOSIT

The Coney Island Restaurant & Tavern · 2290 W. Market St., Pottsville, Pennsylvania 17901
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About this volume

That sentence on the title page is carefully worded, and this volume earns every word of it. The earliest verified contemporaneous paper trail identified for a named coney/chili-dog origin claim. Not a legend, not a slogan — a paper trail: directory entries, newsprint, and the restaurant's own advertising, reproduced with sources in the documentary record that follows the narrative. This is the story those documents tell.

A note on method. Every fact in the narrative below traces to the appended Documentary Record, where each exhibit carries its scan, transcription, citation, source, and an evidence label stating exactly how it is known. Bracketed marks such as [e04] point to those exhibits. Family knowledge appears in this telling as well — it is named as family knowledge wherever it appears, and never presented as documentation. Should later research correct any part of this edition, a supplemental corrected edition will follow, per the standing correction policy printed at the end of the record.

PART ONE — THE NARRATIVE

Ten chapters: the town, the bootblack, the grand opening, the partnership, 1928, the 1936 advertisement, the generations, the record and its limits, the timeline, and a word of thanks.

PART TWO — THE DOCUMENTARY RECORD

The complete evidence record as generated on July 16, 2026: the statement of findings, the evidence-label legend, the documented chain of twenty-one exhibits with scans and transcriptions, the methodology, the falsifiability statement, and the correction policy.

CHAPTER ONE

A working town, a working counter

Pottsville at the height of the anthracite era was a gateway town. Centre Street carried Schuylkill County's miners, merchants, and railroad men past one another all day and most of the night, and a counter that fed working people fast, cheap, and well could count on a town that never quite stopped moving.

The decade's Greek immigrants built exactly those counters, across Pennsylvania and across the country — candy kitchens, fruit stores, lunch rooms, hot wiener stands. The Coney Island belongs to that tradition and says so plainly. What sets its story apart is not the genre but the record it left behind.

CHAPTER TWO · 1917

A bootblack arrives

The earliest record is three words and an address. Boyd's Directory of Pottsville, compiled in 1917, lists "Palles Sam, bootblack, h 412 N 2d" — a young Greek immigrant from the Laconian village of Levetsova (today Krokees), south of Sparta, shining shoes and rooming on North Second Street [e02]. The edition before it, checked page by page, has no Palles at all [e01].

He had landed at New York in March 1916, sixteen years old; the ship manifest names the uncle he was bound for, Anastasios Sarantakos of Tamaqua, whose household took him in on arrival.

That is the shoeshine beginning the restaurant has always described, on the documentary record. He turned eighteen that year. Established 1917 — the founding year the business itself would later put in print — begins here.

CHAPTER THREE · NOVEMBER 8, 1918

Grand opening

A year on from the directory listing, the storefront announced itself in the Pottsville Republican:

Grand Opening To-night — At 215 N. Centre St. the place to get the famous Coney Island Hot Weiners, known and cherished by every visitor of that noted place. Soft drinks etc., also served.

POTTSVILLE REPUBLICAN · NOV. 8, 1918 · P. 2 · [E04]

Famous — by the storefront's own grand-opening notice. The Coney Island name was on the building from day one, and the notice ran again the next evening; the run code in its corner reads n8-2t.

The grand opening is a milestone within the established-1917 story: the counter's move into its long-time Centre Street home. Weeks earlier, the same newspaper had printed the young

proprietor's name in the city's wartime list of September draft registrants — “3480—Sam Palles, Pottsville” [e03]. The war was still on as the weiners went famous.

CHAPTER FOUR

Palles & Sarantakos

The institution was bigger than one man from the start. Thomas Sarantakos — Sam's uncle, and like Sam a son of Levetsova — had reached Pennsylvania around 1904 and was a merchant in Tamaqua by 1916, the year he sponsored his teenage nephew's passage. By June 1919 a printed business roster carries the partnership — “Palles & Sarantokas,” as that page spells it [e06] — and on February 14, 1922 the two men put the name on the Commonwealth's own record, filing the Pennsylvania fictitious-name registration for Coney Island Hot Wieners under their Greek surnames: Sarantos P. Panteleakis and Anastasios D. Sarantakos, two partners, one counter [e19].

In January 1920 a federal census enumerator stood in 215 N. Centre Street and wrote the household down: Palles, Sam — head of household, age nineteen by the sheet, born Greece, immigrated 1916 — his trade line reading Restauranter, industry Lunch Room, class Employer. Boarding with him: a bootblack, a fifty-six-year-old lunch-room clerk, and Thomas Sarantakos, entered in the relationship column as “Uncle” [e15]. The census taker had no stake in anyone's founding story. Asked what the young man at 215 N. Centre did, the answer that went into the federal record was: runs a lunch room, employs people.

Through the 1920s the directories spell the firm out in full — bootblacks at 213 N. Centre, restaurant at 215, with both families living at the address: two coal-region Greek households behind one counter [e05, e07]. The record keeps a little music, too. The 1928 directory's piano classifieds list a Steinway at 215 N. Centre — a lunch room with a good piano, which says something about what the place meant to its block.

CHAPTER FIVE · 1928

The counter stays open

The last directory compiled in the founder's lifetime lists him with his wife — “Palles Sam, (Antoinette)” — the firm now plainly “restaurant, 215 N Centre” [e08]. By the end of 1927 the “Coney Island Lunch Room” name was simply how the town reached them: a December classified offering a Downing Street building for rent says to call at the Coney Island Lunch Room, 215 N. Centre St. [e09].

Sarantos Palles died on May 6, 1928. He was twenty-eight. The funeral notice names him “proprietor of the Coney Island Hot Weiner Restaurant on N. Centre St.”; the burial was at Charles Baber Cemetery, a few blocks up the hill, where the stone still stands [e10]. The Commonwealth's certificate of death — file no. 54500, filed the next day — records his occupation as Restaurateur and his industry in two words: Hot Wieners [e16]. The trade the state wrote down is the one the restaurant still practices.

Antonia Palles was twenty-five, with sons of about four and two. She carried the restaurant — not as remembered decades later, but as printed at the time. The 1928–29 directory lists the widow at 215 N. Centre, the loss recorded in three letters — “wid” — at the address that did not change [e11]. When fire destroyed the buildings at 213–215 in April 1930, the coverage stated the succession as plain fact — “upon his death about a year ago his widow continued to run the establishment” [e12] — and the front page recorded the buildings “owned by Mrs. Sam Palles, and occupied by the Coney Island Restaurant” [e13]: ownership and operation, in the same sentence, in 1930. Fourteen days after the fire, the census found her and the boys across the street, in the Thomas Sarantakos household at 216 N. Centre, her occupation column reading None — that month there was no restaurant to keep [e17]. On the west side of the street the enumeration sheets pass from 203 to 217 with no entry at 213–215; nothing stood there to enumerate. The succession survived because the two founding households were, by the record, one family. The counter reopened.

The institution was sustained by its people — by a widow who would not let it close, by partners, by staff, by the customers of a town that needed a counter that never quit. That has been the working arrangement ever since.

CHAPTER SIX · 1936

“With Real Chili Sauce — Established 1917”

On August 12, 1936, the restaurant placed a four-line advertisement in the Pottsville Republican: “Coney Island Hot Weiners — With Real Chili Sauce — Established 1917 — 215 N. Centre Street, Pottsville” [e14]. It is the only contemporaneous founding-date statement in the entire record — printed by the business itself, while the founding generation was alive to contradict it. Nobody did. Fifty-three years later, the town’s newspaper printed the same founding year on its own authority — the restaurant “was officially started in 1917,” Antonia’s 1989 obituary reads [e18]: two independent voices, half a century apart, one date.

Where the chili itself came from is family lore, and this volume labels it as such. The account — owner-confirmed, and told in the Republican’s 1990 feature — is that the idea arrived with a friend visiting from Texas, chili sauce in hand. What the record adds is documentary: the restaurant was advertising “real chili sauce” by 1936, while the earliest known “chili dog” newspaper advertisement anywhere in America did not appear until 1940. The recipe carries its label too: “the same family recipe since 1917” is a family attestation, stated by the family and carried here as family knowledge — its documentary anchor is the 1936 advertisement, where the chili sauce and the founding year meet in print.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Generations

Peter and Gus Palles grew up behind the counter their mother kept. Both went to the war — Peter by way of a 1942 Penn State admission, then the Army; Gus wounded in Germany at eighteen —

and both came home to the restaurant. By 1948 Peter was in the paper defending nickel coffee and fifteen-cent weiners. Antonia, the 1990 feature remembered, “ran the business until her two sons, Peter and Gus, were old enough to take over and even then she kept a firm hand on things” — she “strictly forbid her sons from adding a single restaurant, telling them to stay behind the counter.” In January 1950 the mid-century arrangement went onto the legal record exactly: the Coney Island Lunch Company fictitious-name filing names Antonia S. Palles and Anastasios Sarantakos — the founding families, still the owners of record [x2]. She lived to 1989, long enough to watch her grandsons run it.

The grandsons widened the map she had held narrow: Fairlane Village in 1975, the Yorkville line on West Market Street in 1979 — today’s home — then Schuylkill Mall, Renninger’s, a Morgantown outlet beyond the county line, and the Mr. Coney franchises, their chili controlled by the recipe’s own spice packets. The founder, the 1990 feature records, had himself helped other Greeks open hot dog counters in Shamokin, Mahanoy City, and Tamaqua — the expansion era ran in the grain.

In August 1990 the Pottsville Republican put the question on a full page — “The great chili dog debate” — and the third generation took the origin story public. “We are in for the long haul,” Mickey Palles told the paper; of the other coney counters, Randy Palles said, “We want every one to succeed.” The paper’s own claim ran under that headline, and it is quoted here as what the local press has long said — never adopted as the restaurant’s own: “Sarantos Palles ... would become the first man to put chili on a hot dog.” The restaurant’s claim is the narrower, documented one, and the next chapter states it exactly. Four generations have now kept the counter, and the credit belongs where it has always belonged: to the staff who work it and the patrons who keep coming.

The downtown storefront served until August 2012 — under tenant operation in its final decades, the building held in the Peter Palles Trust throughout — and the Coney Express at Fairlane Village served its last coney in January 2020. The continuous family line runs through West Market Street: today, the Coney Island Restaurant & Tavern at 2290 W. Market Street — restaurant, tavern, tiki bar, and drive-thru, open around the clock.

CHAPTER EIGHT

The record, and its limits

Here is what the documents support, stated once and exactly — and, just as plainly, what this restaurant does not claim.

Based on the documentary evidence assembled here, the earliest verified contemporaneous paper trail identified for a named coney/chili-dog origin claim is that of Sarantos "Sam" Palles and the Coney Island of Pottsville, Pennsylvania. The record includes a documented 1917-era appearance in Boyd's Directory, a November 8, 1918 grand-opening advertisement at 215 N. Centre Street, subsequent directory and newspaper records linking Sam Palles to that location, and a contemporaneous August 12, 1936 newspaper advertisement stating "Coney Island Hot Weiners — With Real Chili Sauce — Established 1917."

THE CLAIM IS THE PAPER TRAIL — NOTHING MORE. PLAINLY, WHAT THIS RESTAURANT DOES NOT CLAIM:

- Not "invented the chili dog." Chili on hot dogs is on the record in Atlanta in 1913, with no individual or venue named. This page says so itself.
- Not "the oldest" and not "the first." Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence — the claim is about the documented record, not about every counter that ever existed.
- Not "proven." These are documentary findings based on presently available evidence, published with their limits — and with a standing invitation to anyone holding earlier paper.

Three caveats travel with the finding, published on its own pages:

- Chili on hot dogs predates 1917: the practice is on the record in Atlanta in 1913, with no individual or venue named. The claim here is about a named, continuous, documented trail — not about the practice itself [x1].
- The 1918 grand-opening notice does not mention chili; the restaurant's own 1936 advertisement — "With Real Chili Sauce — Established 1917" — is where sauce and founding date meet on the record.
- Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence. Other counters' records may yet surface, and the record states exactly what evidence would change this finding — and that it would be published.

In testing the claim, the research also looked for older coney-named paper. Two pre-1918 examples are raised here — the reader meets them in this record before anyone else has to raise them:

FORT WAYNE, 1912–13 — A CONEY-NAMED CAFE

The closer of the two: the 1912 and 1913 Fort Wayne directories list a "Coney Island Cafe" under Joseph Liebenguth — genuine pre-1918 print of a coney-named eatery, and print is all it is. No founding story attaches to it; the name is gone from the 1914 edition; and it connects to nothing that followed — no coney-named business appears in any of the ten digitized Fort Wayne directories of 1914–1920, the coney stand at 131 W. Main enters them only in 1921, and Liebenguth is not among that stand's claimed founders.

BAY CITY AND SAGINAW, 1907–1911 — THE JOHN HAY STANDS

John Hay’s “Original Coney Island” red-hot stands were advertised in Michigan as early as 1907. Named and early — and nothing else about them touches the finding: no chili, no origin claim, no successor, and gone by 1920.

The appended record carries the methodology behind all of it, the falsifiability statement — exactly what evidence would revise the finding — and the standing correction policy: anyone holding earlier contemporaneous paper is publicly invited to send it, and corrections are published, with credit.

CHAPTER NINE

The timeline

Dates with documents behind them — era by era, 1913 to today.

APRIL 13, 1913	The Atlanta Constitution records chili among the condiments of the Greek-run hot dog trade — the practice on the record, with no individual or venue named [x1].
1917	Sarantos “Sam” Palles appears in Boyd’s Directory of Pottsville, compiled in 1917 — a bootblack at 412 N. 2nd St. Established 1917: the founding year the business itself would later print [e01, e02].
NOV. 8, 1918	Grand opening at 215 N. Centre Street — “the famous Coney Island Hot Weiners,” in the Pottsville Republican. The notice runs again the next evening [e04].
JUNE 9, 1919	The Palles & Sarantakos partnership appears in a printed business roster under the trade name Pottsville Pure Food Store [e06].
FEB. 14, 1922	The partnership is entered on the Commonwealth’s record — a Pennsylvania fictitious-name registration names Sam Palles and his uncle Thomas Sarantakos as the partners doing business at Pottsville under the name Coney Island Hot Wieners [e19].
1922–24	Boyd’s Directory records the firm in full — bootblacks at 213 N. Centre, restaurant at 215 — with both families at the address [e07].
DEC. 14, 1927	“Coney Island Lunch Room” is in print — the earliest dated attestation of the name the town would use for decades [e09].
MAY 6, 1928	The founder dies at 28. The funeral notice names him proprietor of the Coney Island Hot Weiner Restaurant; the state death certificate records his industry as Hot Weiners; he is buried at Charles Baber Cemetery [e10, e16].
APRIL 1930	Fire damages 213–215 N. Centre St. The front page records the buildings “owned by Mrs. Sam Palles” — Antonia, in her second year carrying the restaurant. The census that month finds her and the boys sheltering with the Sarantakos household across the street. The counter reopens [e12, e13, e17].
AUG. 12, 1936	The business’s own advertisement: “Coney Island Hot Weiners — With Real Chili Sauce — Established 1917” [e14].

1940S	Both sons serve in the war — Gus is wounded in Germany in March 1945; Peter's Army service follows his 1942 Penn State admission. After the war they take the counter.
JAN. 19, 1950	The Coney Island Lunch Company fictitious-name filing names Antonia S. Palles and Anastasios Sarantakos — the founding families, still the owners of record at mid-century [x2].
1975	The Fairlane Village location opens — the expansion era begins. Gus Palles dies in June; Peter carries the second generation forward.
1979	The Yorkville line opens on West Market Street — the location that becomes today's 2290 W. Market St. home.
1980S	The third generation — Mickey and Randy Palles — takes up the counters: West Market Street, the Coney Express at Fairlane, Schuylkill Mall, Renninger's, and the Mr. Coney franchises beyond the county.
AUG. 29, 1990	"The great chili dog debate" — the Pottsville Republican's full-page feature. The third generation takes the origin question public; the paper trail in this volume now answers it.
AUGUST 2012	The downtown location closes after decades under tenant operation — the building stayed in the Peter Palles Trust throughout. The West Market Street home carries on.
JANUARY 2020	The Coney Express at Fairlane Village serves its last coney.
TODAY	The Coney Island Restaurant & Tavern, 2290 W. Market St. — restaurant, tavern, tiki bar, and drive-thru, open 24/7, serving the same family recipe since 1917. [†]

[†] The recipe line is family-attested, as chapter six records.

CHAPTER TEN

Thank you

A century on, the restaurant's debt has not changed. We owe all of our success, past and future, to our hard-working staff and loyal patrons. Thank you — and we hope you enjoy.

The Documented History — first edition, July 2026. The narrative traces every fact to the Documentary Record appended as Part Two and published, with every scan, at coneyislandpottsville.com/history/evidence. Reproduced documents are in the US public domain, with the basis recorded per exhibit; this compilation, its transcriptions, and its glosses © The Coney Island Restaurant & Tavern — quote with attribution. Corrections: info@coneyislandpottsville.com · 570-622-7722.

PART TWO

The Documentary Record

The record behind one precise sentence: The earliest verified contemporaneous paper trail identified for a named coney/chili-dog origin claim. Every exhibit that follows is independently checkable — scan, transcription, citation, evidence label, and a link to the source.

The pages that follow reproduce the Documentary Record as generated on July 16, 2026, from the same gated data pipeline that publishes it at coneyislandpottsville.com.

The Documentary Record

The paper trail, 1913–1950 — established 1917

PUBLISHED AT CONEYISLANDPOTTSVILLE.COM/HISTORY/EVIDENCE · UPDATED 2026-07-16

STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

Based on the documentary evidence assembled here, the earliest verified contemporaneous paper trail identified for a named coney/chili-dog origin claim is that of Sarantos "Sam" Palles and the Coney Island of Pottsville, Pennsylvania. The record includes a documented 1917-era appearance in Boyd's Directory, a November 8, 1918 grand-opening advertisement at 215 N. Centre Street, subsequent directory and newspaper records linking Sam Palles to that location, and a contemporaneous August 12, 1936 newspaper advertisement stating "Coney Island Hot Weiners — With Real Chili Sauce — Established 1917."

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- Not "proven." These are documentary findings based on presently available evidence, published with their limits — and with a standing invitation to anyone holding earlier paper.

THE EVIDENCE LABELS

VERIFIED-IMAGE: Transcribed directly from the page image. The scan is reproduced here, so the reading can be checked against the artifact itself.

VERIFIED-OCR: Confirmed in an archived OCR transcript of the page, matched paragraph by paragraph; the original page is linked for independent verification.

VERIFIED-LIVE: Fetched and confirmed at the linked online source during the research (date of access recorded in the sources appendix).

SECONDARY: A published retrospective account — a later newspaper feature, book, or article. Reported as what was published, never as contemporaneous evidence.

FAMILY: Family knowledge, stated by the owner and labeled as such wherever it appears. Never presented as independently documented.

THE DOCUMENTED CHAIN

E01 — Boyd's Directory of Pottsville, 1915–17 edition

BOYD'S DIRECTORY OF POTTSVILLE · 1915–17 EDITION · VERIFIED-OCR

No Palles appears anywhere in the 1915–17 edition — the name arrives in the next compilation. Negative evidence, checked page by page.

Source: Boyd's Directory of Pottsville, 1915–17 edition (full scan) —

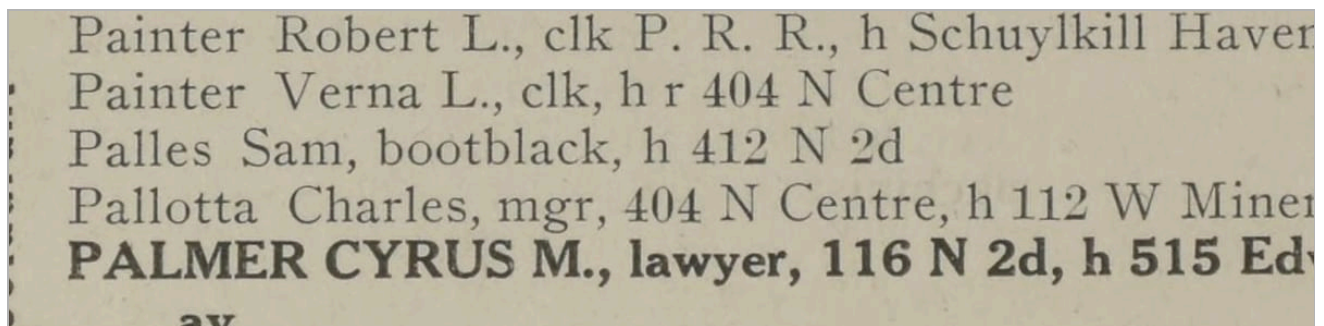
https://archive.org/details/boydsdirectoryof0000whbo_u8b4

Basis: Internet Archive open-access scan (Pottsville Free Public Library collection)

E02 — Boyd's Directory of Pottsville, 1917–19 edition, p. 266

BOYD'S DIRECTORY OF POTTSVILLE · 1917–19 EDITION · P. 266 · VERIFIED-IMAGE

Sam Palles present in Pottsville in the 1917 compilation window — a bootblack, rooming at 412 N. 2nd St. The earliest directory presence.



| *Palles Sam, bootblack, h 412 N 2d*

Source: Boyd's Directory of Pottsville, 1917–19 edition (full scan) —

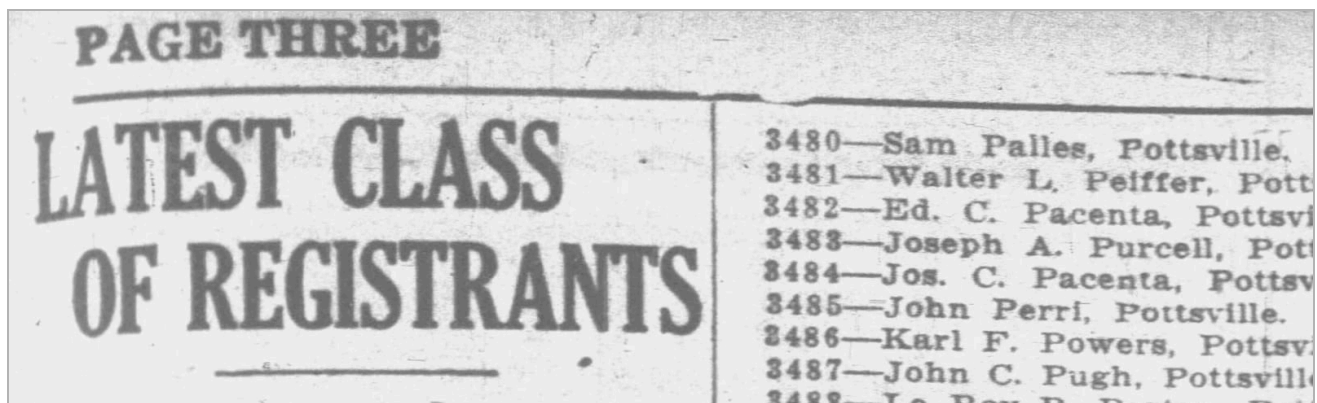
https://archive.org/details/boydsdirectoryof0000whbo_w0v7

Basis: Internet Archive open-access scan (Pottsville Free Public Library collection)

E03 — Pottsville Republican, p. 3 — the printed list of Sept. 12 draft registrants

POTTSVILLE REPUBLICAN · OCT. 10, 1918 · P. 3 · VERIFIED-IMAGE

Sam Palles's name in newsprint — number 3480 in the city's printed list of September 12, 1918 draft registrants. His earliest located appearance in a newspaper.



LATEST CLASS OF REGISTRANTS — The following additional names of registrants of Sept. 12 is given below, continued from the previous days: ... 3480—Sam Palles, Pottsville.

Source: Pottsville Republican, Oct. 10, 1918, p. 3 (page image) — <https://www.newspapers.com/image/449751718>

Basis: Published before 1931 — US public domain

E04 — Pottsville Republican, p. 2 — the grand-opening notice for 215 N. Centre Street

POTTSVILLE REPUBLICAN · NOV. 8, 1918 · P. 2 · VERIFIED-IMAGE

The storefront announces itself — "the famous Coney Island Hot Weiners" at 215 N. Centre St. The Coney Island name is on the building from day one, and the notice ran again the next evening (the run code reads n8-2t).



Grand Opening To-night — At 215 N. Centre St. the place to get the famous Coney Island Hot Weiners, known and cherished by every visitor of that noted place. Soft drinks etc., also served. n8-2t

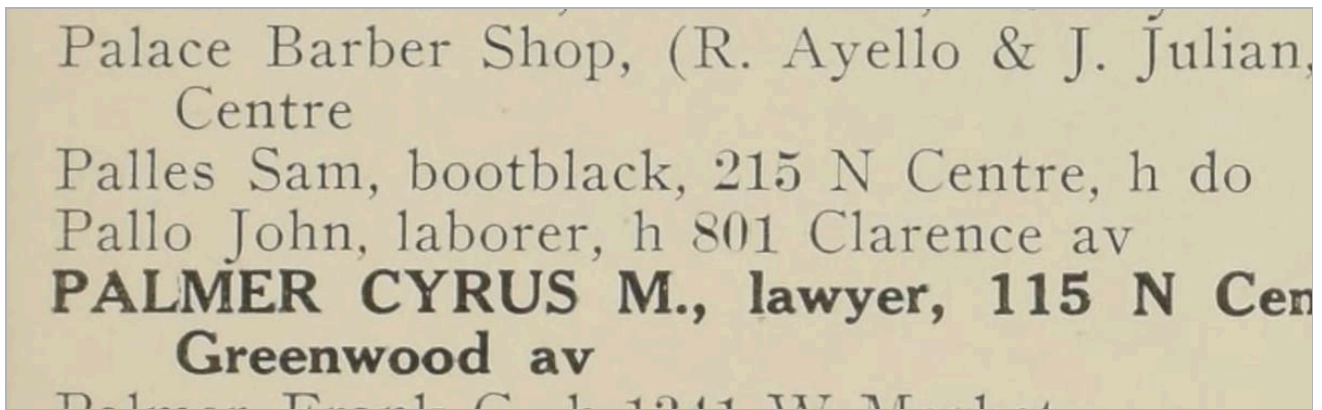
Source: Pottsville Republican, Nov. 8, 1918, p. 2 (page image) — <https://www.newspapers.com/image/449757310>

Basis: Published before 1931 — US public domain

E05 — Boyd's Directory of Pottsville, 1919–21 edition

BOYD'S DIRECTORY OF POTTSVILLE · 1919–21 EDITION · VERIFIED-IMAGE

Sam Palles now at 215 N. Centre Street — the exact grand-opening address — living above the business.



Palles Sam, bootblack, 215 N Centre, h do

The same edition's BOOTBLACKS classified pages also list "Palles S., 215 N Centre" (confirmed in the volume's full text).

Source: Boyd's Directory of Pottsville, 1919–21 edition (full scan) —

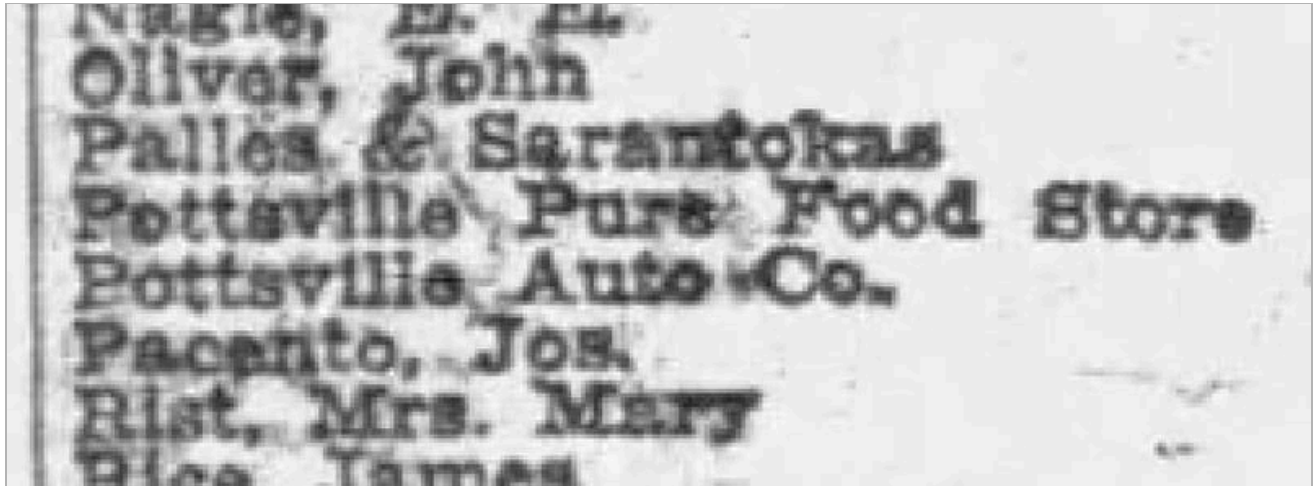
https://archive.org/details/boydsdirectoryof0000whbo_m9s6

Basis: Internet Archive open-access scan (Pottsville Free Public Library collection)

E06 — Pottsville Republican, p. 7 — a printed business roster, listed by ward

POTTSVILLE REPUBLICAN · JUN. 9, 1919 · P. 7 · VERIFIED-IMAGE

The earliest dated attestation of the partnership — "Palles & Sarantokas," paired with the trade name "Pottsville Pure Food Store," in a printed business roster. Both names coexisted with the Coney Island Hot Weiners brand already in use at the storefront.



Palles & Sarantokas — Pottsville Pure Food Store

Two consecutive roster lines, read from the page image (this resolves an earlier garbled OCR reading). The roster prints the surname as "Sarantokas" — one of the record's recurring spellings of Sarantakos.

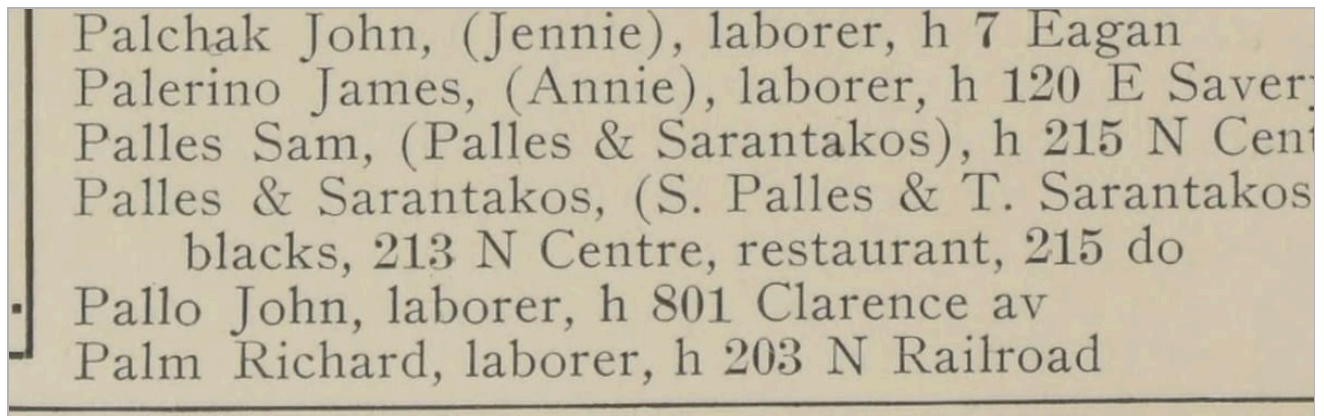
Source: Pottsville Republican, Jun. 9, 1919, p. 7 (page image) — <https://www.newspapers.com/image/449425910>

Basis: Published before 1931 — US public domain

E07 — Boyd's Directory of Pottsville, 1922–24 edition

BOYD'S DIRECTORY OF POTTSVILLE · 1922–24 EDITION · VERIFIED-IMAGE

The firm in full: Palles & Sarantakos — bootblacks at 213 N. Centre, restaurant at 215. The institution is bigger than one man from its early years.



Palles Sam, (Palles & Sarantakos), h 215 N Centre — Palles & Sarantakos, (S. Palles & T. Sarantakos), bootblacks, 213 N Centre, restaurant, 215 do

Read from the page image; the printed line wraps "boot-blacks" across lines and clearly reads 213 N Centre (an earlier OCR pass rendered it 218 — the scan governs; 213–215 N. Centre is the pair of buildings the 1930 fire coverage also names).

Source: Boyd's Directory of Pottsville, 1922–24 edition (full scan) —

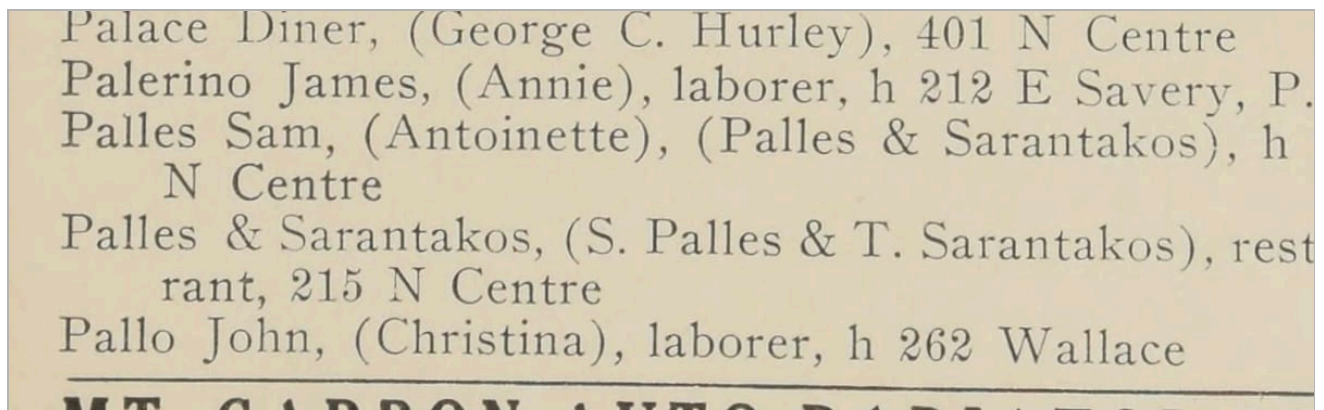
https://archive.org/details/boydsdirectoryof0000whbo_u7j1

Basis: Internet Archive open-access scan (Pottsville Free Public Library collection)

E08 — Boyd's Directory of Pottsville, 1926–28 edition

BOYD'S DIRECTORY OF POTTSVILLE · 1926–28 EDITION · VERIFIED-IMAGE

Sam Palles with his wife Antoinette in the household entry; the firm now plainly "restaurant, 215 N Centre." The last directory compiled in the founder's lifetime.



Palles Sam, (Antoinette), (Palles & Sarantakos), h 215 N Centre — Palles & Sarantakos, (S. Palles & T. Sarantakos), restaurant, 215 N Centre

Source: Boyd's Directory of Pottsville, 1926–28 edition (full scan) —

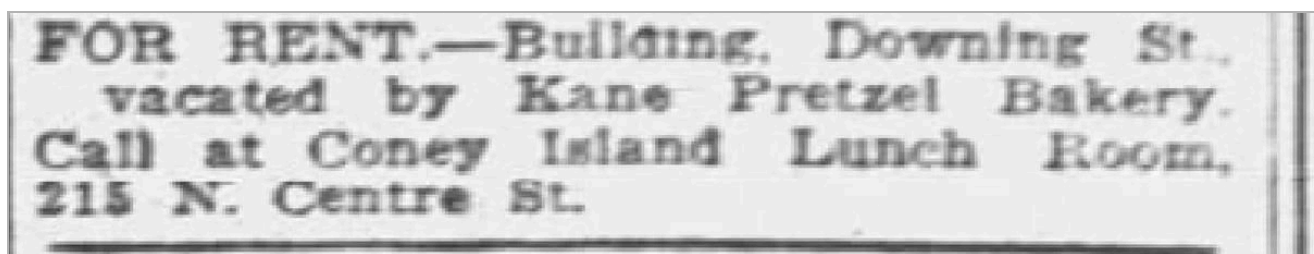
https://archive.org/details/boydsdirectoryof0000whbo_t3k5

Basis: Internet Archive open-access scan (Pottsville Free Public Library collection)

E09 — Pottsville Republican — a classified naming the Coney Island Lunch Room

POTTSVILLE REPUBLICAN · DEC. 14, 1927 · P. 18 · VERIFIED-IMAGE

The earliest dated attestation of the "Coney Island Lunch Room" name — a year earlier than the date previous retrospectives gave it. The business is renting out a Downing Street building and takes inquiries at the counter.



FOR RENT.—Building, Downing St., vacated by Kane Pretzel Bakery. Call at Coney Island Lunch Room, 215 N. Centre St.

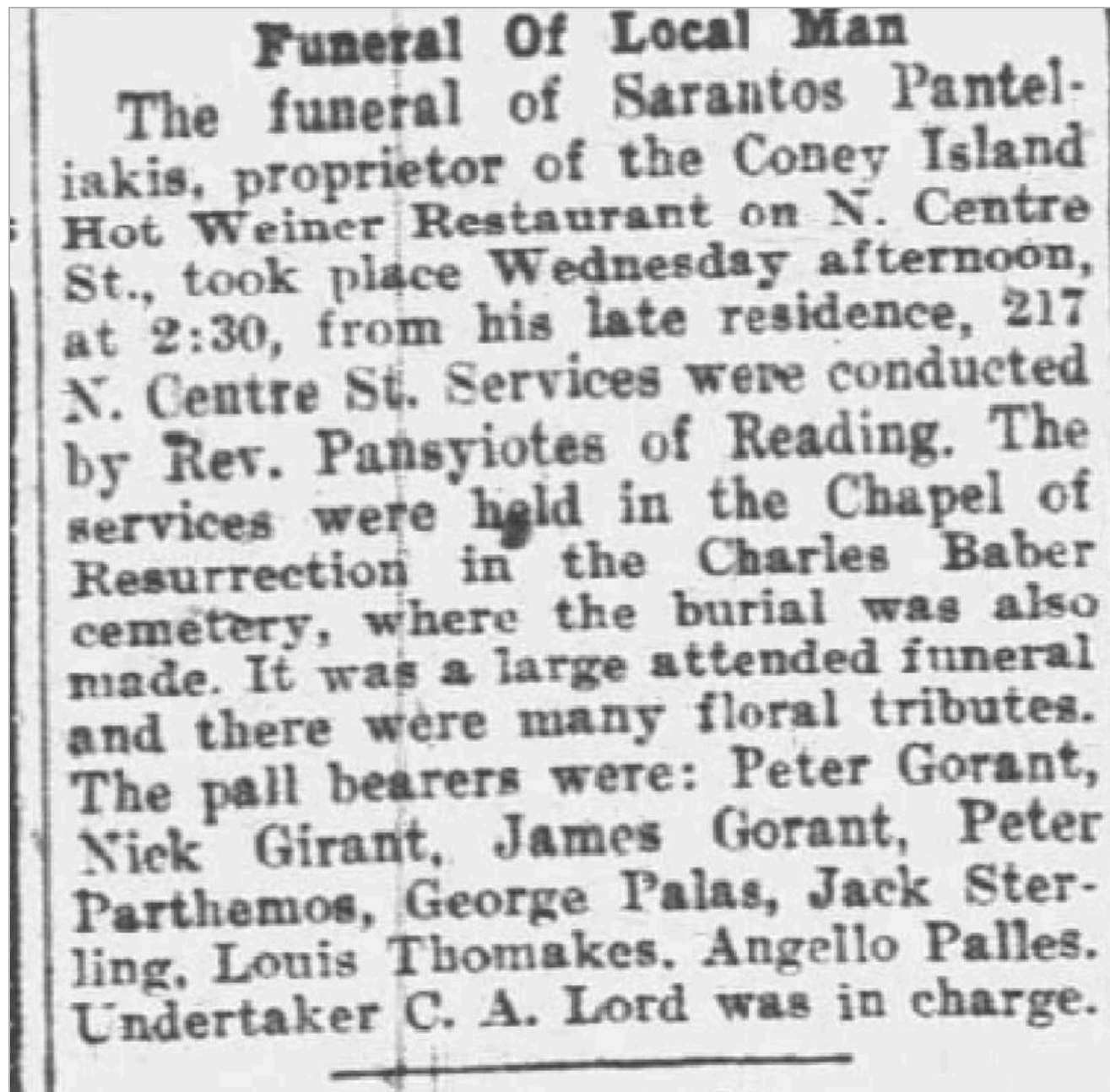
Source: Pottsville Republican, Dec. 14, 1927 (page image) — <https://www.newspapers.com/image/449757243>

Basis: Published before 1931 — US public domain

E10 — Pottsville Republican, p. 13 — "Funeral Of Local Man"

POTTSVILLE REPUBLICAN · MAY 9, 1928 · P. 13 · VERIFIED-IMAGE

The founder's funeral notice — Sarantos Panteliakis, "proprietor of the Coney Island Hot Weiner Restaurant on N. Centre St.," resident at 217 N. Centre, buried at Charles Baber Cemetery. The pallbearers include Peter Parthemos (his wife's family) and Angello Palles.

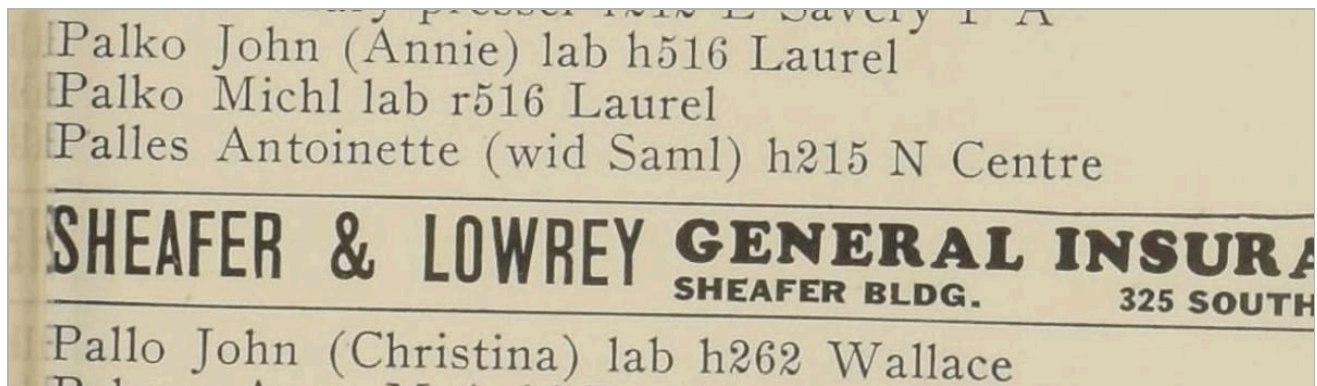


Funeral Of Local Man — The funeral of Sarantos Panteliakis, proprietor of the Coney Island Hot Weiner Restaurant on N. Centre St., took place Wednesday afternoon, at 2:30, from his late residence, 217 N. Centre St. Services were conducted by Rev. Pansyiotes of Reading. The services were held in the Chapel of Resurrection in the Charles Baber cemetery, where the burial was also made. It was a large attended funeral and there were many floral tributes. The pall bearers were: Peter Gorant, Nick Girant, James Gorant, Peter Parthemos, George Palas, Jack Sterling, Louis Thomakes, Angello Palles. Undertaker C. A. Lord was in charge.

E11 — Pottsville City Directory, 1928–29 edition

POTTSVILLE CITY DIRECTORY · 1928–29 EDITION · VERIFIED-IMAGE

The widow's entry — "Palles Antoinette (wid Saml)" — still at 215 N. Centre. The same edition lists Thomas Sarantakos, restaurant, 215 N. Centre: the partnership family keeps the counter running beside her.



Palles Antoinette (wid Saml) h215 N Centre

Read from the page image. An earlier OCR pass appended a neighboring advertisement's wording to this entry; the entry itself ends at "h215 N Centre."

Source: Pottsville City Directory, 1928–29 edition (full scan) — https://archive.org/details/pttsvllctydir1928_images

Basis: Internet Archive open-access scan

E12 — Pottsville Republican, p. 5 — fire-aftermath coverage

POTTSVILLE REPUBLICAN · APR. 9, 1930 · P. 5 · VERIFIED-OCR

Contemporaneous print that the widow continued to run the restaurant after the founder's death — stated as plain fact in the fire coverage.

... Later it was purchased by Samuel Palles who operated the Coney Island restaurant and upon his death about a year ago his widow continued to run the establishment.

Excerpt from the matched-paragraph OCR of the page (archived during the research); the full page is linked.

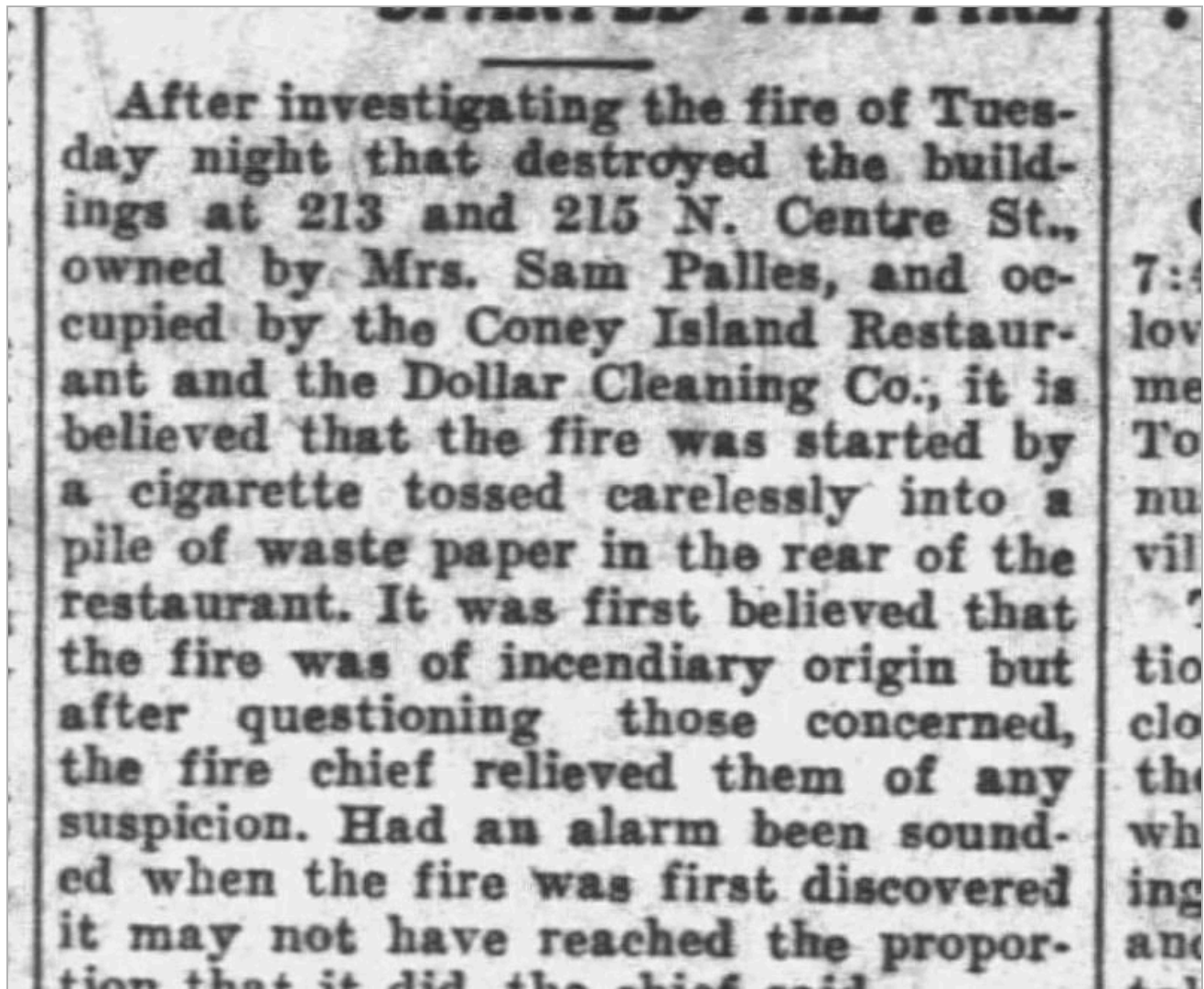
Source: Pottsville Republican, Apr. 9, 1930, p. 5 (page image) — <https://www.newspapers.com/image/449780699>

Basis: Published before 1931 — US public domain

E13 — Pottsville Republican, p. 1 — the fire investigation

POTTSVILLE REPUBLICAN · APR. 11, 1930 · P. 1 · VERIFIED-IMAGE

Front-page print: the buildings at 213 and 215 N. Centre St. were "owned by Mrs. Sam Palles, and occupied by the Coney Island Restaurant." Ownership and operation, in the same sentence, in 1930.



After investigating the fire of Tuesday night that destroyed the buildings at 213 and 215 N. Centre St., owned by Mrs. Sam Palles, and occupied by the Coney Island Restaurant and the Dollar Cleaning Co., it is believed that the fire was started by a cigarette tossed carelessly into a pile of waste paper in the rear of the restaurant. It was first believed that the fire was of incendiary origin but after questioning those concerned, the fire chief relieved them of any suspicion. Had an alarm been sounded when the fire was first discovered it may not have reached the proportion that it did, the chief said.

The transcription preserves the article's own wording throughout, including its narration of how the fire was at first believed to have started.

Source: Pottsville Republican, Apr. 11, 1930, p. 1 (page image) — <https://www.newspapers.com/image/449781586>

Basis: Published before 1931 — US public domain

E14 — Pottsville Republican, p. 9 — the business's own advertisement

POTTSVILLE REPUBLICAN · AUG. 12, 1936 · P. 9 · VERIFIED-IMAGE

The business's own advertising states the chili sauce and the founding date in one block — "With Real Chili Sauce — Established 1917" — while the founding generation was alive to contradict it. Nobody did.



Coney Island Hot Weiners — With Real Chili Sauce — Established 1917 — 215 N. Centre Street, Pottsville

Four centered lines in the original. The ad carries no separate copyright notice of its own (confirmed on the scan).

Sources: Pottsville Republican, Aug. 12, 1936, p. 9 (page image) — <https://www.newspapers.com/image/450239118> ·

First copyright renewals for periodicals — inventory, 1931–1950 issues —

<https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/cce/firstperiod.html>

Basis: Copyright not renewed (the UPenn periodical-renewals inventory for 1931–1950 contains no Pottsville entries) and, independently, the 1909 Act's ad-notice rule — US public domain

E15 — 1920 U.S. census, Pottsville Ward 4, ED 92, sheet 1A — 215 N. Centre Street

1920 U.S. CENSUS · POTTSVILLE WARD 4, ED 92, SHEET 1A · ENUMERATED JAN. 2, 1920 · VERIFIED-IMAGE

Fourteen months after the grand opening, a federal enumerator stands in 215 N. Centre St. and writes the household down: Palles, Sam — head, age 19, born Greece, immigrated 1916 — his trade line reading Restauranter, industry Lunch Room, class Employer. Boarding with him: a bootblack, a 56-year-old lunch-room clerk, and Thomas Sarantakos — entered in the relationship column as "Uncle."

22				Charles H	Son			M	W	8	S					yes	yes	yes
23	217	5	7	Diebach, Sarah S	Head	0	7	7	W	60	S					yes	yes	yes
24				Clarke, Anna M	sister			7	W	57	W					yes	yes	yes
25				Shaffer, Amelia C	Housekeeper			7	W	54	S					no	no	no
26	215	6	8	Palles, Sam	Head	1		M	W	19	S	1916	al			no	no	no
27				Galitos, Alex	Boarder			M	W	19	S	1916	al			no	no	no
28				Athas, Mick	Boarder			M	W	56	M	1907	al			no	no	no
29				Sarantakos, Thomas	Uncle			M	W	33	S	1904	no	1915		no	no	no
30	205	7	9	Hill, Walter B	Head	0	M	M	W	49	M					no	no	no
31				Spahr, F	Wife			7	W	47	M					yes	yes	yes

215 — Palles, Sam — Head — rents — M W 19, single — immigrated 1916, alien — born Greece — speaks English — Restauranter — Lunch Room — Employer. Galitos, Alex — Boarder — 19 — immigrated 1916, alien — Bootblack — Cigar store. Athas, Mick — Boarder — 56 — immigrated 1907, alien — Clerk — Lunch Room. Sarantakos, Thomas — Uncle — 33 — immigrated 1904, naturalized 1915 — Clerk — Cigar store.

Lines 26–29, condensed from the sheet's columns; the street label "North Centre St" is written in the sheet margin. The boarder's surname on line 27 is soft (Galitos/Galites) and the trade line reads Restauranter as written. The occupation columns sit to the right of this crop; the full sheet is at the linked source.

Source: 1920 U.S. census, Pottsville Ward 4, ED 92, sheet 1A (page image, NARA T625 roll 1651) —

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9RXN-CH6>

Basis: U.S. federal census schedule — government record, public domain (NARA T625, roll 1651)

E16 — Pennsylvania certificate of death, file no. 54500 — Samuel Pallas

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA CERTIFICATE OF DEATH · FILE NO. 54500 · FILED MAY 7, 1928 · VERIFIED-IMAGE

The founder's death certificate, located through the state's own 1928 index and read in full. Date of death May 6, 1928 — confirming the stone and settling the index's variant May 8 reading — occupation Restaurateur, industry Hot Weiners, employer self. The informant is Thomas Sarantakos of 216 N. Centre St.; burial May 9 at Charles Baber Cemetery.

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

1. PLACE OF DEATH
City Schuylkill Registration District No. 803
Township of Pottsville Primary Registration District No. 1444
City Pottsville (No. Warne Hospital St. 3d Ward) Registered No. 194

2. FULL NAME Samuel Pallas

3. SEX Male 4. COLOR OR RACE Greek 5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED (write the word) Married

6. DATE OF BIRTH (month, day and year) Unknown

7. AGE Years 27 Months — Days — IF LESS than 1 day, hrs. — or min. —

8. OCCUPATION OF DECEASED
Trade, profession or regular kind of work Restaurateur
General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer) Hot Weiners
Name of employer self

9. BIRTHPLACE (City or town) Potomac (State or country) Greece

10. NAME OF FATHER Peter Pallas

11. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (City or town) Unknown (State or country) Greece

12. NAME OF MOTHER Antonia Petichanos

13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (City or town) Unknown (State or country) Greece

14. Informant Thomas Sakandekos (Address) 216 N. Centre St. Pottsville

15. Date of death MAY 7 1928 Registered H. J. Horbela

16. DATE OF DEATH May 6 1928
(Month) (Day) (Year)

17. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from May 4, 1928 to May 6, 1928
that I last saw him alive on May 6, 1928
and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 3:40 P. m.
The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows:
Suppurative gangrenous appendicitis
(duration) 117-124 yrs. 2 mos. — ds.

CONTRIBUTORY (SECONDARY) Peritonitis (duration) — yrs. — mos. — ds.

18. Where was disease contracted if not at place of death? 215 N. Centre St.
Did an operation precede death? yes Date of May 4 th
Was there an autopsy? no
What test confirmed diagnosis? Operative findings
(Signed) Angelo (Address) 409 N. Market St.

*State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or in deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES, state (1) MEANS AND NATURE OF INJURY, AND (2) whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or HOMICIDAL. (See reverse side for additional space.)

19. PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION OR REMOVAL Chas Baber Cem DATE OF BURIAL May 9 1928

20. UNDERTAKER Claude A Lord ADDRESS Pottsville

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING
WRITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD
N. B.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE, SEX, COLOR, RACE, and PLAIN TERMS, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION should be stated EXACTLY. See instructions on back of certificate.

Full name: Samuel Pallas. Color or race: Greek. Date of death: May 6, 1928, 3:40 p.m. Occupation — trade: Restaurateur; industry: Hot Weiners; employer: self. Name of father: Peter Pallas. Cause: suppurative gangrenous appendicitis; contributory, peritonitis; operation May 4. Where was disease contracted: 215 N. Centre St. Informant: Thomas Sakandekos [Sarantakos], 216 N. Centre St., Pottsville. Filed May 7, 1928. Burial: Chas. Baber Cem., May 9, 1928 — undertaker Claude A. Lord, Pottsville.

Condensed from the form's fields, spellings as written — the registrar renders the partner's surname Sakandekos, and the age line reads 27 against a date-of-birth line of Unknown. Died at Warne Hospital, Third Ward, Pottsville.

Sources: Pennsylvania certificate of death, file no. 54500 (1928) — Samuel Pallas (image) —

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/5164/images/42342_645856_0565-01074 · Pennsylvania death

indices, 1928, vol. P-Q-R (free PDF) —

https://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r11_090_DeathIndexes/Death_1928/D-28%20P-Q-R.pdf

Basis: Pennsylvania public record (statewide open death records, 1906–1971); image from the PA State Archives' digitized series

E17 — 1930 U.S. census, Pottsville Ward 1, ED 54-86, sheet 18B — 216 N. Centre Street

1930 U.S. CENSUS · POTTSVILLE WARD 1, ED 54-86, SHEET 18B · ENUMERATED APR. 22, 1930 · VERIFIED-IMAGE

Fourteen days after the fire, the census finds the widow and her sons across the street from the burned 213–215, in the Thomas Sarantakos household at 216 N. Centre — Palles, Anna [Antonia], niece, 28, widowed, with Peter, 6, and Augustus (Gus), 4, both born Pennsylvania. Her occupation column reads None: that month there was no restaurant to keep. The head of the household is still a restaurant man — Merchant, Restaurant, Employer.

Line	Name	Relationship	Sex	Age	Marital Status	Birthplace	Occupation
89	Chapman, Anna	Servant	F	15	S	Greece	
90	216 390417 Sarantakos, Thomas	Head	M	45	M	35	Merchant, Restaurant, Employer
91	Desbel	Wife	F	31	M	21	
92	Palles, Anna	Niece	F	28	W	21	
93	Peter	Nephew	M	6	S		
94	Augustus	Nephew	M	4	S		
95	418 Richter, Henry	Head	M	56	M	43	
96	Desbel	Wife	F	31	M	21	

216 — Sarantakos, Thomas — Head — rents, \$45 — M W 40 — born Greece, immigrated 1905, naturalized — Merchant — Restaurant — Employer — veteran, WW. Desbel [Despo] — Wife — 31 — born Greece, immigrated 1913. Palles, Anna [Antonia] — Niece — F W 28, widowed — born Greece, immigrated 1921 — occupation None. Peter — Nephew — 6 — born Pennsylvania. Augustus — Nephew — 4 — born Pennsylvania.

Lines 90–94, condensed from the sheet's columns; the enumerator spells the surname Sarantankos and writes "Neice" as found; the street label "North Centre Street" is written in the sheet margin. Augustus's age carries a month fraction reading 4 10/12. The immigration and occupation columns sit to the right of this crop; the full sheet is at the linked source.

Sources: 1930 U.S. census, Pottsville Ward 1, ED 54-86, sheet 18B (page image, NARA T626) —

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9RCJ-KRB> · 1930 census microfilm, NARA T626 roll 2146 —

Schuylkill County EDs incl. Pottsville (open reel) — <https://archive.org/details/fifteenthcensus00reel2146>

Basis: U.S. federal census schedule — government record, public domain (NARA T626)

E18 — Pottsville Republican, p. 2 — "Antonia Palles, 87; started Coney Island"

POTTSVILLE REPUBLICAN · JUN. 7, 1989 · P. 2 · VERIFIED-IMAGE

Sixty-one years after she was widowed, the town's paper writes the succession into her headline — started Coney Island. The obituary calls her the last surviving original owner, places her death at 215 N. Centre St. itself, and repeats the founding year on its own authority: the restaurant "was officially started in 1917."

Antonia Palles, 87, the last surviving original owner of the Coney Island, Pottsville, died Tuesday at her local residence, 215 N. Centre St. ... [She] was with the Coney Island restaurant business when it was officially started in 1917 in Pottsville. ... Her husband, Sam, died in 1928.

Quoted in brief — the 1989 issue remains in copyright, so the page is linked rather than reproduced. The companion notice the next day names her Antonia (Parthemos) Palles and sets the funeral at the Chapel of the Resurrection, Charles Baber Cemetery.

Sources: Pottsville Republican, Jun. 7, 1989, p. 2 — "Antonia Palles, 87; started Coney Island" —

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/468249810> · Pottsville Republican, Jun. 8, 1989, p. 2 — "Palles Rites" —

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/468250027>

Basis: Pottsville Republican, 1989 — in copyright; quoted briefly with citation, with the page linked at its source

E19 — Commonwealth of Pennsylvania fictitious-name registration — Coney Island Hot Wieners

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA · FICTITIOUS-NAME REGISTRATION · CONEY ISLAND HOT WIENERS · FEB. 14, 1922 · VERIFIED-IMAGE

The partnership on the Commonwealth's own record. Filed February 14, 1922, the certificate names Sarantos P. Panteleakis and Anastasios D. Sarantakos — Sam Palles and his uncle Thomas Sarantakos, under their Greek surnames — as the partners carrying on business at Pottsville under the fictitious name Coney Island Hot Wieners.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Office of the
Secretary of the Commonwealth

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT, SARANTOS P. PANTELEAKIS and

ANASTASIOS D. SARANTAKOS, of the City of Pottsville, State of Pennsylvania, _____

carrying on or conducting business under the assumed or fictitious name, style, or designation of CONY ISLAND HOT WIENERS, with place of business located in the said City of Pottsville, have _____

this fourteenth day of February A. D. 1922 , filed in this Department
the CERTIFICATE provided for in the Act of Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
entitled "An Act making it unlawful for any individual or individuals to carry on or conduct any
business under an assumed or fictitious name, style or designation, unless upon the filing of a Certifi-
cate to that effect in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth and of the Prothonotary, etc.,"
approved June 28, 1917, as amended.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand

and caused the Seal of the Secretary's Office to be
affixed at the City of Harrisburg the day and year
above written.



Frederic G. Proctor

Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. I DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT, Sarantos P. Panteleakis and Anastasios D. Sarantakos, of the City of Pottsville, State of Pennsylvania, carrying on or conducting business under the assumed or fictitious name, style, or designation of Coney Island Hot

Wieners, with place of business located in the said City of Pottsville, have this fourteenth day of February A.D. 1922, filed in this Department the Certificate provided for in the Act of Assembly ... approved June 28, 1917, as amended.

Condensed from the printed form; the certificate spells the business "Coney Island Hot Wieners," where the 1918 and 1936 newspaper ads print "Hot Weiners." Signed by the Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth under the Office's seal at Harrisburg.

Source: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania fictitious-name registration — Coney Island Hot Wieners, filed Feb. 14, 1922 (family heirloom certificate) — <https://coneyislandpottsville.com/history/evidence>

Basis: *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania public record (1922 fictitious-name filing); family heirloom copy, photographed June 2026*

X1 — The Atlanta Constitution, p. 15 — the practice, before anyone named it

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION · APR. 13, 1913 · P. 15 · VERIFIED-IMAGE

Chili on hot dogs is on the record in Atlanta in 1913 — Greek vendors, a thriving trade — and the article names no individual and no venue as its origin. This page is why this restaurant never claims the practice itself.



HAVE YOU GOT THE "HOT DOG" ... — By James W. Meade — [photo caption:] Greek boys have the "hot dog" monopoly sewed up. The lad in the picture aims to be a great sculptor. — Hail! The Hot Dog! At last has the luscious hog-fruit come into its own. From the purlieus of the Great Boulevard of Blaze to the most isolated jerk-water hamlet in Mississippi, it has made the air fragrant with the seductive aroma of onions and sauerkraut ...

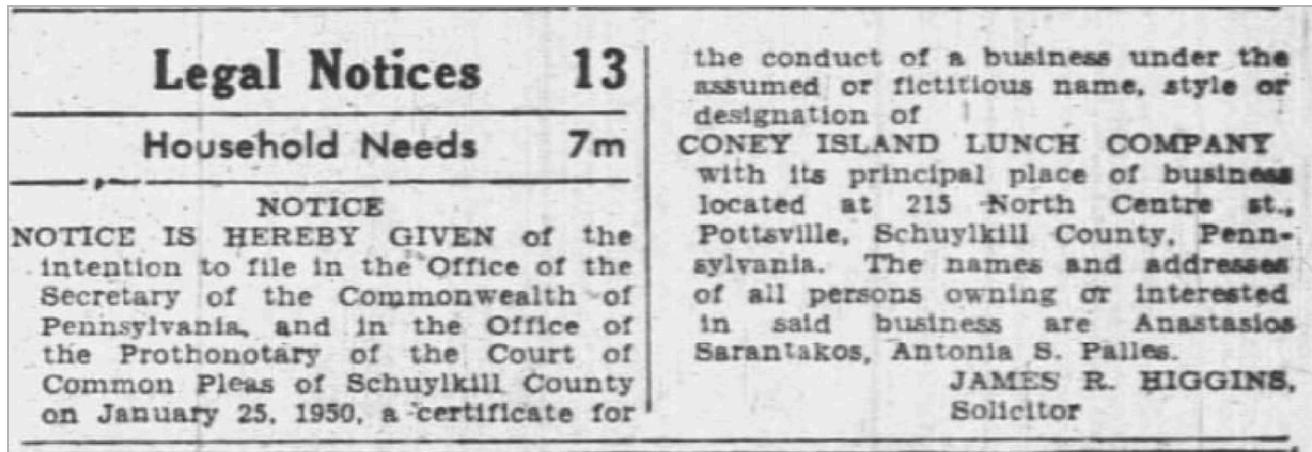
The reproduced scan is a partial page; the headline runs past its right edge. The article's body text — "mustard, chile, and the sauerkraut" — is the era's record of the condiments, cross-confirmed against independent transcriptions of the full page during the research (2026-06-11).

Source: Smithsonian — The Origins of the Coney Island Hot Dog (Erick Trickey, 2016) —
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/origins-coney-island-hot-dog-uniquely-american-story-180959659/>
Basis: Published before 1931 — US public domain

X2 — Pottsville Republican — fictitious-name notice, Coney Island Lunch Company

POTTSVILLE REPUBLICAN · JAN. 19, 1950 · VERIFIED-IMAGE

Twenty-two years after the founder's death, Antonia S. Palles is a named owner in print — with Anastasios Sarantakos, filing the Coney Island Lunch Company name for 215 North Centre Street.



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the intention to file in the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and in the Office of the Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas of Schuylkill County on January 25, 1950, a certificate for the conduct of a business under the assumed or fictitious name, style or designation of CONEY ISLAND LUNCH COMPANY with its principal place of business located at 215 North Centre st., Pottsville, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. The names and addresses of all persons owning or interested in said business are Anastasios Sarantakos, Antonia S. Palles. JAMES R. HIGGINS, Solicitor

Sources: Pottsville Republican, Jan. 19, 1950 (page image) — <https://www.newspapers.com/image/449995719> · First copyright renewals for periodicals — inventory, 1931–1950 issues — <https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/cce/firstperiod.html>
Basis: Copyright not renewed (the UPenn periodical-renewals inventory for 1931–1950 contains no Pottsville entries) — US public domain

METHODOLOGY, FALSIFIABILITY & CORRECTIONS

This record was assembled from roughly nine hundred archived newspaper articles matching the restaurant and the Palles family in the Pottsville papers; the complete runs of Boyd's and Polk directories for Pottsville on the Internet Archive, checked page by page across editions; and three dedicated verification tracks run in June 2026 — copyright and hosting basis, an adversarial sweep of every rival claim's documentation, and grave and public-record corroboration.

The adversarial sweep searched for any named coney or chili-dog origin claimant in America with contemporaneous documentation earlier than this trail — including page-by-page passes through every digitized Fort Wayne directory from 1912 through 1923 and direct searches of Chronicling America, Hoosier State Chronicles, and Georgia Historic Newspapers. It found none.

What would change this finding: a verified pre-1917 contemporaneous document tying a named claimant to a coney or chili-dog origin — earlier directory paper, an earlier dated advertisement, an earlier legal filing. If such a document surfaces, this page will publish it and revise the claim. The qualifiers are not armor against evidence; they are a standing description of the evidence we have.

Holding earlier paper? Send it. The restaurant publicly invites any claimant, archivist, or reader to submit earlier contemporaneous documentation — corrections will be published on this page, with credit.

© The Coney Island Restaurant & Tavern — quote with attribution Press contact: info@coneyislandpottsville.com

POTTSVILLE REPUBLICAN · AUG. 12, 1936 · P. 9

CONEY ISLAND HOT WEINERS

— *With Real Chili Sauce* —

ESTABLISHED 1917

215 N. CENTRE STREET · POTTSVILLE

VERIFIED

“the place to get the famous Coney
Island Hot Weiners...”

POTTSVILLE REPUBLICAN · NOV. 8, 1918

VERIFIED

“Palles Sam, bootblack, h 412 N 2d”

BOYD'S DIRECTORY · COMPILED 1917

THE PAPER TRAIL · EST. 1917

THE CONEY ISLAND



The Documented History of Pottsville's Coney Island

VERIFIED

“owned by Mrs. Sam Palles... occupied
by the Coney Island Restaurant.”

POTTSVILLE REPUBLICAN · APR. 11, 1930

VERIFIED

“With Real Chili Sauce —
Established 1917”

POTTSVILLE REPUBLICAN · AUG. 12, 1936



“The earliest verified contemporaneous paper trail identified for a named coney/chili-dog origin claim.”

Pottsville’s Coney Island opened its counter in 1917 and has been family owned and operated ever since. This book follows the family and the food through the documents themselves — a directory entry, a grand-opening notice, a widow’s name on the deed, a census taker’s hand, and the restaurant’s own 1936 advertisement — assembled and reproduced with every source. Not a legend, and no claim to have invented anything: a paper trail, checkable line by line, that begins on Centre Street and runs to a counter still open, every hour of every day.

“We owe all of our success, past and future, to our hard-working staff and loyal patrons. Thank you — and we hope you enjoy.”



SCAN · WHO INVENTED THE CHILI DOG?

THE CONEY ISLAND · POTTSVILLE, PA · EST. 1917

Published by **Schuylkill Hub** · Pottsville, PA

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