

# Wertman

*Lines*

Newsletter of the Wertman Family Association

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## ***Motel Registration Due 20 July***

- 2009 Wertman Family Reunion
- Friday-Sunday, 21-23 August
- Danville, PA

## **Make Your Reunion Plans Now**

By 1749, George Philip Wertman (GPI) had settled in Lynn Twp., Northampton (now Lehigh) County, PA. His known sons were Johan Michael, George Philip (GPII), Johan Jacob, Simon, and Johan Martin. Two of his five sons, Michael and Simon, later migrated to the area near Danville, PA.

The Wertman Family Association (WFA) returns to Danville this summer, 21-23 August, for the annual reunion. You can retrace the steps of these pioneers and discover what we know or don't know about them as we share research, motivations, and possibilities.

The sons, grandsons and granddaughters of GPI who moved northward to Northumberland County at the dawn of the 19th Century are ancestors of some Wertmans in the area today. We hope that many of our reunion attendees will be descendants of the daughters who are so difficult to trace!

Please join me in thanking Tom Young for taking charge of this year's reunion arrangements.

Look for reunion updates on the WFA website using our new shortcut, <[www.wertman.info](http://www.wertman.info)>. You may register for reunion events and meals and pay the coming year's dues using the form on page 9 of this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you in Danville 21-23 August 2009.

Russell C. Dannecker, President, WFA,  
6<sup>th</sup> G-Grandson of George Philip Wertman

## **Early Wertmans Migrating to Northumberland County**

GPI's son Johann Michael Wertman is a head of household in Lynn Township, Northampton County, PA, in both the 1790 and 1800 U.S. censuses. He is listed as Michel Wirtman in 1790, and his family of 12 consists of three males age 16 or younger, two males over age 16, and seven females. By 1800, the family size has just seven members, three males and four females.

In the 1810 U.S. Census, M. Werkman is living in Hemlock Township, Northumberland County, PA. The family size has grown to 10, six males and four females. On 14 April 1810, Michael bought 266 acres in Mahoning Township, Northumberland County, between Danville and Bloomsburg. In November 1801, Hemlock Township was formed out of Mahoning Township, both of which were in Northumberland County. Hemlock is one of the 12 townships embraced in Columbia County when it was organized in 1813.

The Mahoning Township Lutheran Church and Hemlock Township Christian Congregation communicant records list Michael and Catherine with sons Daniel and Henry. Johann Michael

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Wertman's Will of 1815 mentions six sons and six daughters, not named. On 04 February 1817, the Will was proved. No gravestone has been found. Five children are known and identified: Jacob, born 1761; George Philip, born 1763; John, born ca 1780; Henry, born 1783; and Daniel, born 1786. Two daughters, Christina and Catharina, are probable. One son and four daughters remain unknown.

GPI's son Simon Wertman is a head of household in both the 1790 and 1800 U.S. censuses and the 1798 Direct Tax lists, living in Albany Township Berks County, PA. He is listed as Saml Worman in 1790, and his family of seven consists of two males age 16 or younger, two males over age 16, and three females. By 1800 the family size has shrunk to three males and one female. On 01 April 1807, Simon purchased land in Bloom Twp., Northumberland (now Columbia) County. He is living there for the 1810 U.S. Census, listed as Damon Werkman, and the family consists of only one male and one female.

The 07 November 1820 edition of the *Reading Adler* German weekly newspaper contains Simon's death notice: "Simon Wertman, formerly of Berks County, died on the 25th of October near Bloomsburg, Columbia County, after a short illness of dropsy in his 74th year. He was buried at the German Reformed Church of Bloomsburg." But this old German cemetery is not his final resting place. In 1925, the cemetery was relocated when a new junior high school was built on the site. Simon Wertman's remains and tombstone were moved to the New Rosemount Cemetery in Espy, Columbia County.

*The History of Columbia and Montour Counties, Pennsylvania* was edited by: J. H. Battle in 1887. Chapter VI describes Bloomsburg and mentions Simon Wertman. It reads:

"When the peace of 1783 finally relieved the valley of the 'North Branch' of the harassing experiences of the five preceding years, immigration was again directed to this county....

"In 1801 Joseph Hendershott and Andrew Schooley bought a tract of several hundred acres adjoining the river and east of the Kinney farm. They settled here the previous year, having previously lived at Belvidere, N. J. Mr. Schooley disposed of his interest to Simon Wirtman, a native of Germany [sic], a few years afterward. Jacob Wanich also of German descent but a native of

North Carolina, settled west of Hendershott some time prior to 1809. And at this time the present limits of Bloomsburg had become quite as thickly settled as any other part of the surrounding region."

Two of Michael's sons, John and Henry, remained in Hemlock Township. Two of his six daughters, Catherine (married to Conrad Ebner) and Christina (married to Conrad Fenstermacher), and one of Simon's two daughters, Barbara (married to Johan George Creutz/Kreutz), were nearby.

Other grandchildren of GPI, Jacob's son and four of his five daughters, also moved to the area: Daniel, who was in Turbotville by 1803, Barbara (married to Philip Heimbach), Katherine (married to Michael Heimbach), Elisabeth (married to Henry Krum), and Margaret (married to Michael Sander). A Jacob Wertman, probably another son of Jacob but not proven, also was in Northumberland County. Several of GPI's granddaughters had settled there well before his grandsons arrived.

## 2009 WFA Reunion Plans

### Lodging

The 2009 Reunion Committee is holding a block of rooms at the Best Western Danville Inn, 79 Old Valley School Road, for Thursday through Sunday nights, 21-23 August, at the group rate of \$103.99 plus tax. (This is the week of the Little League World Series.) To reserve your room, call the hotel at 570-275-5750 or e-mail the General Manager, Daniel R. Richman, <bwdanpa@ptd.net>. Be sure to mention that you are with the Wertman Family Reunion (group number 164). Make your reservations as early as possible; **the rooms will be held only until 20 July 2009.**

### Researchers Meet on Friday

Presentations will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, 21 August, at the Mahoning Township Municipal Building, 1101 Bloom Road, Danville. After a break for lunch, the group will re-convene until 4:00 p.m. Please let Tom Young know if you would like to make a presentation at this meeting.

### Friday Dinner

All are invited to attend the family dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, 21 August, at Buster's Bar & Grill,

587 Valley Road, in Danville. Dinner choices include prime rib au jus for \$22 (14-ounce cut of rib eye roasted on premises), broiled haddock for \$17 (with wine, butter & lemon) and smothered chicken for \$18 (charbroiled chicken breast with sautéed onions, peppers, mushrooms and melted Swiss cheese). All meals are served with a tossed salad, two sides, and coffee, tea or soda. Alcoholic beverages may be purchased individually.

A guest presenter will speak after the dinner.

### **Picnic and Business Meeting**

A picnic for the entire family will be held at Saint James United Church of Christ, 2507 Bloom Road, Danville, on Saturday, 22 August, beginning at noon. Buster's will cater the event. The cost for adults is \$10 (chicken and a hamburger), and for children age 6-11 is \$2 (hot dog). Lunch includes baked beans, chips, potato salad, cole slaw and a beverage. There is a pavilion with benches, but you may prefer to bring your own lawn chair.

The annual business meeting and auction will follow the meal. Nominees for offices are: Russ Dannecker, President; Frank Strickling, Vice President; Lois Wheeler, Secretary; Jenny Ewing, Genealogy/Historical Secretary; Shirley Wertman, Treasurer; Tom Young, Webmaster; Ken Cool and Mary Ellen Wagner, Board of Directors.

### **Pay Respects on Sunday**

On Sunday, the group will carpool to Wertman home sites and cemeteries.

### **Area Attractions**

Reunion guests might enjoy the nearby Montour Preserve with its 165-acre Lake Chillisquaque, a Visitor Center and trails; the Children's Museum in Bloomsburg with an outdoor butterfly garden; or the house of Dr. Joseph Priestley, discoverer of oxygen, in Northumberland.

### **For more information**

***Reserve your hotel room by 20 July. Reunion registration is needed by 01 August.*** If you have questions about the 2009 reunion, please contact Tom Young, Chair, 2009 WFA Reunion Committee, P.O. Box 282, Riverside, PA 17868. Phone 570-275-3626 or e-mail <teyoung3@verizon.net>

## **Minutes, WFA Reunion, August 2008, Ashland County, OH**

### ***Minutes, 2008 Researchers Meeting***

At 9:00 a.m. on August 22, President Russ Dannecker called the 2008 Wertman Family Reunion Researchers' Meeting to order at Peace Lutheran Church, Ashland, Ohio. Twenty-five people were in attendance. He thanked the Strickling family for all of their work in making this reunion possible.

Each person in the room introduced himself and explained his Wertman connection. Many brief and interesting stories were told.

Next it was explained at length why Ohio was chosen as the location for this reunion. As early as 1814 George Wertman, son of Jacob, was in Fairfield, Ohio. He was followed shortly thereafter by a number of other Wertmans to various places in eastern Ohio.

One of the first Wertman families to settle in Ashland was that of Solomon and his wife, Mary Ohl Wertman. They came in a wagon train with the Ohl family about 1830. John, Jacob and Reuben Wertman came to different points in Ohio sometime between 1830 and 1855.

Varied other Wertman lines were discussed.

Hal Merz gave a presentation of the Stapleton family connection to the Wertmans. He provided a very good handout.

Next, Russ Dannecker shared some of the information that he found in the new Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, Historical Society, which he pronounced an unbelievable improvement over the dark, cramped, old facility. It is now a real pleasure to work there. Although this work has not been completed, he gave an extraordinary presentation including headstone pictures of the people about whom he was speaking. His next step will be tackling 800 volumes of family histories.

Russ doesn't get all of the credit for this extraordinary work. His wife, Jan, gave a fantastic report including spread sheets about some of the old German records she has been working on. Most of them were from German newspapers of the past. We gave Jan our thanks for this work and her ability to translate the German language materials. [Jan passed

away in November 2008.] Russ will e-mail any of these data bases on request.

Then Russ presented his research log containing 16 pages of Wertmans with no known connection to our line.

After a break, Hal Merz offered information about the gathering of 40 men just prior to the Revolution at Mosser's, a Wertman neighbor. For a variety of reasons, these men were not willing to fight the British. Some of the reasons were discussed and what they did about them, including going over to the Rebel's side, going to jail, and paying fines and taxes. There were strong religious feelings (excuses?) for not fighting. Many finally agreed that although they couldn't give their oath, they could and would affirm their loyalty. All in all, the group might have preferred to remain neutral. Again a top notch handout was available making all of this information easier to follow.

Hal then presented a very clever skit, read by various members of the group, presenting some of our ancestors' feelings about the times.

Brenda Merz read her original poem, *Why We Should Hope*, which beautifully summed up some of the thoughts and questions about these ancestors.

The last subject of the morning was Tom Young's overview and update of our DNA project. Some of the basics of DNA were discussed and how we can determine family connections. We have several Wertman participants in the Sorenson project and Tom made a plea for more.

Lunch was a delicious affair put on by the ladies of the Church. Special treats were old fashioned, home made, hand cranked ice cream and yummy chocolate cake, both made from old Wertman family recipes.

After lunch Tom Young continued with the DNA update.

The afternoon ended with an open debate by members of the group regarding what we think we know about the early Wertmans, why there may be questions about some of our materials, and the importance of sending copies of our collected documents to our Historical Secretary, Jenny Ewing.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m., giving participants time to look over some pictures, which recently came to light, of Daniel Wertman of Indiana and his descendants, as well as to look over copies of old deeds that were found in a box now in

possession of the Strickling family.

At 6:00 p.m. the ladies of the church again displayed their talents with a scrumptious meal for the group. Following dinner, all enjoyed a spellbinding program told by frontiersman Simon Kenton of his life and times emphasizing early life in the Ashland, Ohio, area. Kenneth Neff Hammontree was the re-enactor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lois R. Wheeler, Secretary

### ***Minutes, 2008 Business Meeting***

President Russ Dannecker called the business meeting of the Wertman Family Association to order on the afternoon of August 23, 2008 at Brookside Park West, Ashland, Ohio. There were 38 people in attendance including five children. He thanked the Strickling family for all of the work they put in to make our 2008 reunion such a success.

An announcement was made that there would be a trip on the morning of August 24 to various Wertman cemeteries in the area and to view the old Solomon Wertman family property.



*WFA President Russ Dannecker poses as a frontiersman at the 2008 WFA Reunion. (Props provided by re-enactor Kenneth Neff Hammontree)*

*Photo by Minerva Arner*

Awards were given for the person traveling the farthest distance, which went to Russ and Jan Dannecker who came from Rhode Island; a book all about hex signs to the most senior lady went to Rosa Strickling, 98 years; the most senior man, Pete Cooper, received an FDR tie; the youngest attendee, Mason Ewing at 19 months, received an antique, period toy, a man and bear climbing a rope.

Minutes for the 2007 reunion were approved.

Treasurer Shirley Wertman reported \$4,555.69 in the treasury. This included all known payments for the 2008 reunion.

Tom Young said there was nothing new for the historical report. He also said the DNA project was in full swing and encouraged all to participate.

Frank Strickling gave the 2008 reunion report and hoped that everyone enjoyed the reunion.

Tom Young will be in charge of our 2009 reunion, which will be in Danville. One known factor is that the banquet will be at Busters.

The 2010 reunion will be in the Fredericksburg, Virginia, area near our relatives' Civil War activities.

The 2011 reunion will be in Lockport, New York. Tom Young discussed Anita Reid's unbelievable knowledge and accuracy in research she has done in that area, including photographing every grave in the area. [Anita passed away in December 2008.]

The George Philip Wertman descendant chart from Russ that wraps several times around a pavilion, was missing this year. It has simply become too large to assemble.

Tom Young was reappointed to the Historical Committee and Ken Cool to the nominating committee.

Shirley Daniels gave a report on the newsletter, including the expenses. She requests that family members send her articles and pictures.

Kenneth Hahn, an Ashland County, Ohio Genealogical Society member who had been invited to the reunion, thanked us for letting a non-Wertman with Pickaway County roots participate.

Tom Young made a motion that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was followed by the annual auction, which raised \$171.00.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lois R. Wheeler, Secretary

## Large-Scale Wertman Reunions Began 90 Years Ago

*WFA member Kathy Bucher has transcribed an old minute book from Wertman Reunions beginning with the fifth reunion in 1924. Kathy also has a data base of those who signed the attendance book, their addresses, and which years they attended. The following information (with original spelling) is from her Wertman Reunions 1922-1934 compact disc.*

### **Wertman Family Reunion,**

#### **Victory Park, Slatinington, Pa. July 26, 1924**

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Wertman Reunion was called to order by the pres. George Wertman. The minutes of the previous meeting were read & approved. After a hymn by the members and a prayer by the Rev. Rehrig, the regular routine of business was transacted.

The following officers were nominated: pres. – George Wertman – Vice pres. Robert T. Wertman – Secretary Robert A. Wertman – Treas. Henry J. Wertman - Historian –Mervin Wertman

A motion was made and seconded that the secretary should cast the ballot for those nominated where there was no opposition. UP [unanimously passed?]. It was also moved & seconded that all outstanding bills be paid.

After an interesting talk by the Rev. Rehrig the following gifts were presented: Mrs. Elias Moser being the oldest lady was given a Broach; Mr. Philip Wertman being the oldest gentleman was given a set of cuff Buttons; Miss Helen Jane Sharbach being the youngest person was given a silver baby spoon.

Victory Park was again selected as the next meeting place for the reunion.

The following were the receipts for the day: Badges \$52.10; Collection \$2D33C making a total of \$71.43.

The meeting closed with a Hymn by the members.

*Continued, REUNIONS 1922-1934, page 7*

**WFA Dues are due!** Annual membership is \$20 per family. Printed copies of *Wertman Lines* are mailed to CURRENT members of the Wertman Family Association upon request. You may send dues with your reunion registration form, page 9.

## In Search of Jacob Wertman

by Russ Dannecker

As noted in the January 2009 *Wertman Lines*, my wife Jan and I also traveled to Tuscarawas County, Ohio, in search of the origins of Jacob Wertman. Unlike the George Wertman we researched in Pickaway County, there are not thirty Jacobs in my database, just fourteen. Jacob of Tuscarawas makes fifteen.

### Obituary -- Jacob Wertman

Dover Iron Valley Reporter, Thursday, March 21, 1889, p. 3, col. 7, a copy in Tuscarawas County Public Library in Strasburg, OH; and a copy in the possession of James E. Wertman.

"Jacob Wertman, an old and highly respected citizen of Tuscarawas county, died at East Shanesville, March 11, at the advanced age of 83 years, 1 month and 3 days. The deceased was born in Union county, Pa., February 8, 1806. At the age of fourteen he with his father's family removed to Mifflin county, Pa., where he remained until 1855 when he came to Tuscarawas county, O. On February 20, 1826 he was united in marriage with Sarah Harris who has journeyed with him all the length of life's

pathway to its peaceful end, and who now survives him. Thus it will be seen that their uninterrupted married life was over 63 years; a most remarkable record - the like of which, I think, I have never heard. Twelve children were born to them; ten of whom are still living. There are 75 grandchildren, and 33 great grand children. The early occupation of the deceased was shoemaking, and later that of farming; but for several years he has lived retired, mostly with his son-in-law, Ervin Fulton, East Shanesville. Mr. Wertman with his wife became members of the German Reformed church over 50 years ago, and were active, worthy and spiritual Christians; and in their old age they were not forsaken. The aged patriarch entertained a bright hope of the future and died in great peace. A few more days and the companion of his youth will rejoin him, where they will share in the rest that belongs to the people of God. His funeral was largely attended by his old neighbors and acquaintances. Services were conducted in German at the house by Rev. Zahner, and at Union Hill in English by the writer, D. Kosht."

Our visit took us to the Tuscarawas County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society, Inc., in Dennison. There we reviewed Probate Court, marriage, death and cemetery records. We found many records pertaining to the Wertman family, but none that told us who Jacob's father was.

Out of respect, we drove to the Union Hill Cemetery in Sugar Creek, where Jacob and his wife, Sarah are buried. After searching for some time, Jan found the grave. We took a GPS reading (N040.30.253 x W081.36.641), snapped the pictures, and paused to consider the life, trials, origin, and importance of these two progenitors of this part of the Wertman clan.

Once again, it may be DNA that unlocks this secret. Once again, there is a volunteer. Once again, we wait for the results.



Gravestone in Union Hill Cemetery, Sugar Creek, Ohio, for Jacob Wertman and his wife, Sarah  
Photos by Russ Dannecker, August 2008

### ***The Proof Is in the DNA***

Wertman males are encouraged to submit a DNA sample to the Sorensen Molecular Genealogical Project. A kit is free and sample-taking is as easy as using mouthwash. Results help us determine who is related to George Philip Wertman (GPI). For more information, visit <[www.smgf.org](http://www.smgf.org)> or contact Tom Young (see page 10 for details).

**REUNIONS 1922-1934 Continued from page 5****Committees, Not Dated**

Several hundred people attended early reunions, as is reflected in the extensive number of committee members. Strikeouts on the original list have been deleted; names have been put in paragraph form.

*Executive Committee* / Mr. Oscar Wertman, Jersey City / Mr. Charles Geiger / Mr. Henry Wertman / Mr. George Wertman / Mr. Robert T. Wertman / John Kline - Ira Wertman, Andreas

*Reception Committee* / Mrs. Robert T. Wertman / Mr. George Geiger / Mrs. Oscar Wertman / Mrs. Ella Wertman / Mrs. Henry Wertman / Miss Laura Wertman / Mr. Moses Wertman / Mr. Ellsworth Wertman

*Amusement Committee* / Mrs. Ida Wertman / Miss Jennie Moser / Ho.... Dannecker / Mr. Clarence Wertman / Mrs. Ray Schaffer / Mr. Wm. Sharbaugh

*Park Committee* / Mr. Oscar Wertman / John Kline / Willis Wertman

*Present Purchasing Committee* / Mrs. Robert T. Wertman / Mrs. George M[?] Wertman / Mrs. Henry Wertman / Mrs. Oscar Wertman

*Parking & Jitney Committee* / Mr. Howard Wertman / Mr. Paul Gable / Mr. Roy Wertman / Mr. Ray Schaffer

*Badges / Publicity Committee* / Mr. Henry J. Wertman / Mr. George Wertman, Jersey City N.J. / Mrs. Wm. Gidman, Reading Pa / Mr. Oscar Wertman / Mr. Welles A. Wertman ...[?] Pa / Mr. Charles Geiger / Miss Laura Wertman / Mr. Ellsworth Wertman - Hummelstown / Mrs. Robert McLean - Coal-dale Pa / Mrs. Cora Vetter Hahn / Mr. L. O. Wertman - New Ringold Pa / R.... A. / Mr. John Wertman - Phila Pa / Mr. James Zellner - Lehighon Pa

*Entertainment* / Chas Geiger / Clarence Wertman

**Wertman's 15th. Anniversary**

**Hello Everybody:**

You, your relatives and friends are most cordially invited to attend the 15th. annual reunion of the Wertman family to be held at Ontlelaunee Park on Saturday, August 11, 1934. The business meeting will be held at 2:30 p. m., D. S. C., at which time officers will be elected, a park chosen for next year and all other business pertaining to the reunion.

A Hot Roast Beef or Pork dinner may be had at the park for 60 cents or a Chicken dinner for 75 cents or bring your lunch as in former years. Dinner will be served from 12 to 1:30 p. m. Please notify Sec'y if you want to buy your dinner at the Park.

The Kiddies as usual will be well provided for.

Hoping to meet you at the Park.

Moses Wertman, Pres.  
Lehighon, Pa.

Robert Wertman, Sec'y.  
1094 Sixth St. Catasauqua, Pa.

*A postcard invitation to the 1934 Wertman reunion*

## Great-Great-Grandpa, Was That You?

by Shirley Daniels

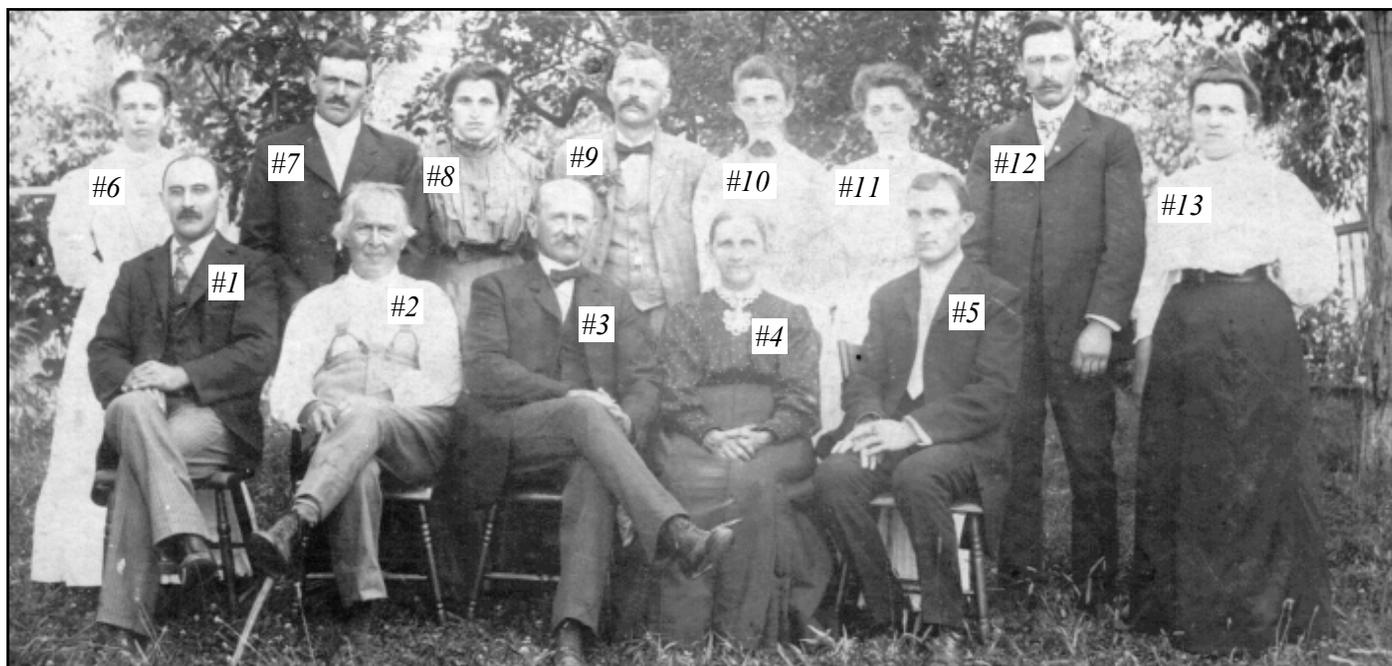
My great-great grandfather John Wertman was born in 1824 in Berks County, PA. He married Maria Forry in 1842. All four of their children were baptized at Host Church. Maria died in 1874 and is buried in the church cemetery. John and his family appear in the 1850, 1860, and 1870 U.S. censuses in Tulpehocken Township, Berks County. In 1880, G-G-Grandpa was living with his son John F. Wertman in Jefferson Township. The elder John died in 1909 and also is buried at Host Church. There is more to his story our family didn't know if G-G-Grandpa is the same John Wertman as the following!

Miscellaneous Volume 38 in the Recorder of Deeds Office at the Berks County Courthouse contains "Articles of Agreement" dated 29 August 1884 between John Wertman of Jefferson Township, and "Sarah Lucas now the widow of Lemuel Lukas [sic] deceased of Marion township" in Berks County.

Condensing three pages of legalese to one paragraph of plain English, we find that Sarah owns a two-story brick house, stable, and other outbuildings on 1 1/4 acres of land in Marion Township, money, bonds and personal property. She and John are soon to be married, and the agreement keeps their estates separate. If either of Sarah's sons should live with her, she is to be responsible for his support, and any medical or burial costs for Sarah and/or her sons are to be paid from her estate. If Sarah dies before John, he is to move "quietly and peaceably" from her premises within three months and remove his personal property "without any hindrance molestation or interference" by Sarah's representatives. John is not to "meddle or interfere" with her estate settlement. The agreement ends, "that in case the said John shall at any time find it necessary or desirable to have a small shop or building for weaving carpet or other purposes," he may do so at his expense, and also pay for its removal.

Interestingly, I found no marriage of John and Sarah in the Host or nearby church records and no marriage license application in the Berks County Courthouse. Where did they go to marry, and why?

Sarah Leiss was born in 1828, married Lemuel Lucas (1824-1875), and died in December 1900. The Lucases also were members of Host Church and are



Three generations of John Wertmans are shown at John F. Wertman's farm with their families. #1 John J. (son of #3); #2 John; #3 John F. (son of #2) and his wife #4 Ellen nee Zerbe. Other children of John F. and Ellen, and spouses, are: #5 William; #6 Alice nee Fout (wife of #1), #7 James Moyer and his wife #8 Annie, #9 Morris Haag and his wife #10 Mary, #11 Ada nee Sprecher (wife of #5), #12 John Long and his wife #13 Matilda.

buried there. *St. John's (Host) Church Records 1740-1980*, deaths, list Sarah Leiss, born 28 August 1828 Heidelberg Township, died 21 December 1900 Marion Township, age 72 years 3 months 22 days, wife of (1) Lemuel Lucas, (2) John Wertman. John's tombstone does not mention any marriage.

Sarah Wertman's estate file contains a document signed 03 January 1901 by Johannes Wertman renouncing his right to administer the estate of his wife. (I do not have a proven signature of G-G-Grandpa for comparison.) Five days later, the Register of Wills granted letters of Administration to George W. Lucas [sic] and Wm. P. Lucas [sic].

In the 1900 U.S. Census, there is a John Wertman age 74 (indexed by Ancestry as John Hartman) in Marion Township, head of household, with wife Sarah age 75 and step-son George Lucas age 39. But, the census says they each have been married 39 years and gives their birth dates as March 1826 and March 1825 (census-taker's errors?). I found no other possible matches for G-G-Grandpa in 1900, even by searching for "John" with no surname.

The following article, also on Ancestry, from the 03 August 1908 *Washington Times* is about G-G-Grandpa. (The D.C. connection is my grandfather, William H. Wertman, who moved there in 1905.)

"Four Generations Hold a Reunion / First John Wertman, Aged 85, Cradles Grain and Takes Long Walking Trips / New Schaefferstown, PA, Aug. 2 -- Under a mulberry tree that has withstood the elements for more than 100 years, there was grouped a family gathering at the house of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Wertman unique in the history of family reunions for the fact that the head of each of four generations represented bears the name of John Wertman. [Not correct — the fourth John was a child.]

"The Wertmans are known all over the Blue Mountain region as tillers of the soil. They have been involved with farm life for generations. The elder John Wertman, who is now eighty-five years old, resides with his daughter, Mrs. Jared Fidler in Jefferson Township. Throughout his life he has been working on Berks county farms, and to this day he is so hale and hearty that he swings the grain cradle in the little fields along the mountains where improved machinery is not available to do the work between rocks and steep hills. He is one of the best pedestrians in the county and at the advanced age of eighty five years he often walks for miles for exercise."

The article holds no clues to a second marriage, but gives an idea of G-G-Grandpa's character. And, if he didn't marry Sarah, which John Wertman did?

## 2009 Wertman Family Reunion Registration Form

**Friday-Sunday, 21-23 August 2009      Danville, PA**

Please print

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Name  |   |
| Address   |   |
| City/State/Zip  |   |
| Telephone   | Cel phone   |
| E-mail  | <input type="checkbox"/> Please e-mail my WFA newsletters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please send me printed newsletters by US mail (only mailed to those with dues paid!) |   |

| <b>Friday, 21 August</b>   | <i>Number attending</i> | <i>Cost per person</i> | <i>Total cost</i> |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Researchers' Meeting   |                         | \$0                    | \$0               |
| Dinner at Buster's, Haddock  |                         | \$17                   | \$                |
| Dinner at Buster's, Chicken  |                         | \$18                   | \$                |
| Dinner at Buster's, Prime Rib<br><i>(Circle one) Med Rare, Med, Med Well, Well</i> |                         | \$22                   | \$                |
| <b>Saturday, 22 August</b>   |                         |                        |                   |
| Picnic at St. James UCC, Adults  |                         | \$10                   | \$                |
| Picnic, Children 6-11 (hot dog)  |                         | \$2                    | \$                |
| Write in your picnic beverage preference   |                         | <i>included</i>        | <i>included</i>   |
| <b>Sunday, 23 August</b>   |                         |                        |                   |
| Carpool to Wertman sites   |                         | \$0                    | \$0               |

**Wertman Family Association dues of \$20 per family are due.**  
To continue receiving mailed copies of the newsletter, be sure your dues are paid!

|   |                                    |           |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Annual Dues 1 July 2009-30 June 2010        | \$20 per family                    | \$20      |
| <b>2009 Reunion Events, Meals, and Dues</b> | <b>Grand Total, Check Enclosed</b> | <b>\$</b> |

Please make your check payable to the **Wertman Family Association**.

Mail your check and Registration Form *by 01 August* to:

2009 WFA Reunion, c/o Tom Young, P. O. Box 282, Riverside, PA 17868

If you have questions, call 570-275-3626 or e-mail Tom Young <teyoung3@verizon.net>

## About The Wertman Family Association (WFA)

Since 2000, the rejuvenated Wertman Family Association has held annual reunions in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and New York. 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.

Using the WFA website, <[www.wertman.info](http://www.wertman.info)>, strangers can discover long-lost family connections. The *Wertman Lines* newsletter and the WFA 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

#### President:

Russell C. Dannecker <[dannecker123@verizon.net](mailto:dannecker123@verizon.net)>  
32 Burgess Rd., Foster, RI 02825 (401-647-3991)

#### Vice President :

Frank Strickling <[fjstrick@zoominternet.net](mailto:fjstrick@zoominternet.net)>

#### Corresponding Secretary:

Lois Wheeler <[rileywheeler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rileywheeler@sbcglobal.net)>

#### Genealogy/Historical Secretary:

Jenny Ewing <[jewingii@earthlink.net](mailto:jewingii@earthlink.net)>

#### Treasurer:

Shirley Wertman <[snlwertman@verizon.net](mailto:snlwertman@verizon.net)>  
6343 Memorial Rd., Allentown, PA 18106

#### Webmaster & 2009 Reunion Chair:

Tom Young <[teyoung3@verizon.net](mailto:teyoung3@verizon.net)>

**Website:** <[www.wertman.info](http://www.wertman.info)> shortcut to <<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~wertman>>

#### Directors at Large:

Katherine Bucher '11; Shirley Daniels '11;  
Mary Ellen Wagner '09; Edwin F. Wertman '09

#### Historical Acceptance Committee:

Tom Young, Chair <[teyoung3@verizon.net](mailto:teyoung3@verizon.net)>

**Newsletter:** *Wertman Lines* is issued twice yearly. We welcome articles for publication;. Please submit your article by e-mail to the President or the Historical Acceptance Committee Chair. The next issue will be published in January 2010.

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**Register now for the annual Wertman Family Reunion 21-23 August 2009, Danville, PA**

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# Wertman

Wertman Family Association  
32 Burgess Rd., Foster, RI 02825