

Wertman *Lines*

Newsletter of the Wertman Family Association

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Plan now!

- Annual Wertman Family Reunion
- 16-18 August 2018
- Tuscarawas County, OH

Dear Wertman Descendants,

By 1749, George Philip Wertman¹ (aka GPI) had settled in Lynn Twp., Northampton (now Lehigh) Co., PA. According to the *Anniversary History of Lehigh Co.*, Vol. 1, (1914) and *Gen. Biographical History of Families*, George Phillip Wertman was considered one of the Pioneer Settlers. His five known sons were George Philip, Jacob, Johann Martin, Johann Michael, and Simon.

This year we follow tracks of some of George Philip's descendants to Ohio for our annual Family Reunion. Please join me in thanking Brenda and Hal Merz for taking charge of this year's reunion arrangements.

We look forward to seeing you in Sugar Creek, OH, Friday-Saturday, 16-18 August 2018.

Russell Dannecker, WFA President
6th Great Grandson of George Philip Wertman I

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2018 Annual Reunion Follows 19th C. Wertman Migrants to Ohio

by Brenda & Hal Merz

Mark your calendar for Thursday to Saturday, 16-18 August for the 2018 Wertman Family Association reunion in beautiful Sugarcreek, Tuscarawas County, Ohio.

We will be exploring roots of several Wertman branchlets that settled in northeastern OH and bordering Lawrence County, PA, in the early 1800s.

The reunion site is the picturesque Carlisle Inn Sugarcreek, which has an excellent restaurant onsite as well as the Ohio Star Theatre where we are planning to see an Amish-Mennonite comedy musical, "Half-Stitched." A block of rooms will be reserved at a price of \$157.00 per night.

Just one-half mile away is the graveyard where Jacob Wertman (1806-1889) and other family members are buried.

Watch your mail and email inbox for details or visit our website at wertman.info.



Barbara and (President) Russ Dannecker at the 2017 Reunion

The Moravian Archives – A Neglected Source for Family Historians

by Kathy Bucher

George Philip Wertman (GPI) was a founding member of Ebenezer Union Church of New Tripoli, PA, where both Lutheran and Reformed settlers were able to share the same house of worship. Why, then, should Wertman family historians be interested in the Moravian Church Archives in Bethlehem, PA? After all, GPI was not a Moravian nor were any of the related families.

Organized in 1457 in Moravia, now the Czech Republic, the “Bohemian Brethren” or “Unity of the Brethren” faced persecution in their Catholic dominated homeland. In the 1720s, they moved to the estate of Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf of Saxony. From there the group spread into other areas including the West Indies, South Africa, and North and South America. By 1741, Moravians purchased land to establish Bethlehem in Pennsylvania and sent ministers and missionaries throughout the surrounding area.¹ One of the early Moravian missions began in Berks Co., PA and later moved into Lynn Township, Lehigh Co., PA.²

While the ministers and missionaries were interested in working with the Native Americans, these individuals also provided religious services when ministers of other denominations were not available and they often developed informal ties to many Lutheran congregations. For example, a Moravian missionary could perform a baptism or funeral. Thus, many records of non-Moravians are found in the Moravian documents.

Today, the Moravian Archives at 41 West Locust Street, Bethlehem, PA, is the official repository of Moravian Church records for the “Northern Province” of the United States and Canada beginning in 1740. While researchers are welcome to use the archives, they are encouraged to visit the website (<http://www.moravianchurcharchives.org/about/general-information/>) and make an appointment before any visit (610-866-3255 or info@moravianchurcharchives.org).

There are a number of resources with family history information in the archives. Church registers contain adult and infant baptismal and funeral records as well as marriages. The tradition of writing

memoirs or “Lebenslauf” to be read at funeral services began in the 1750s. There are over 60,000 of these autobiographical or biographical accounts.

In addition to individuals writing a memoir, every minister and missionary in the Moravian Church was required to keep a daily diary. These diaries contain a wealth of information about the interaction of the Moravians and their non-Moravian neighbors. Traveling Moravian ministers also kept travel diaries describing where they went, where they stayed, and whom they met.

Other resources include personal papers, obituaries, maps, published genealogies, and education records from Moravian schools that were often attended by non-Moravians.

While many of the early Moravian resources are written in the old German script, some documents have been translated and digitized. These are accessible online at: <http://www.moravianchurcharchives.org/collections/digital-resources/translations/>.

In addition, there are translation aids and some compilations in English. The Moravian archives provide a number of finding aids for the collection in addition to a German Script course, which is offered each June.

The Moravian Church had an active mission in upper Berks and Lehigh counties before the establishment of Ebenezer Church. While GPI and his descendants were not Moravians, there is a chance that information about the Wertmans and other area families may be in the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem, PA.

Thanks to Thomas J. McCullough, Assistant Archivist of the Moravian Archives for his assistance in providing information for this article through his presentation at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society Family History Conference, 20 May 2017.

¹ *A Brief History of the Moravian Church*. Accessed 23 May 2017 from <http://www.moravian.org/the-moravian-church/history/>

² *Journals of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg*. Vol. 1. Camden, Maine; Picton Press, 1942

Baptismal Sponsors Provide Kinship Clues

by Shirley Daniels

Daughters of George Philip Wertman (GPI) are unknown, but five possible second-generation women can be linked to the family through clues in baptismal sponsorships. The relationships below have not been proven.

Margaretha

George Philipp Werdmann [grandfather] and Elizabeth Puhlen, single, were sponsors for Jurg Phillipp Heringh, son of Jurg Christoph and Margaretha Heringh, bapt. 25 Sep 1760, aged 4 weeks and 4 days, in Linn.^{1,2}

Magdalena

Magdalena Werdmannin and Daniel Oswaldt were sponsors for Daniel Schuch, son of Valentine and Anna Elisabeth Schuck, bapt. 25 Mar 1760 at 3 days old; died.³

Catharina Magdalena Werthmann and Daniel Straub, both single, were sponsors for Catharina Magdalena Straub, daughter of Carl and Maria Catharina Straub, bapt. 29 Aug 1762 in Linn, new church.⁴

Magdalena was the church organist.⁵

Magdalena Wartman (possibly Maria Magdalena, daughter of Simon Wertman and Barbara Stapleton b. 1773) and Philip Bauscher/Dauscher were sponsors for Daniel, son of Anthony and Christina Bauscher/Dauscher, bapt. 01 Nov 1789, at Jerusalem Church in Albany Township.^{6,7}

Catharina

Martin Wertman and Elizabetha were sponsors for Magdalena Catharina Straub, daughter of Carl and Maria Catharina Straub, bapt. 06 Jun 1779.^{8,9}

Barbara

Jacob Werdmann and Maria Barbara Steinbruchen, single, were sponsors for Maria Barbara Moser, daughter of Frederich and Maria Barbara Moser, bapt. 28 Dec 1760 in Lynn.¹⁰

Elisabeth

Johann Michael Werthmann was a sponsor for Johan Micaell Heymbach, son of Peter and Maria Elisabeth Heymbach, bapt. 29 Aug 1762 in Linn.¹¹

Magdalena Werdmannin and Daniel Oswaldt were sponsors for Daniel Schuch, son of Valentine and Anna Elisabeth Schuck, bapt. 25 Mar 1760 at 3 days old; died.¹²

It is interesting that Carl and Maria Catharina Straub had a daughter named Catharina Magdalena (bapt. 29 Aug 1762, sponsored by Catharina Magdalena Werthmann and Daniel Straub) and a daughter named Magdalena Catharina (bapt. 06 Jun 1779, sponsored by Martin and Elizabeth Wertman). Does this indicate that one of the daughters died, or merely that one was called Magdalena and the other Catharina?

As always, difficulties include determining which person is meant when there are multiple individuals of the same name in one or more generations. For example, was Magdalena Wartman, a sponsor for Daniel, son of Anthony and Christina Bauscher/Dauscher, related to Christina? Was she the church organist? Was she the same Magdalena who was a sponsor for Daniel Schuch?

More research is needed!

¹ Weiser, Frederick, transl., *Records of Rev. Daniel Schumacher 1754-1774*, 1967, pg 52.

² Seng, Charles F., compiler, *Colonial Baptisms, Lehigh Co, PA*, Penn Forest twp, PA, 1972.

³ Weiser, Frederick, *op. cit.*, pg 56.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Ziegler, Warren, compiler, *Early Baptisms by Rev. Daniel Schumacher*, Nov 1984.

⁶ Hollenbach, Raymond E., *Records of New Bethel Church, Albany Twp, Berks Co, PA 1761-1853*, transl William J. Hinke; pg 18.

⁷ *New Bethel (Corner) Church Baptisms 1765-1848*, Lutheran, pg 49.

⁸ *Records of Jerusalem Lutheran and Reformed Church, Albany Twp., Berks Co, PA*, pg 23.

⁹ Kistler, John L., *Baptismal Records of Jerusalem Lutheran and Reformed Church*, 1959, pg 11.

¹⁰ Weiser, Frederick, *op. cit.*, pg 64.

¹¹ Weiser, Frederick, *op. cit.*, pg 80.

¹² Weiser, Frederick, *op. cit.*, pg 56

Deaths

We extend our sympathy to these families.

Dannecker, Adaline Isabelle "Issy"...

93, of Allentown, PA, died 29 Nov 2017 in Allentown. She was the wife of Herbert E. Dannecker⁸ [Ruth Beatrice Wertman⁷, George Levan⁶, James Augustus⁵, John⁴, George Philip³, Jacob², George Philip¹].

Born in Slatington, she was the daughter of the late Harvey and Magdalene R. DeFrain White.

Surviving in addition to her husband are a daughter, Lynn Berdelle Dashner (Michael); three grandchildren, Michael Dashner, Jr. (Erin); Christine Dashner, and Julia Van Dreumel (Jeffrey); two great-grandchildren; and a sister, Cecelia Smith.

She was predeceased by three brothers, Charles, Joseph and Paul White; and three sisters, Catherine Harrich, Anna Edwards and Mary Mills.

Interment was in Cedar Hill Memorial Park, Allentown.

Published in Morning Call 01 Dec 2017

Dannecker, Harry J....

79, of Emmaus, PA, died 26 Jan 2018 in Allentown. He was the widower of Patricia A. (Dougherty) Dannecker.

Born in Allentown, he was a son of the late Howard C. and Ruth B. (Wertman)⁷ Dannecker. [George Levan⁶, James Augustus⁵, John⁴, George Philip³, Jacob², George Philip¹].

Surviving are his son, Harry Jr., daughter Denise Algard (Jonathan), and their children, William and Joseph; and brothers, Herbert and Harvey.

He was predeceased by four brothers and two sisters.

Interment was in St. Paul's Cemetery, Trexler-town.

Gerber, Elda E....

97, of New Ringgold, PA, died 23 Oct 2017 in Coaldale. She was the wife of Ralph J. Gerber⁸ [Mahlon Gerber⁷, Janetta Clouse⁶, Catherine Leiby⁵, Sarah Zettlemoyer⁴, George Philip Wertman³, Michael², George Philip¹] for 77 years.

Born in West Penn Township, she was a daughter of the late Morris and Eva Shellhamer.

She was a member of Zion Stone Church of West Penn Township.

Surviving in addition to her husband are two daughters, Janice Rudy (Walter) of Delaware, and Rhea A. Steigerwalt (Gerald) of New Ringgold; four grandchildren: Aaron Steigerwalt (Jennifer); Audra Schlecht (Tyler); Alison Lane (Lance); and Michael Gerber (Cheryl); and five great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by four sisters, Katherine Delp, Carrie Miller, Alberta Gerber and Mildred Oswald; and three brothers, Charles, Paul and Lloyd Shellhamer.

Interment was in Zion Stone Church cemetery, West Penn Township.

Published in Times News 24 Oct 2017

Fritz, Arvilla...

92, of Lehighon, PA, died 31 Jul 2017 in Lehighon. She was the wife of the late Mark Fritz⁷ [Ira Fritz⁶, Priscilla Wertman⁵, Daniel⁴, George Philip³, Jacob², George Philip¹].

Born in Lehighon, she was the daughter of the late Howard and Norma Wehr Ginder.

She was a member of Ben Salem United Church of Christ, Lehighon.

Surviving are a daughter, Nadine Hausman of Slatington, a sister, Joyce Dromsky of Mainland, and nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by a brother, Morgan, and four sisters, Florence, Hazel, Erma, and Myrtle.

Published in Times News 05 Aug 2017

Mase, Cleatus...

78, of Lacona, NY, died 04 Jan 2018 in Watertown, NY. Born in Lehighon, PA, he was the son of Frank and Florence "Flossie" Wertman⁶ Mase [Daniel Peter⁵, John⁴, George Philip³, Jacob², George Philip¹].

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Sandra Nothstein; a daughter, Susan Smith, of Slatington, two grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews

He was predeceased by all of his siblings: Claude (Carmela); Charles (Maime), Calvin (Helen), Clarence (Ada), Cora Gable (Harold), Clyde (Rose), and Curtis (Margaret).

Published in Morning Call 11 Jan 2018

Mase, Clyde H....

93, of New Ringgold, PA, died 13 Dec 2017 at home. He was born in Weissport to the late Frank and Florence "Flossie" Wertman⁶ Mase [Daniel Peter⁵, John⁴, George Philip³, Jacob², George Philip¹].

He was a member of Zion Stone Church of West Penn Township.

He is survived by a daughter, Joan Seyler of Bath; a son, Frank W. (June) of Freeport, ME; a brother, Cleat (Sandy) of New York; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his wife, Rose Marie Rutch Mase; a sister, Cora; brothers Charles, Calvin, Clarence and Curtis Mase.

Interment was in Zion Stone Church cemetery, West Penn Township.

Published in Times News 13 Dec 2017.

Wertman, Gary R....

48, of Allentown, died 10 Jan 2018 in Salisbury Township, PA. He was a son of Lawrence Uriah Wertman Jr.⁸ [Lawrence Uriah⁷, Llewellyn George⁶, Uriah⁵, Daniel⁴, Andreas³, Jacob², George Philip¹] and Shirley Brandis Wertman. He was a member of Jordan Lutheran Church in Orefield.

He is survived by his parents, a brother, Michael (Susan) of Allentown, a sister, Michele Wagaman (Dean) of Walnutport, nieces and nephews.

Published in Morning Call 12 Jan 2018

Wertman, Thomas J....

73, of Whitehall, PA, died 21 Jun 2017 in Allentown. Born in Allentown, he was the son of the late William Walter⁷ and Margaret Bridget McGeehan Wertman, [David A.⁶, David A.⁵, David⁴, George Philip³, Michael², George Philip¹].

He was a member of the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena in Allentown.

Surviving are his wife of 46 years, Gloria Rae (Cichello); two brothers, William (Dorothy) and Joseph (Pamela) Wertman; nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by a sister, Bernadine, and a brother, Gerald.

Published in Morning Call 23 Jun 2017

Lester A. Wertman's Photo Found

From Russ Dannecker

Many thanks to Ron Dannecker and Jan Ploeg

In the Battle of the Bulge in World War II, during the first attack on 25 December 1944, 36thAIR veteran Bob Kauffman witnessed something he would never forget: the death of soldiers Lester A. Wertman and Lt. Theodore Mellitz. Bob pointed out the spot where they both got killed, and each time we were standing there, he said that it was such a dreadful sight... those two brave soldiers lying on a boxcar, killed by a tank grenade. The horrifying thing for Bob was that he had to pass that boxcar several times during the attacks on Grandmenil, and each time he saw the lifeless bodies of his buddies.

A couple of years ago, we had family members visiting the Grandmenil area, and we were hoping to give those men faces. In August 2017, we got the first picture, the one of Lester Wertman.

Here are some excerpts from Bob's memory: "As the signal was given to move forward, the column began emerging from the cover of the woods. Ahead of us was a long descending roadway with the village of Grandmenil lying at the foot, already on fire from the artillery shells that were falling into it and the reports of the explosions echoing back and forth across the valley.



Lester A. Wertman

Some time later on the same day: “Occupying the tank on the left side of the intersection as we entered the edge of the village was an officer by the name of Capt. Jordan. He had ordered Lt. Mellitz to have our unit push further into the village. As we waited there to form up, there was a further exchange between Jordan and Mellitz. Mellitz called over to Jordan and asked him if he intended to send his tanks with us. Jordan replied that they would not be going with us, whereupon Mellitz asked, ‘Then what will we have for support?’ Jordan responded, ‘You have your rifles!’ The reply that Mellitz then made would become his epitaph. ‘I’ll do it, but I don’t like it!’ Within less than five minutes after he uttered that remark, he would be dead.

“After that conversation between Mellitz and Jordan, Lt. Mellitz formed us up and he led off with several men on the left side of the street and a few of us on the right, in the opening stages of this new attack. We hadn’t moved more than a few yards down both sides of the street into the village when there was an explosion of unusual force. It must have been a round of high explosive from a nearby German tank. That shell left Lt. Mellitz dead, as well as a man by the name of Lester Wertman, and a number of our men wounded, so the attack never really got under way.”

On the last day of the attack, Bob stated: “Within a very few minutes we again were on our way down that roadway, this time in the daylight, moving at a very quickened pace. The whole valley was now shrouded in smoke, giving us some degree of protection. No sooner did we reach the edge of the village, when again we were greeted with heavy machine gun fire. The tanks, along with a few Bazooka rounds eventually silenced some of them, and we



moved through quite rapidly. Once again we would have to pass the bodies of Lt. Mellitz and Wertman. The body of one man lay fallen over the hitch of a small trailer that had been abandoned in a previous engagement; the other man was right beside him.”

Lester Allen Wertman was born 20 Mar 1921 in Lynn Township, Lehigh County, PA. On 01 Jan 1942, Lester married Ida S. E. Hartman. Their daughter Darlene was born 22 Mar 1943. Lester enlisted in the Army 01 Jun 1944, at New Cumberland, PA, and died 25 Dec 1944, in Grandmenil, Belgium. Lester is buried at Henri Chapelle, in Belgium, plot D; row 12; grave 56. His wife, Ida, never remarried, and passed away in September 2016 at the age of 93.

Leonard Mellitz was born on 14 Jul 1918 in Philadelphia County, PA. He is buried in Mount Sharon Cemetery, Springfield. He also died on 25 Dec 1944 in Grandmenil, Belgium.

In May 1990, Bob Kauffman brought an American flag on behalf of the daughter of Lester Wertman, Darlene, and presented it to the town. “This flag is given in loving memory of her father, Lester Wertman, who died in this village, is buried at Henri Chapelle in Belgium soil and in his death, he has become a son of Grandmenil,” Bob said during the ceremony.

Lest we forget... May they rest in peace.

Sources:

Bob Kauffman’s “The Replacement”
 January 2012 *Wertman Lines*
<http://www.mcall.com/news/all-robertkauffman-3-story.html>
 36air-ad.com



The 2017 Wertman Family reunion picnic was held at Ontelaunee Park in Lehigh County, PA.

About The Wertman Family Association (WFA)

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

Via our website, *wertman.info*, strangers can discover long-lost family connections. The Wertman web pages disseminate accurate information about the family's heritage. In August 2007, the association dedicated a monument in the old graveyard at Ebenezer Union Church in New Tripoli, Lehigh Co., 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, Johann Martin, Johann Michael, and Simon.

We invite you to join us!

Officers, Wertman Family Association

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Shirley Daniels '19; Earl Maurer '19;

Frank Strickling '21, Mary Ellen Wagner '21

Newsletter: *The next newsletter is June 2018.* In the interim, look for news and information on *wertman.info* or in electronic or postal mailings.

Plan now to attend the Annual Wertman Reunion 16-18 Aug. 2018 in Sugarcreek, OH
