

The Documentary Record

The paper trail, 1913–1950 — established 1917

PUBLISHED AT CONEYISLANDPOTTSVILLE.COM/HISTORY/EVIDENCE · UPDATED 2026-06-12

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."

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 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.

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) —

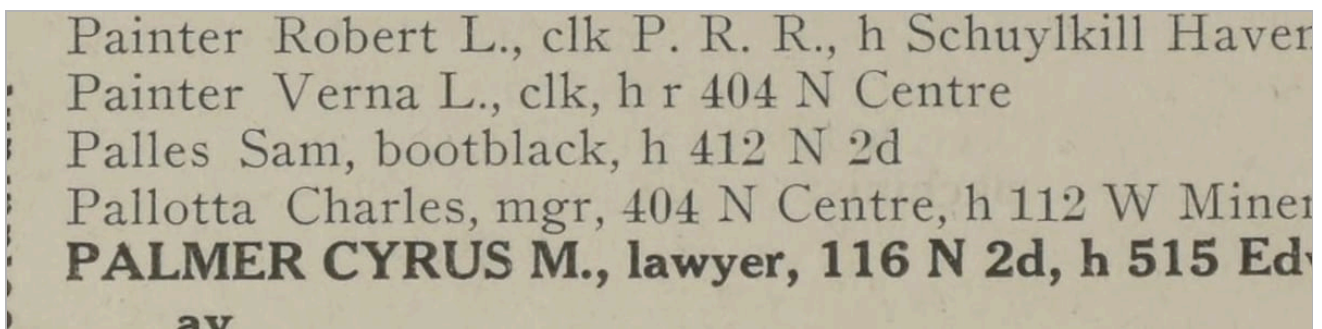
https://archive.org/details/boydsdirectoryof0000whbo_u8b4

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) —

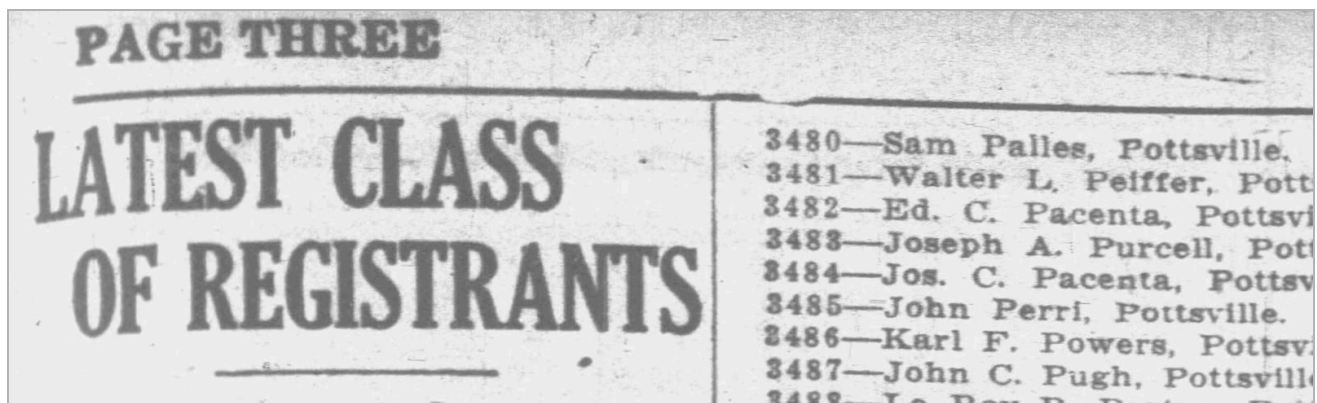
https://archive.org/details/boydsdirectoryof0000whbo_w0v7

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

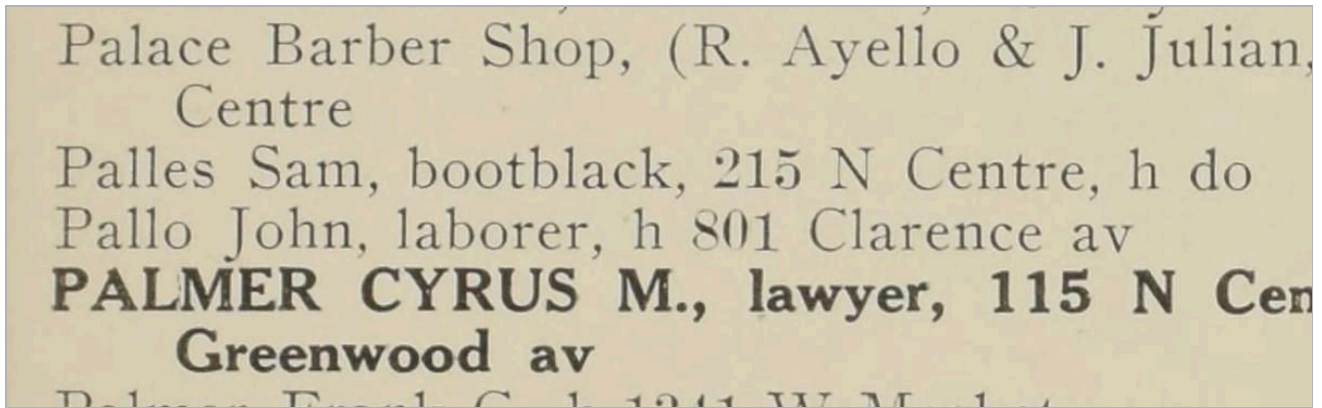
Source: Pottsville Republican, Nov. 8, 1918, p. 2 (page image) — <https://www.newspapers.com/image/449757310>

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) —

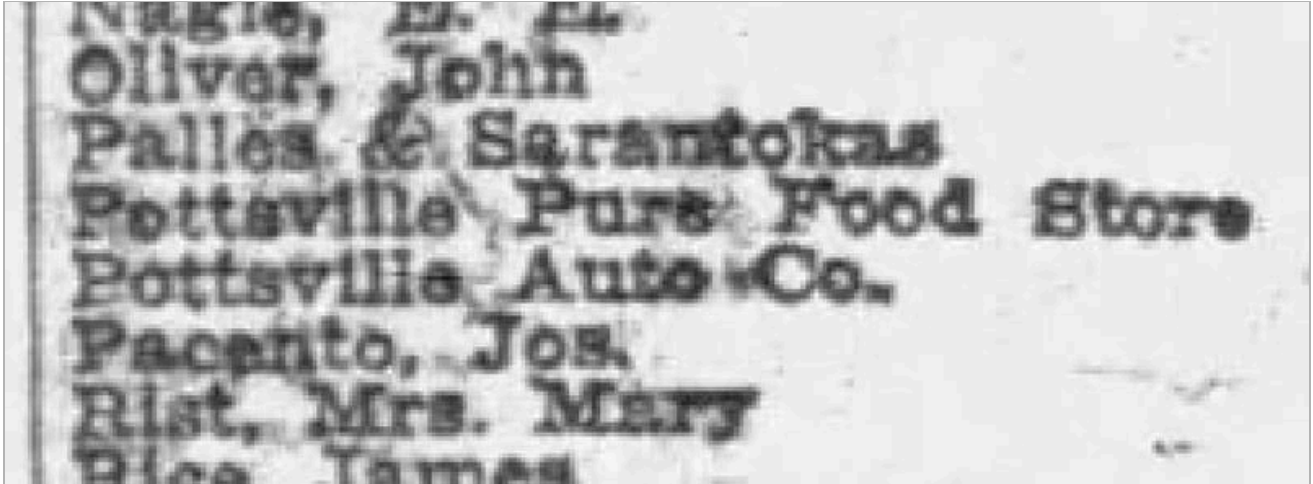
https://archive.org/details/boydsdirectoryof0000whbo_m9s6

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.

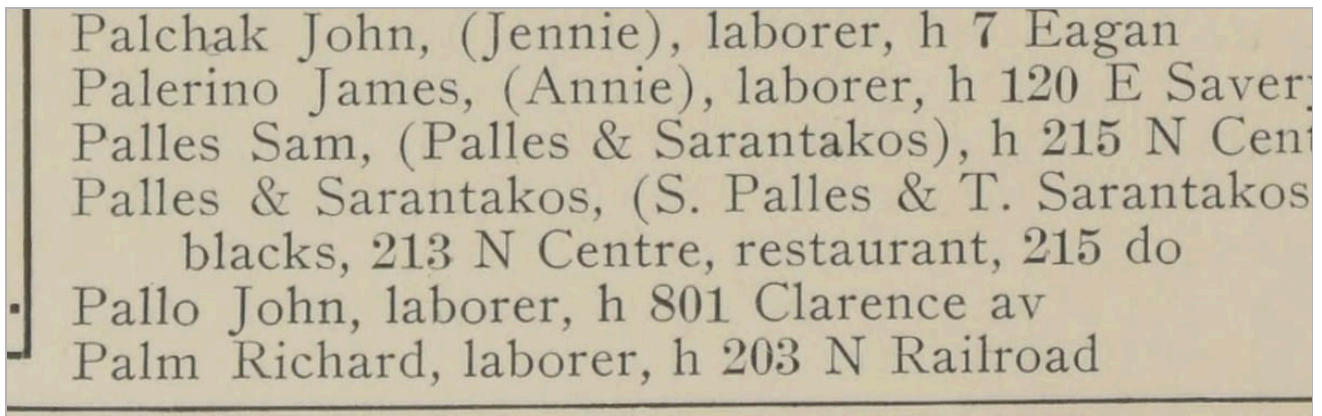
Source: Pottsville Republican, Jun. 9, 1919, p. 7 (page image) — <https://www.newspapers.com/image/449425910>

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) —

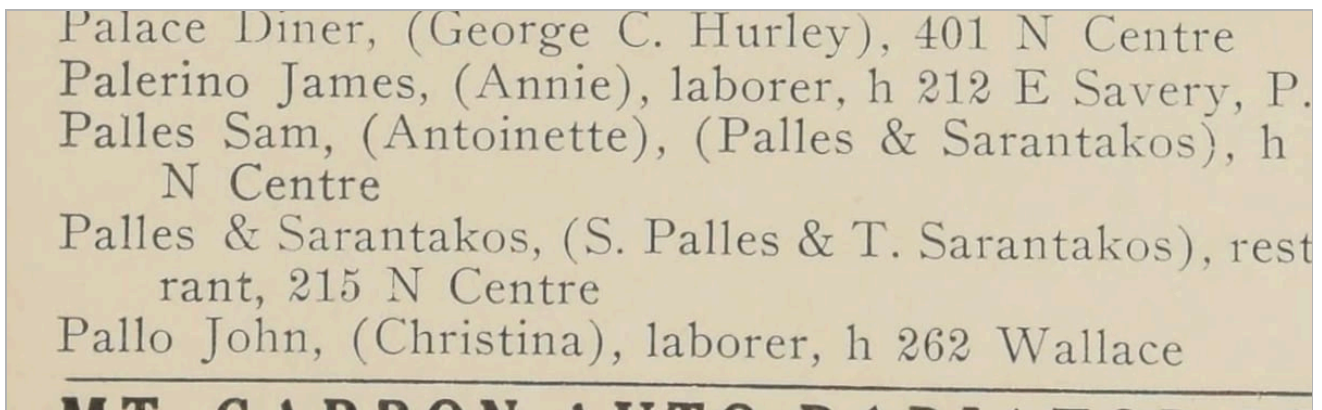
https://archive.org/details/boydsdirectoryof0000whbo_u7j1

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) —

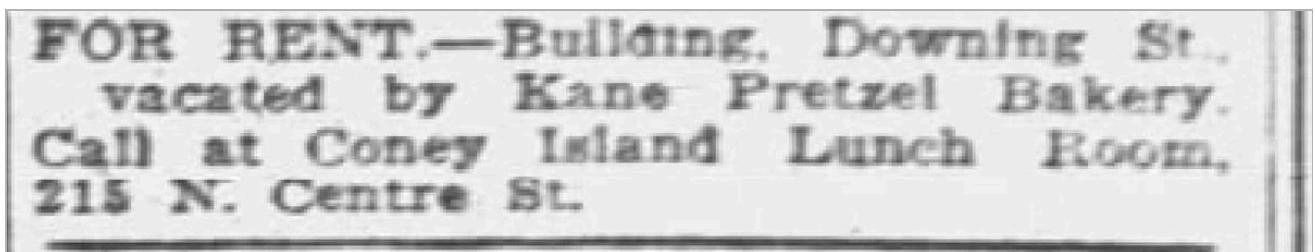
https://archive.org/details/boydsdirectoryof0000whbo_t3k5

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.

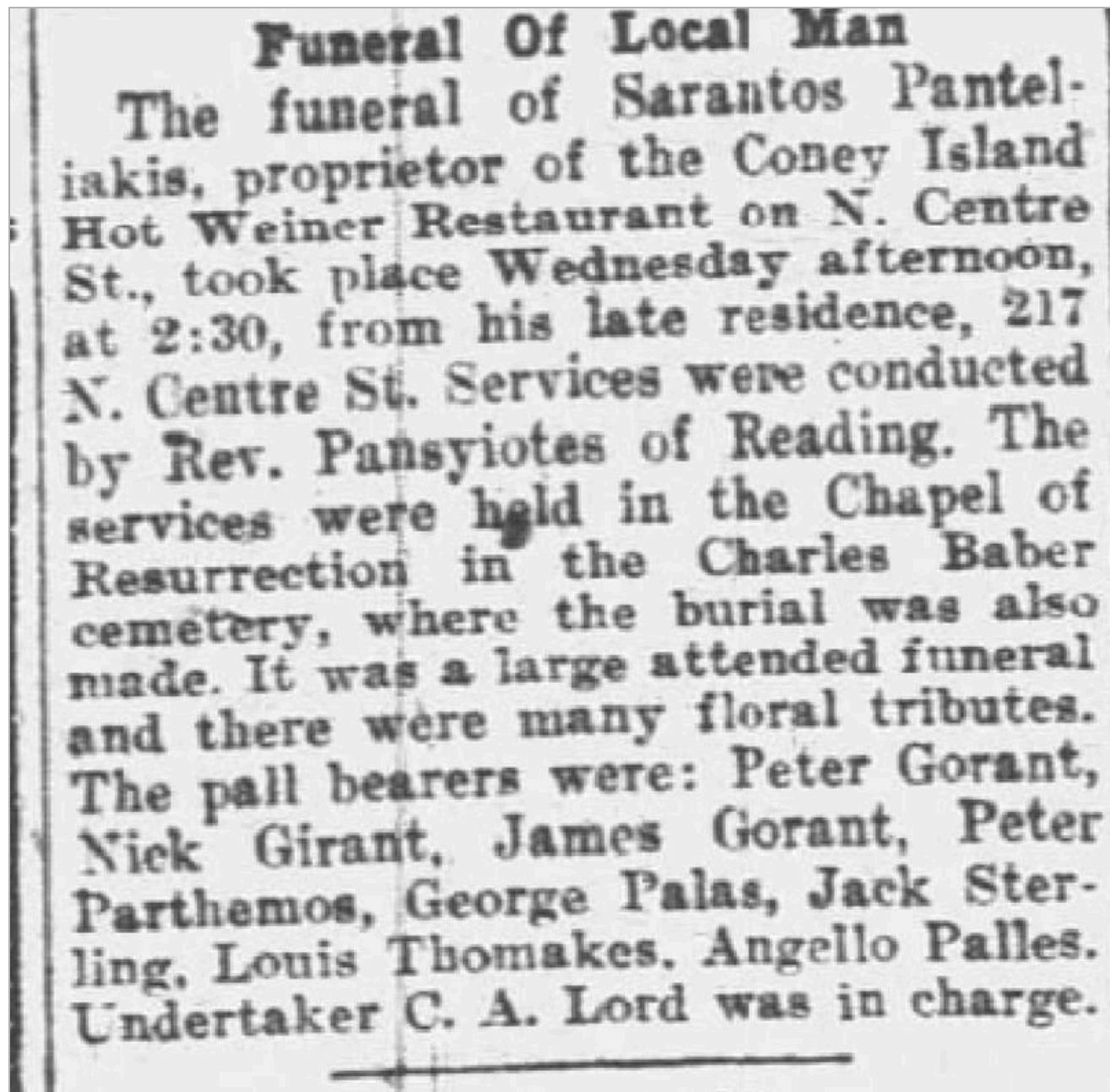
Source: Pottsville Republican, Dec. 14, 1927 (page image) — <https://www.newspapers.com/image/449757243>

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.

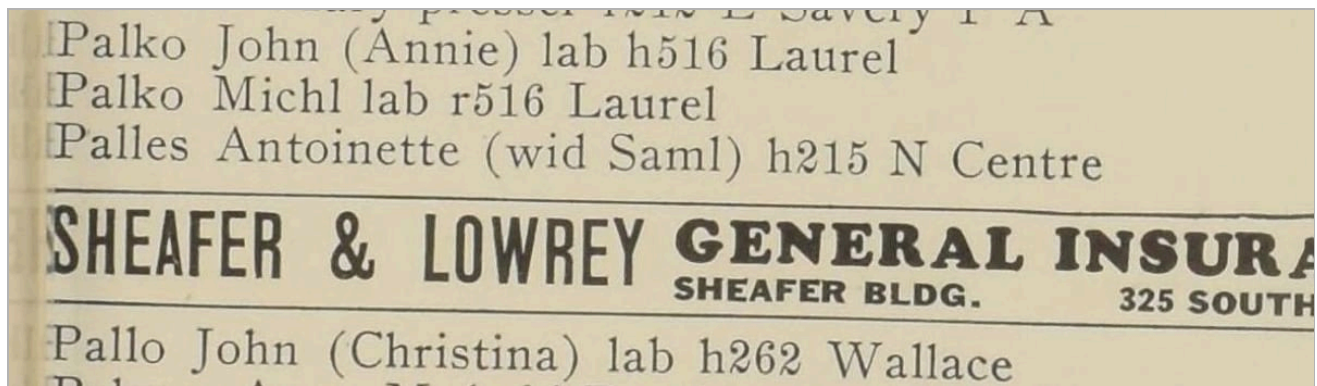


Funeral Of Local Man — The funeral of Sarantos Panteliakis, proprietor of the Coney Island Hot Weiner Restaurant on N. Centre St., took place Wednesday afternoon, at 2:30, from his late residence, 217 N. Centre St. Services were conducted by Rev. Pansyiotes of Reading. The services were held in the Chapel 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.

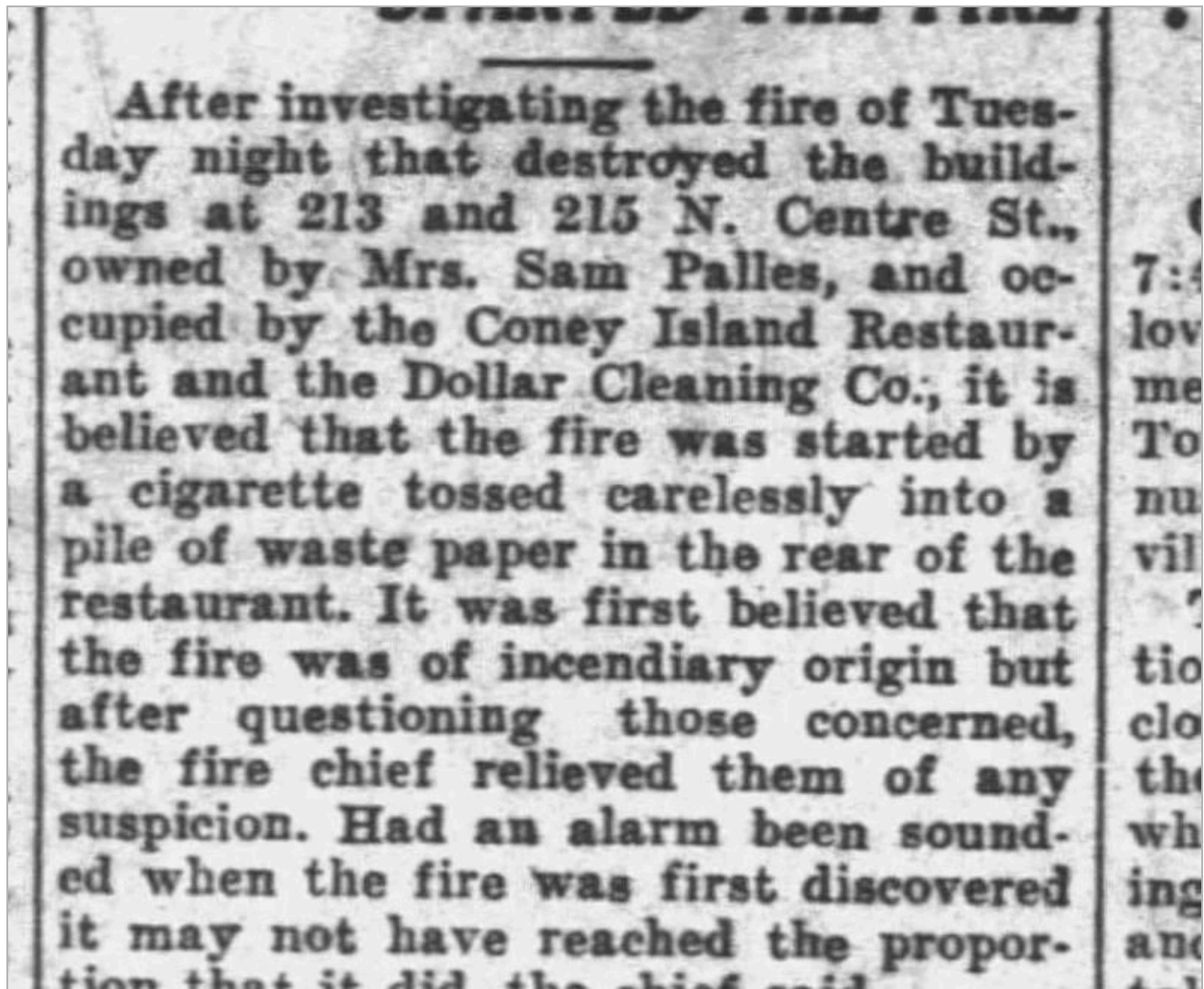
Source: Pottsville Republican, Apr. 9, 1930, p. 5 (page image) — <https://www.newspapers.com/image/449780699>

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	Head	0	7	7	W	60	S					yes	yes	yes
24				Clarke, Anna	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				Sprah, 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. 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. 27 Years 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. Filed MAY 7 1928 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. mos. 2 ds.

CONTRIBUTORY (SECONDARY) Peritonitis (duration) 117-124 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
Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

PHYSICIANS should sign statement of OCCUPATION

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.

89				Chapus, Anna	Servant				✓	F	W	15	S		Yes	Yes	Penn
90	216	390417		Sarantankos, Thomas	Head	R \$45			No	M	W	40	M	35	No	Yes	Gree
91				Desbel	Wife				✓	F	W	31	M	24	No	Yes	Gree
92				Palles, Anna	Niece				✓	F	W	28	W	21	No	Yes	Gree
93				Peter	Nephew				✓	M	W	6	S		No		Penn
94				Augustus	Nephew				✓	M	W	4	S		No		Penn
95		418		Nichter, Henry	Head	R \$40			No	M	W	56	M	43	No	Yes	Penn
96				Berace	Wife				✓	F	W	36	M	20	No	Yes	Penn

216 — Sanatankos, 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 Sanatankos 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 purlieu 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.

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NOTICE 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	

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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 the digitized Fort Wayne directories for 1913–1920 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.