

Wertman

Lines

Newsletter of the Wertman Family Association

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Plan now to attend:

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

From the WFA President

The 2010 Wertman Family Reunion focuses on George, John L., and William Wertman in the midst of Civil War events. Family historians and students alike can learn how these three took part in fighting for the Union. Please consider bringing your children and grandchildren for the opportunity to learn about their own and this country's history by being there. This sort of history is not taught in schools!

On 4 March 1861, Abraham Lincoln stood at the United States Capitol to deliver his first Inaugural Address. Trying to prevent a war that was to come, he said, "*Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.*" He was talking about Revolutionary War patriots who fought to create this nation.

Perhaps similar mystic chords of memory, but from our many Wertman relatives who fought to preserve this Union, will stretch forth from every battlefield and grave to your living heart. The Wertman soldiers in blue came from Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio, and would serve in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi,

(Continued on page 9)

2010 Wertman Family Association Reunion Events, 19-22 August

by Shirley Daniels, 2010 Reunion Registrar

The 2010 Reunion Committee has planned our most ambitious family reunion to date, focusing on three Wertman soldiers who fought for the Union in Civil War battles at Fredericksburg, the Wilderness, and Spotsylvania, VA.

We hope to have a National Park Service historian guiding our group on battlefield tours tailored specifically for our interests. Group transportation and an experienced guide will add to the cost, but will be most convenient and beneficial for those who attend the reunion. We are limiting other expenses.

The Committee has obtained a group rate (\$85 plus tax) at the reunion hotel, the Wytestone Suites at 4615 Southpoint Parkway, Fredericksburg. You may make reservations now by calling their toll-free number 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 whether you would prefer two double beds or one king-sized bed. A hot breakfast each morning

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and Thursday dinner are complimentary for guests at Wytestone Suites.

Activities begin on Thursday evening. Here's what the committee has planned:

Thursday, 19 August - Presentations begin after dinner with an orientation, handouts, and an overview of railroads in the Civil War.

Friday, 20 August - The morning session will include information about Wertmans fighting in the area, with handouts and maps. Lunch is on your own. There are numerous restaurants within walking distance or a short drive.

In the afternoon, travel to the White Oak Civil War Museum, Stoneman's Switch, and the Robert Smith Farm where John L. Wertman camped and died. Next, visit the National Park Service Headquarters at Chatham Manor and view a film. Finally, walk a short distance along the Sunken Road, tour the Fredericksburg Battlefield Museum and view a film. Friday's family dinner will precede Park Ranger Don Pfanz as speaker. Don is an award-winning author; "War So Terrible" relates people and events in Fredericksburg, VA, the site of one of Lee's greatest victories in December 1862.

Saturday, 21 August - After a briefing at the reunion hotel, ride to the Chancellorsville Visitor Center for an unveiling of John L. Wertman's photograph on the wall honoring soldiers. Travel to the Wilderness for a walking tour where William Wert-

man's regiment was overrun by General Gordon's confederates. We will have a program for those who are unable or prefer not to walk.

Our annual meeting will take place after a box lunch picnic under a pavilion at the historic Massaponax Church. General Grant and his high command planned the 1864 campaign at the church, and therefore the fates of George and William Wertman.

The afternoon activities end with a walking tour at Spotsylvania where George and William Wertman's units were both engaged in some of the heaviest fighting of the entire Civil War. Dinner is on your own. In the evening, ask questions at the wrap-up session at the reunion hotel.

Sunday, 22 August - Carpool to the Fredericksburg National Cemetery for a 10:00 a.m. tribute at John L. Wertman's grave before heading home.

Look for updates at <<http://www.wertman.info>>.

This drawing of an army graveyard at Stoneman's Switch by Edwin Forbes is from the Library of Congress. This picture was probably drawn in January 1863. On 1 February 1863 the camp of the 129th PA was moved from the Robert Smith Farm to another location. While the pictured graveyard is not where John Wertman was originally buried, along with 25 others, it does show how a soldier would have been buried at that time. (Note the coffin and wood headboards.)



A Tombstone Rarity

A compilation of e-mails between Wertman Family Association researchers Ken Cool, Richard and Shirley Daniels, Russ Dannecker, Brenda and Hal Merz, and Tom Young, Fall 2009

A group of Wertman researchers visiting cemeteries on Sunday, 23 August, after last year's family reunion in Danville, PA, tried some tombstone rubbings and other methods of cleaning and reading old stones. At the St. James UCC graveyard in Ridgeville, the stone for Margaret Sander was quite dirty and almost totally unreadable. A bit of brushing with clear water revealed some interesting details. Excitement escalated when the group saw the name of George Philip Wertman on her stone.

MARGARETHE/ SAUNDER./ war geboren den/ 12 Julius 1773/ Ihre Taufzeugen waren/ George Philip Wortman,/ und seine Ehefrau. Sie/ brachte ihr Leben auf [72?]/ Jahr 2 Monath und 22/ Tage. Leichen Text / [Johannes?] [13? or 18?]. C. 28. V.

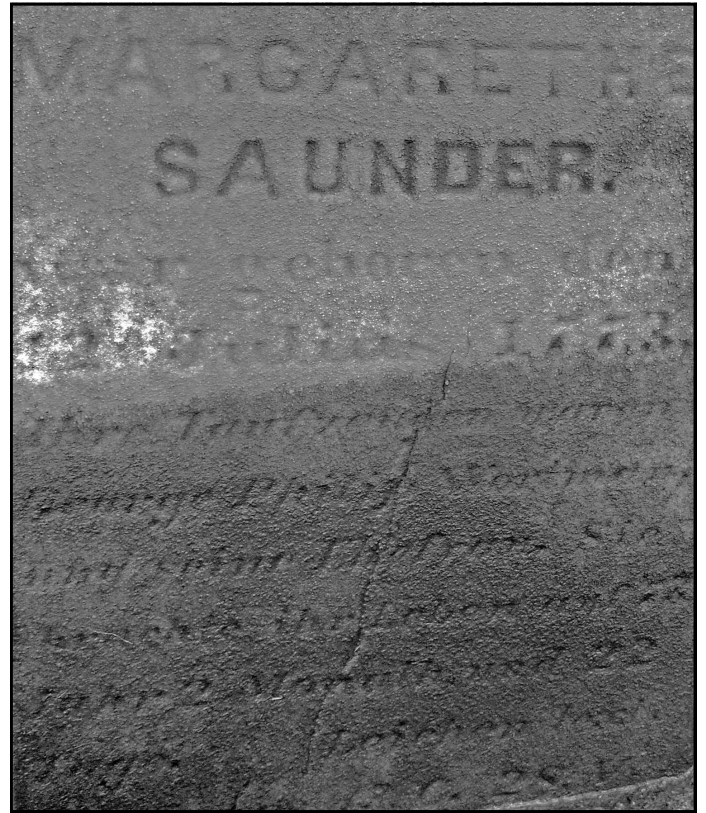
Which George Philip Wertman? Perhaps we had found the missing daughter of George Philip II mentioned in his will!

21 Aug 1819: WILL of George Philip Wortman, Digby, Annapolis Co. (now Digby Co.) NS, Canada. George Philip Wortman, sick and weak in body but of sound mind and memory gives property and effects to his wife, Jane. After her decease, gives the same to Phillip Dowlin, adopted child. Executors are directed to sell part of real or personal estate to pay daughter Margaret £10 should she require it.

Russ had previously worked with Randy Wert, who translated some family Civil War letters for us and spoke at the 2005 WFA Reunion. Randy agreed to look at a photograph of Margaret Sander's tombstone. His conclusions:

MARGARETHE/ SAUNDER/ was born on/12 July 1773/ Witnesses at her baptism were/ George Philip Wortman/ and his wife. She/ lived to the age of 72/ years, 2 months, and 22 / days. Funeral scripture:/ John, 13th chapter, 28th verse.

Randy continued, that seems like a strange Scripture passage to use at a funeral, but it's what the numbers look like to me. Maybe a rubbing would confirm it. I am absolutely certain of the word



Taufzeugen on the tombstone, and that's definitely a baptismal witness. The only insight I can add is that uncles and aunts often served in this capacity at a baptism, although not always. All I can say is they generally made a bigger deal of baptismal sponsorship back then. In fact, in my Wert line, the child was always named after the baptismal sponsor or witness in the 18th century. I guess with life expectancy being shorter, the role of a godparent was more important, because you were more likely to have to fulfill your commitment to raising the child for deceased parents. That's my best take on it.

Tom Young added that based upon the newspaper obituaries, he had no doubt that this Margaret Sander was the wife of Michael Sanders, who lies next to her. There is very good agreement with the dates on their tombstones and the obituaries.

"In Montour township, on the 6th inst. Michael Sanders, senr., aged 71 years within 6 days. The deceased was a native of Northampton county, and for the last 50 years had resided in this county. The deceased left no children. He left a wife, amply provided for, with whom he had lived 45 years."

The Danville Intelligencer, 15 Oct 1841

“On the 6th inst., in Montour township, Mrs. Margaret Sanders, widow of Michael Sanders, sen., aged 73 years, 2 months, and 23 days.”

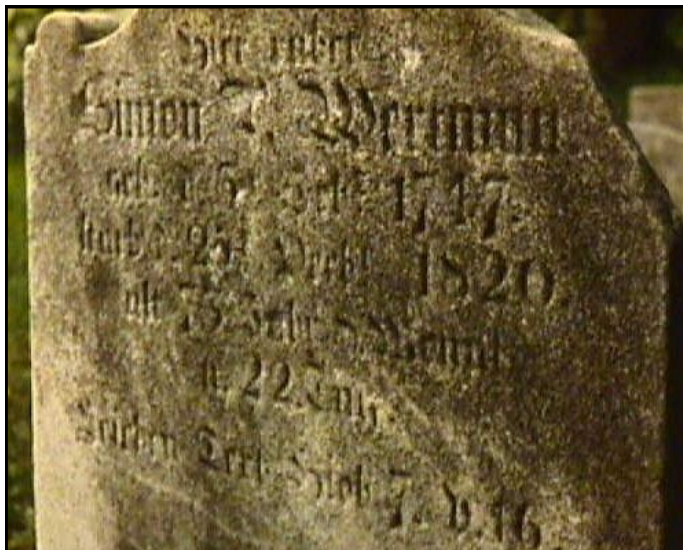
The Danville Intelligencer, 9 Oct 1846

Margaret is almost certainly the daughter of Jacob Wertman Sr of Lynn Township, son of George Philip Wertman (GPI) and brother of George Philip Wertman (GP II), as Michael Sander received a share of the estate.

The estate file of Jacob Wertman contains an inventory dated 25 April 1821. The estate was divided into nine portions with son, Jacob, administrator. Widow was Maria. Shares were distributed to: Daniel Wartman; Michael Heimbach (believed to be husband of daughter Katherina); Philip Heimbach (believed to be husband of daughter Elizabeth Barbara); Henry Krum (believed to be husband of daughter Maria Elizabeth); Michael Sander (believed to be husband of daughter Margaretha); John Shuch (believed to be husband of unknown fifth daughter); Philip Wartman; and Andrew Wartman.

(From the late Richard Hull, Wertman Family Association Researchers Meeting, August 2001).

Is Michael Sander of Hemlock/Montour Twp. the same fellow named above? This Sander couple is so closely associated with various Wertmans, it seems certain that we have them correctly identified. There is a younger Michael Sander in Mahoning Twp., probably our Michael’s nephew, and another one in 1830 Schuylkill Co., who also seems too young. Jacob Wertman of Cooper Twp. is closely associated with Michael and Margaret Sander, so we have assumed that Jacob and Margaret were siblings



and both children/heirs of Jacob Sr., also buried at St. James, one grave away from Margaret Sander.

Another interesting tidbit is the fact that on her stone, George Philip’s surname is spelled Wortman, not Wertman. George Philip II in Nova Scotia spelled his name Wortman. Family tombstones near Margaret’s use Wertman. Could Wortman be a stone-cutter’s mistake, or a clue as to which GP is meant?

The questions that remain are:

1. Why is her baptismal sponsor named on her tombstone? (Shirley Daniels asked two respected Pennsylvania/German researchers, Annette K. Burgert and John T. Humphrey, this question. Both said they had never heard of it previously but agreed with Randy Wert’s reading/translation of *Taufzeugen*.)
2. Is the George Philip Wortman GPI or GP II?
3. Why is there a discrepancy of 1 year and 1 day between her age at death reported in the newspaper and on her tombstone? (The newspaper information would have been reported at the time of the event, but probably an error was found in time for the tombstone inscription to be correct.)
4. And, of course, what became of Margaret, daughter of GP II?



Another Tombstone Puzzle

Diana Lindquist and Richard Daniels found tombstone rubbing at New Rosemount Cemetery, Espy, Columbia Co., PA, was hard work and not very successful on 23 August 2009. Stones are there for Simon Wertman, born 3 Feb 1747, died 25 Oct 1820 and his wife, Barbara (Stebelton), born about 1753, died 1825. With an aging stone and old German script, observers tried to determine Simon’s middle initial. F? I? J? P? T?

George of Pickaway Co., OH, Linked

by Brenda Merz and Tom Young

The numbers are in! The WFA DNA project tested a descendant of George of Pickaway Co., OH, and he (WFA06) matches the presumed George Philip Wertman I haplotype on all 42 of the markers tested. (See the DNA article on page 6.) These test results officially link another of George's descendants, researcher Brenda Merz, to our Wertman line.

Jacob Wertman, who died 1806 in Northumberland Co., is the presumed father of George of Pickaway Co. We know that Jacob was born 1755-1774, had children before 1790, and was survived by a widow, Susannah, and a son, George. We also know that George went to Ohio with his stepfather, who had a wife, Susannah, at the time of his leaving Pennsylvania. The largest item in Jacob's estate was a debt to Simon Wertman. The only real problem is that George's obituary names his father as John, whom we believe is John Jacob. There are more



The Wertman homestead in Pickaway County, OH. A relative of Susanna Leist, who married George Wertman (1805- 1884), bought the property in 2003 and restored it. Family ties continue to this day with the Leist family! Recently we found out the Leist family lived in Upper Mount Bethel Twp., Northampton Co., PA, in the 1740s and onward. It appears this family followed a pattern of immigration similar to some of the Wertmans. The one difference was some moved to Hunterdon Co., NJ, before moving back to Northumberland Co. around 1770, and to Pickaway Co., OH, in 1805.

clues, but this is the big picture and enough to explain the George - Jacob connection.

Now, how is Jacob connected? Looking at what we know of GPI's five identified sons, the only connection that even seems even possible is GPII. (Or, the Hungerford & Matthews information is incorrect and GPI had another son.)

1. Michael (d.1817) - This would require that Jacob of Schuylkill Co. belong to someone else, that Michael not mention a deceased son, Jacob, or his five children, named in his will.
2. Jacob (d.1819) - The widow, Mary, renounced her right to administer her husband's estate to her son, Jacob. This would require that Jacob have two sons of that name, or some sort of adoption.
3. George Philip (d.1819) - GPII makes no mention of a son or grandchildren in his will. It is possible that he had such a son, whom he left behind when he fled to the British. There is a bit of a gap between the mystery Jacob and the known daughter, Margaret, whom we think may have been born 1776.
4. Simon (d.1820) - He had a son, Jacob, who is well accounted for. The mystery Jacob is not named in his will.
5. Martin (d.1823) - No Jacob is named in the will and estate papers of his son, Daniel, who died without issue. Daniel's legal heirs were the children and grandchildren of his deceased brothers and sister, and all were named.

There is always the chance that GPI had a brother, or brothers, and the mystery Jacob comes from one of those lines. The problem is that we have identified no appropriate individuals.

This recent revelation shows the power of science and justifies our establishment of the WFA DNA Project. The genetic trail to GPI is there, but the documentation remains to be found!

Wanted: home for antique baby crib that belonged to the Pickaway Co., OH, Wertmans, ca. 1860. We're trying to downsize our space. The crib is not suitable for modern newborns due to the spacing of the rungs and the finish, but it would be a nice way to display a doll collection or quilts. To see a picture or negotiate a price, please contact Brenda Merz at bemerz@columbus.rr.com.

Hal & Brenda Merz

The Wertman Gene Pool

by Tom Young

Previous readers may be aware that a Wertman Family Association DNA Project is underway.

Genetic genealogy, as this new aspect of our hobby is called, uses both science and statistics to draw conclusions. Much of this is very complex and well beyond the scope of this article. Basically, the Y (male) chromosome is tested at defined regions called markers. Often laboratories test different marker sets and do not report results uniformly. Using the appropriate conversions, we can accurately compare results from the two labs we have used, Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) and Sorensen Molecular Genealogical Foundation (SMGF). What we really want to know is, are the males related?

Phase One

We have tested six subjects (two from Michael, three from Jacob and one from Martin) with paper trails back to George Philip Wertman of Lynn Twp in an attempt to define his haplotype (pattern). This phase has been very successful. The six individuals tested have returned results at a total of 244 markers (some tests are incomplete) with only four mismatches, each by a value of one. Given the known paper trails, we can say that all are indeed descended from our patriarch.

Phase Two

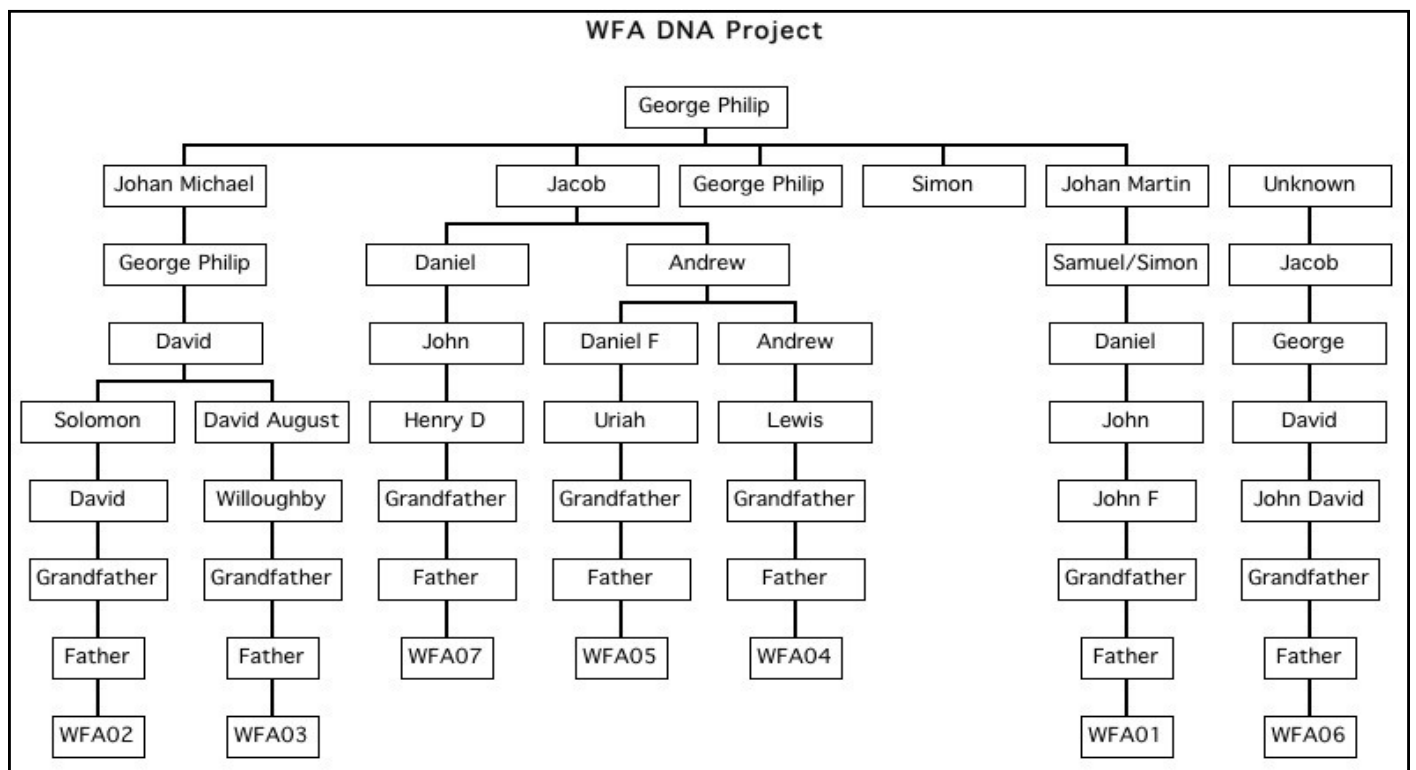
This is where we test subjects of unknown ancestry to prove or disprove a connection to our clan. This has also been very successful.

George Wertman (1805-1884) of Pickaway Co., OH, is almost certainly the son of Jacob, who died in 1806 in Northumberland Co., PA. (See article on page 5.) Unfortunately, Jacob's ancestry is unknown. DNA results confirm a connection to the Lynn Twp. Wertmans.

The project is open to Wertman males of known or unknown ancestry. Information on the project and how to participate can be found on the WFA website <<http://www.wertman.info>>. Current results may be found at <<http://tinyurl.com/wfadna>>. Paid scholarships are available for descendants of certain lines. In addition to descendants of Simon and Martin, several lines of unknown ancestry are also of interest:

- George Philip of Centre Co., PA, and later Fillmore Co., MN
- Jacob of Mifflin & Bedford Co., PA, and later Tuscarawas Co., OH
- John of Hamburg, Berks Co., PA
- Michael of Northumberland Co., PA, and later Trumbull Co., OH.

For details, please contact project administrator Tom Young <teyoung3@verizon.net> or Russ Dannecker <dannecker123@verizon.net>.



The Mystery of Minnie's Parents

by Russ Dannecker

Several years ago, while researching at the Lehigh County Historical Society in Allentown, PA, my late wife and I recorded the following death:

"Minnie Kressley, born 24 Mar 1888 of West Penn, died of uremic poisoning on 1 Oct 1919 in Jacksonville. She is the daughter of __ Wertman and wife. She married Irwin Lutz on 25 May 1911, who died on 5 Apr 1913. Her second marriage was to William Kressley on 1 Jan 1917. She is buried in Jacksonville." (*Klingham, Arthur K., transcriber, Diarium Pastorale, Private Records of Rev. Alfred Oliver Ebert, 1906-1934, Ebenezer Church, New Tripoli; Jerusalem Church, Stony Run; Jacob's Church, Jacksonville; St. Peter's Church, Lynnville; St. Peter's Church, Seiberlingsville; pg 88.*)

So, who was Minnie Wertman, and who were her father and mother? From the way this entry is written, it appeared to us that the translator could not read the first name of the father.

Searching the Federal Census, we began in 1900 and found: Minnie Wertman [Westman] in West Penn Twp., Schuylkill Co., PA, age 12, born March 1888 in PA, single, granddaughter, in the household of Samuel D. Wertman, 58, head; with Maria Wertman, 54, wife; Emma C. Wertman, 23, daughter; Mahlon A. Wertman, 21, son; Sarah L. Wertman, 19, daughter; George Wertman, 16, son; Stella M. Wertman, 14, daughter; Clarence Wertman; 8, son, and Christie B. Kneese, 6, granddaughter.

The 1910 U. S. Census for West Penn Twp., Schuylkill Co., PA, lists Minnie C. Westman, [Wertman], age 21; birth year abt 1889; birthplace PA, granddaughter, single. Other household members were Samuel Westman, 69, head; George F. P. Westman, 24, son; Clarence Westman, 19, son; Emma C. Westman, 28, daughter; Souri S. Westman, 26, daughter; Stella M. Westman, 22, daughter; and Christie B. Kniese, 16, granddaughter. So, we had found Minnie, but not her father.

Further research revealed a possibility. I looked in *The Morning Call* for obituaries, and found Minnie's first husband, but still no answer:

"Irwin M. Lutz. Irwin M., the only son of George A. and Anna Lutz, died at the home of his parents in Slateville, near Wannamakers, on Saturday evening, April 5, 1913.... He was married to Miss Minnie Wertman, of West Penn,

Schuylkill County, PA....

(MC010, *The Morning Call*, 8 Apr 1913, pg 3.)

Minnie's death notice and obituary were no help, either.

Deaths: ... At Lynnville, Oct 1st, 1919, Minnie C., wife of William Kressley. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend the funeral from her late home at Lynnville, on Tuesday [Calculated 7 Oct 1919] at 10 AM. Further services will be held at the Jacksonville church, with interment in adjoining cemetery.

(MC033, *The Morning Call*, 6 Oct 1919, pg 3.)

Obituaries: ... Minnie, wife of William Kressley of Jacksonville, died of complication of diseases at the age of 31 years. Deceased was twice married. Her first husband was Irwin Lutz....

(MC034, *The Morning Call*, 6 Oct 1919, pg 6.)

The cemetery record has no clue about Minnie's parents:

Minnie C. Kressley nee Wertman, born 24 Mar 1888, died 1 Oct 1919, at age 31 years, 6 months, and 7 days. Buried section 6, row 8. (*Cemetery Records, Jacksonville, Jacobs Church Cemetery, compiled, typed and indexed by Fay L. Cox and Elaine D. Schwar, 1986, pg 45.*)

Next, I referenced Jan's marriage license extraction worksheet: Minnie C. Wertman and Irwin M.

Willoughby Wertman's Baskets

by Minerva Arner

Oak splint baskets made by Willoughby Wertman, born about 1862, (Reuben, John, George Philip IV, Jacob, George Philip I) differed from baskets made by others in his area, possibly reflecting his mother's Lenni Lenape ancestry. A double rib at the bottom gave the basket extra strength and longer wear. The basket sat flat so that it did not tip. Baskets made for Charles and Carrie Gilbert are in the possession of my Aunt Florence on the family farm in West Penn Twp., Schuylkill Co., PA.



Lutz were married 25-May-1911 in New Tripoli, PA. Minnie listed her father as unknown and mother as Mary Mantz. (*Application year 1911, no. 23302, roll 17.*)

Still no father's name, but then it said that Minnie's father was UNKNOWN, not that the name wasn't listed or could not be read. Only her mother, Mary Mantz, was known. I wondered, how could she live in her grandfather Wertman's home for at least 10 years and NOT know which Wertman son was her father?

After checking the 1880 U. S. Census, I realized that the Samuel D. Wertman family in West Penn Twp., Schuylkill Co., PA, included a daughter named Mary: Samuel Wertman, 38, farmer; Mariah Wertman, wife, 34, keeping house; Samuel B. Wertman, son, 12, farm laborer; Laura Wertman, daughter, 9; Mary Wertman, daughter, 7; Emma Wertman, daughter, 5; Malan Wertman, son, 1. Now, if this Mary Wertman, born about 1873, is the mother of Minnie, born in 1888, then Mary would have been only 15 when Minnie was born!

Samuel D. Wertman's Civil War Pension records state that Samuel D. Wertman married Maria Bibelheimer on 12 February 1865 at Tamaqua, PA, by Rev. L. K. Derr. The living children were: Samuel E. Wertman, b. 25 June 1867; Laura E. Wertman, b. 26 Aug 1871; Mary M. Wertman, b. 12 April 1873; Emma C. Wertman, b. 27 March 1875; Mahlon A. Wertman, b. 24 December 1878; Sarah S. Wertman, b. 24 November 1880; George P. Wertman, Jr.[?], b. 14 August 1883; Stella M. Wertman, b. 25 April 1886; and Clarence Wertman, b. 2 February 1892. Notice that Mary has a middle initial "M." and a birth date of 12 April 1873.

(*Circular, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Pensions, Washington, D. C., December 6, 1897.*)

If Mary Mantz was Minnie's mother, there should be a Mary M. Mantz somewhere. Back to the U. S. Census. Bingo! The 1900 Federal Census lists Mary Mantz of West Penn Twp., Schuylkill Co., PA, age 28 (birth date 1872), born in PA. Her husband is Oliver R. Mantz, age 37. They were married in 1899. It is interesting to note that Mary Mantz was married in 1899 and already had one child in 1900, but the child was not listed as living. Did she not want to admit that she had a child at age 15?

How do we know that this Mary Mantz is the former Mary Wertman? From a tombstone inscription. On the reverse side of Oliver Mantz's stone is:

Mary M. Mantz, b. 12 Apr 1873, d. 8 Apr 1934.

(*Unger, Claude W., Cemetery Records, West Penn, Zion Church Cemetery, 1941, pg 54.*)

Mary M. Mantz's birth date is the same as that listed for Mary M. Wertman by her father in his pension records.

I proposed that Minnie Wertman's *mother* (not her *father*) was a Wertman, Mary M. Wertman (later Mantz). Her father remains unknown.

Saddened by Losses

We express our deepest sympathy to the families of these four women who had close connections with the Wertman Family Association.

COOL, Alice Louise Wertman, 90, died Sunday, 06 December 2009, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home, Fort Wayne, IN. She was born 21 May 1919 in Allen Co., IN, to Ira and Elsie L. (Walrath) Wertman. She married Chalmer Cool 01 Jan. 1939, in Auburn, IN. Surviving are a daughter, Nila Funk, of Auburn, a son, Kenneth Cool (Carol), also of Auburn; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband; a daughter, Norma I. Cool, who died in infancy; four brothers, Gerald, Harold, Ira Jr. and Keith Wertman; and two sisters, Fern Sindel and Gertrude Smith. Burial was in Roselawn Cemetery, Auburn, IN.

GABEL, Phyllis (Tish) Wertman, 82, died Saturday, 14 November 2009, in Durham, CA. She was born 28 July 1927 in Hanover Twp., PA, to James and Helen Wertman. She married Edward N. Gabel in March 1950. She is survived by three daughters, Peggy Somerville (Glen), of Bradenton, FL, Linda Gabel, of Durham, CA, and Lizbeth MacCord (Bob), of Manton, MI; a son, Edward Gabel, of San Jose, CA; nine grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, and sisters, Florence Spect, Mildred Craumer, and Janice Witheridge. Burial was in Elk Creek Cemetery, Woodhull, NY.

ROBERTS, Joan A., 75, of Kingston, PA, died Sunday, 06 September 2009, in Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Luzerne Co., PA. A daughter of the late Frank P. Bonner and Marie M. White, and also George H. Shoemaker, she was born in Scranton, PA. Surviving are her husband, David J. Roberts; a daughter, Andrea Roberts, of Middletown, CT; sons David J. Roberts II, of Philadelphia, and

Andrew W. Roberts (Amy), of Sparta, NJ; sisters Jean Marie Roberts, of Kingston, Mary Patricia Coopman, of Waleska, GA, and Sally Ann Norton, of Luzerne Co.; and 26 nieces and nephews. Interment was in Fern Knoll Burial Park, Dallas, PA.

STRICKLING, Rosa Elmina Wertman, 99 years 10 months and 13 days, died Monday, 05 October 2009, at the Hospice House of North Central Ohio in Ashland. She was the daughter of John F. and Catherine M. (Melching) Wertman of Ashland Co., OH. She married Roy Strickling 11 March 1933. Surviving are a son, Frank Strickling (Judy), of Ashland; two daughters, Shirley Null of Ashland and Nancy Johnson (Gerald) of Ney, five grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband; a sister, Ann, who died in infancy; and five brothers, Karl, Lewis, John, Tully, and Henry Wertman. Burial was in Ashland County Memorial Park.

From the President *(Continued from page 1)*

North Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Virginia. Some were captured, some wounded, many fell seriously ill, one deserted never to be heard from again, and two were laid to rest in national military cemeteries far from their families. Those who came home were profoundly affected the rest of their lives.

This year's reunion format will be different from past years, but we hope to give everyone a wonderful educational and emotional experience. We will walk in the footsteps of three of our predecessors who fought in three of the greatest battles of the war.

In August of 1862, John L. Wertman (John, George Philip IV, Jacob, GP I), almost 22 years old, enlisted in Company E, 129th PA Infantry. Just four months later, he was in Virginia, facing the enemy at Fredericksburg. This battle claimed nearly 18,000 Americans as casualties. One month later, John was dead, not of any battle wound but of disease.

George E. Wertman (Jonathan Michael, Daniel, Johann Michael, George Philip I), age 20, enrolled in Company F of the 97th New York Infantry as a private on 28 July 1863 at Lockport, NY. This was the same day that his first cousin, William W. Wertman, (Moses, Daniel, Johann Michael, GPI), also from Lockport, NY, would enroll in Company E, 122nd New York Infantry. William was nearly 22 years old. During the next 17 months he married, went off

to the front, participated in some of the most intense fighting of the war, fought beside his cousin, George, and was permanently disabled. Both ended up at De Camp General Hospital at David's Island, New York Harbor, in 1864. We will see where they both were at the battles of Wilderness (May 5-7, 1864, with 29,800 casualties) and Spotsylvania (May 8-21, 1864, with another 30,000 casualties).

"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

Please come to Fredericksburg this August and join us at the reunion events. Let John's, William's and George's vision pass into your soul.

Sincerely,

Russell C. Dannecker, President, WFA

6th G Grandson of George Philip Wertman I

Tentative Reunion Schedule

Thursday 19 August

7:00 p.m. First presentation at Wytestone Suites

Friday 20 August

9 a.m. Orientation at Wytestone Suites

Tour #1 Fredericksburg, Falmouth, Stafford

Travel to White Oak Civil War Museum, Stoneman's Switch, and Smith Farm where John L. Wertman camped, died.

Visit Chatham Manor, see film. Tour Sunken Road with Ranger, see Fredericksburg battlefield museum.

6:30 p.m. Informal dinner; then speaker, Don Pfanz

Saturday 21 August

9:00 a.m. Orientation at Wytestone Suites

Tour #2 Chancellorsville, Wilderness

9:30 a.m. Chancellorsville Visitor Center

11:00 a.m. Wilderness walk with ranger

1:00 p.m. Box lunch and meeting, Massaponax Church

Tour #3 Spotsylvania Battlefield

4:00 p.m. Walking tour with ranger

8:00 p.m. Discussion at Wytestone Suites

Sunday 22 August

Fredericksburg National Cemetery

10:00 a.m. Tribute at John L. Wertman's grave

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>
32 Burgess Rd., Foster, RI 02825 (401-647-3991)

Vice President :

Frank Strickling <fjstrick@zoominternet.net>

Corresponding Secretary:

Lois Wheeler <rileywheeler@sbcglobal.net>

Genealogy/Historical Secretary:

Jenny Ewing <jewingii@earthlink.net>

Treasurer:

Shirley Wertman <snlwertman@verizon.net>
6343 Memorial Rd., Allentown, PA 18106

Webmaster: Tom Young <teyoung3@verizon.net>

Website: <www.wertman.info> shortcut to <<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~wertman>>

Directors at Large:

Katherine Bucher '11; Ken Cool '12;

Shirley Daniels '11; Mary Ellen Wagner '12

Historical Acceptance Committee:

Tom Young, Chair <teyoung3@verizon.net>

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

Annual Wertman Family Reunion 20-24 August 2010, Fredericksburg, VA

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

