

# Wertman *Lines*

Newsletter of the Wertman Family Association

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**You are cordially invited  
to  
Walk where we walked,  
See where we fought for you.**

***Wertman Family Association Reunion  
Thursday-Sunday, August 19-22, 2010  
Fredericksburg, Virginia***

John L. Wertman, Co. E, 129th PA Infantry  
Isaac Wertman, Co. E, 12th US Regular Infantry  
*Battle of Fredericksburg -- December 13, 1862*

William H. Wertman, Co. E, 131st PA Infantry  
*Battle of Chancellorsville -- April 30-May 6, 1863*

George E. Wertman, Co. F, 97th NY Infantry  
William W. Wertman, Co. E, 122nd NY Infantry  
*Battle of the Wilderness -- May 5-7, 1864*  
*Battle of Spotsylvania Court House -- May 8-21,  
1864*

“In great deeds, something abides. On great fields, something stays. Forms change and pass; bodies disappear; but spirits linger, to consecrate ground for the vision-place of souls. ***And reverent men and women from afar, and generations that know us not*** and that we know not of, heart-drawn to see where and by whom great things were suffered and done for them, shall come to this deathless field, to ponder and dream; and lo! the shadow of a mighty presence shall wrap them in its bosom, and the power of the vision pass into their souls.”

*General Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain*

***Don't miss it!***

- 2010 Wertman Family Reunion
- Thursday-Sunday, August 19-22
- Fredericksburg, VA

## **The Bloodiest Landscape in North America**

*Russ Dannecker*

Next month, the descendants of George Philip Wertman [I] will assemble from around these United States in Fredericksburg, VA, to honor all, and specifically, our predecessors who fought in the region. We will be visiting the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, the second largest military park on the planet. It preserves and interprets the history of four major battlefields scattered over the city of Fredericksburg and four counties. It has been called the bloodiest landscape in North America because more than 85,000 Americans were wounded; 15,000 were killed here, as freedom was sought and contested. The four battles were:

- Fredericksburg -- December 13, 1862
- Chancellorsville -- April 30-May 6, 1863
- Wilderness -- May 5-7, 1864
- Spotsylvania Court House -- May 8-21, 1864

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When we planned this reunion, we knew that three of George Philip Wertman's descendants had already "invaded" the area. John L. Wertman, age 22 of Co. E, 129th PA Infantry was at the Battle of Fredericksburg. George E. Wertman, age 20, of Co. F, 97th NY Infantry and his first cousin, William W. Wertman, age 22, of Co. E, 122nd NY Infantry, were both at the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House. As if they, too, did not want to be forgotten, at least two more Wertman soldiers have revealed themselves as having fought on this sacred ground.

Isaac Wertman, age 23, of Co. E, 12th U.S. Regular Infantry was also at the Battle of Fredericksburg with his third cousin, John L. Wertman. William H. Wertman, age 20, of Co. E, 131st PA Infantry, was at the Battle of Chancellorsville. With these additions, we now have a predecessor at each of the four battles, and there may be more; we are working on it! Read the stories of these additional soldiers below.

### **Another Fredericksburg Connection, or Two -- Isaac Wertman**

On Wednesday, February 19, 1913, the following obituary appeared in a Danville, PA, newspaper:

"DEATH FOLLOWS A STROKE OF APOPLEXY

"Isaac Wertman, Veteran of the Civil War--Died Yesterday Afternoon-- Funeral on Thursday.

"Isaac Wertman, a veteran of the civil war and a well known resident, died at the home of his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Cook, West Mahoning street, at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon, following an illness of twelve weeks.

"The deceased was first taken ill of pneumonia. He was convalescent, when on Monday he sustained a stroke of apoplexy, which was the immediate cause of death.

"Mr. Wertman was a native of this section. Prior to taking up his residence with his daughter, nine months ago, for many years he was a resident of the south side. He was a veteran of the civil war, having enlisted in Com-

pany F, Twelfth Pennsylvania Infantry. He was a good citizen and a hard working and reliable man.

"Had the deceased survived until tomorrow he would have been seventy-five years of age. He was a widower, his wife dying twenty-two years ago. He is survived by two sons and one daughter: George B. Wertman, of South Danville; William J. Wertman, of Akron, O., and Mrs. B. F. Cook, of this city; also by a brother and a sister: Jesse Wertman, of Three Rivers, Michigan, and Mrs. Mary J. Hall, of Bloomsburg.

"The funeral will take place from the residence of B. F. Cook, West Mahoning street, at 2 o'clock, Friday afternoon. Interment will be made in Fairview cemetery."

Tom Young and I have known about this obituary for some time, but could not locate any military records or listings showing that Isaac Wertman had served in the 12th PA Infantry. In fact, the regimental roster does not list an Isaac Wertman. For some reason, perhaps just a coincidence, a search of military records at Ancestry.com showed a hit!

The U.S. Army Register of Enlistments 1798-1914, contains the following: Wertman, Isaac, enlisted August 10, 1861 at Danville, PA, by Lt. Parker for 3 years. He was born in Columbia Co., PA, and is age 22 [calculated birth year about 1839]. His occupation was a shoemaker. Eyes: Grey, Hair: Light, Complexion: Dark, Height: 5 feet 7 1/2 inches. Assigned to the 12th U.S. Regular Infantry Regiment, Co. E.

It wasn't the 12th PA, it was the 12th U.S. Regular Infantry. Also it was Company E, not F, as in the obituary. This Isaac is the right age, and as further proof, his occupation in the 1880 U.S. Census is still a shoemaker.

Isaac Wertman enlisted very early in the war. Word of the Battle of Bull Run (July 21, 1861), the first major land battle of the American Civil War, had just reached Danville. Union casualties were 460 killed; Confederate casualties were 387 killed, just a mere fraction of the over 618,000 Americans who would eventually die during the war.

While Isaac was with them, the 12th U.S. Regu-

lars compiled an impressive fighting record. This included: VA Peninsula Campaign March-July 1862, participating in the siege of Yorktown and battles of Mechanicsville, Gaines Mill, Turkey Bridge, and Malvern Hill; Gen. Pope's Campaign in Northern VA, August 28-September 2, 1862, where it participated in the battles of Groveton and Second Bull Run; the Battle of Antietam, September 16-17, 1862; marching from there to Falmouth, (near the site of this year's reunion) October 29-November 19; the Battle of Fredericksburg, December 12-15, 1862; and finally Gen. Burnside's "mud march," January 20-24, 1863.

From the U.S. Army Center of Military History, we find more about the 12th's service in and around the Fredericksburg area. They left Sharpsburg, MD, October 30, 1862 for Harper's Ferry. During November, they made a "move ... by slow degrees" to the vicinity of Falmouth, which they reached on the 22nd. The only incident worthy of mention was a review by Gen. McClellan on the 10th, preparatory to his relinquishing command of the army. The 12th U.S. Regulars remained in camp near Falmouth until December 11, when they moved nearer the town, and on the afternoon of the 13th, they crossed the river and took a position in reserve on the outskirts of Fredericksburg. From this time until the morning of the 16th, the battalions occupied various positions in and about the city. All day long on the 14th, they lay under a galling fire, unable to return it, a most trying test of discipline and courage. On the 15th, they built barricades and dug rifle pits. The next day, they formed part of the rear guard, covering the crossing of the army. The skirmishers of the 1st Battalion, together with those of the 3rd Infantry, all under Capt. Winthrop, brought up the extreme rear, and were the last to cross. The total loss in both battalions was 13. They returned to their old camp on the 17th, and remained until January 19, 1863, when they broke camp. The next five days were spent on the "mud march," Burnside's unfortunate and fruitless attempt to cross the Rappahannock River and advance to retrieve the disaster at Fredericksburg. Again, they sought the old camp, and prepared to spend the rest of the winter.

The unit distinguished itself throughout the rest of the war, but I stop here because of a notation that Isaac Wertman deserted on February 10, 1863. Consider that Isaac came home, and the obituary states,

"He was a veteran of the civil war.... He was a good citizen and a hard working and reliable man." This does not sound like a deserter. Please remember the story of Emanuel Wertman of Lockport, who was reported a deserter, but we proved that wrong by discovering he was a prisoner of war. Our search continues for the rest of this story.

Family History: Isaac Wertman<sup>5</sup> (John<sup>4</sup>, Johannes<sup>3</sup>, Johan Michael<sup>2</sup>, George Philip<sup>1</sup>) was born February 19, 1838 and died February 18, 1913. He married Elizabeth A. They had four children: George B., Margaret Ida, William J., and Sarah J.

### **Isaac Wortman, Another Soldier around Fredericksburg**

In Tom Young's search of Civil War Records, he uncovered an Isaac Wortman who enlisted in the 45th PA Infantry September 24, 1861, and mustered out October 20, 1864. This unit organized in Mifflinburg, PA. Tom thinks this might be one of the Turbotville Wertmans. They have an Isaac<sup>4</sup>, born 1821 (Daniel<sup>3</sup>, Jacob<sup>2</sup>, George Philip<sup>1</sup>).

The 45th PA Infantry, like the 12th U.S. Regulars, participated in the Battle of Antietam, September 16-17, 1862, marching from there to Falmouth, October 29 to November 19, the Battle of Fredericksburg, December 12-15, 1862, and Gen. Burnside's "mud march," January 20-24, 1863. In addition, this Isaac returned to the area and fought in the battles of the Wilderness, May 5-7, 1864 and Spotsylvania, May 12-21, 1864. Stay tuned; we're doing more research.

### **William H. Wertman -- First Chancellorsville Connection**

A descendant of William H. Wertman noticed our plans to hold our reunion in Fredericksburg this year. She wrote us and said, "I am very interested in the Wertman Family Reunion and would like very much to be there to hear about the family and those who were in the Union Army during the Civil War. My grandfather was William Wertman and I know that he fought in that war, but I know very little more than that."

Her grandfather was William H. Wertman<sup>5</sup>, (Jacob<sup>4</sup>, Daniel<sup>3</sup>, Jacob<sup>2</sup>, George Philip<sup>1</sup>). born August 12, 1842, in Northumberland Co., PA. He mar-

ried Mary Elizabeth Keiser March 30, 1871, in Turbotville, and passed away February 25, 1917, at Dewark, PA.

According to his military records at the National Archives, William Wertman, age 20, joined for duty and enrolled August 8, 1862, at Lewis Twp for nine months in Co. E, 131st PA Infantry. The records indicate that he missed the unit's first two major engagements at Antietam and Fredericksburg. He was absent, sick, at Washington August 20-October 5, 1862, left sick at Sharpsburg October 30 and returned to company February 6, 1863. By this point, the 131st PA was encamped at Camp Humphreys, Falmouth.

From the Regimental History we read, "On the 28th of April [1863] the brigade broke up winter-quarters, the regiment under command of Major Patton, and moved on the Chancellorsville Campaign, and after considerable delay at the crossing of the Rappahannock, from the moving of troops and trains which had the advance, arrived at the Chancellor House on the 1st of May. After joining in a reconnaissance towards Fredericksburg, in which the enemy was found and his strength developed, the brigade was thrown out towards the Rappahannock, on the left of the line, where it was immediately put to fortifying. The work of strengthening the lines was continued through the night of the 1st [May], and the day following.

"At dawn of the 3d the command was aroused, and led hastily to the right centre, where the Union columns were struggling to repair the disasters of the previous evening. It arrived on the ground at seven A. M., and was immediately placed in support of batteries, lying under a hot fire of shot and shell until eleven. It was then moved to the rifle-pits on the new line of battle, where it supported Sykles' Division. In this position it remained until the evening of the 5th, when it retired to United States Ford, and during the greater part of the night was engaged in assisting the trains to cross. When all were over, the brigade followed, and returned to its former camp."

The term of service of the regiment expired on the 15th, and in pursuance of orders it returned to Harrisburg, where, on the 23d, after a week spent in Camp Curtin, it was mustered out. In his farewell order to the brigade, Gen. Humphreys said, "When in camp, the officers and men have been zealous in their efforts to acquire knowledge of the duties of a

soldier. They have cheerfully performed every duty required of them. They have been prompt and obedient, and have fought as well as the best troops at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville."

## Come to the Reunion

Please come to the reunion. Let us learn more about our predecessors. If you would like to know more about Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, please visit <<http://www.nps.gov/frsp/index.htm>>.

## Saddened by Loss

Bernadine I. (Frankhauser) Sterner, 91, a long-time resident of Ambler, PA, passed away Saturday, March 13, 2010, at Abington Hospice in Warminster. Born September 20, 1918, in Allentown, she was the daughter of the late Lester L. and Ruth B. (Wertman) Frankhauser. She was the wife of the late Rudolph W. Sterner, who passed away in 1990.

Mrs. Sterner was a graduate of Temple University School of Nursing, Class of 1939.

She is survived by her children, George Sterner and his wife Louise of Vienna, VA., Charles Sterner and his wife Gertrude of Hallsboro, NC., Ruth Ann Feil of Philadelphia, and Mary Ellen Wagner and her husband Peter of Ambler; her siblings, Herbert, Harvey, Henry, and Harry Dannecker; nine grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; and two great great grandchildren. In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by her siblings, Howard, Jr., Harold, and Harris Dannecker.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 211 South Main Street, North Wales, PA 19454-3499.

Her mother was Ruth Beatrice Wertman<sup>7</sup> (George Levan<sup>6</sup>, James Augustus<sup>5</sup>, John<sup>4</sup>, George Philip<sup>3</sup>, Jacob<sup>2</sup>, George Philip<sup>1</sup>).

Bernadine, "Aunt Bea" to many of us, regularly attended earlier Wertman Family Association reunions and shared her memories in an interview recorded at the 2006 reunion in Fort Wayne, IN. We extend our sympathy to Bernadine's family.



## Minutes of the 2009 Wertman Family Reunion

### Researchers Meeting

#### August 21, 2009, Danville, PA

In Danville, Pennsylvania's Mahoning Township Municipal Building at 9:05 a.m., president Russ Dannecker welcomed members of the Wertman Family Association, noting that it has been an exciting and eventful year for Wertman researchers. Homage was paid to three members we have lost during the past year: Jan Dannecker, Phyllis Hull, and Anita Reid. These fine people will be sorely missed.

Our senior lady, Rosa Strickling, wanted very much to be with us this year, but opted to stay home to await her 100th birthday in November. A birthday card for her was sent around for all to sign.

Minerva Arner, Richard and Shirley Daniels, and Russ Dannecker have spent countless hours fitting together some of the pieces of Lehigh County history. Richard and Minerva are going through the family histories of Lehigh County in the Historical Society. All the records they have checked are ready to be put together. The goal for this year is to complete the work Anita Reid was doing in Lockport, NY, and to finish the Lehigh County records.

Tom Young introduced a new member, Earl Maurer, of the Chicago area, to the group.

Brenda Merz showed a "Baby Blues" cartoon in which the teacher was having a problem, as all the boys in the class were named Jacob. [see "Too Many Jacobs" by Tom Young in the January 2003 *Wertman Lines*.]

Tom Young reported on some small changes in our website and covered some of the domain names that would be advantageous for us, and why we can't have them. Tom owns the domain name <www.wertman.info>. Enter it in the address bar, not the search box. He paid 99¢ out of his own pocket for this. One addition was the surname for Catherine Kremerer, the wife of Johan George Wertman<sup>4</sup> (Jacob<sup>3</sup>, Johan Michael<sup>2</sup>, George Philip I<sup>1</sup>).

Tom also gave an update on the DNA project. There have been a variety of problems with some of the Sorenson projects, such as lost samples and slow testing. Ideally, we would like to have three Wert-

mans sampled from each of the five sons of George Phillip I. Currently we have reports on several samples and they all match within a marker or two. There are two samples from Jacob's descendants that are pending. If possible, we would like to have some of the unknown lines tested. Additionally, it would be interesting to have descendants of G.P.'s daughters tested. Finding people willing to be tested seems to be a real problem.

Richard Daniels gave an interesting presentation on William Walter Wertman's Civil War career. The highlight was a period of time spent as a guard at Johnson's Island, a prison camp for captured Confederate officers. Richard used maps and diagrams to give a very good understanding of the prison, its fortifications and activities, as well as life in the prison.

A most enlightening talk by Hal Merz reviewed some of George Philip II's activities including what some of his thinking might have been in regard to being a Loyalist. Hal described a raid on Newtown, PA, where Loyalists attacked a fulling mill and seized fabric to use for uniforms for their soldiers. [see "The Newtown Incident," page ??]

Hal pointed out that all was not sunshine and roses for the Loyalists, either. They were volunteers and received no pay for three years. After the war, England was to give land in Nova Scotia to some of these men. Hal described problems this involved over a long period of years, and suggested that perhaps they wondered if they had chosen the wrong side. He noted that Johan Martin Wertman had two horses stolen by the Tories. Was it possible that Martin gave the horses to his brother, GP II?

Kathy Bucher is indexing all of the *Wertman Lines* newsletters. It is a tedious and time-consuming project for which she volunteered.

In the Odd Fellows Cemetery, Mrs. A. B. Patton owns a plot where a Mrs. Wertman is buried. Was Mrs. Patton a Wertman? Who is this Mrs. Wertman? No one offered to take on this project.

Tom Young read a colorful obituary for Joseph Wertman, of Los Angeles, who died in 1904. The obituary stated that Joseph died in abject poverty and had been living in an old shack where he collected useful junk that became most odorous. Joseph, originally from Danville, PA, actually had some \$670 in several bank accounts.

Tom also related a fascinating story about a postcard of Roy Wertman he found on E-bay. He tracked

Roy's interesting life as a rodeo man, including the fact that he had lots of descendants.

Tom has also listed the entries for the Mahoning Cemetery.

In the afternoon, the group reviewed some of the questions we have in our research and what we can do to answer some of them.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lois Wheeler, Secretary

## Business Meeting

### August 22, 2009, Danville, PA

After a very fine picnic of barbecued chicken and hamburgers catered by Buster's in Danville, president Russ Dannecker called the 2009 business meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. He thanked the 31 participants for their attendance. Tom Young suggested that we also give thanks that the predicted rain did not occur. Each person introduced himself, noted where he came from, and gave his Wertman connection.

In recognition of Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday, all of this year's awards were books with a Lincoln theme. Dianne and Craig Lindquist, who came from Bloomington, IL, just 40 miles further than Hoffman Estates, IL, where first time attendee Earl W. Maurer lives, received *In Lincoln's Footsteps* along with a fine magnifying glass for reading minuscule genealogical information. The most senior lady, Elva Young, who at 88 lives up to her name, received *The Trials of Mary Todd Lincoln*. Our usual recipient of this award, Rosa Strickling, elected to stay home in order to prepare for her 100th birthday in November. A birthday card for her was sent around for signatures of those who did not sign on Friday. James Wertman, Elva's 84-year-old brother, received a book about various portrayals of Lincoln. Fortunately, the book was in large print! Our youngest attendee, Suzanne Arner, 15 1/2 years, received *Be is for Battle Cry*. All gifts were very securely and neatly wrapped in beautiful sparkly, silver paper.

Tom Young moved that the minutes from the 2008 meeting in Ashland, Ohio, be approved as printed in the June *Wertman Lines* newsletter. Shirley Daniels seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Shirley Wertman gave the treasurer's report. Last fall we had \$4,110.35 in the treasury. Today's bal-

ance was \$4,335.15, before reunion expenses have been subtracted and proceeds from today's auction have been added. Richard Daniels moved to accept the treasurer's report. Marj Houtz seconded it. Motion carried.

Tom Young gave the Historical Committee Report. One website addition was the surname for Catherine Kremerer, the wife of Johan George Wertman<sup>4</sup> (Jacob<sup>3</sup>, Johan Michael<sup>2</sup>, George Philip<sup>1</sup>). Although there has not been as much activity as in the past, there have been people helping with queries.

Tom explained a plan that had been approved by the Executive Committee to give DNA "scholarships" to certain males in an attempt to prove the connection between various Wertman lines through DNA testing. Several Wertmans have already been tested and match within one or two markers. The purpose of the testing is to prove all of the lines. The estimated cost of the project would be roughly \$1,800, if we can get the proper volunteers. With some kind of super luck, we might even get a volunteer in Germany and perhaps be able to determine George Philip I's origins. Larry Wertman moved that we attempt to move forward with the project. Shirley Daniels seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Shirley Daniels gave the newsletter report. She produced two issues this year; eight pages in January and ten pages in June. Shirley asked that members send her articles and pictures for use in the newsletter. Minerva Arner showed pictures of basket work done by Willoughby Wertman, the son of "that woman," Kitty Schlear Wertman [See January 2007 *Wertman Lines* for "Native American Blood in Wertman Family," and "Life in the City."] and will submit information. Shirley does not print data about living people. Extra copies of old newsletters were available for those who wanted them. Tom Young moved that the newsletter report be accepted. Dianna Lindquist seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Russ Dannecker gave information on next year's reunion, which will be the 11th Wertman reunion since the old custom was revived in 2000. The 2010 reunion will be August 19 to 22 in Fredericksburg, VA, to honor three of our Civil War Wertmans, John Levan Wertman, William W. Wertman and George Wertman. A block of rooms is being held for our group at the Wytestone Suites hotel in Fredericksburg. Russ' description of the suites and the accom-

panying meeting space sounds ideal. The room cost will be \$85 plus tax, and includes full breakfasts and dinner on Thursday night. For reservations, call (540) 891-1112 and mention that you are with the Wertman Family Association. Preliminary schedules were passed out to be returned to Russ so he can get an idea of how many are interested in the various activities that are being planned. There was also literature about the area. Russ made this reunion sound like one NOT to be missed. The activities and informational programs are extensive and should result in an outstanding reunion.

A location for the 2011 reunion was discussed. Shirley and Larry Wertman agreed to host it in the Allentown area with the help of Minerva Arner. Details will be worked out later. Earl Maurer moved that we accept the Allentown area for the 2011 reunion and Richard Daniels seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers for the 2009-2011 term:

- President — Russ Dannecker
- Vice President — Frank Strickling
- Corresponding Secretary — Lois Wheeler
- Treasurer — Shirley Wertman
- Genealogical/Historical Secretary — Jenny Ewing
- Webmaster — Tom Young
- Directors at large (4 year term) — Ken Cool and Mary Ellen Wagner

Richard Daniels moved that we accept the slate of officers. Minerva Arner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President Russ Dannecker then appointed Tom Young to the Historical Committee. The reunion committee for next year will be Russ Dannecker, and Shirley and Richard Daniels.

Hal Merz asked if anyone would be interested in reaching out to the younger generation to get them interested in family history. Tom Young and Russ Dannecker expressed interest in such a project.

Judy Strickling asked if anyone would be interested in taking on the Genealogical/Historical Secretary position as Jenny Ewing has taken on a job in addition to rearing her large family. There were no volunteers. Since no materials have been sent to Jenny in several years, the group decided that this may not be a problem.

Family reunion tee shirts were discussed. They

would have something to the effect of Wertman family printed on them and perhaps use a different color for descendants of each of the five sons of GP I. Barbara Pierce said she worked for a tee shirt company and could get them for us. Details will be sent to members shortly.

Russ Dannecker will look into having copies of the 1924 reunion picture made either for sale or for the auction next year.

Russ Dannecker adjourned the meeting.

The annual auction followed the meeting. The following items, auctioned by president Russ Dannecker, raised \$256.50. For the Family Association:

- A poinsettia lace vase complete with box (Original boxes became a very important part of all sales!)
- A laser etched glass cube with a picture of a race car
- A laser etched glass cube with a picture of a rose
- A framed original poem by Brenda Merz on why God made babies small and helpless
- A framed original poem by Brenda Merz titled Retirement
- A jewel box (complete with its original box)
- A hand made bow tie quilt
- A hand crocheted shawl
- A small Lazy Girl purse
- A green bag with a colorful flip flop print
- A beautiful Lady Susanne quilted wall hanging of a cat in a wrought iron window
- Quilt top with signatures from the Ashland, Ohio 2002 reunion

Respectfully submitted,  
Lois Wheeler, Secretary

## Hotel Reservations for 2010 Reunion

The Reunion Committee has reserved a block of rooms at a group rate (\$85 plus tax) at the reunion hotel, the Wytestone Suites at 4615 Southpoint Parkway, Fredericksburg. Please make your reservations **before July 19** by calling 1-800-794-5005. These are two-room suites that can accommodate four to six people using a sleep sofa. Please indicate when you make your reservation that you are with the Wertman Family Reunion.

## The Newtown Incident: Tory Attacks in Bucks County, PA

Hal and Brenda Merz

When George Phillip Wertman II left his home and land in Northampton Co., PA, to join the Tories, he very likely became a member of the Tory unit known as the Bucks County Volunteers. This unit was led by William Thomas, and later his son, Evan Thomas. The Thomas family was originally from Bucks Co., but William Thomas had extensive land holdings in Northampton Co.

William Thomas was one of the “chief suspects” among the men of Northampton Co. who were arrested and held in the Reading jail in December 1777. As some may recall, Jacob Wertman, son of George Phillip I and brother of GPII, was also part of this group jailed and fined for suspected Tory activity.

The Bucks Co. Volunteers were actively involved in several skirmishes and conflicts with Colonial troops and militia. Most notably, they raided two places in Newtown, Bucks Co., February 18 and 19, 1778. The targets of this activity were a fulling mill (cloth production area) and an Inn where uniforms for colonial soldiers were being produced. The escapade seems to have been organized, in part, as a reprisal for the colonial militia’s seizure of cloth and clothing items from local Quaker families. The following information is a quote from the Newtown Historic Association:

“On the evening of February 18, 1778, a raiding party of forty Loyalists in the Light Dragoons and Bucks County Volunteers left Philadelphia and marched the twenty-six miles to Middletown in Bucks County, where they surprised and captured a guard and some cloth at Jenk’s Fulling Mill. They then continued to Newtown, where they overpowered sixteen Pennsylvania militia men, led by Francis Murray, in a house known as “Bird-in-Hand,” five of whom they killed. They then returned to Philadelphia, carrying with them 2,000 yards of material, two wagons filled with timber, and thirty-two prisoners. The Bucks County raid, fifty-six miles traversed in only twenty-two hours, was a bold stroke. In addition to depriving poorly dressed soldiers of the 13th Pennsylvania Regiment of cloth they desperately needed for uniforms, it was the

most daring and successful military venture undertaken during the British occupation of Philadelphia – and it was led and carried out by Pennsylvanians. A Tory newspaper in Philadelphia called the “Newtown Skirmish,” as it would later become known, a “gallant action” that “must certainly meet with the applause of the public, and do great credit to officers who conducted it, and the men who, under their direction, accomplished it.” It also showed the commitment of Americans loyal to the Crown to fight for their beliefs.”

Source: <[www.explorepahistory.com](http://www.explorepahistory.com)>

There is no specific evidence of GPII’s involvement in the Newtown raid, but Jonathan Walton, who was GPII’s co-applicant for his Loyalist claims, evidently was at Newtown. Jonathan Walton’s descendants had information indicating their ancestor’s participation in the Newtown affair.

Today, one can see historical markers describing the Newtown attack on the main street in Newtown, where the former Bird in Hand Inn is a private residence. It is difficult to believe that what is now a tranquil historical neighborhood and upscale shopping district was once the scene of a pitched battle.

The Newtown Historic Association has conducted several re-enactments of the 1778 raid. For further information, see their site at <[www.newtownhistoric.org/birdinhandraid.html](http://www.newtownhistoric.org/birdinhandraid.html)>

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### Auction Winners



Frank and Judy Strickling are the proud owners of the quilt top containing signatures from the 2002 Wertman Family Reunion in Ashland, OH. Mary Ellen Sterner Wagner pieced the top, auctioned at the 2009 WFA Reunion in Danville, PA.

## 2010 Wertman Family Reunion Registration Form

### Thursday-Sunday, August 19-22, Fredericksburg, VA

*Please print legibly!*

Name
Address
City/State/Zip
Telephone
E-mail
<input type="checkbox"/> Please e-mail WFA newsletters <span style="margin-left: 150px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Please send newsletters by US mail (only if dues are paid!)</span>

<b>Reunion Registration</b> Includes Friday bus tour, ranger guide and museum admissions; two bus tours on Saturday with ranger guide; all presentations; Friday's informal dinner and Saturday's box lunch at Massaponax Church			
	Number attending	Cost per person	Total Cost
Adults, age 18-up		\$75	\$
Children & Teens under 18		\$35	\$

<b>Reunion tee shirt</b>	Indicate quantity needed for each size, Small to 5X, \$3.50 each	Total Cost
Pre-shrunk cotton	___ Sm   ___ M   ___ Lg   ___ 1X   ___ 2X   ___ 3X   ___ 4X   ___ 5X	\$

<b>Sunday, August 22</b>	Number attending	Do you need handicapped parking?
Fredericksburg National Cemetery (no charge)		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> No</span>

<b>Annual Dues</b> , Wertman Family Association, July 2010-June 2011	\$20 family (same household)	\$20
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<b>TOTAL</b> ( <i>Enclose check payable to Wertman Family Assoc.</i> )	Reunion, tee shirt, dues	\$
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**Please mail your check and this registration form to:**  
**2010 WFA Reunion Registrar**  
**Shirley Daniels, 1233 Weller Way, Westminster, MD 21158**  
**Remember to make your Wytestone Suites reservation by July 19 at 1-800-794-5005**  
*For additional information, contact the 2010 WFA Reunion Committee:*  
 Richard and Shirley Daniels, 410-871-3008  
 <shirleyminerdaniels@verizon.net> or <rdaniels22@verizon.net>  
 Russ Dannecker, 401-647-3991 <dannecker123@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, <<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:** 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; Ken Cool '13;

Shirley Daniels '11; Mary Ellen Wagner '13

**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.

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**Annual Wertman Family Reunion**

**August 19-22, 2010, Fredericksburg, VA**

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

