

Wertman *Lines*

Newsletter of the Wertman Family Association

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Save the Date

- Annual Wertman Family Reunion
- 21 & 22 August 2015
- Danville, PA

Make Room Reservations Now

By 1749, George Philip Wertman I had settled in Lynn Twp in today's Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. Two of his five sons, Michael and Simon, later migrated to the area near Danville, PA. You can read more about Wertman Danville connections in the June 2009 *Wertman Lines* online at wertman.info. The Wertman Family Association (WFA) returns to Danville this summer for its 16th annual reunion.

The 2015 Reunion Committee is holding a block of rooms Thursday through Sunday nights, 20-23 August, at the Best Western Plus Danville Inn, 79 Old Valley School Road, at the group rate of \$101.99 plus tax. To reserve your room, call the hotel at 570-275-5750. Be sure to mention that you are with the Wertman Family Reunion. Please make your reservations as early as possible for your choice of a room with two double-beds or one king bed. The rooms will be held until 20 July.

Researchers will meet on Friday, 21 August, at the Mahoning Township Municipal Building, 1101 Bloom Road. A family dinner will be held Friday evening, followed by a speaker. A catered picnic on Saturday and the annual business meeting and auction will take place at Saint James United Church of Christ, 2507 Bloom Road. There will be time before and after the picnic to visit Wertman cemeteries, or stay over to tour on Sunday.

Details will be posted on website when available.

Nominations

The 2015 Nominating Committee of Minerva Arner, Kathy Bucher, and Shirley Daniels, presents the following slate of officers to be elected at the 22 August business meeting:

President, Russell Dannecker

Vice President, Hal Merz

Secretary, Doug Wertman

Treasurer, Maryann Cronk

Webmaster, Kathy Bucher

Archivist: Kathy Bucher

Board Members: Shirley Daniels, Earl Maurer

Board Members serve four-year terms; other terms are two years. Any WFA member in good standing may submit one additional nomination for each position to a Committee member.

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Graveside

by Suzanne Arner

It is Sunday wrap-up to a weekend dedicated to the Wertman Family Association 2010. The reunion was in Virginia, near Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness and Spotsylvania Civil War battle sites. The day before, we visited a Civil War Museum and historic site where many Union soldiers met their untimely end: a home used as a Union hospital. We got to see the crude instruments and some graves in the back yard. The soldiers' winter quarters were little ditches with barrel boards as roofs.

President Dannecker of the WFA shared with us the story of one of our relatives who died and was buried at his unit's camp. Although the camp was not recreated, in a field behind his camp hospital, we saw a row of unmarked graves. The only indication of the graves is a series of uniform bumps. Maples and oaks are growing everywhere. Their bodies were



laid in a place that will soon be taken over by nature.

Our soldier had written many letters home to his mother that bring to life the life of a Civil War Union soldier. The most disturbing thing he told was that he had started chewing tobacco because it tasted better than the water that they were given to drink. He apologized heavily for it. Apparently, when he left for war, he swore he would never pick up such a horrible habit. But he had to. Just to survive.

Today, we are standing in the National Cemetery where that very soldier's remains were moved from his camp burial spot. The sun is warm on everyone's back. There are rows and rows of cold stones, more than I thought possible. It is then that the deaths of the soldiers really hit me. Most of the soldiers' names are unknown, and multiple remains are buried in the same grave. The soldiers faced horrible diseases and injuries, with little attention paid to them because of the magnitude of the ailing. Their families never got to say goodbye; they only have distant memories of their men and boys before they left for war and that horrible moment when they received the note from the commanding officer telling them that their husband, brother, uncle, or son died. I almost cried.

A light breeze tickles our faces and plays with branches. One of us placed a wreath next to his grave. President Dannecker conducted a special ceremony. I was chosen to read the last letter of our soldier — the only link left to connect us to him. It wasn't easy to read. It is one thing to hear a story. It is an entirely different one to read someone else's story and bring life to it. To bring meaning to his life and death.

I walked away from that weekend realizing that it's not about where you are or what your environment looks like. It's how you feel in that moment. No matter what happens, you always remember how you felt.

[Suzanne wrote this essay as a school project.]

Suzanne reading one of John Levan Wertman's letters at his grave in the Fredericksburg National Cemetery. In August 1862, almost 22 years old, he enlisted in Company E, 129th PA Infantry. Just four months later, he was facing the enemy in Fredericksburg. This battle claimed nearly 18,000 Americans as casualties. John died of Typhus.

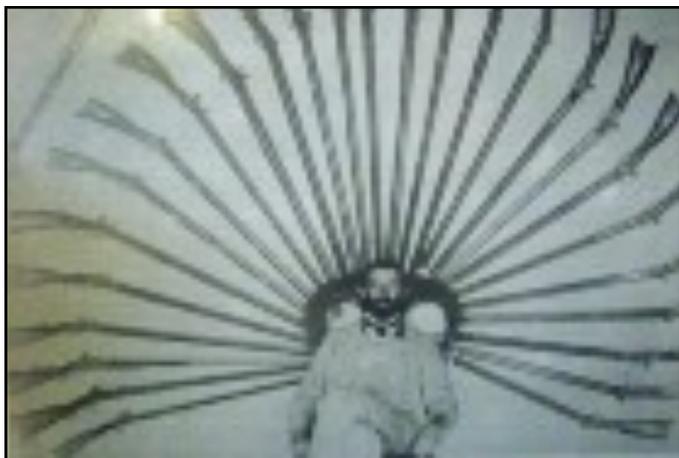
A Pennsylvania Mystery Solved in Michigan: Finding the family of Gideon Wertman's Wife, Sarah

by Kathy Bucher

excerpts from 2014 Reunion presentation

Wives, wives, wives! These women often provide a challenge in genealogy research. Often listed only by their first name (Sarah) or their husband's name (Mrs. Gideon Wertman), the wives can be elusive individuals. One mysterious wife was my great-great grandmother, Sarah.

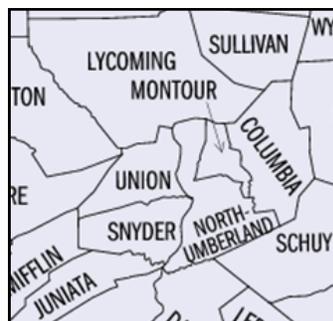
My grandfather, John Gideon Laidacker⁶, was born in Montour Co., PA. His certificate of birth and



John Gideon Laidacker, 1867-1927

baptism listed his parents as "Daniel Laidecker and his wife Christiana⁵, a daughter of Gideon and Sarah Wertman." According to a variety of records, Gideon Wertman⁴, 1809-1882, (Heinrich³, 1783-1867, Johann Michael², George Philip¹) lived in Limestone Twp, Montour Co., PA, with his wife Sarah. But, who was she, and what was her history?

Sarah's tombstone in Paradise Reformed Cemetery, Lewis Twp, Northumberland Co., PA, indicated that she died 27 Aug 1873 in her 64th year,



making her birth around 1810. The only clue to her family was a type-written piece of paper found in my mother's estate (Edith Laidacker⁷) stating that the parents of Christina were Gideon Wertman born 10 Oct 1809, married 12 Jan 1832 to Sara Primuer born 7 Aug 1810 died 27 Aug 1873. Thus began a quest to find the family of Sarah where Lycoming, Columbia, Northumberland and Montour counties meet.

A search of the Federal Census records showed that the only Primer male (Primmer, Preumer, Primuer, Bremich, etc.) living in that area in the early 1800s was Leonard Primer. Leonard was the warrantee of 12 acres in Northumberland Co. in 1809 (*Published Pennsylvania Archives*, Series 3, Vol XXV, Warrantees ...1772-1892, pg 277. Fold3.com), and appeared in the U.S. Federal Census in 1810 in Northumberland Co., and in 1820, 1830, and 1840 in Liberty Twp, Columbia (now Montour) Co. However, by 1850, he had disappeared.

The probate records in Columbia Co. provided evidence to link this Leonard Primer to Sarah Wertman: "we Samuel Primer and Gideon Wertman, two of the heirs of Leonard Primer deceased do hereby renounce all our right and title to ...estate of the deceased...5th day of August 1842." (Pennsylvania, Probate Records, 1683-1994, *Columbia, Wills and Administration records 1813-*, Vol 1-2, Image 409, pg 220. Family Search.org) [partial image below]

I am now felt sure that Sarah was the daughter of Leonard Primer, based on her husband Gideon renouncing his rights to her father's estate, and that Sarah was probably the sister of Samuel Primer. However, I wondered if I could learn more about

Columbia Co. Wills and Administration records 1813-1994, Vol 1-2, Image 409, pg 220. Family Search.org

the goods and chattels rights and credits which were of Leonard Primer late of Liberty township deceased. Two of the heirs having renounced in the following words viz To the Register of Columbia County We Samuel Primer and Gideon Wertman two of the heirs of Leonard Primer deceased do hereby renounce all our right and title to the Administration of the estate of the deceased - And desire that Letters of Administration may be granted to Samuel Oakes Nitrop our heirs this 5th day of August 1842 Samuel Oakes Nitrop

Leonard before he came to Pennsylvania. A search of early records on Ancestry.com and Family Search.org identified four candidates – two in Philadelphia, one in Massachusetts, and one in New Jersey. Leonard was dead by 1850, the first census to ask where a person was born, and Sarah was dead before 1880, the first census to ask where your parents were born. I turned to Samuel Primer, the probable brother.

Samuel Primer appeared in the 1850 and 1860 U.S. Federal Census records in Lycoming Co., PA, with his wife Mary and seven children including Julia (b. 1844) and Mary (b. 1855). In 1870, Samuel and Mary vanished from the census records only to reappear in 1880 in Lenawee Co., MI, with only Julia and Mary. In this census, Samuel noted that he and the rest of his family were born in Pennsylvania and that his father and mother were born in New Jersey. Further research located Samuel's death certificate in Lenawee Co., MI, which recorded his father as Leonard Primmer and his mother as Sarah. (*Michigan, Deaths, 1867-1897*, index and images. FamilySearch.org) [partial image below] Thus, by tracing Samuel, I had found the probable birthplace for Leonard Primmer, and his wife's first name.

for the Year Ending December 31, A. D. 189.....			
BIRTHPLACE.	OCCUPATION.	PARENTS.	
		NAMES.	RESID.
Pennsylvania	Dayman	Leonard Primmer	Dead
		Sarah Primmer	Dead
New York		David B. ...	Dead

Turning my search, I found that Leonard Primer resided in Nottingham Twp, Burlington Co., NJ, in 1793 (*New Jersey, Compiled Census and Census Substitutes Index, 1643-1890*, Provo, UT, USA: An-

cestry.com Operations Inc., 1999). He was probably the son of John Adam Primer who noted in his will, written in 1804 and probated in 1822 in Upper Freehold, Monmouth Co., NJ (next to Burlington Co.), that his estate was to be divided “between **Leonard** John Richard Sarrah Elisabeth and Rebecca Primer my sons and daughters...” (*New Jersey Probate Records, 1678-1980*, Monmouth, Wills 1816-1826, Vol B, Image 165. Family Search.org). [partial image below]

Johann Adam Bremich (Primmer) immigrated on the ship “Chance” in 1764 to Philadelphia (Strassburger, R. B., & Hinke, W. J., 1992, *Pennsylvania German Pioneers: A Publication of the Original Lists of Arrivals in the Port of Philadelphia from 1727 to 1808*, Vol I, pg 689, Vol II, pg 781-782). Records show that part of this Primmer/Bremich family went with a Catholic mission to New Jersey. (*Catholic Trails West. The Founding Catholic Families of Pennsylvania*. Ch Y pg 335 Ancestry.com) Later, Adam Primmer (b 1750) was listed as a soldier in the Revolutionary War in New Jersey. (*Official register of officers and men of NJ. in the Rev. War*. Ed. By Will. S. Stryker. Trenton, NJ, 1872, pg 726). The *Revolutionary Census* showed him in 1778-1780 in Upper Freehold, NJ (Stryker-Rodda, K., 1986, *Revolutionary Census of New Jersey*. Lambertville, NJ: Hunterdon House, pg 317).

Taking an undocumented clue about Sarah, Gideon Wertman's wife, I was able to trace her ancestry back several more generations. Of course, while one question is solved, several more remain unanswered: Who was Leonard Primer's wife Sarah and who was John Adam Primer's wife, probably named Hannah? Those wives are a challenge, aren't they!

Affix only my youngest daughter Rebecca Primer is to have over and above the rest the Blue Chest Andirons and looking glass than the dividend is to take place between Leonard John Richard Sarrah Elisabeth and Rebecca Primer my sons and daughters And I ordain constitute and appoint my son John Primer Richard Primer and Captain Samuel Wickoff Executors of this my last Will and Testament to act as tho' I was present In witness there of I have hereunto set my hand and seal in the Year of our Lord eighteen Hundred and Four

The word Executor is entered in the twenty fourth line before the sealing and delivery of these presents

Signed sealed published and declared by said John Adam Primer to be his last Will and

John Adam Primer
Mark

A French Connection?

by Brenda Merz

Excerpts from 2014 Reunion presentation

For years, the question has run through my head, where did George Phillip Wertman I come from in Germany? In Pennsylvania in 1741, he lived in the Oley Valley, Alsace Twp, Philadelphia Co., now Berks Co. He later moved to Lynn Twp, Bucks Co., later Northampton Co., now Lehigh Co. But, where was he before 1741?

Articles online by Amon Stapleton, “The Huguenot Element in the Settlement of Berks County” and “The French Element Among the Pennsylvania Germans,” suggest we may have an Alsace origin.

On today’s map, Alsace is a sliver, a small area in France, bordering Germany, called “Bas Rhin” or Lower Rhine. (<http://www.rheinandlaeng.net/brief.html>) The Rhine River is today’s German-French boundary line. The area has changed hands many, many times. [See accompanying article]

Research shows that Alsace Twp, Berks Co., PA, was named for Alsace, France. We do know that the prior owner of George Philip’s land in Alsace Twp was from Alsace, as well as many of his neighbors. The names Hoch, Adam and Graul are Alsatian. Other surnames from France include Mosser, DeLong, DeTurk, LeVan, Leshner, Bertolet, and Keim.

Does this mean our ancestor is from France? Possibly! Or, he could have lived along the Rhine River and had German-speaking friends or relatives in the neighboring French Alsace.

You might want to get your genealogy hiking boots out and shine them up for a future adventure. More research is definitely needed!



Map showing
Alsace on the
border of France
and Germany

from [http://
en.wikipedia.org/
wiki/Alsace-
Lorraine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alsace-Lorraine)

A Brief History of Alsace-Lorraine

by Shirley Daniels

According to <http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~george/alsace-lorraine.html>, Alsace was conquered by the Roman legions of Julius Caesar in the 1st century BC and became part of Celtic Gaul. German tribes invaded in the 4th century AD, but in 496, the area was conquered by the Franks. In a re-division in 870 by the sons of Louis I, France obtained Lorraine; The Holy Roman Empire received Alsace.

Alsace became a center of the Reformation although a number of rural areas remained Catholic. After the Thirty Years War, in 1648 it became a province of France through the Treaty of Westphalia. “The Alsatians enjoyed incredible cultural, academic, and social autonomy from the rest of France despite that nation’s frequent political crises. The German language was not actively suppressed, nor was the Lutheran religion that was followed by many Alsatian Germans at the same time as French anti-Huguenot (Protestant) edicts were causing rampant persecution, civil war, and bloodshed in the rest of France.” (<http://expelledgermans.org/elsassgermans.htm>)

In 1570, Prince Phillippe IV of Hanau-Lichtenberg, one of the largest jurisdictions in lower Alsace, prohibited Mass and imposed the Protestant religion in the areas.

The term Alsace-Lorraine was first used in 1871, after the Franco-Prussian War, when the new unified Germany annexed Alsace and the Moselle River portion of Lorraine. After World War I, the territory was returned to France by the Treaty of Versailles. In 1940, the area was taken over by Nazi Germany, It reverted to France after WW II and has remained French territory since 1945.

“Any time you see an ethnic German's birthplace in the U.S. censuses flipping back and forth between France and Germany, there’s a strong probability the individual was born in Alsace-Lorraine.... The history of the region is complex, so for the purposes of genealogy, it might be best to simply consider it a “country” in and of itself, without placing it in either Germany or France. If a formal country must be used, then its current location dictates that it be placed in France, not Germany.” ([http://dgmweb.net/
Ancillary/Geog/Europe/Alsace-Lorraine.html](http://dgmweb.net/Ancillary/Geog/Europe/Alsace-Lorraine.html))

Deaths



Dorothy A. Dannecker, 90, of East Greenwich, RI, passed away 10 July 2014. She was the wife of the late Howard C. Dannecker, Jr. Born in South Boston, MA, she was a daughter of the late Mario and Jeannette (Goetkint) Barker.

Mrs. Dannecker had been a seamstress for the former Sunberry Dress Company.

She was the mother of Ronald H. Dannecker and WFA President Russell C. Dannecker; mother-in-law of Kathleen Dannecker, Louise Dannecker and the late Janet Dannecker; sister of John Barker and Ruth Maiorano and the late Joseph Barker and Florence Gibbons; grandmother of Joshua, Matthew, Jenny and Max Dannecker, Corey and Glenn Nasfell and the late Samuel and Charles Dannecker. She is also survived by 13 great-grandchildren. Burial was in the Rhode Island Veterans Cemetery, Exeter.

From *The Providence Journal* 20 July 2014

Lillian B. (Daubenspeck) Derr, 88, formerly of Andreas, PA, died 17 Oct 2014 in Weatherly. She was the widow of Edwin D. Derr, who died 6 Mar 1983.

A self employed beautician for 41 years, she was also employed at Sprite and Rita Manufacturing of Allentown.

Born in West Penn Township 6 June 1926, she was a daughter of the late Clarence E. and Mary L. (Gilbert) Daubenspeck. [Grandparents, Charles and Carrie Brown Gilbert; great-grandparents James Harrison Franklin and Mary Ann Wertman Brown] She was a member of Zion Stone Church of West Penn Township.

Surviving are a brother, Ernie C. Daubenspeck of Lehighon and his wife, Linda; nieces and nephews, Jacqueline, wife of Thomas Kriebel, Brian Daubenspeck and wife Cindy, and Judy, wife of Scot Wingert; great nieces and nephews, Emily, Liam, Justin, Sara, Brandon and Megan.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Wayne Daubenspeck; and a nephew, Donald Daubenspeck

Interment was in Zion's Stone Church Cemetery, New Ringgold.

From Lehighon PA *Times News* 18 Oct 2014

John H. Brown, 95, of Elizabethtown, PA, formerly of Clamtown, died 2 Nov 2014. He was the husband of the late Ruth V. (Deem) Brown, who died 7 Oct 2010.

Prior to retiring in 1985, he was employed by the former Draper and Yost Plumbing, Hometown, for 26 years.

Born in Andreas, he was a son of the late John F. and Ida Mae (Henninger) Brown. [Grandparents Daniel Henry Henninger and Lydia Mary Wertman] An Army veteran of World War II, he served with the 29th Infantry Division, having participated in the Battle of Normandy. He was a member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tamaqua.

Surviving are a brother Chester, and his wife, Louise, of Elizabethtown; and many nieces and nephews. He was also preceded in death by a sister, Eleanor Thomas.

Interment with military honors was in Ft. Indian-town Gap National Cemetery, Annville.

From Lehighon PA *Times News*, 4 Oct 2014

Michael C. Fritz, 44, of Andreas, PA, passed away on 2 Oct 2014 in Fountain Hill, PA. He was the husband of Tracey A. (Jasinski) Fritz.

He worked for the Aramark Corporation, Breinigsville, and helped operate his family's farm in Andreas.

Born in Lehighon, he was a son of Madeline E. (Hoppes) Fritz of Andreas, and the late Carl S. Fritz, who died 3 Feb 1999.

Surviving in addition to his widow and mother are two sisters, Donna J. Curvey of Pottsville and Tammy L., wife of James G. Dean of Andreas; his paternal grandmother, Florence P. (Gilbert) Fritz, and an uncle, Nevin P. Fritz, both of Andreas; two nieces, Jennifer and Samantha; a nephew, Jon Alan Jr.; a great-niece Emma; his best friend, Joel Musselman; a cousin, Todd A. Cheese and wife, Stacey; and many other cousins.

Interment was in the Christ Church cemetery.

From Allentown PA *Morning Call* 1 Nov 2014

Wertmans of Trumbull Co., Ohio

by Hal Merz, presented at 2014 Reunion

This is how Lynn Twp Wertman neighbors ended up in NE Ohio, including some the WFA considers as family. The pieces to this puzzle are coming slowly but surely.

Michael Wertman (1765-1837), an early settler of Columbiana and then Trumbull Co. in northeast Ohio, is believed to be part of the Berks and Northampton Wertman tribe. Although the exact connection has not been proven, there is strong circumstantial evidence.

Why would a good German family locate among Connecticut Yankees in Ohio? Elijah Wadsworth, a Connecticut man who was promoting sales of land in northeast Ohio, made the acquaintance of people in Lynn Twp, PA, while traveling to Ohio. One of the people he met was Samuel Everett, a neighbor of the Wertmans. Everett arranged a purchase of Ohio land not only for himself, but for his daughter and son-in-law, Jacob Oswald. Other Lynn families joined them.

Why are there few Wortman family references in Trumbull Co. Church records? There were no organized Lutheran or Reformed churches in the area until the 1840s or 1850s. The religious landscape was dominated by Congregational and Episcopalian churches that the New England settlers built.

What is the significance of Jacob Oswald? The Oswalds were also neighbors of the Wertmans. Also, his wife's next younger sister was married to Daniel Wertman (b 1786), son of Johan Michael Wertman. Jacob lived in two places in Ohio; the second location, with land purchases beginning in 1809, was next to Michael Wertman (1765-1837) in Liberty Twp, Trumbull Co., and he is buried in the same cemetery as Michael.

What else connects Michael Wertman to the Berks and Northampton Wertmans?

1. The 1788 Lynn Twp tax list names a Michael Wertman, single. A male born ca 1765 would be the right age [at least 21] to be included.

2. The 1800 Federal Census of Penn Twp, Northumberland Co., lists a Michael Wertman next to Jacob Wertman (d 1806) [Jacob Westman in index].

3. Jacob and Michael Wertman both appear on the list of donors for the construction of the Lutheran Church in Selinsgrove, PA.

4. The 1822 estate administration of Adam Ewig of Penn Twp (a neighbor of Jacob Wertman) states that his sister, Catherine, is Mrs. Michael Wertman of Ohio. The wife of Michael Wertman of Trumbull Co. is named Catherine, and she is of an appropriate age to be the sister of Adam Ewig.

5. Michael Wertman of Trumbull Co. is the right age to have been a son of Johan Michael Wertman. We know that Johan Michael had six sons, but we only know the names of five: Jacob (b 1761), George Philip (b 1763), Henry (b 1783), Daniel (b 1786), and John.

When did Michael Wertman move to northeast Ohio? Probably between 1808 and 1813. His youngest son, George, was born in 1813 in East Palestine, Columbiana Co., OH, according to a death certificate of a child of George's. The next youngest son, Jacob, was born in 1808 in Pennsylvania, according to several censuses. The 1820 Census for Unity Twp, Columbiana Co., shows a Michael Workman whose family is the appropriate age. By 1826, Michael Wertman is on the tax lists for Liberty Twp, Trumbull Co., about 12 miles away.

What do we know of the children of Michael Wertman/Wortman of Trumbull Co.? There were some female children but we have not been able to trace them. Four sons are known through estate administration records or other evidence:

1. Michael (1800 - ca 1880) married Mary Crawford (1809-ca 1880) in Trumbull Co. in 1825. He moved back to Pennsylvania for a time, living in Armstrong Co. In the 1880 Census he is a widower living with his son William Wertman in Peru, Miami Co., IN. His burial place is unknown. William died in 1915 in Carthage, Hamilton Co., OH.

2. Joseph (1805- ca 1890) married Elizabeth Crawford, possibly a sister of Mary, in Trumbull Co. in 1830. He may be the Joseph Wertman who appears in census and other records in Calaveras Co, CA, as a gold miner. His place and date of death are unknown.

3. Jacob (1808-ca 1890) married the much younger Portia Sherman (1833-1906) in 1851 in Ashtabula Co., just north of Trumbull Co. They lived in New Lyme Twp, Ashtabula Co. and had two children, Willie and Lettie. Willie's wife and child died in 1891. Lettie married Fred Benjamin; there are many Benjamin descendants in northeast OH.

4. George (1813-1894) married Mary Casterline

in 1844 in Trumbull Co. They are buried in the Castlerline Cemetery in Cortland, Trumbull Co. The many Wortmans living in Trumbull and Ashtabula counties of Ohio are descended from this couple.

Northampton PA families in connection with Canfield OH (from Find a Grave) C h a r l e s Oswald, b 25 Mar 1804, Lehigh Co., PA, d 20 Sep 1862, Canfield, Mahoning Co., OH, age 58 years, 5 months, 26 days. Buried 8 Aug 1890 in Old North Cemetery, Old Section Row 13, Canfield. Husband of Sarah Ann (Sally) nee Harding (Hood) – m. 17 Aug 1826 in Trumbull (now Mahoning) Co. Son of Jacob and Maria Elizabeth (Betsey) Everett Oswald

The following is excerpted from the *Mahoning Dispatch*, Fri., 30 July 1897 - Article No. 28, by Dr. Jackson Truesdale): “Among the names of pioneer settlers in Canfield of German extraction we find Jacob Oswald, a son-in-law of Samuel Everett. A letter from Samuel Everett, Lynn Township, PA, dated 17 Sep 1804, to Elijah Wadsworth, Esq., is “written in a good hand, easily read and as legible as the day when written. If proper to say so, the writing has a distinct German accent. The spelling is not quite in keeping with Noah Webster.... The purport and object of the letter was to commend the colonists to the kind attention of Elijah Wadsworth, Esq., and Captain H. Canfield; especially for his son-in-law, Jacob Oswald, saying, ‘he will want your assistance very much in that country as he is a stranger and a good deal bashfull and can speak but very litel English. I told him to take your and Captain Canfield’s advice where to clear and build a house. Likewise advise him to swop his horses for a yoke of oxen, or sell his horses and buy oxen.’ It would seem from this letter that all of the emigrants did not come together. The letter ends by saying, ‘John Lynn and three of his brothers, and Jacob Weitzel intend to start in about one week after. They could not get ready to go together. I would be very glad if they could be suited. They are people that has got money. Your friendly advice and attention to them will be acknowledged by, sir, your most obed’t serv’t Samuel Everet.’ Mr. Oswald upon his arrival in Canfield, settled down upon a 126 acre lot on North Street, previously purchased for him by his father-in-law.”

For more information about Lynn Township people migrating to Trumbull County, OH, see The Corll [Carl] Story: http://corllcousins.com/rich_text.html

Wertmans in North Carolina

by Hal Merz

Excerpts from 2014 reunion presentation

Many German families from Pennsylvania and Maryland, beginning about 1750, migrated to Virginia and North Carolina along the “Great Wagon Road.” This path began near Lancaster and went southwesterly through Maryland and Virginia into North Carolina.

Beginning in 1778, we find a group of Wortman/Wertman families in North Carolina with some similar first names to the Berks and Northampton crew. Here is a timeline of persons and events that we have discovered. (Spellings are varied in these records.)

- 1778 - Peter Vertman, Henry Wortman, and Michael Whortman appear on the tax lists for Rowan Co., NC.
- 1779 - Daniel Wortman marries Margaret Kanatzer in Rowan Co. Her father, George Christopher Knortzer, migrated from York City, PA, as shown by researchers tracing that family.
- 1782 - Henery Wortman, Mikel Wertman and Danul Wortman appear on a list of persons suspected of being Loyalists who were ordered to appear before the county Sheriff to give good cause why their land should not be confiscated.
- 1790 - Federal Census for Rowan Co. records the families of Peter and Henry Wortman. Danl Wortman is recorded in Rutherford Co., 90 miles west-southwest.
- 1790 - Peter Workman applies for a state land grant for 2,150 acres on Four Mile Creek Branch adjoining Henry Wortman’s entry, in Rowan Co. (now Davidson Co.)
- 1791 - Henry Workman applies for two plots of land near Four Mile Branch.
- 1793 - Daniel Wortman, son-in-law, is mentioned in estate records of George Christopher Conatzer of Rutherford Co. (now Cleveland Co.)
- 1800 - Federal Census for Rowan Co. records the families of Peter Wortman (age 45-up), Philip Wortman (age 26-44) and William Wortman (age 26-44). Daniel Wartman (age 45-up) is listed in Rutherford Co.
- 1818 - Estate record for Daniel Wortman, noted in an 1830 court document, mentions his sons and daughters living near him on Wards Creek (near present Comar, Cleveland Co.): Daniel,

Michael, Elizabeth, and Rebecca married to John Hoyle. The widow is Margaret, daughter of Christopher Kenetr.

No one has produced a definitive family tree showing where these people originated. There are numerous descendants with the surname Wortman living in Cleveland Co., near the towns of Casar and Shelby. More than 80 Wortmans are buried in the cemeteries of Cleveland Co.

Citing Sources

from Kathy Bucher

The topic of citing sources for genealogy research came up at the 2014 WFA meeting in Michigan. In the newest edition of the *eZine* from the Genealogical Research Society of Northeastern PA, there was an excerpt from Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter (<http://blog.eogn.com/>) recommending the following: "My favorite reference for finding out how to record genealogy sources is ...the book *Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian* by Elizabeth Shown Mills (Genealogical Publishing Company, 1997, ISBN#: 0806315431, available from the publisher at http://www.genealogical.com/item_detail.asp?ID=3846 as well as from Amazon at <http://goo.gl/7uX1Fb>)

"Elizabeth Shown Mills also has released a shortened QuickSheet: *Citing Online Historical Sources* available from the publisher at <http://goo.gl/YD2BPI> as well as from Amazon at <http://goo.gl/oN7Ptr>. This, too, is a big help."

Another Possible Origin

from Brenda Merz

My brother Brad went on a Rhine River cruise, and one of the guides said there was a village or town with the name Wertman not far from the river. We found there is a district or neighborhood (an Ortsteil) called Wertmann in a town called Geldern, not far from the Rhine and Dusseldorf. The name Wertmann does not appear on a map of the area. This is farther north than the Palatinate, but could it have been an ancestral home of the Wertmans? See this website for a geographical description: <http://gov.genealogy.net/item/show/WERANNJO31EN>

There is a local historical society and a regional archives. Please let us know if you have strategies for finding out more about this.

Embracing Our Ancestry, Part I

by Brenda Merz

When we embarked on discovering my Wertman Family roots, George Philip Wertman II's active role as a Loyalist to the British was being debated. For a family that has few notable brushes with the law, Phillip's activities put a wet blanket on our ancestry files. As a family at large, we may have departed from some of the original Lutheran values, but fortunately not the values of hard work and dedication that make our country what it is.

George Phillip II's actions were foreign to a family of Lutheran values in the 1770s as well! Why did he become a Loyalist? The answer may never be known. Putting his actions in perspective of the times our ancestors lived in will open our eyes, and help us embrace our ancestry with a profound sense of gratitude and understanding.

The Pennamite Wars were regional battles from 1770 until 1783 over the land from Wilkes Barre to the Wyoming Valley. This is a considerable area with good farm land, thus a significant economy booster to both Connecticut and Pennsylvania. The Northumberland County Sheriff enlisted some men along the Delaware River to go to this region to fight the Connecticut men claiming this land. They marched through Lynn Twp on their way to these battles. One reference states that Lynn Twp residents feared these men. Among those fighting in the Pennamite Wars were my husband's relatives—the Smiths and Ogdens, originally from New Jersey. Some moved to Northumberland County to defend the turf during the wars. Many moved on to New York, then Ohio along the Scioto River just north of Pickaway County, where my own GG grandfather George Wertman moved in 1814. Our forefathers experienced effects of war in their county before the Revolutionary War.

A series of actions by Britain inflamed the settlers, especially those with fiery personalities. One might wonder why any American would even consider loyalty to the King of England. The Sugar Act, The Stamp Act, and The Townsend Act all were taxes on the Colonists. By the time the Revolutionary War began, many in Lynn Twp just wanted to be left alone in peace! The Boston Tea Party in 1773 is recognized as the final taxation protest that caused the official beginning of the Revolutionary War in

1775. Decision time was here!

Whose side would our forefathers take? Though the longing of their hearts was peace, the war drums were beating at their doorsteps. The options may have led to a question of which side would be the best for removing the taxes from their accounts, as well as their religious beliefs concerning war, and signing the Oath of Allegiance.

Northampton County, in many places a rural area, was not immune or removed from the political and social debate. In late 1774, with the prompting of people in Philadelphia, a revolutionary Committee of Observation was formed in Northampton to promote the rebellion against Great Britain. As the first battles of the war unfolded not far away, Easton, the county seat of Northampton, became the site of the largest military hospital in Pennsylvania, with up to 400 severely wounded men under care at the same time in dreadful conditions. (Thomas Verenna in *Journal of the American Revolution*, Aug 2014, "Easton's Missing Dead") Watching this take place – and learning about the large number of men dying in the military hospital – would have given the men of Northampton County another reason to ponder their military involvement. Other military hospitals were in Allentown and Nazareth.

The need to protect what they had was important. Some of you may recall that several of the Wertman family were among the 80 neighbors who signed a mutual defense pact in December 1776. To gain approval for the pact, it was represented as a multipurpose pact. Some of the neighbors understood it as a measure to allow them to keep peace and neutrality, while others saw it as a united front against whatever type of group might threaten them, whether it be the Pennamite fighters, British or revolutionary patriots. (*PA Archives*, Series 2, Vol 14, pp 625-627)

The signing of the defense pact in 1776 among those in the neighborhood was led by none other than William Thomas, later a Captain in the Loyalist Bucks County Volunteers. Thomas' motive as the leader no doubt was to persuade those in the group to become Loyalists. Someone informed the local authorities, who took action to disperse the group. Several Northampton men spent time in the Reading jail, and Jacob Wertman and others paid substantial fines. ***Ironically, their arrest, the fines, and jail sentences were NOT a legal action on the part of the***

authorities, according to a court case in 1781. (Anne M. Ousterhout, *A State Divided – Opposition in Pennsylvania to the American Revolution*, pg 280) Thomas McKean, Chief Justice of Pennsylvania, ruled that before March of 1777, the state did not have an officially constituted government, and therefore did not have the legal authority before then to punish people for refusing to sign allegiance to the state of Pennsylvania. This was not the only defense pact in Pennsylvania. York County, for example, had a group of 250 men, primarily Germans, who signed a similar defense pact.

We might surmise that the residents of the area often debated the question of who your enemy was. Northampton County residents continued to watch their Mennonite, Moravian and Quaker neighbors suffer public mistreatment and loss of property because of their political neutrality.

As events developed, the British army occupied Philadelphia beginning in September 1777. According to some researchers, about 1,500 people from various parts of the state responded to the British invitation to join their cause in Philadelphia. Unlike George Phillip II and his friends, many of these people never received court orders threatening loss of property and punishment for their political decisions. In late 1777 through early 1778, William Thomas' Loyalist unit, the Bucks County Volunteers, worked in conjunction with the Queens Rangers to keep the Bustletown Road open so farmers could take their produce to Philadelphia where the British could purchase it. (Wilbur H. Siebert, *The Loyalists of Pennsylvania*) Farmers had to sell their produce for their families' survival. George Washington's army was unsuccessful in preventing the Tories from keeping the road open.

Part II of this article, to follow in the June 2015 newsletter, will review the "tightening screws" of developments that forced the Wertmans to make final decisions, and will present some new information on the cost that George Phillip II and some of his friends and their families paid for their decision to join the Loyalist forces.

Wertman Family Association 2014 Reunion Report

by Richard Daniels, 2014 Reunion Chairman

The fifteenth annual Wertman Family Association Reunion was held 14 through 17 Aug 2014 in the newly-opened Holiday Inn Express, Hastings, Barry County, Michigan. This county was the destination of the Reuben Wertman family after he died due to typhus contracted during the Civil War. Hastings, in southwest Michigan, population of about 2,000, is a quaint but vibrant town located far from any Interstates, and retains much of its early feel. Many modern restaurants and stores are located just west of downtown, as was our hotel.

Russ Dannecker, Wertman Family Association president, was in England and unable to attend; therefore, vice-president Frank Strickling, chaired the research meeting, business meeting and auction.

Attendance numbers were as follows:



Speaker Brian Reynolds with some of his treasures in his surveying office



Some of the public art in downtown Hastings

- Thursday night informal dinner at the County Seat Lounge: 18
 - Friday research meeting held in the hotel with lunch catered by Jets Pizza: 19
 - Friday dinner with speaker, catered by Seasonal Grill at the hotel: 23
 - Saturday picnic in Fish Hatchery City Park, catered by Walldorff Brewpub and Bistro: 40 adults, 4 children
 - Sunday Wertman cemetery tour, Barry County: 5
- Presentations at the research meeting were:
- Richard Daniels: Wertman Cemeteries in Michigan
 - Marsha Fenstermacher Brinkley: The Michigan Fenstermacher family
 - Hal Merz: Wertmans in North Carolina?
 - Kathy Bucher: Pennsylvania Mystery Solved in Michigan
 - Hal Merz: Wertmans of Trumbull County, Ohio
 - Hal Merz: Could the Wertmans Have Come from Alsace?
 - Richard Daniels gave Russ Dannecker's presentation: Four New Civil War Soldiers

Brian Reynolds, past president of the Barry County Historical Society, was the Friday night dinner speaker. He is a local land surveyor whose hobby is historical surveying. He presented the locations of past Wertman farms in Barry County and then gave a short course on early surveying as practiced in Michigan and nearby states.

It appears we made a small amount over reunion costs, receiving \$152.00 from the raffle, \$12.20 from selling excess picnic food, and a \$20.00 donation.

Committee Members were Shirley Daniels and Mike Wertman

5G Uncle Philip and his Wife

by Brenda and Hal Merz

Unfortunately we don't have a clue on who his wife would have been... yet! That said, we shall take some liberty in discussing George Philip Wertman/Phillip Wortman². There were four men in Northampton County who had their land confiscated. These were William Thomas, John Holder, Henry Oswald and George Philip Wertman (junior). Philip served three years with the Bucks County Volunteers. Following the activities of William Thomas and his brother Evan Thomas, officers in the Volunteers, brings a lot of questions.

We learned from a website, *Institute for advanced Loyalists Studies*, that the Bucks County Volunteers fought along with the Queens Rangers, a more advanced group of loyalists that had regular responsibilities with the British Army. This may mean that there were more battles the Volunteers were involved with than we may realize. They were in the battles of Monmouth and Toms River in New Jersey as were the Rangers. They may have gone to Virginia under traitor Benedict Arnold, but that is less certain. The Newtown Raid was another battle. [See *Wertman Lines*, June 2010, on our website, *wertman.info*] Philip was probably very involved with the Rangers until near the end of the Revolutionary War. Can we prove this beyond a shadow of a doubt? Probably not paper-trail-wise.

“There remains for consideration the effect of attainder* on the wives of traitors. Of necessity they continued within the American lines after their husbands fled. At least three marriages were abandoned because of political differences, differences in which attainder was an added factor. Flight was seldom possible for an entire family, and except at the evacuation of Philadelphia, it was rare for a wife to accompany her husband. Even when it was possible, clandestine travel was risky, and New York, the usual refuge, was a crowded garrison town, expensive and unsuitable for rearing a family. Therefore, attainder brought about an increase of travel on pass from Pennsylvania through the American lines to

**attainder*: extinction of the civil rights and capacities of a person upon sentence of death or outlawry usually after a conviction of treason (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/attainder>)

New York. Such travel became so heavy that it aroused serious fears of betrayal in American headquarters...” (Henry J. Young, “Treason and its Punishment in Revolutionary Pennsylvania,” *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol 90, No 3, July 1966, pg 310)

“No definite banishment of loyalist dependents occurred until June 1780, when a military crisis was thought imminent. Martial law was authorized by the assembly on the first of June, and was proclaimed on the ninth. On the sixth, without legal basis, solely on the ground of danger to the state, President Reed and the council gave public notice ‘to wives and children of those persons who have joined the enemy’ to leave the state (PA) within ten days. Any remaining after that time were to be considered entitled to no further protection, and liable to treatment as enemies of the state. Clearly, this was an executive bill of pains and penalties, an extension of the attainder act of 1778; worse than that, it punished a group for the alleged offenses of a few....” (Ibid, pg 311)

With the above information, finding the wife of Philip becomes even more complicated. Had she died? Did she “go home to mother?” Abandon her marriage? Follow her husband to New York?

[The Lynn Township tax lists, which are incomplete and inconsistent, list Philip as single from 1764 to 1774. He joined the British in early 1778. Thus, these show a short period of time, 1774-early 1778, when he might have married and had children.]

Are You a Good Ancestor

contributed by Ken Cool; source unknown

A good ancestor keeps birth, marriage, death and other certificates; health, military, naturalization, and school records; passports; newspaper and church notices; awards; photos; art and craft work; journals; Bibles; diaries; baby, school and wedding books; and heirlooms with their provenance.

He or she dates correspondence, cares for tombstones, keeps research organized, writes or tapes the family stories, and supports family organizations.

A good ancestor dates everything, is sure that full names are included, records where material may be found and always sees that at least one copy of important data is safeguarded somewhere else.

A hundred years from now, will your descendants think you were a good ancestor?

18th Century PA German Spelling

by Charles F. Kerchner, Jr. (c)

Exact spelling of names was not clearly defined in the 18th Century. Spelling was often done phonetically. Thus when the Germans settled in Pennsylvania their names were frequently spelled one way when written by German scribes and another way when written by English scribes. In addition to phonetic spelling variations, later there were also spelling errors made by misinterpreting the old script, confusing one letter for another. Also sometimes names were completely translated to the English equivalent.

This page was compiled to give persons new to 18th Century PA German research some examples, and thus clues, to other avenues to pursue if they cannot find the name they are seeking spelled the way they expect it. This is particularly important when searching through newly printed index reference books of church records. You need to check for all possible spellings and misspellings. Suggestions for other PA German common spelling idiosyncrasies are solicited and I will consider adding them to this file. This list is not comprehensive by any means, just examples.

<i>German letter</i>	<i>English phonetic substitute</i>	<i>Example</i>
V	F	Vetterman = Fetterman
W	V	Weiss = Veiss
P	B	Probst = Brobst
J	Y	Jost = Yost
D	T	Diehlman = Tilghman Dries = Trease/Treese
T	D	Tesch = Desch Lautenschlager = Laudenslager Gut = Good
D, T	TH (no 'th' sound in German)	Deobald = Theobald = Tibald
SCH	S	Lautenschlager = Laudenslager
G	CH or CK (for harder form)	Glogge = Gloche = Glocke
G	K	Glock = Klock
G	Y (for softer form)	Goder = Yoder Boger = Boyer
H	J	Han = Jon
Z	S	Zeller = Seller
K	C	Konrad = Conrad

<i>German Unusual Letters</i>	<i>Interchanged in English with</i>
B with tail	SS
A umlauted	AE
O umlauted	OE
U umlauted	UE

<i>German Script Letters</i>	<i>Confused with</i>
K	R (and vice versa)
SCH	PF or SH
H	F or L

<i>German Name</i>	<i>English Translated Version and Spelling</i>
Duerr	Dry
Fuchs	Fox
Jaeger	Hunter
Kirchner	Churchman
Schwartz	Black
Zimmerman	Carpenter

Just plain reading the script wrong in transcription due to poor handwriting

S for L and vice versa

Example: Saudenslager for Laudenslager

R for K and vice versa

Example: Rerchner for Kerchner

H for K and vice versa

Example: Herchner for Kerchner

I published this page to share some spelling variation tips I learned over the years. I am not a name expert so I won't be able to help you solve your specific name spelling problems. Below are a couple of research books ... if you need more help with Germanic records. Review, and order on-line if desired, the following in association with Amazon.com.

- German-English Genealogical Dictionary, by Ernest Thode
 - German-American Names, by George F. Jones
 - Dictionary of German Names, by Hans Bahlow, translated by Edna Gentry
- Some other good genealogical research books:
- If I Can You Can Decipher Germanic Records, by Edna Bentz
 - Evidencel!: Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian, by Elizabeth Mills
 - German Church Books: Beyond Basics, by Kenneth L. Smith

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Into the American Woods

by Shirley Daniels

Into the American Woods: Negotiators on the Pennsylvania Frontier, by James H. Merrell
New York, NY; W. W. Norton Co., Inc.; 1999

This detailed, annotated book brings to light the hardships of being a go-between for 18th Century tribal-colonial relations in Pennsylvania.

“Negotiations entailed a weary round of trips across unforgiving terrain to reach the far side of the frontier, and, once there, a journey of a different (if no less difficult) sort into another culture.”

Indians wanted European clothes, tools, weapons, and allies; colonists wanted land and furs. Go-betweens were hard to find and to trust. The ideal person was sober and honest, a man who was widely

known, “who could find his way around Indian America, a man natives could respect and colonists at least tolerate as a necessary evil.”

Pennsylvanians, with their eyes on land, wanted to proceed quickly at conferences; Indian custom required taking several days to rest, eat, ease troubled minds and reach a consensus. Mediators had to smooth squabbles, sort out confusion, and sound out attitudes. Minutes do not record all happenings.

For me, the most interesting portions of this book described difficulties of travel. I was surprised to hear of the deep-seated fear of the woods by both colonists and natives, who performed the “At the Woods Edge Ceremony” after a journey. I pictured our ancestors trudging on narrow, poorly marked paths through thick forests, fighting briars, bogs, insects, downed trees, steep hills, stream crossings, other perils and imagined demons to claim land.

About The Wertman Family Association (WFA)

Since 2000, the rejuvenated Wertman Family Association has held annual reunions in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, New York, and Virginia. Those who attend learn more about relatives who lived before them, and form relationships with cousins from around the country. A unique feature of these events is a full-day session for researchers to share their discoveries. An earlier family association held reunion picnics in Pennsylvania and Michigan for a large group of relatives in the 1920s and 1930s.

Via our website, *wertman.info*, strangers can discover long-lost family connections. The Wertman web pages disseminate accurate information about the family’s heritage. In August 2007, the association dedicated a monument in the old graveyard at Ebenezer Union Church in New Tripoli, Lehigh County, PA. The black granite stone is in memory of the Wertman family that came to Lynn Township by 1749, including the “founding father,” George Philip Wertman (a deacon at Ebenezer Church), and his five known sons, George Philip, Jacob, Johan Martin, Johan Michael, and Simon.

We invite you to join us!

Officers, Wertman Family Association

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Directors at Large:

Ken Cool ‘17; Shirley Daniels ‘15;

Hal Merz ‘15; Mary Ellen Wagner ‘17

Newsletter: *The next newsletter is June 2015.* In the interim, look for news and information on <wertman.info> or in electronic or postal mailings.

Register by 20 July for the Wertman Family Reunion 21 & 22 August, Danville, PA
