

Wertman *Lines*

Newsletter of the Wertman Family Association

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Reunion Postponed!

- Annual Wertman Family Reunion
- Scheduled for 21-22 August 2020, in Lockport, NY
- *Will Not Be Held this Year.*

Dear Wertman Descendants,

We had really hoped to hold our 21st Reunion in Lockport, New York this year. But these plans have been overturned by the coronavirus.

We have checked with local residents and the entire Wertman Family Association Executive Board has agreed, that, out of an abundance of caution, we should postpone our Reunion this year until Friday 20 August – Saturday 21 August, 2021.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Hoping to meet you in August, 2021, I am,

Yours truly,

RUSSELL C. DANNECKER, President
Wertman Family Association
6th Great Grandson of George Philip Wertman

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OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE 2019 WERTMAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION MEETING

(These will be approved at the next Reunion)

Family Researcher's Meeting

Welcome: Why Are We Here? (Russ Dannecker)

Because they were here. Because six Wertman ancestors -- Daniel Himebaugh, William George Moffett, Aaron Moser, Gideon Moser, Joseph Moser, and Jacob Vogel -- fought here.

National Archives Research Trip May 31 – June 10, 2019 (Russ Dannecker)

Altogether 80 Wertman ancestors fought in the Civil War. Russ Dannecker, Barbara Dannecker, and Doug Wertman altogether took almost 5,000 pictures of the primary documentation from the military and pension files of these 80 ancestors. These included military and pension records, pictures, wedding certificates, obituaries, and other documents. They are time capsules. Russ has transcribed 200 pictures relating to the six ancestors who fought at Gettysburg, but is looking for help in transcribing the remaining 4,800 pictures relating to the other ancestors.

Daniel A. Himebaugh (Russ Dannecker)
(1839-1923)



His wife was Emily A. Fry, and he was related to George Philip I (GPI) through Jacob Sr. and his daughter Kathrina.

He enlisted in Co.B, 1st Michigan Infantry for a three-year term on January 20, 1862

He was in a number of battles before and after Gettysburg. At Gettysburg, he fought in the Wheatfield. Due to chronic diarrhea and piles, he was a teamster in the regimental quartermaster's department.

William George Moffett (Russ Dannecker)
(1847-1931)



His wife was Elmira Wertman, and he was related to GPI through Jacob – Daniel – Isaac.

He enlisted in the 14th U.S. Regular Infantry in October 1862 at the age of 14 years, 11 months, and 17 days. In other words, he lied to get into the army. He was 5'3" when he enlisted.

Gettysburg was his first major battle, where he fought in the Wheatfield on July 2, 1863. He later fought at the battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, North Anna, and Petersburg. He was mustered out on January 28, 1865.

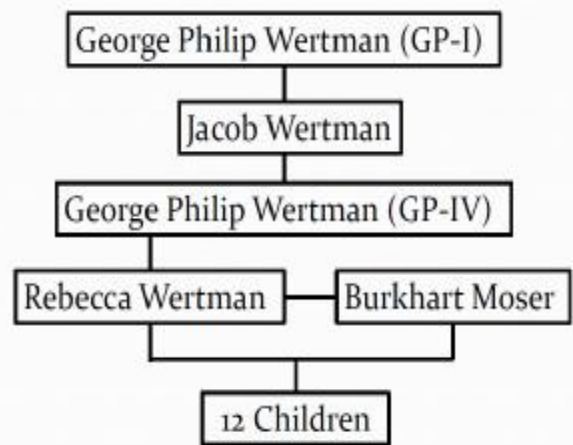
He was active in the Grand Army of the Republic and attended the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg in 1913.

The Moser Family (Richard Daniels)

The Mosers lived alongside the Wertmans for many years in Lehigh County and Northampton County.

Many female Wertman branches have not been researched. The Moser line was one of them. The Moser research added over 460 descendants. There are now over 10,700 descendants of George Philip I identified; with spouses, the total is close to 17,000.

Richard guesses that there are probably close to 50,000 total descendants of George Philip I.



Burkhart (1800-1863) and Rebecca Wertman (ca 1800-ca 1888) Moser had four sons who were soldiers in the Union Army during the Civil War. Three – Joseph, Gideon, and Aaron – fought at Gettysburg. David William Moser (1834-1929) was in the 199th PA Infantry, but was not at Gettysburg. He enlisted on September 24, 1864 and was at Petersburg, the pursuit of Lee, and Appomattox Court House. He was discharged on June 28, 1865.

Aaron Moser (Russ Dannecker)
(ca. 1840 – 1864)

Aaron was related to GPI through his mother Rebecca Wertman Moser – GP IV – Jacob.

Aaron enlisted 11 days after Fort Sumter in a three-month unit, in which he served April-July 1861 and saw no real action. He then enlisted in Co. E, 28th Pennsylvania in September 1861; this was a three-year unit.

In January 1863 he was promoted to Corporal. He fought at Antietam and Chancellorsville. He was wounded (apparently lightly) at Chancellorsville, but was back in service for the Battle of Gettysburg, where he fought at Culp's Hill. His regiment's monument is there, and he is listed on it as a Corporal.

He then fought at the Battle of Chattanooga/Lookout Mountain and was discharged on December 26, 1863. He re-enlisted the next day in the same unit as a veteran volunteer. On January 1, 1864 he was promoted from Corporal to 2nd Sargent. He was wounded in the abdomen at Mill Creek Gap on May 8, 1864 and died the next day, in transit to Ringgold, GA. We don't know where he is buried.

Gideon Moser (Russ Dannecker)
(1838-1915)

His wife was Clara Tiffany, and he was related to GPI through his mother Rebecca Wertman Moser – GP IV – Jacob.

He enlisted on September 22, 1861, the same day as his brother Aaron, and joined the same three-year unit: Co. E, 28th Pennsylvania. He fought at Antietam and Chancellorsville. He was wounded at Chancellorsville. His father Burkhart died on June 20, 1863. He fought at Gettysburg at Culp's Hill like his brother Aaron and then at Chattanooga/Lookout Mountain. He was wounded at Ringgold, Georgia on November 27, 1863. He had a serious wound in the head; the ball entered one and a half inches above the right eye, and the doctors were unable to get it out. He lost the vision in his right eye and suffered deafness. He had a depression the size of a half dollar, and the ball remained in his head for the rest of his life.

He was discharged on December 26, 1863 and re-enlisted the next day in the same unit. On January 1, 1864, he was promoted to Corporal. He was at Mill Creek Gap where his brother Aaron was killed. He participated in the Atlanta campaign, Sherman's March to the Sea, the Carolina campaign, and the Grand Review in Washington, DC on May 23-24, 1865.

On February 17, 1873, he filed a claim for an invalid pension.

He attended the dedication of the 28th Pennsylvania monument at Chattanooga in 1897.

He died in 1915 – still with the bullet from his wound in 1863 in his head.

Joseph Moser (Russ Dannecker)
(1830-1907)

Joseph, the third brother at Gettysburg, was married to Lydia Ann Hiester; Lydia was first married to his brother Eli, who died in 1868. He was related to GPI through his mother Rebecca Wertman Moser – GP IV – Jacob.

He enlisted in a three-year unit, Co. H, 11th Pennsylvania (later nicknamed the "Bloody 11th"). The 11th Pennsylvania was famous for its dog Sallie, who was given to the regiment when it was first

training and whose image is on the regimental statue at Gettysburg. The regiment couldn't find Sallie on the 2nd or 3rd of July during the Battle of Gettysburg, but, on the 4th of July after the battle ended, they went to the railroad cut where the regiment fought on the first day of the battle to bury their dead and found her there with the bodies of their comrades. Sallie was shot and killed at the Battle of Hatcher's Run, VA in February 1865.

Joseph fought at 2nd Manassas, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, and re-enlisted in the same unit on January 1, 1864 as a veteran volunteer, for which he received a \$400 bonus. He then fought in all the major battles of the eastern front for the remainder of the war, including the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, North Anna, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, the Weldon Railroad, Hatcher's Run, Lee's Retreat, and Appomattox Court House. He participated in the Grand Review in Washington on May 23-24, 1865 and was mustered out on July 1, 1865.

He later made a pension claim. It was rejected the first time, but granted the second time.

Jacob Vogel (Russ Dannecker)

(1840-1874)

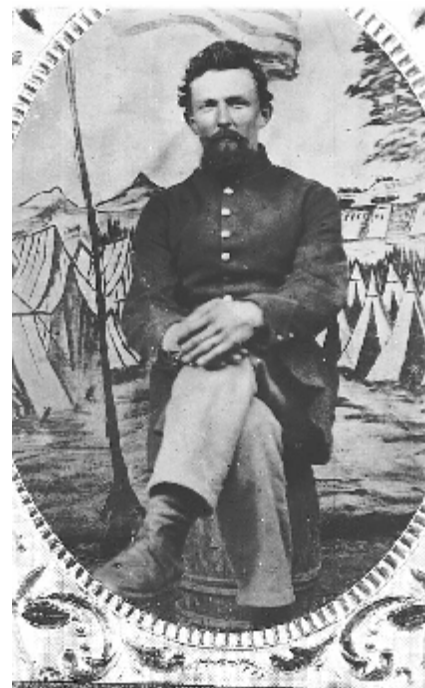
Jacob Vogel married Lydia A. Wertman. He was related to GPI through his wife -- Jonathan Michael Wertman -- Daniel Wertman -- Johann Michael Wertman -- George Philip Wertman I.

Private Jacob Vogel was born on 22 Mar 1840 in, Shawnee, Niagara Co., New York, United States.

Jacob married Lydia A. Wertman, daughter of Jonathan Michael Wertman and Hanna Preisch, on 8 Aug 1865 in, Lockport, Niagara Co., New York, United States. They had the following children: Edward Franklin Vogel Senior; Hanfert Jonathan Vogel; and Jonathan Vogel.

Civil War Service. Enlistment -- Company B, 2nd Battalion, 11th United States Infantry, 17 June 1862, Canandaigua, NY., Enlisted for War (3 Years), Rank of Private, Age 22. Transferred -- Company E, 1st Battalion, 11th United States Infantry, March, 1863.

Jacob Vogel fought at the following battles: Battle of Gaines' Mill, Va. -- June 27, 1862, Second Battle of Manassas, Va. -- August 29 - 30, 1862, Battle of Chancellorsville, Va. - April 30 - May 6, 1863, Battle of Gettysburg - the Wheatfield, July 2, 1863 (wounded), Battle of The Wilderness - May 5 - 6, 1864, Engaged both days, Spotsylvania Court House - May 8, 1864 & Remained on Battlefield May 8, 1864 - May 21, 1864, Battle of Cold Harbor -- May 31 to June 12, 1864, Siege of Petersburg, Va., Starting 15 Jun 1864, Battle of the Crater, July 30, 1864, Battle of Weldon Railroad, August 18-19, 1864, Jacob Vogel Captured on 19 August 1864.



Private Jacob Vogel

He died on 28 Sep 1874 in Rapids, Lockport, Niagara Co., New York, United States. He was buried about 30 Sep 1874 in Shaeffer Cemetery, Lockport, Niagara Co., New York, United States.

Wertman Family Association Website (Kathy Bucher)

All the slides from the six Wertman soldiers who fought at Gettysburg are now on the website.

George Philip Wertman I is now listed as one of the First Families of Pennsylvania by the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania (GSP) after Kathy submitted the documentary proofs required by the GSP. (Kathy discussed these requirements and her efforts to get GPI listed in great detail at the 2017 Researcher's meeting.)

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas Wertman, Secretary

2019 Business Meeting Minutes

Wertman Family Association Reunion, Country Inn and Suites, Gettysburg, PA, September 27, 2019

The 20th annual business meeting was called to order by President Russ Dannecker at 9:00 A.M. Thirty members were present for the meeting.

Attendance Awards/Recognition

Came the longest distance – Jim Chester (from Oregon)
Most senior lady – Minerva Arner
Most senior gentleman – Herb Dannecker
Youngest in attendance – Davis Ewing (6 years old)

Vice President's Report

Hal Merz was not in attendance.

Secretary's Report

Doug Wertman asked for approval of the minutes of last year's business meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was seconded and approved unanimously.

Archivist's Report

Kathy Bucher reported that there were no requests this year and that some material was added to the archive.

Treasurer's Report

Maryann Cronk reported that the WFA's balance as of August 31, 2019 was \$7,992.34, with no bills yet paid for the 2019 reunion. A motion to accept the report was seconded and approved unanimously.

Report on the Ancestry Committee and the DNA Project

Tom Young was not in attendance.

Newsletter Editor's Report

Shirley Daniels reported that she had done two issues of the Newsletter in 2019. In addition to members, the WFA Newsletter was distributed to 76 organizations, including other family associations and genealogical organizations. Shirley expressed her appreciation to all who submitted articles and urged all WFA members to continue to do so, with sources.

Webmaster's Report

Kathy Bucher reported that there are 73 people on average per week using the website, and they are using a total of 248 pages on average per week.

Reunion Committee Report

Future Reunion Plans:

2020 (now 2021) – Lockport, NY – 3rd week of August. The Reunion Committee consists of Russ and Barbara Dannecker and Ronald Dannecker (Russ' brother).

2021 (now 2022) – Carbon County, PA (approved unanimously at the 2018 Business Meeting)

2022 – (now 2023) Ashland, OH was unanimously approved as the site for this reunion.

Election of Officers

The slate of officers proposed by the Nominating Committee was elected unanimously. The officers elected for two-year terms are:

President – Russ Dannecker

Vice President – Hal Merz

Secretary – Doug Wertman

Treasurer - Maryann Cronk

Webmaster – Kathy Bucher

Archivist – no nominee, Earl Mauer was appointed by the President in October 2019

The Board Members elected for four-year terms are Shirley Daniels and Nancy Johnson.

The business meeting was adjourned at 9:20 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas Wertman, Secretary



The 2019 Wertman Family Reunion Tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield. Our guide made the flag. Picture is taken at the High Water Mark Memorial on Cemetery Ridge.

Plan Now!

- **Annual Wertman Family Reunion**
- **20-21 August 2021**
- **Lockport, NY**

2021 Reunion Plans

By Russell Dannecker, 2021 WFA Reunion Committee

21st Wertman Family Association Reunion

**Friday-Saturday, 20-21 August 2021
Lockport, Niagara County, New York**

The Wertman Family Association Reunion Committee (Russell Dannecker, Barbara Dannecker, Ronald Dannecker) is pleased to announce the preliminary schedule for the 2021 Reunion and Family Business Meeting. We hope that you will make every effort to attend.

Schedule

Thursday, 19 August – Get Acquainted (Optional)

Friday 20 August – Researcher’s Meeting, Dinner

Saturday, 21 August – Picnic, Business Meeting, Family Auction, Erie Canal Cruise.

Hotel Arrangements

We will reserve a block of 15 rooms at the Best Western Plus Lockport Hotel, 515 S Transit St,

Lockport, NY for Thursday through Saturday / Sunday nights at a group rate of \$149.99 plus tax per room (Handicapped & Double Bed Rooms), per night. For \$10 per night you may upgrade to two Queen or one King Bed, Breakfast is included. We will let you know when you can make reservations.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT

The 2021 WFA Reunion Committee: If you have Reunion questions, phone Russ & Barbara Dannecker, at 401-647-3991 or e-mail dannecker123@verizon.net. The Reunion Committee includes Russ Dannecker, Barbara Dannecker and Ronald Dannecker.

Dear Ancestor

By Russell Dannecker

Recently I received this poem from a long-time friend. I thought I would share it with you all. It seems to be credited to Twisted Twigs on Gnarled Branches.

Dear Ancestor

Your tombstone stands among the rest;
Neglected and alone.
The name and date are chiseled out
On polished, marbled stone

It reaches out to all who care
It is too late to mourn.
You did not know that I exist
You died and I was born.

Yet each of us are cells of you
In flesh, in blood, in bone.
Our blood contracts and beats a pulse
Entirely not our own.

Dear ancestor, the place you filled
One hundred years ago
Spreads out among the ones you left
Who would have loved you so.

I wonder if you lived and loved,
I wonder if you knew
That someday I would find this spot,
And come to visit you.

Gravestone Cleaning Tips

From BillionGraves

The following is taken from the BillionGraves Blog by Cathy Wallace. No endorsement of any products is implied.

Gravestone cleaning can turn back the wheels of time to make your ancestor's final resting place nearly as beautiful as the day their family members gathered there to wish them farewell.

Time has been hard on gravestones that were originally considered nearly permanent. Weathering, erosion, neglect, and vandalism have all taken their toll.

While some of this damage cannot be reversed, in other cases, preservation and prevention can make all the difference. And as more people become interested in genealogical research, there is a greater desire to preserve what is left of our ancestor's legacies in stone.

By cleaning and caring for historic resting places you can provide an opportunity for future generations to glimpse the past. Then burial grounds will become treasures of information that would otherwise have been forgotten or lost.

BillionGraves and Save Your Stones

BillionGraves has partnered with the gravestone preservation company Save Your Stones to provide you with the best guidelines and tools for cleaning your family headstones.

The owner of Save Your Stones, Jarrod Roll, is a professional museum curator in Sparta, Wisconsin. Roll was trained during graduate school to clean stone, so it was a natural step for him to begin a gravestone preservation business.

Why Should You Clean a Gravestone?

First of all, it is important to decide if a headstone really needs to be cleaned.

There are two main reasons to clean a gravestone. First, it may need to be cleaned to preserve its

structural integrity. For example, plant roots can creep into the stone and cause cracking that may split the stone. Lichen can eat away at the surface causing it to crumble.

And second, plant growth or darkening can obscure names, dates, and other data. Correct and careful cleaning procedures, as used by professional conservationists, can keep the stone readable and prevent future deterioration.

When Should You NOT Clean a Gravestone?

Before moving on to how to clean a gravestone, it is important to determine if the gravestone should be cleaned at all. Sometimes cleaning is done needlessly. For instance, it can be easy to mistake the natural patina of aging for dirt. Marble headstones will not look as white as the day they were set because the nature of marble is to change color as it is exposed to the elements. It may be best to leave those stones alone.

Next, consider the effect that cleaning solutions and methods will have on the stone. Then weigh the benefits against the potential risk of possibly damaging the surface. Cleaning may only make damage worse if the gravestone is already flaking or peeling. Finally, assess the stability of the monument. Sometimes after careful consideration, it may be best to decide to leave the gravestone in its current state.

Sources of Gravestone Damage

There are several reasons you will want to consider gravestone cleaning though. Cleaning can be so important to prevent decay to the stone. Damage is caused to gravestones by . . .

1. Biological growth
2. Soiling
3. Staining

Understand Laws and Regulations

BillionGraves subscriber, Doug McCallum, the son of a cemetery commissioner, said, "It is critical to know the local ordinances. In some places, cleaning any stone, no matter how safe the product, would be considered vandalism and subject you to large fines.

It is 100% important to ask permission before doing any modification to a stone.”

McCallum’s father noted that some Revolutionary War monuments in the northeastern United States were being damaged by well-intentioned people.

So please, use common sense in considering the condition of a gravestone. Be careful, seek permission, and check online for any pertinent cemetery, city, county, state, or federal ordinances pertaining to the area where you wish to clean a gravestone.

Source of Gravestone Damage #1: Biological Growth

Biological growth in the cemetery is just what it sounds like – living things growing on the gravestones such as moss, lichen, algae, fungi, mold, and other plant life. And while a headstone covered with ivy or fringed with moss and lichen may give a sense of antiquity and nostalgia to the cemetery, it is also extremely damaging. If left untreated, biological growth can cause headstones to crack, crumble, and split over time.

Algae, fungi, and lichen

Algae, fungi, and lichen may be green, gray, black, red, orange, yellow, blue, or brown. These organisms can damage headstones by trapping moisture on the stone and beneath the surface of the stone. Then as temperatures change, the moisture freezes and thaws. Consequently, thermal expansion and contraction cause cracking and flaking.

The trapped moisture also continues to foster the growth of additional algae, fungi, and lichen, which extend into the pores of the stone. Then as the moisture levels fluctuate, the “roots” or hyphae of these living organisms swell and shrink causing cracking, peeling, and flaking to occur.

Plants

Plants, like grass, ivy, moss, and ferns that grow on or under gravestones can be damaging because their roots penetrate the stone and cause splitting. And like algae, fungi, and lichen, they also trap moisture.

If you’ve ever seen a dandelion or a blade of grass poking up through a cement driveway or causing a sidewalk to heave, you understand the power of tiny plant roots.

Acids

Plants, lichen, moss, algae and other natural growths can contain acid. Acidic substances can be damaging to some types of stone and it can become more severe over time.

For example, marble is composed primarily of calcium carbonate. Lichen secretes an acid that can dissolve the calcite. This can cause a loss of carving details, erosion to the surface, and even damage the structural integrity of the headstone.

Source of Gravestone Damage #2: Soiling

Flat grave markers are particularly susceptible to damage from dirt, soil, and mud. Dirt that penetrates into the pores of the stone can cause a dingy appearance. It can also lead to staining. For example, minerals in the soil, such as iron, can leach into the headstone and cause rust-colored stains.

If a headstone sinks into the ground over time and is later raised and reset, an obvious line of soiling can be visible. Soil can also retain moisture after snow and rainfall, leading to the growth of mildew and mold.

Even upright headstones can be damaged and eroded by airborne dirt in windstorms. This is a particular concern in deserts where cemetery ground is frequently left bare.

For cemeteries located near factories or in large cities with lots of traffic, air pollution can be a problem. Pollutants can interact with the stone, changing the appearance and etching the surface.

The National Center for Preservation Training and Technology (NCPTT) states that “sulfur dioxide produced through manufacturing processes and vehicle exhaust can interact with marble surfaces to cause gypsum crusts. These crusts can capture soil and pollution particles to create rough, gray surfaces.”

Source of Gravestone Damage #3: Staining

Gravestones near trees or bushes are at risk for staining from two sources: sap and animals.

Overhanging tree branches and plants may drip sap onto gravestones. Sap contains resins which can be difficult to remove. Sugar in the sap can attract insects, which may lay eggs or burrow into the stone. The sap sugars also provide a source of food for mildew and mold. Bushes and shrubs sometimes have falling berries that can stain headstone surfaces.

Animal urine, feces, and bird droppings can leave gravestones with brown, yellow or white stains that become set into the pores of the stone. These stains may be difficult to remove, depending on the animal's diet.

*Headstone Cleaning Tips***DON'T**

- . Don't do anything that will damage the surface of the headstone
- . Don't use common household cleaners
- . Don't use strong bases or acids
- . Don't use power tools, such as sanders or drills with wire brushes
- . Don't sandblast
- . Don't use power washers or pressure over 300 psi
- . Don't use bleach
- . Don't use cleaners with salt in them
- . Don't rub the gravestone surface with hard-bristled brushes
- . Don't scrape the gravestone surface with anything harder than the stone

DO

- . Do no harm!
- . Choose the gentlest cleaning method possible
- . Do read and follow product manufacturer's guidelines
- . Do use good safety practices
- . Do test small areas before cleaning the entire headstone
- . Do keep the stone wet as you work
- . Do obtain the approval of other family members before cleaning

Gravestone Cleaning Supplies

- . Water
- . Water mister, spray bottle, bucket, or hose
- . Soft plastic scraper
- . Soft bristle brushes
- . Wooden pick
- . D/2 Biological Solution
- . Safety glasses (optional)
- . Gloves (optional)

Water

First and most important is water. Water will not damage the stone and should be used first to gently wash away dirt, soil, and dried grass clippings. Before you use chemical cleaners, wet the surface of the stone. Then as you are working, continually keep rewetting the stone to avoid letting the cleaner dry on the surface.

Water will keep the gravestone from getting damaged as you clean, so it is essential to either locate a source of water at the cemetery or bring water with you. If the cemetery has a water source you can use, bring a bucket or jug to transport it.

If you have traveled from out of town to clean your ancestor's gravestone, you could purchase a gallon of distilled water to take with you to the cemetery.

Plastic scraper

Use a soft plastic scraper to gently remove biological overgrowth, such as moss or lichen. Scrapers should be softer than the stone itself and may be made of pliable plastic or silicone.

Brushes

When it comes to using brushes for gravestone cleaning, think of the surface as being like the enamel on your teeth. The bristles need to be soft enough to do no damage but firm enough to get the job done.

The brush may be made of natural fibers or soft nylon. With any brush you use, run your fingers over the bristles, checking for gentle pliability. If there are any metal or rough edges, they should be

covered with duct tape to avoid accidentally scratching the stone.

Wooden Pick

A wooden pick can be useful to remove lichen or algae, especially if it is growing in indentations or etched lettering.

D/2 Biological Solution

Cleaners used on gravestones should be the gentlest possible choice to get the job done. D/2 is a gentle biocide and very effective for headstones covered in biological growth – lichen, moss, fungi, algae, and plants.

D/2 Biological Solution was designed by conservators for conservators. It was successfully tested in a 6-year study. Finally, it was recognized as the official cleaner of the Department of Veteran Affairs National Cemetery Administration and specified to be used on U.S. military gravestones.

Historic Monuments Cleaned with D/2

Conservationists have used D/2 to clean millions of historic buildings and monuments as well as for gravestone cleaning. Here are some of the historic places that have been cleaned and restored using a D/2 biocide:

- . Gravestones at Arlington Cemetery
- . The White House
- . The New York City Public Library
- . The Washington Monument
- . The state of Washington capitol
- . The Biltmore Estate (the largest private home in America)
- . Burial Hill (one of the oldest cemeteries in America)
- . Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin estate
- . Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry
- . The Alamo

There are many more, but that is enough to give you the idea . . . this is a respected, well-researched product that has been used on some of the finest buildings and monuments in the world.

Using D/2

If there is landscaping near the gravestone you plan to clean, spray them with water before starting. Wetting flowers, grass, and foliage first will help protect them from overspray.

Safety

D/2 is non-toxic but may irritate eyes and skin. Safety glasses and gloves are an optional precaution. Masks may be worn if there is a danger of overspray on windy days. Always read the label on the cleaning product you are using and follow the manufacturer's guidelines.

Methods for Gravestone Cleaning

Using the proper cleaning methods will protect the stone and protect you.

Gravestone Test Spot

Before spraying the entire stone with a chemical cleaner, it is a good idea to do a small test spot in an inconspicuous area to ensure you won't be damaging the stone. If you wish, use painter's tape to mark off a small square near the base or back of the gravestone. Spray the area inside the taped off section with water and then follow with D/2. Gently brush the sprayed square with a soft brush to test the results.

Soak with Water

When you are ready to clean the headstone, wet the entire surface with water. If you don't have an easy source of water at the cemetery purchase gallons of distilled water or fill water jugs to bring with you from home.

Large spray misters are helpful for large monuments and small hand spray bottles of water are fine for small stones.

Stone is very porous and absorbent. So spraying with water liberally will keep the cleaner on the surface and out of the pores to reduce the effects of the cleaner.

Cleaning the Gravestone

Start cleaning from the bottom of the stone and work your way up. This will minimize the effects of streaking if the cleaner runs down the surface.

Scrape off any large clumps of biological growth with a plastic or wood scraper. Rinse.

Spray the cleaner generously over the surface of the stone in an area that can be easily worked before it dries out. Then allow the biocide to sit on the stone for about 10-15 minutes. Next, gently scour the stone in small circular motions with a soft brush. Work the cleaner into the crevices and lettering.

It is better to scrub gently several times over the same area than to try to scrub too hard on the first attempt. Watch carefully for any damage to the stone your pressure may cause and if you see flaking, stop and reassess your methods.

Work in Sections

Spray D/2 Biological Solution generously on the gravestone. Allow to sit for about 5 minutes. Remember, if you are cleaning a large monument work in sections. Keep the gravestone wet as you work by continually spraying it with D/2.

It is helpful to use varying brush sizes for different areas of the tombstone. Use a wooden pick to remove debris and growth from etched lettering and detailed carvings.

Repeat these steps as needed to remove persistent stains and growth.

Finally, rinse the stone when you are done cleaning, striving to leave no visible cleaner on the surface.

D/2 Cleans and Keeps on Cleaning

You may be pleasantly surprised to learn that even after you have cleaned a gravestone with D/2 Biological Cleaner it will continue to clean the headstone on its own for the next few weeks to months -without you having to anything else.

As the cleaner seeps into the pores of the stone it will kill more biological growth. And you will be

able to see a noticeable lightening of the stone during this time.



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

President: Russell C. Dannecker
dannecker123@verizon.net

Vice President: Hal Merz halbren7@hotmail.com

Secretary: Doug Wertman wertman1@verizon.net

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Newsletter: The next issue is June 2021. Look for the latest family news and information on wertman.info or in electronic or postal mailings.

Newsletter Editor: Russell Dannecker; Assistant Editor: Barbara Dannecker

Plan now to attend the Annual Wertman Reunion 20-21 August 2021 in Lockport, NY

In a Normal Year this is Where the Wertman Family Reunion Registration Form Would Appear, It will Return Next Year

Name (s)	
Address	
City / State/ Zip	
Telephone	Mobile Telephone
Email(s)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Please e-mail WFA newsletters G	<input type="checkbox"/> Please send newsletters by US Mail (only mailed if dues are paid)
We do encourage you to send in your family's Annual Dues, WFA, July 2020-June 2021	\$20 per Family
Mail your check and this "Registration" Form by 20 August to Maryann Cronk, WFA Treasurer, 201 Neiger Hollow Rd., Barton, NY 13734	