

# Wertman

*Lines*

Newsletter of the Wertman Family Association

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## ***Reserve these dates:***

- ! Wertman Family Reunion 2007**
- ! Friday-Sunday, 17-19 August**
- ! Allentown, PA**

## **From the WFA President**

Dear Wertman Descendants,

George Philip Wertman settled by 1749 in Lynn Township, present-day Lehigh County, PA. From there, all other branches of this family originate. Some children stayed in the area and descendants are still there. Others moved to Danville, PA. Martin's family moved to Berks County, PA. Portions of the family went further, settling in Ashland, OH, Lockport, NY, and Genesee County, MI. From these places, Wertman descendants have spread across the country. But, it all started in Lynn Township, and the Wertman Family Association is returning to Lehigh County for the 2007 annual reunion 17-19 August. You, your relatives and friends are most cordially invited to attend!

Details will be in the June newsletter, but here is a summary of events. Researchers will meet on Friday, 17 August, at the Gun Club on George Philip (GP I) Wertman's homestead. Friday evening, there will be a family dinner and speaker. The picnic, business meeting (including election of WFA officers) and auction will be held on Saturday, 18 August, at Ontalinee Park, across from Ebenezer Church and Cemetery. On Sunday, 19 August, we will visit cemeteries where family members are buried and travel to locations of former Wertman homes.

Please join me in expressing appreciation to Larry and Shirley Wertman of Allentown, and Ed and Virginia Wertman of Macungie, for making the arrangements for this year's reunion. The Reunion Committee has reserved a block of rooms at the Allentown/Fogelsville Hawthorn Suites near the intersection of Interstate 78 and Pennsylvania Route 100 north, exit 49B, at 7720 Main Street, Fogelsville. Phone 610-366-9422. A complimentary hot breakfast buffet is included, as well as an evening reception on Wednesday for those arriving early.

The Association continues to grow. We held our 2006 reunion in Indiana, and discovered more branches of the family.

I wish you all a happy new year. All I wanted for Christmas this year was to discover when, from where, to where, and with whom George Philip Wertman I came to America. Maybe in 2007...! The research continues.

Russell C. Dannecker

6<sup>th</sup> Great Grandson of George Philip Wertman

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## Life Stories

WFA President Russell C. Dannecker has video-recorded recollections of four of the eldest Wertman family members. Following are excerpts from August 2005 Wertman Family Reunion interviews with Rosa Strickling and Mary Alice McLaughlin, both in their 90s. Russ asked the women about their parents, grandparents, family traditions, world events, and other questions. This information is condensed from a DVD of the interviews and from minutes recorded by WFA Secretary Lois Wheeler.

### Life on a Farm

*Rosa Wertman Strickling* remembered early farm chores in Milton Township, Ashland County, OH, such as gathering eggs and caring for lambs in the spring. The farm was a family business, with portions of the land worked by her parents, uncles and grandparents. Her grandfather, Eli Wertman, started farming with 40 acres, and little by little increased the farm to 180 acres. Eli died before Rosa was born, but she remembers her grandmother, Leah. Rosa's father, John Franklin Wertman, farmed his entire life. They raised cows, horses and pigs.



When his health was failing, his youngest son took charge. Henry sold the farm when no one in the family wanted it any more.

Rosa recalled her father as "a kind and gentle man," about 5' 7", with white hair. Rosa was the baby of the family and her father favored her. Her mother, Catherine, had long, dark hair and dark eyes. She was a pretty woman, good to her children, but made them do what she told them to do. Her mother's father, August, who came from Germany, was a carpenter, and Rosa has some items that he crafted. When Rosa was a child, they always went to August and Magdalena's home for Christmas.

Rosa was a quiet, bashful and obedient child, but, of course, there were minor quarrels and arguments with her brothers. She remembers games such as "hide and seek" and "Andy, Andy over," tossing a ball over the roof of a small building. She had to help her mother in the house, but would rather have been out with her brothers. Rosa recalled times when her brothers would sneak into their grandmother's house to find something to eat in the cupboard, and then her grandmother would be "right there." The neighborhood was full of good neighbors and friends, many of whom were relatives.

When Rosa was six years old, she started attending school in Milton Township. It was a one-room schoolhouse for eight grades that her brothers also attended. They walked about one mile each way. If the weather was extremely bad, their father or one of the brothers would drive them in the horse and buggy. Even the horse and buggy could be very cold in winter! Rosa's favorite subject was reading. She especially liked poetry, also history and geography.

Peace Lutheran was the church they attended regularly. The small brick building was about five miles away and they took the horse and buggy. Because of the weather and work on the farm, they didn't get to church every Sunday. (The 2002 Wertman Family Association Reunion was held in the church's new building.) The nearest town was Ashland. They went to town with the horse and buggy until they got a car, around 1922.

Electricity came into Rosa's life in 1930 when they got a battery powered Delco plant. It was a big improvement to have lights in the house and barn.

When asked about World War I, Rosa recalled. "Mother was worried that my oldest brother would have to go, but he was married and didn't have to go." A neighbor was killed in France. In World War II, Rosa's husband, Victor, was sent to Okinawa with the Marine Corps, but it was at the end of the war so he didn't have to fight. He was drafted at age 35, with three small children, leaving Rosa to carry the load at home. She worried because she had to do everything herself. "Relatives were near and said they would help," but she never asked them for much. They lived in town on Jefferson Street at the time. Victor returned by train and Rosa's children, Frank, Nancy and Shirley, said it was "a very happy time" to have Dad home again.

Some of Rosa and Victor's family traditions were eating roast beef every Sunday and celebrating birthdays with wonderful devils food, chocolate cake covered with white, seven-minute frosting, for which Rosa was famous. At Christmas, they had a tree each year, and everyone had to eat breakfast before opening any gifts. Sometimes the family had pets, both dogs and cats.

Rosa's children recalled that after the family moved to town, they went to Uncle Henry's farm on Sundays, where they played with cousins, used a big block of ice to make ice cream, and ate it all. A big day on the farm was always threshing day, when the threshing machine would come (it traveled from farm to farm) and a dozen neighboring farmers came to help with the grain. "The kids would fill their caps with grass."

Frank, Nancy and Shirley said Rosa was a hard working, loving, patient parent, who also took good care of her own mother in their home. Rosa's granddaughter, Jenny, recalled her grandmother's beautiful flower gardens and two trips west with family including Grandma.

Rosa didn't finish high school, so her proudest family moments were when her children graduated from high school and college. What would she like to say to her great-grandchildren and future generations? Jenny suggested it would be, "stay sweet."

## Life in the City

### *Mary Alice Wertman Helps McLaughlin*

was born in Philadelphia, PA. Her father, Revere Wertman, a firm, severe disciplinarian, was 18 years older than her mother. He was a robust man of medium height with a dark moustache and slightly wavy hair. Her mother, Mary Ellen, was very pretty, with gray hair. Mary Alice was very close to her mother, who was lively, full of fun, and a good sport. Because Revere and Mary Ellen were first cousins (their fathers were brothers), they could not get married in Pennsylvania, so went to New Jersey to marry in 1904. They had two children, Paul Revere and Mary Alice.

Mary Ellen was born outside of Reading, PA. She attended school in the country and then went to Reading High School. In 1898, when she was a junior, her father, James, fell off a slate roof and she had to leave high school to work in a silk mill. Her mother, Hettie, leased a large house and rented rooms to make a living. Mary Alice remembers her grandfather as being bent over, although he had been over 6' tall before his fall and six months in bed. He walked with a cane that Mary Alice now uses, and had the "bluest blue eyes," always with love in them. Her grandmother was small and sat in a low rocker after supper. She had long hair held up with two combs that the girls would remove to comb her hair, and she would "almost purr." After James died, Mary Ellen blossomed, taking up tennis, and traveling.

Revere's father, Philip, had white hair and a long, white beard. He had been in the Civil War and always wore his medals. He took a walk every afternoon "with his rows of medals clinking." Mary Alice remembers him in a rocking chair, puffing on a pipe. Grandma Sarah died in the influenza epidemic of 1918. She was buried "on the first day of spring, and it was snowing." The children were not allowed to go to the cemetery, but watched the burial from an attic window. After his wife's death, Philip moved in with his daughter, Mayme, in Lehighton.

Revere worked for International Correspondence Schools. He read avidly, was good at math, and helped the children with their homework. After finishing the newspaper, he would read portions of an encyclopedia. In 1917, they bought the house in

Philadelphia they had been renting, and Revere borrowed \$1,000 from his father, promising to pay it back in one year. "That was a lot of money at the time." The family "pinched pennies in every way possible," such as remaking her brother's coats for Mary Alice, and kept that promise.

The city of Philadelphia was not nearly as busy then as today. They lived in a row house and would sit outside on cushions or rockers in the evening to catch the breeze. Everyone in the neighborhood scrubbed their steps and sidewalks at the same time on Saturday morning, and they all shoveled snow the same way, including clearing the gutters as far as the storm drain. A trolley went down the street and "it had a black funeral car with black curtains" that families could hire to take them to the cemetery. When Mary Alice was small, she could watch the horses and carriages take people to the Episcopal Church at the end of their street. Her mother took them to the Methodist Sunday School and she sang in the choir from the time she was age five. Her father would go to church "only if someone famous was speaking" such as Billy Sunday.

On Sunday afternoons, visitors would "pour out of a touring car" and her mother, with only one chicken to fry, would send Mary Alice out the back door to the local delicatessen for more food. Revere's cousin, Willoughby, would "come out of the woods once a year to get his hair cut." "Mother always hoped that he wouldn't bring 'that woman' with him [Kitty Schlear]. She was very dark. Her mother was an Indian." [See page 5.]

Her brother, Paul, attended Muhlenberg College and the Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia to become a pastor. Mary Alice loved to read and wanted to become a librarian. The librarian at a branch of the Philadelphia Free Library told her that she should attend Drexel University and teach for two years. Her father insisted she should go to Normal School and become a teacher. Her mother worked in a department store to put Mary Alice through Temple University. Mary Alice made it clear that she did not want to teach, but said she learned from experience that "every school librarian is a teacher." She taught nine years at a private school and eight years in the public school system. Later, she enjoyed a rewarding job with the Department of Education setting up libraries within 18 Pennsylvania counties.



She met her first husband, Giles Helps II, when she was working in an insurance office. They had two children, Giles III and Carol. Her second husband, Gerald McLaughlin, shared her interests in music, dance and travel. They met at Cape May, NJ. Both husbands were in World War II. Giles had poor vision but was in the Navy. He went to boot camp in Chicago and was sent to California as a Pharmacists Mate. Jerry was in the Quartermasters Corps in the Pacific, spending 18 months on a Dutch island off the coast of Australia. After the war years, Mary Alice and her family moved in with her mother.

A family tradition was having a tree and a turkey at Christmas. "Nobody could go into the living room until after breakfast." The children opened their stockings, then attended church, and then opened the rest of their gifts.

Her father said that "four brothers coming from Germany in 1698 or 1699" started the family in America, and his father could name them all, but Revere wasn't interested.

Mary Alice was a tomboy as a child and liked to climb trees. She slid out of one — the quickest way down. Her saying in the high school yearbook was, "always quiet and demure." She said she only became aggressive as she got older.

Mary Alice has traveled to 22 foreign countries. She lives in an apartment in suburban Philadelphia, and the walls of her home gallery are filled with 66 pictures. Her advice to children: "Do what you're told... not what I did."

## Native American Blood in the Wertman Family

by Russell C. Dannecker

Presented at 2006 WFA Reunion

The 1924 Wertman Reunion photograph shows an older woman seated in the center but slightly apart from others in the group. At the 2005 Wertman Family Reunion, Mary Alice McLaughlin and Mary Engler both identified the woman as Kitty Schlear. The 1924 Reunion Record Book indicates that Mrs. William Schlear [Kitty] attended, along with Mr. and Mrs. John Schlear and their children, Cordelia and John.

How are they connected to our patriarch, George Philip Wertman (GP I)? Catherine (Kitty) Wertman was a daughter of Reuben Franklin Wertman (1830-1902), [See page 6] who was the son of John Wertman and Susanna Levan, grandson of George Philip (IV) and Maria Magdalena Brobst, great-grandson of Jacob Wertman and Anna, and g-g-grandson of GP I.

Mary Alice remembered that when her parents' cousin Willoughby came to visit Philadelphia, her mother was concerned that he might bring "that woman." [See page 4.] Mary Alice's mother had been referring to Catharine "Kitty" Wertman Schlear, who had Native American features. Mary Alice recalled discussions that Kitty's mother was an American Indian. Mary Engler said that Kitty's mother was a member of the Lenni Lenape Indian tribe. She also remembered a story that the family of Kitty's husband-to-be was so opposed to the marriage that they hid his good clothes and he had to wear his work clothes to their wedding.

What can be found to add credibility to these family stories? Federal Census Records for Schuylkill Co., PA, (from Ancestry.com) show the following:

- 1870 lists Reuben Wertman with his wife, Elizabeth, and seven children: Isabella, Mary, Catharine [Kitty], Angeline, Willoughby, Alfred, and George [Washington].
- 1880 lists Reuben Wortman [sic] with three mulatto children: Angeline, Alfred and [George] Washington. Kate [Kitty] is listed with her husband, William Schlear, laborer, and their son



John E. (b. Jan 1880). Willoughby, age 17, mulatto, is in the household of Lewis Haus.

- 1900 lists William Schlue [sic] (b. Dec 1844) with his wife, Kate (b. Sep 1853), and son, John (b. Jan 1880).
- 1910 lists William Schlur [sic] (head) and Kate (wife), married 31 years, 1 child, 1 child living; John (son) and Annie (daughter-in-law), married 6 years, 2 children, 1 child living; and May, grand daughter, (b. abt 1905). Kate's brother, Alfred, is listed elsewhere as mulatto.
- 1920 lists William Schlear and his wife, Kitty Ann; John E. and Anna Schless [sic], and their four children: May, Minnie, Cordelia and John.
- 1930 lists the widowed Kathryn Schlear living with her son John E., his wife Annie, and children, Minnie, Cordie and John W. P.

The Lenni Lenape people had lived in the Delaware River area (now Delaware, eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey and southeastern New York) for centuries before the Europeans arrived. Pennsylvania's founder William Penn signed a treaty with their chief and paid them for land, but Europeans brought diseases that decimated their numbers, settled upon their land, and forced them to move westward.

Rather than shunning this branch, as was done in the past, today the Wertman family takes pride in the Native American heritage of Elizabeth, wife of Reuben, and their descendants.

## Six Reubens in 1850

by Russell C. Dannecker and Tom Young  
Presented at 2006 Wertman Family Association  
Reunion

The 1850 Federal Census for Pennsylvania shows six Reubens with the surname Wertman or Wartman. Which is which?

**1. Reuben Wartman (b abt 1848), Williams Twp., Northumberland Co.** He is listed as Reuben Whartman in 1860. The 1870 census says he is a 23-year-old farm laborer and his father was foreign born. Since his father would have been born in about 1820, this Reuben is not part of our American clan descended from George Philip Wertman (GP I).

**2. Ruben Wertman, 15 (b abt 1835), Delaware Twp., Northumberland Co.** He is listed with his parents, Daniel, 40, and Eliza. Ann, 38, and siblings, William, 14, Savilla, 10, Cyrus, 8, Emillin A., 4, and Louisa, 3. He was a grandson of Daniel Wertman and Anna Maria (Brobst), great-grandson of Jacob and Anna, and g-g-grandson of GP I. He died 13 May 1857 and is buried at St. John's Cemetery, Delaware Run, PA.

**3. Reuben Wartman, 9 (b abt 1841), East Penn Twp., Carbon Co.** He is listed with his parents, Jacob (45) and Delia (40) and siblings John (15), Mary (13), and Sarah (11). This is an unknown family.

The 1870 Census for East Penn Twp., Carbon Co., lists **Reuben Wertman**, 38 (b. 1821), Hannah, 29, Owen, 5, and Elwin J., 3. Wertman tombstones at the Ben Salem old cemetery show burials of Reuben (1820-1902), spouse of Harriet, son of Jacob and Barbara; Harriet, (1831-1896), wife of Reuben, daughter of David and Lydia Steigerwalt; Alwina Jane (1857-1861), daughter of Reuben and Hanna; and Erwin Jefferson (22 Jan-03 Mar 1853), son of Reuben and Hanna. This Reuben (29 Jun 1820-10 Jun 1902) would be the son of Jacob and Barbara (Andres), grandson of GP III and Christina, great-grandson of Michael and Catherine (Flack), and g-g-grandson of GP I. Two additional children

were Owen Alfred and Edwin. In the 1900 Census, the widowed Reuben lived with his son, Alfred, Alfred's wife, Rosana, and their children, Oliver and Cora.

**4. Reuben Wertman, 11 (b abt 1839), West Penn Twp., Schuylkill Co.** He is listed with his parents, George Wartman, 53, shoemaker, and Catharine, 49. He was the grandson of Jacob (b 1761), great-grandson of Michael and Catherine (Flack) and g-g-grandson of GP I. Children of Reuben and his wife, Louisa, were Emeline, Charles, John, Cordelia, Elias, and an unknown deceased child. A widowed Louisa Wertman is living with her son, Elias, in the 1900 Census for West Penn Twp.

**5. Reuben Wartman, 20 (b abt 1830), West Penn Twp., Schuylkill Co.** He is listed with his parents, John, 44, laborer, Susanna, 38, and siblings Caroline, 17, Catharine, 16, Philip, 14, John, 10, Susana, 5, and Daniel, 1. He was the son of John Wertman and Susannah (Levan), grandson of GP IV and Maria Magdalena (Brobst), great-grandson of Jacob and Anna, and g-g-grandson of GP I. The children of Reuben and his [Native American] wife, Elizabeth [*see page 5*], were Isabella, Mary, Catharine, Angeline, Willoughby, Alfred, and George Washington.

**6. Reuben Wertman, (b abt 1819), Bloom Twp., Columbia Co.** He was the son of Henry and Anna Maria (Krumm), grandson of Michael and Catherine (Flack) and great-grandson of GP I. The children of Reuben and Rebecca (Leiby) were William, Harriet, Phoebe, Joseph, Mary, Sanderson, and Elauda. He joined the 72<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Infantry, and after the battle of Shiloh (6-7 Apr 1862), became ill due to exposure, was sent home, and died in May 1862.

# What Became of Jacob?

by Tom Young

What became of Jacob, son of Michael, born 28 Jul 1761? We have two prospects.

1. Jacob of West Penn Twp., Schuylkill Co. (Choice of WFA researcher Ed Sterrett. No contradictions here dispute Ed's claim.)

- 1800 census - Wertman, Penn Twp. Northampton Co., age 26-45 (10010 20010)
- 1810 census - Wertman, West Penn Twp. Northampton Co., over 45 (01111 10001)
- 1820 census - Wertman, West Penn Twp. Schuylkill Co., over 45 (000001 00110).
- 1830 census - Wertman, West Penn Twp. Schuylkill Co., age 60-70 (010000001 00000101).
- 1836 - Awarded a one-time payment for Revolutionary War service by an act of the PA State legislature, but no application on file
- 1838 - Died intestate
- Survivors: Johann George, Christina Beibleheimer, Michael Schuck (son of Elisabeth).

2. Jacob of Penns Twp., Northumberland Co.

- 1795 - 1st deed, "of Penns Twp" at that time
- 1800 - Wertman, Penns Twp. Northumberland Co., age 26-45 (20010 02010).
- 1806 - Died intestate.
- 1810 census - Susannah Wertman, widow, Penns Twp. Northumberland Co., age 26-45 (02000 00210).
- Survivors: Widow Susannah, 5 children (oldest? b about 1788), George & Jacob (Joseph, crossed out) minors over 14 in 1812
- Largest creditor in his estate was Simon Wertman. Closely associated with Mathias App/Opp/Upp, who is known to have migrated from Moore Twp. Northampton Co.

This Jacob can't be the son of Michael. Michael's will mentions six sons, but this Jacob died before Michael. Michael would have mentioned that a son was deceased or included those grandchildren in his will. So, who is he?

There are some records in early Lynn Twp., but none really solve the problem.

- 12 Apr 1778 - Jacob Jr, Oath of Allegiance
- 14 Aug 1778 - Jacob Jr, militia list, 4th class (same as Michael)

Note that all males 18 and over were required to take the oath and join the militia. Jacob, son of Michael, was 16 (not quite 17) at the time of the above events. Was this Michael's son, a dedicated rebel, nervous over Uncle Philip's departure? Or another Jacob?

- 26 Oct 1780 - Jacob Jr, militia list, class 3 (same as Jacob Sr)
- 24 Jul 1782 - Jacob Jr, militia list, class 3 (same as Jacob Sr)

He is now marching with Jacob instead of Michael. Same Jacob or another Jacob?

- 16 Jun 1786 - Jacob Jr, tax assessment, single
- 22 May 1788 - Jacob Jr, tax assessment, married.
- 1788 - Jacob Jr, no land, tax list
- 1789 - Jacob Jr, no land, tax list
- 1790 - Jacob, tax list (no Jr, but the second of the names on the list, and probably the younger)
- 1790 census - Wertman, Lynn Twp., Northampton Co., Jacob Jr (1 1 2)

Ignoring the age problem in 1778, it appears that this Jacob was the son of Michael who was born in 1761, and that he migrated over the Blue Mountain with his brother, George Philip, and died there in 1838.

Problem solved? But, who is the Jacob who settled before 1795 in Northumberland Co.? I'm inclined to say he is unrelated, but for the loan from Simon. Any ideas or further information would be appreciated! Tom <teyoung3@verizon.net>

**Officers, Wertman Family Association**

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\$20 per family, due 1 July

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**2007 Reunion:** Larry & Shirley Wertman, Chairs,  
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**Newsletter:** To submit articles for publication,  
please contact the President or Historical  
Acceptance Committee Chair. Next issue: June '07

**Nominations Needed for New Officers**

The Nominating Committee requests your nominations for August 2007-09 officers. The election will be held during the Business Meeting at the 2007 Reunion on 18 August in Lehigh County, PA. Any Wertman Family Association member in good standing may submit up to one nominee per office. The consent of each nominee is required. Please submit the names of your candidates by 1 July to Ken Cool, Nominating Committee Chair, at 107 S. Baxter, Auburn, IN 46706 or e-mail <[kencool@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kencool@sbcglobal.net)>.

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