

Wertman

Lines

Newsletter of the Wertman Family Association

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Reserve These Dates

- **Friday-Sunday, 16-18 August 2002**
Wertman Family Association
Annual Reunion, Ashland, Ohio

George Philip Wertman I

Presented by Dora Kamalu, 17 August 2001
Wertman Family Researchers Meeting

Along with many of you, I have been trying to locate my Wertman ancestors for many years. The Wertmans chose to live in Lynn Township, Northampton (now Lehigh) County, where few records have survived. However, with what records remain and with much persistent searching, often with Ed and Nancy Sterrett, I have tracked my Wertman line back to George Philip Wertman.

Parentage/Place of Origin

To my knowledge, George Philip Wertman, or GPI, has not been identified on any of the ships bringing immigrants into Philadelphia or other ports. You may have run across more than one reference that claims he was the son of Caspar Wardman and wife Greda. It seems that this assumption has come about because someone decided that the name of 8-year-old Georg Harman, listed with the passengers on the Ship *Samuel* which arrived in 1732, may have been misspelled and was actually Georg Wartman, and that he was the son of Caspar Wardman and Greda Wardman in on the same ship list. Actually, there was an adult passenger by the name of Friderick Hartman on that ship. Remove the "t" in Hartman and you have Harman – a name much closer to Hartman than it is to Wardman. I think there is enough evidence to show that Caspar is **not** the father of our George Philip Wertman.

At the Family History Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, I was reading a church record for a little town in Baden called Berwangen. I found a birth record for a George Caspar Wertman, born November 1697, son of Paul Wertman and Dorothea. As I searched for another family in Wollenberg, another small town in Baden, I found a marriage record for a Caspar Wartman from Berwangen. He married Margaretha, a divorced woman whose previous husband was Johann Dietrich Winter, on 29 May 1725. On the list for the ship *Samuel*, arriving 11 August 1732, we find Caspar and Greda Wardman with others whose names appear in the Berwangen record. (Greda is a nickname for Margaretha.) I did not find any children born to Caspar and Margaretha in the German records for the town of Wollenberg where they were married and there were no children listed for them on the ship list.

The Georg Caspar Wertman born in 1697 in Berwangen could not have been the Caspar Wardman from Berwangen who married Margaretha and came to America on the ship *Samuel*. Caspar was 26 years old when he arrived in America and would have been born in 1706, not 1697. Caspar Wardman could not have been the father of GPI because George Philip Wertman II, son of GPI, was born in 1741 (per his tombstone in Digby, Nova Scotia) and his father would had to have been born

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at least by 1721 in Germany before Caspar came to America in 1732.

The Wertman name is found mostly in Wuerttemberg, Switzerland and Prussia. I have not located GPI there, but feel sure that if I do, his name will be Georg Philipp Wertman.

Marriage and Family

At this time, the name of GPI's wife is unknown. Between 1740 and 1750, five sons were born to GPI. There is conjecture as to the birth order, but they were Johann Michael, Jacob, George Philip, Simon and Johann Martin. Some Wertman women in various records may have been daughters.

Land Holdings

On 15 December 1749, George Philipp Wertman took up a warrant for 100 acres in Lynn Township, Bucks (present day Lehigh) County, Pa., eventually surveyed at 197 acres. On 8 August 1750, George Philip Wertman took up a warrant for 50 acres in Lynn Township, Bucks County, eventually surveyed at 123 acres.

Fort Franklin Petition

A petition dated 7 May 1757 was written to request that Fort Franklin not be abandoned because the settlers feared they would be attacked by Indians. One of those petitioners was George Wertman. The petition is unclear as to where the signers were living: "That your Petitioners are informed that Fort Franklin aforesaid is to be removed to this side of the said mountains and a considerable way into Albany Township...." The document indicates that all petitioners were "Inhabitants of Berks County (now Schuylkill - added by transcriber), within four miles of Fort Franklin, over the Blue Mountains. We believe George Wertman was our GPI.

Tax Lists

Assessment and Tax List entries of George Philip Wertman in Lynn Township are:

- 6 Jan. 1761 - assessment, Philip Wertman
- 1761 - tax, Philip Wertman
- 1762 - tax, Philip Wertman
- 1764 - tax, Philip Wertman
- 10 Oct. 1764 - assessment, Philip Wertman
- 2 Jan. 1765 - assessment, Philip Wertman
- 16 Mar. 1765 - assessment, Philip Wertman Sr.
- 1767 - tax, Philip Wertman

1768 - tax, George Wertman

1769 - tax, George Wertman

1770 - tax, George Wertman

Note that in 1768 and each year after, the name is George. 1768 is the first year that GPII appears on the list, as Philip Wertman.

Wills

In 1760, Philip Wertman was a witness to the will of John Flack (Flach). John's daughter, Catharine, is known to be the wife of Michael Wertman, son of GPI. In 1772, Philip Wortman and Michael Habbes (Happes) were witnesses to the will of Philip Kirshbaum, who was one of the Fort Franklin petitioners.

Ebenezer Union Church

Ebenezer Union Church bought land on 18 February 1760 for a building in Lynn Township. The first name listed as Church Representative is Philip Wertman.

Marriage Witness

George Philip Wertman witnessed the marriage of Daniel Oswald of Lynn Township and Catharine, daughter of John Everits of Lynn, on 27 March 1764. (Misc. Public records of Northampton County, microfilm #21685 at the Family History Center in Salt Lake City, Utah)

Muster Roll

In 1778, Philip Wertman was listed on the general muster roll of the Northampton County Militia, 3rd Battalion, 1st Company, 8th Class. This is probably GPI and not his son GPII, who fled to the British early in 1778.

Oath

On 8 April 1778, Philip Wertman took the Oath of Allegiance. This was probably GPI. All of the Wertman clan took the oath in the spring of 1778, except Martin, who took the oath in 1777. Perhaps the actions of GPII made it questionable as to which side the family was on. In GPII's petition to the Crown, he indicates that he was obliged to flee for refuge to the British Army, in Philadelphia, early in the year 1778. It does not seem likely that GPII took the oath and then immediately fled to the British. GPIII, son of Michael and Catharina, about 15 at that time, would have been too young to take the oath.

continued, next page

In conclusion...

This ancestor from whom we descend is very difficult to find in the records. If you find something new, such as an early family reunion record that may have more puzzle pieces, please let the Wertman Family Association know. You will be our hero! Meanwhile, I will continue to search for GPI in Germany as I have been doing for the past six years. Who knows, I may get lucky!

Finding Wertman Land from Old Deeds

*Presented by Richard Daniels, 17 August 2001
Wertman Family Researchers Meeting*

One of the most useful sources for researchers is land records. My wife and I have searched land records in the Berks County courthouse and found a few deeds for Wertman land being bought or sold. (Unfortunately, early land records are incomplete and many deeds were never recorded.)

In these old records, the location of the land was given, at best, by township, and the metes and bounds (compass directions and measured distances to points) listed some adjoining land owners. One method we used to locate the land was to

follow each sale and purchase of the land through the deeds until a more recent description listed a present-day road or current owner.

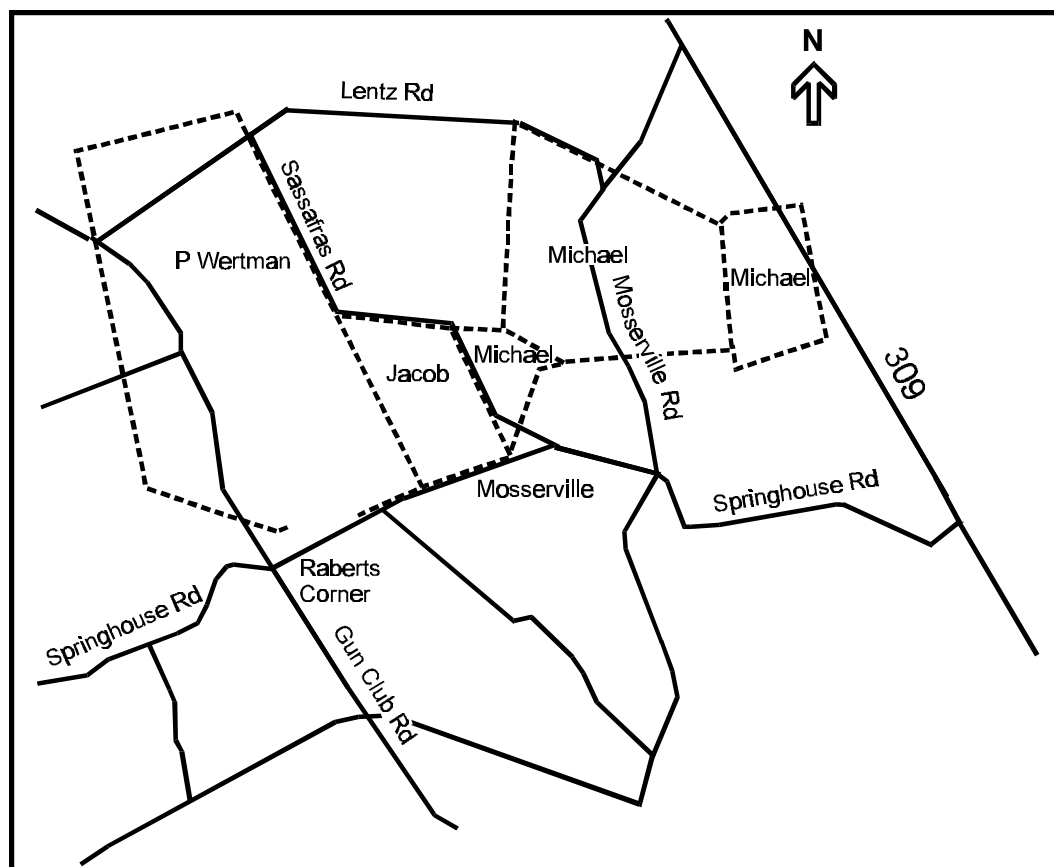
Another method we used was to draw the shape of the land from the metes and bounds information, using the same scale as a U.S. Geographical Survey map (or similar detailed map). Then, we cut out the drawing and moved it around the map until we got the best fit for roads and streams.

Although it is possible to draw the land using a ruler, protractor and calculator, there are computer programs that will do this tedious work. A DOS program to draw and scale land, Black Oak Mapper, is free — from <www.Rootsforum.com>, click on Files, then MS DOS Software, and find Mapper 5.1, listed as MAPR51.ZIP, 171890 bites, about #200 on the library files list.

A “Draft of the Original Surveys of Lehigh County” by Isaac Chapman, dated 1816, (furnished by Wertman researcher Richard Hull) shows land belonging to Philip Wertman, Jacob Wertman and Michael Wertman, in five parcels. With a computer printout from Delorme’s “Street Atlas USA” CD-ROM and printouts of the Lehigh County Surveys’ maps, using streams and roads or boundary lines on both maps, I found a reasonable match in Lynn

Township showing that GPI’s land extended from just west of Gun Club Road, east along Springhouse Road to SassafRAS Road, north to Lentz Road, and south almost to Raberts Corner, with a few parcels not included in his holdings.

Similar results can be found using the New Tripoli map from the Geological Survey (available from your local map store, download from <<http://www.topozone.com>> or order by mail from the United States Department of the Interior, Geological Survey, Reston, VA 22092. Ask for the free “Pennsylvania Index to Topographic and other Map Coverage.”)



A Drive Through "Wertman Territory"

by Ed Sterrett

To find the location of various churches connected with the early Wertman family, one must take a Pennsylvania map, find Allentown and locate PA 309 north. After you have driven 30 miles or so, just before you cross the Blue Mountain, you will see PA 143 on the left, leading to New Tripoli. This is the beginning of the Allemangel area where the Germans settled. The Ebenezer Church (the Organ Church), is in New Tripoli. Philip Wertman (GPI) was the first name listed as church representative on 18 February 1760 when the Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed congregations agreed to buy "... land from Jacob Hoffman in Lynn Township, Northampton County ... on which to build a union church and a schoolhouse for our two religions..." (*Ebenezer Union Church 1740-1990 — Stones of Help*, originally printed by Lehigh Litho., Inc., Bethlehem, PA 1991; transferred to <<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~weterb/>> by descendent Eugene James Weatherby.)

Heading west, after passing New Tripoli and Ebenezer Church on SR 143, the second road is Gun Club Road. Turn right on Gun Club Road, cross Springhouse (this intersection is called Raberts Corner) and on the left side before crossing Fort Everett Road is the Gun Club. Part of the old Wertman farm is a part of the Gun Club property [see article by Richard Daniels and accompanying map, pg. 3].

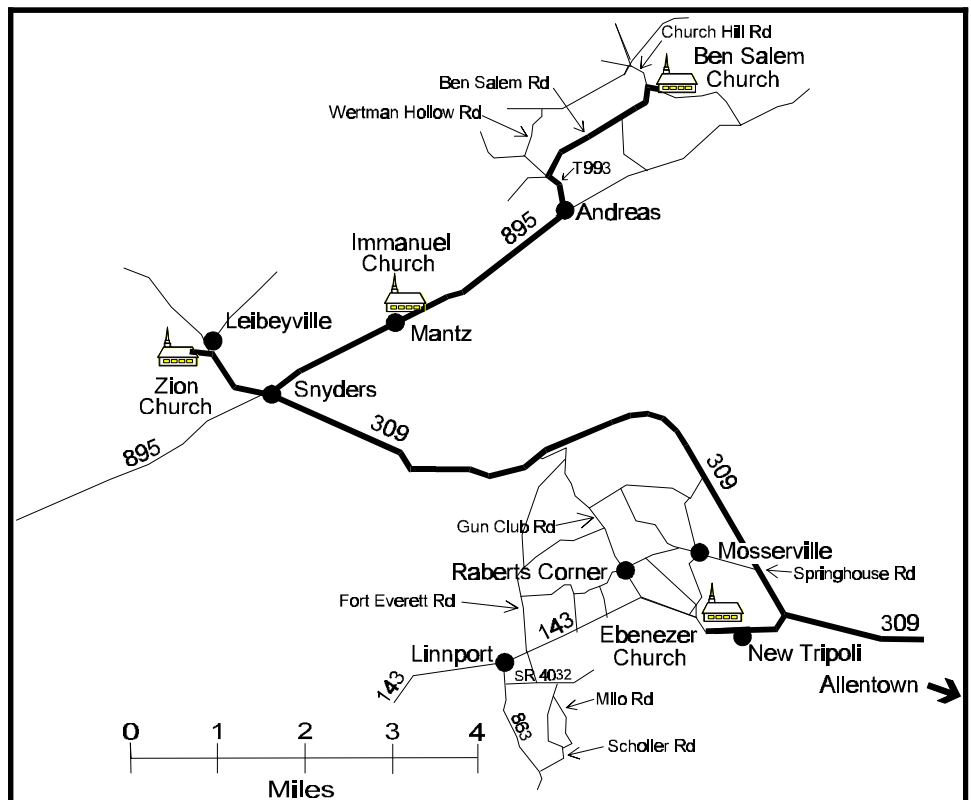
Return to PA 309 and continue north over the Blue Mountain. Just beyond Snyders and the intersection with PA 895, a sign on the right side of the road points to the road on the left leading to Zion Union Church, the Stone Church and the cemetery where many of the Schuylkill County Wertmans are buried.

Return to Snyders and take a left on PA 895. Two to three miles will bring you to Immanuel Church. Another two miles or so will bring you to Andreas. Turn left and the road going straight at the fork will lead you to Wertman Hollow Road, where, if you turn right, you will go

to a Wertman farm on the right. It is my understanding that this farm is the one that Solomon, Lydia and descendants of David (children of David, son of GPIII) deeded to Daniel in 1882. It is now owned by Wertmans who descended from Jefferson, eldest son of Daniel. Where the road ends, turn right and it will lead you to Ben Salem Church and the cemetery where other Wertmans are buried. As you locate these churches on the map, you will see that they are all confined to a relatively small area.

With respect to church records, there are - to my knowledge - no early records for Ebenezer or Zion Churches. Fred Weiser, genealogist, German records translator, writer and lecturer, has confirmed this fact. Warren Ziegler did much research and tried to pull together records on various families at various churches. Two of his publications are: "Pa. Genealogical Findings in the Allemangel Area of Berks and Lehigh Counties," 1982-1983 (this publication includes a great number of churches south of the Blue Mountain), and "A Compendium of the Families Who Worshipped at Jacob's Union Church (200 Years)" 1981.

In addition, there are some records for Zion Union Church - Baptisms 1857-1883 and Deaths 1876-1914. The Ben Salem Church records by Ray Hollenbach, 1964, are translations of Baptisms and Communion. They start circa 1804. Ray Hollenbach also did Burials at Ben Salem Church (East Penn Township, Carbon County) 1964.



Searching for Roots on a Research Trip

by Russ Dannecker

In Allentown for five days of research, I ran across many interesting things. First is a "History of Lynn Township," which I am retyping so we can share it electronically. It provides insight into when the town was founded and mentions Wertman Road being constructed in 1840. This was the road from Raberts Corner over the Mountain to Synders. It was named Wertman Road because of the number of Wertman families who lived along it. It was the main road over the mountain until Route 309 was built. Actually 309 uses the Wertman Road route over the mountain from the point where Gun Club Road meets 309. [See map, pg. 4.]

I took a ride to Lynn Township, and as I drove by the Philip Wertman home that we discovered recently, I stopped to talk with a man working in the barn. He has bought the old Wertman farm from the gentleman who lives next door and stated that the barns date back to the 1860s, that the walls of the house are stone, about 14 inches thick, and that the brick is just a facade. This may mean that the house is much older than 1865. This gentleman is going to keep the farm under cultivation. He would like to buy another 30 acres connected to the south boundary of his farm. He said that this 30 acres has been in disputed ownership for years. I immediately thought of the early survey map which does not have a clearly defined border on the southern edge of the P. Wertman property. Could this be the source of the dispute?



The stone nameplate (second floor under eaves) on this house on Springhouse Road reads "... Philipp Wertman frau Catherine 1865."



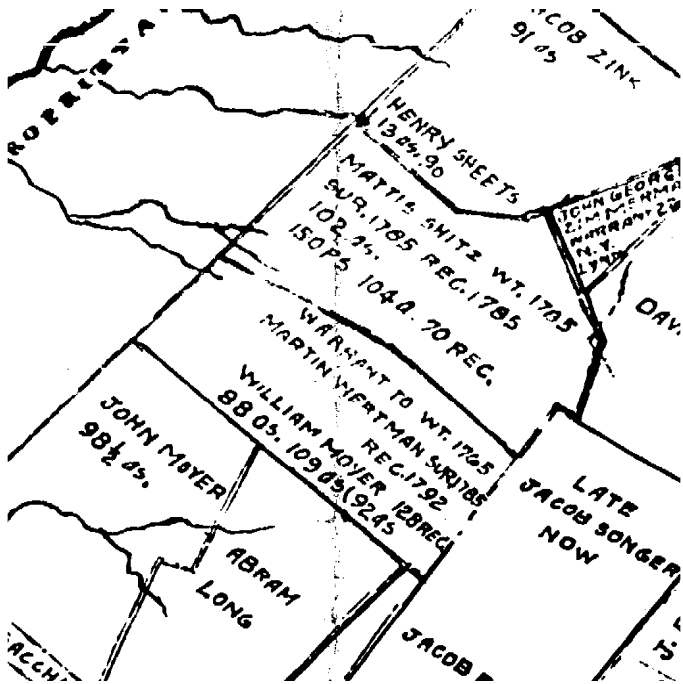
This stone house on Lentz Road, at the corner of Gun Club Road, belonged to Wertmans.

I spent the next day at the Lehigh Valley Historical Society. There is a tremendous amount of research material about the Wertman family. We need to send a small group into the library on repeated days to do a systematic search and extract all the Wertman information for our database.

The next day, at the Berks County Historical Society Library, I made a list of all the Wertman (and various spellings) references in church and graveyard records. I returned the next day and started to systematically extract the Wertman information using the list I had prepared. It was time consuming, but useful, in that it confirmed information we already had. The more documentation the better!

That evening, I read something that particularly interested me. The *History of Lehigh County*, on page 836, says, "A graveyard is located on the farm now owned by James W. Smith. It is between the houses of Mr. Smith, in one valley, and William H. Reitz in the other, several fields dividing them. The burial place was about 150 feet west from the line fence between the two properties.... In 1753, Joh. Christ. Moyer owned the land and he and others were buried in this graveyard. In Revolutionary times, Martin WERTMAN was the owner, and it is stated that two horses were stolen from this property by the Tories." Could those horses have been taken by his brother, George Philip II?

The following day, at the Lehigh County Historical Society, I found this same statement repeated in two other books. But one had a handwritten note that this was at 6648 Milo Road, New Tripoli, Pa. I then asked to see the 1816 Survey Map (the one that had the P. Wertman, Jacob Wertman and Michael Wertman farms). This historical society has a large, clearly readable



version of this map. I found Milo Road on a modern day map and by comparing the rivers and streams, I was able to locate Martin Wertman's Farm. (Let me see, where did I learn that?) [See article by Richard Daniels, pg. 3.] Warrant dates 1765, Survey in 1785 and Recorded 1792.

Eventually, I was on my way to Milo Road. I found the William H. Reitz place. It is still a farm. A neighbor said the house is on the register of historic sites because the foundation was built during the Revolutionary War. It is certainly in a valley! I could not locate for certain the James W. Smith home, but I drove down Scholler Road and found a very, very old farmhouse. Anyone up for trying to determine where the fence might have been and walking the line? This is a beautiful location and I understand why Martin would have picked it: running water, in a valley protected from the harsh winds.

When at the Historical Society I asked if there were any more detailed maps of Lynn Township. Apparently one was done in 1917. It shows an A. Wardman living in the stone house on Lentz Road [see photo, pg. 5, col. 2]. It also list a P. Wardman on Springhouse Road near Raberts Corner [see photo, pg. 5., col. 1]. The farm on Gun Club Road where a barn foundation is visible was owned by D. Wardman. There are two more D. Wardman farms near and off of Fort Everett Road. P. Wardman is noted as living off of Route 143. There is another D. Wardman farm if you were to follow Lentz Road to Route 309. It is very clear to me that WARDMAN is WERTMAN.

Highlights of the 2001 WFA Meeting

by Shirley M. Daniels

Thirty-two Wertman Family Association researchers met on 17 August 2001 in Allentown, Lehigh County, PA. Most of those present were descendants of Jacob. Seven were descended from Michael, one from Martin, and none from Simon or George Philip II. Russ Dannecker was able to link attendees who had not known their ancestry.

The annual business meeting followed a picnic at Upper Macungie Park on 18 August. The 47 adults in attendance heard reports from Shirley Daniels (Secretary), Shirley Wertman (Treasurer) and Tom Young (Historical Acceptance Committee); accepted the proposed Bylaws with three changes; voted to hold the next reunion in Ashland, Ohio, 16-18 August 2002; elected officers; and set the annual dues at \$20 per family.

After the business meeting, Russ Dannecker conducted an auction of two afghans made by Bernadine Sterner and quilts made by Mary Ellen Wagner and Jan Dannecker.

On Sunday, a caravan visited Ebenezer Union Church, Raberts Corner, former Wertman property and Salem Belleman's graveyard.

Summaries of presentations follow.

George Philip Wertman (GPI)

See article by Dora Kamalu, pg. 1.

Land of George Philip Wertman (GPI)

Richard Hull discussed warrants issued to Philip Wertman in Oley Township, Philadelphia County (now Alsace Township, Berks County) and tracts in Lynn Township. Until 1817, no documentation was required and many deeds were not recorded when the state issued a patent. See article by Richard Daniels, pg. 3, on matching deeds with the land.

Sons of George Philip Wertman (GPI)

JOHANN MICHAEL. Tom Young reported on Michael. His wife was Catherine Flack. Known children were Jacob, George Philip (III), John, Henry and Daniel. In 1778, Michael took the Oath of Allegiance, and he was on the Northampton County Militia lists. In 1810, he bought land in Mahoning Township, Northumberland (now Columbia) County. His 1815 will mentions 12 children, not named. Questions remain about when

and where Michael was born, who his sixth son was, who his six daughters were, when and where he was buried, and more.

Ed Sterrett reported on **Jacob Jun'r**, son of Michael, who was probably called "junior" to differentiate him from the elder Jacob, his uncle. Jacob Jun'r was born 29 July 1761. Jacob signed the Oath of Allegiance in 1778 even though he was not yet 17 years old. He was on the Northampton County Militia list. He and his family went into Penn Township, Northampton County, around 1790-1800 with his brother, George Philip (III). When Schuylkill County was formed in 1811, Penn Township was split and Jacob was in West Penn Township (Schuylkill County). An Indenture filed to divide land left by Jacob when he died intestate lists his children, George, Christina Buibelheimer (widow) and Elizabeth Schuch, deceased. Questions remain about who his wife was, where he was buried, his death date and more.

Ed Sterrett also reported on **George Philip (GPIII)**, son of Michael. He was born 28 August 1763. In 1782, at age 19, he was on the Northampton County Militia list. When Schuylkill County was formed in 1811, George was in East Penn Township (Northampton County until 1843, then Carbon County). George and his wife Christina were very connected with Ben Salem Church in Andreas. His children were David, Jacob and Susanna. There were 14 grandchildren. Solomon, the first son of David, went to Ashland County, Ohio. Christina died 4 August 1828; GPIII, 24 April 1853. Questions remain as to where GPIII and Christina were buried and what her surname was. Ed challenged researchers in Carbon County to investigate whether there might be a family cemetery on land of GPIII near Ben Salem Church.

JACOB. Richard Hull reported on Jacob. His known children were Jacob, Daniel, Catherina, Elizabeth Barbara, Maria Elizabeth, Margaretha, Philip and Andrew. On 26 March 1778, Jacob took the Oath of Allegiance. In 1778 and 1780, he was on the Northampton County Militia lists. Tax records and survey plats show that Jacob owned land outside the area warranted to GPI before 1782 and possibly as early as 1764. Questions remain about Jacob's wife, Maria, the birth order of the children, the identity of his fifth daughter, and more.

Tom Young reported on another Jacob in Hemlock Township who was involved with three baptismal events of known children of Jacob Sr. Who was he?

GEORGE PHILIP (GPII). Ed Sterrett reported on GPII, the Loyalist. GPII's burial record says he was 78 years old when he died in 1819, making his birth year 1741. In 1778, he fled to Philadelphia, which was occupied by the British. He joined the Royal Army and entered into the company of Bucks County Volunteers. In 1779, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania named GPII as "attainted of High Treason" and confiscated his Lynn Township property in 1782. In 1784, GPII is listed on the Muster Roll of Loyalists in Digby County, Nova Scotia. He was granted 190 acres of land in Marshalltown, and married Jane Purcell (age 50) on 6 May 1795. In 1798 he was shown as owning a house in the city and the Marshalltown land. He was buried 24 August 1819 at Forest Hill Cemetery of Trinity Anglican Church in Digby. His will lists his wife Jane, adopted son Philip Dowlin and daughter Margaret.

SIMON. Tom Young reported on Simon, born 1747. He took the Oath of Allegiance on 29 May 1778 and was on the Berks County Militia list. He married Barbara Stebelton and his proven children were Christina Barbara, Maria Magdalena, John, and Johann Jacob. John and Johann Jacob moved to Richland (later Ashland) County, Ohio. In 1790, Simon was on the Berks County census. In 1807 he purchased land in Bloom Township, Northumberland (now Columbia) County. His death notice in the *Reading Adler* of 7 November 1820 said "Simon Wertman, 74 years, formerly of Berks County, died 25 October." He was buried in the German Reformed Church of Bloomsburg, but remains were moved to Espy in about 1925 when the cemetery was relocated. Questions remain about when and where he was born, when Barbara died, where she is buried, and more.

JOHANN MARTIN. Tom Young reported on Martin, born 1750. He took the Oath of Allegiance in 1777 and was on the Northampton County Militia lists 1778 and 1780. He had a wife, Elizabeth, who may have been the mother of his proven children, Mary Elizabeth, Daniel, Samuel (also called Simon) and John. A later wife, Margaret Reichelderfer, was the widow of Jacob Stapleton, who died in 1794. Martin was on the Lynn Township tax lists 1781-1788. The 1800, 1810 and 1820 censuses show him in Berks County. Martin died 25 July 1823. He is buried in Salem Belleman's graveyard, Upper Bern Township, Berks County, with his wife Margaret and sons. Questions remain about Elizabeth's surname, where she was buried and whether she was the mother of his children.

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