

Wertman *Lines*

Newsletter of the Wertman Family Association

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2013 WFA Reunion Plans

by Shirley Daniels

The Wertman Family Association Reunion Committee invites you to join us in Berks County, PA, 16-18 August for the 2013 Reunion. This year, we will focus on Simon Wertman² (George Philip¹) who lived in Albany Township ca 1775 until 1807, when he moved to Bloom Township, Northumberland County. We will also visit the Oley Valley where a Philip Wartman/Wurtzman owned land in 1741.

Hotel

We have reserved a block of rooms at the Microtel Inn and Suites, 50 Industrial Drive, Hamburg, north of I-78 at exit 29B. The group rate for suites is \$94; standard rooms are \$80.40, plus tax. Suites have a microwave, refrigerator and coffeemaker. The hotel has free, wireless high-speed internet access, and offers a complimentary continental breakfast. Phone (610) 562-4234. See <www.microtelinn.com>

Friday Meeting

Researchers will meet on Friday at the Albany Township Historical Society north of Kempton. This restored grain and feed warehouse in Trexler is off of Rte. 143 on Old Philadelphia Pike. See <genealogy@albanyths.org>

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Save these Dates!

- 2013 Wertman Family Reunion
- Friday-Sunday, 16-18 August
- Berks Co., PA

See www.wertman.info
for more information

Friday Dinner and Speaker

After the research meeting, join us at C. J. Hummel's Restaurant in Lenhartsville. See <www.cjhummels.com> Our after-dinner speaker is from the Albany Township Historical Society.

Saturday Picnic

Step back into history at the north picnic area of the Daniel Boone Homestead, Birdsboro, PA,

Squire Boone, Daniel's father, purchased 250 acres in the Oley Valley in 1730, and was a farmer, weaver and blacksmith there until 1750, when he moved his family to North Carolina. Friends of the Daniel Boone Homestead operate the site, owned by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. From 10:00 a.m. to Noon on Saturday, there will be time before the picnic to explore the Visitor Center and take a guided tour of restored period buildings such as the Boone House, which evolved from a one-story, English style log house to a two-story stone structure, and the 1737 Bertolet house, an example of 18th C Pennsylvania German log architecture with central fireplace, *kuche* (kitchen), *stube* (parlor), and *kammer* (bedroom). See <www.danielboonehomestead.org>

The Annual Business Meeting and auction will follow the picnic.

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Sunday Tours

The Albany Township Historical Society will open on Sunday if researchers arrange to use the library. Or, visit cemeteries and churches such as New Bethel (aka Rosenthal, Corner, Bethel). Church founders included Henry Reichelsderfer, Valentine Probst, John Kritz, and John Hine.

Other Sites of Interest

There are many historical sites and attractions nearby, including covered bridges, the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Berks County Heritage Center, Pennsylvania German Heritage Center, WK&S Railroad, Crystal Cave, and Roadside America.

For More Information...

Call Shirley and Richard Daniels, 410-871-3008, or e-mail <shirleyminerDaniels@verizon.net>

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Hal Merz '15; Mary Ellen Wagner '13

Newsletter: *Wertman Lines* is issued twice yearly. We welcome articles for publication;. Please submit your article by e-mail to the President or the Editor, <shirleyminerDaniels@verizon.net>. The next issue is scheduled for June 2013.

What's in the WFA Archives?

By Kathy Bucher, *Genealogy/Historical Secretary*

Sometimes the Wertman Family Association Archives contain information on people who may or may not be descended from George Philip Wertman. Such is the case of Anna Catharine Wartman. WFA file 46-L includes the papers settling her estate in Maxatawny Township, Berks County PA in 1834-5.

Even if Anna Catharine is not part of our Wertman family, the inventory following her death provides a picture of the contents of a household in upper Berks County in the early 19th C. Some of the items listed in the inventory are:

- 1 cloth press
- 1 drawer
- 2 "tabels "
- 1 chest
- 3 spinning wheels and "real"
- 5 chairs
- 1 kneading "traugh"
- 5 baskets
- 1 iron "kittel"
- 4 iron pots and "sunders iron things"
- 1 copper "kittel and tee kittel"
- 5 "coverets"
- 8 table cloths
- 7 whole cloths
- 3 books

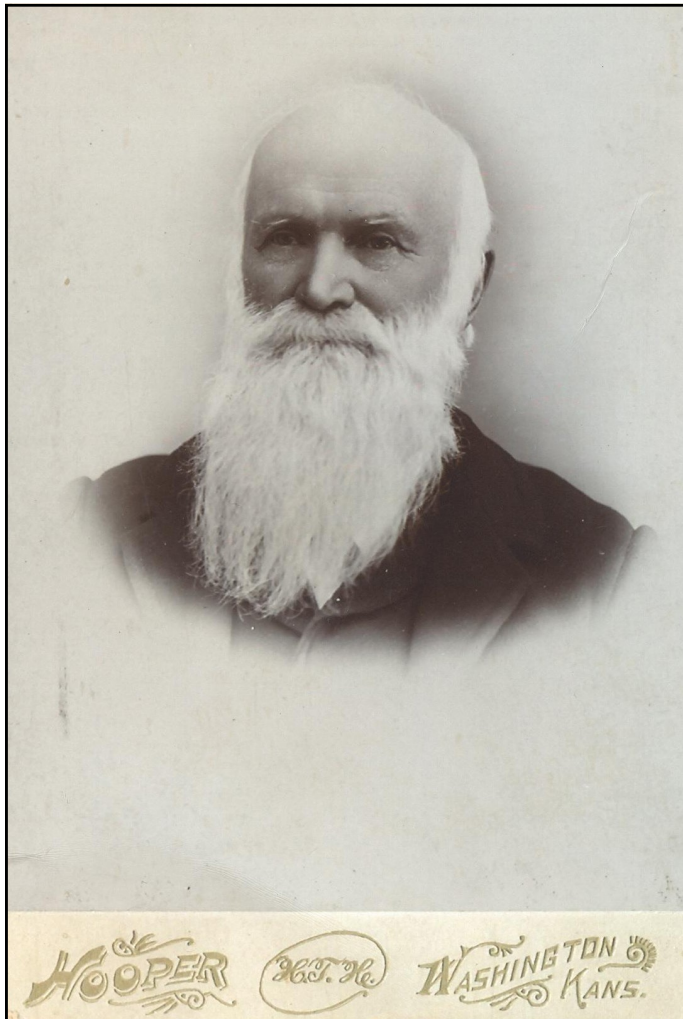
Anna Catharine was the widow of Matthias Wartman (per her inventory and administration papers). Israel Wartman is listed as administrator in her inventory. There was an Israel Wartman (1795-1869) who was the son of Mathias Wartman and Catharine (per database of Russell Dannecker). However, there are also debts due to the estate of Anna Catharine Wartman from John Wartman and Jonathan Wartman.

There was a Jonathan Michael Wertman (1815-1907) who moved from Lynn Township, Lehigh County PA to Lockport NY, and was the son of Daniel Wertman and Maria Barbara Oswald. Jonathan Michael had a brother John (1814-ca. 1895) who also moved to Lockport (per database of Russell Dannecker, Wertman Family Association).

Moses and Sarah Encounter Mayhem in the Old West

by Richard Daniels, rdaniels22@verizon.net

Moses Wertman's parents wandered westward over forty years. His father, Emanuel Wertman, (Daniel Sr.³, Johan Michael², George Philip Wertman¹) was born in Columbia Co. PA in 1821, and moved to Niagara Co. NY at age 12, working on his father's farm and learning the trade of wagon making. At age 26, he moved to Erie Co. NY, where he married Lucy Ann Huntington in 1850. They had three children: Moses, born 14 Jul 1852, NY, prob. Erie Co.; Elizabeth, born 12 Jun 1856, Galesburg, Knox Co. IL; and Grierson, born May 1865, Washington Co. KS. Census data is missing on Emanuel's travels, but later records show him farming 160 acres in Washington Co.



Emanuel Wertman, photographed in Washington KS



Lucy Ann Huntington Wertman, photographed in Princeton IL

In 1883, we find Moses in the Arizona Territory, where a marriage license in Globe, Gila Co., records his wedding with Sarah Ann Prithro on 21 Nov. Their daughter, Lucy Ann, was born 13 Aug 1884 in Globe.

Founded in 1875, Globe is the county seat. It is about 88 miles east of Phoenix, in dry foothills known for silver and copper mines. Curious as to why a Wertman would go to Arizona Territory, which would not become a state until 1912, I began to investigate the area by searching early newspapers online at Croniclingamerica.loc.gov. Weekly editions of *The Arizona Silver Belt*, Official Paper of Gila Co., revealed the following story.

"Delinquent tax list of Gila Co, AZ, for the year ending 31 Dec 1887: Wertman, Moses, four horses,

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furniture, possessory right to ranch at Wheatfields, possessory right to ranch in Sierra Aucha mountains near Cienega; tax and cost.”

Saturday, 12 May 1888: “Local News: Our jail is not empty: Moses Wertman was arrested on his arrival at Phoenix yesterday.”

“A Revolting Crime... A most cowardly murder was committed on last Tuesday night, three-quarters of a mile south of Wheatfields, the victim being Michael Wahlen, an inoffensive German, about fifty years of age, who kept a small store in a tent, in which he also lived, close to the road.... Adjoining the tent, and not more than 20 to 30 feet distant, is the Wertman house, in which Mrs. Wertman slept on the night of the murder, her bed being not more than 30 or 40 feet from where Wahlen was found....

“She claims not to have heard the shot fired or any unusual noise during the night – being slightly deaf – and asserts that being tired she went to bed and fell asleep quite early, and did not discover the body of Wahlen in his tent until the following morning.... She then ran to the residence of Thos. Pascoe and announced the murder, and was subsequently met in the road by S. P. Wood....

“At the examination of witnesses on Thursday, it was adduced that Wahlen had arrived home on the evening of the murder, just before dark, and on the road ... was fired upon by someone hid [sic] in the brush.” The shot grazed his back below the shoulder blade, leaving a flesh wound. “Wahlen stopped for about five minutes, but could discover no one, and then proceeded homeward, stopping at Mr. James Gerald’s for a few minutes.... Shortly after reaching home, Wahlen hailed S. P. Wood, who was passing, ... and asked him to dress the wound for him.”

When Wood reached home, “Eddie Price, a boy [age 7-8] who lives with him asked him if he had heard the report of a gun, a few moments before, and he said he had not. Price avers that he distinctly heard it. This was about 9 p.m. and no doubt was the ... shot that killed Wahlen.

“Moses Wertman left home on Thursday morning previous to the killing, not on the best terms with his wife.... He said he was going to Phoenix and would not return home until he had got [sic] money enough to run a ranch as it should be run.” However, he returned Friday night. (Mrs. Wertman said he returned at about 8:30, armed only with a six-shooter;



Moses Wertman

Eddie Price said between 11 and 12 o’clock, armed with a 45-70 Remington rifle, a six-shooter, and two belts of cartridges.)

Curiously, Mrs. Wertman had requested that Eddie Price sleep in Wahlen’s tent Thursday and Friday nights, but he went home on Saturday, “supposing Mr. Wertman had returned to stay. He went again to Wertman’s on Tuesday evening, at the request of Mrs. Wertman, but Wahlen having returned, he went home and arrived only a short time before Mr. Wood.”

G. W. Jacobs testified that about two weeks ago, Wahlen had asked him to build a corral. Moses Wertman asked him why he was going to Wahlen’s, and responded “I wish you would stave that off for about two weeks, as I’ve got a racket to work, and can work it in that time.”

The inquest concluded, "Michael Wahlen came to his death by a gunshot wound inflicted on the 8th day of May 1888... and we further believe that the said deceased was killed by one Moses Wertman and that the fatal shot was fired without justification." Ten men on the coroner's jury included G. W. Jacobs, T. A. Pascoe, N. H. Price, and S. P. Wood.

The Gila Co. sheriff telegraphed the sheriff in Phoenix with an arrest warrant, and he picked up Moses on Friday, 11 May. The *St. John's Herald* of Apache Co., quoting a Phoenix newspaper, on 31 May reported, "Sheriff Shute, accompanied by Wm. Baird, arrived Saturday with a requisition for Mose [sic] Wertman, wanted at Globe for the murder of Dr. [sic] Whelen [sic] at Wheatfields. It was a cowardly, cold-blooded crime, and the sheriff states that no one acquainted with the circumstance has any doubt of Wertman's guilt. He left for Globe Sunday afternoon with his prisoner, and expressed some fears of being met by a posse of citizens before getting him safely jailed..." [possibly hoping for a portion of the \$800 reward posted for Wahlen's killer].

Two years later, the *Arizona Silver Belt* printed a report itemizing Sheriff Shute's expenses:

• Telegraphing	\$17.45
• Meals	\$1.50
• Indian trailer	\$10
• Livery hire, Pinal to Tempe	\$20
• Horse hire, Pinal to Globe	\$7.50
• Guard to Pinal	\$5
• Stable bill at King	\$8
• Meals and bed at Pinal	\$4
• Meals and feed at Desert Station	\$4.50
• Railroad fare from Tempe to Phoenix	\$1
• Stable bill at Tempe	\$2
• Expenses at Phoenix	\$10
• Meals at Tempe	\$1.50
• Wm. Beard	\$25
• Two trips to Wheatfields, 44 miles	\$8.80
• Trip on trail searching for gun, 100 miles, two men	\$20;
• Two trips to Miami, 16 miles	\$3.20
• E. H. Cook, attorney	\$57
• Total	\$206.45

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Main Street, Globe, Arizona Territory, looking south, showing the hanging tree in 1882. (online, old post card)

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19 May 1888: "The examination of Moses Wertman on the charge of murdering M. Wahlen, begun on Tuesday before Justice Job Atkins, after the examination of three or four witnesses for the prosecution, was adjourned until Monday next, to allow the defendant time to produce his witnesses. Mrs. Moses Wertman now in custody upon charge of being accessory to the murder of Wahlen, will be arraigned on the same day.

26 May 1888: "The preliminary hearing in the case of the Territory vs. Moses Wertman upon the charge of murder, resulted in his being held to answer to the District Court, without bail. Sarah Ann Wertman was held as accessory, upon her own recognition, to answer."

9 June 1888: "Albert Wahlen, son of the late Michael Wahlen who was murdered at Wheatfields recently, arrived from Colorado on Thursday. He comes to look after his father's estate."

So, Moses remained in jail, without bail, during the sweltering summer. His wife was home with Lucy Ann, their four-year-old daughter, taking care of the ranch. It was not until late October that Circuit Judge W. W. Porter arrived in Globe from the District Court in Florence to handle the case.

20 Oct 1888: "The grand jury returned but two indictments - against Moses and Sarah Ann Wertman charged with the murder of M. Wahlen. A special venire was issued for 48 trial jurors returnable next Monday."

Court documents list the following witnesses examined before the Grand Jury: T. A. Pascoe, S. P. Woods, J. Redman, Edward Price, J. T. Jerald, G. W. Jacobs, J. W. Ransom, Jos. Anderson, Jobe Atkinson, Ed Lyons, Robt. Stead, B. G. Fox, Geo. Shute, Wm. Beard, J. Koontz, E. W. Horold, Robt. A. Irons, Chas. Crosby, Frank M. Hammond, W. A. Holmes, and G. Boshe. There is no record of the testimony.

27 Oct 1888: "The Wertman trial excited great interest, and on Thursday evening, the court house was packed with people, among whom were many ladies, to listen to the arguments of attorneys Edwards and Campbell, both of whom are recognized as able criminal lawyers. Judge Campbell's address was especially lucid and logical. The arguments of Judge McCabe in the same case, delivered in the af-

ternoon was likewise a most commendable and telling effort."

But what went on at the trial? The newspaper did not mention what was said or what evidence was presented, possibly because everyone in town had been present at the court house. There is no official record, either; this was a time before court transcription devices.

27 Oct 1888: Local News "The trial of Moses Wertman for the murder of Michael Wahlen resulted in a verdict of acquittal." [Was he innocent, or had the state not been able to *prove* his guilt?]

My research in other editions of the *Silver Belt* did not find any more information on the trial or about solving Wahlen's murder. I also spoke with a docent at the Gila County Historical Museum in Globe, who did not uncover any further data.

Other Possible Perpetrators

Neighbor S. P. Wood was in the vicinity when Wahlen was wounded and when he was killed. Why did he hear no shots? He was also nearby the following morning. Had he been checking the crime scene to remove any incriminating evidence?

Was robbery the motive? 19 May, 1888 *Arizona Weekly Enterprise*, "A man by the name of Whalen [sic], formerly a freighter on the road between Wilcox and Globe, was murdered near the latter place for his money on the 9th inst." The *Silver Belt* mentioned nothing about a possible robbery.

Had the unattached Wahlen gotten too familiar with some neighbor's wife or daughter?

Was Wahlen's murder in retaliation for a grim occurrence in his past? Wahlen and his wife, Mary, appeared to lead a quiet life, except for an incident reported in the *Salt Lake Herald* in 1883: "A Dead Infant ...the body of an infant was found Monday evening [26 Mar 1883] at the back of a stable belonging to Michael Whalen [sic]... at Mound Fort." No marks of violence were found on the body of a full-term female infant. At the close of the inquest, the remains were placed in a box and interred in the lot of Mr. Wahlen. The coroner's jury reported that they were "unable to ascertain who is the mother, or whether [the baby] was stillborn."

Could Wahlen's estranged wife have had something to do with his killing? Around 1884, Wahlen left his wife and children and went to Arizona. Mary

filed for divorce 18 Jun 1886. *Weber Co., UT, Civil and Criminal Case Files 1852-1887*

Did Wahlen become involved with the Pleasant Valley War (also called the Tonto Basin Feud)? Neighboring Tewkesbury and Graham families in Gila Co. waged a shooting war, resulting in a reported 20 to 34 deaths from 1882-1892. *Wikipedia.org* The conflict involved property lines, water and grazing rights, cattle rustling, and sheep herding. "Almost every man in the valley was eventually drawn into the conflict." Edwin, the last surviving Tewksbury involved in the feud, died in Globe in 1904. *Kathy Weiser, Legends of America*



Sarah Ann Prithro Wertman Matheny

Had he interfered with a gunfighter in the area? "Globe's history is laced with many historic events such as murders, stagecoach robberies, outlaws, lynchings, and Apache raids." In 1884 the surviving Clanton brothers arrived in Apache County after the gunfight at the OK Corral in Tombstone. Phineas Clanton moved to Globe, where he died in 1906. Globe is also known for having links to Geronimo and the Apache Kid. The San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation is adjacent to Globe. *Wikipedia.org*

Could someone have strongly objected to Michael Wahlen's Mormon faith? In an online account "The Diary of Frederick William Hurst," I found Michael Wahlen in San Francisco in October 1857, joining a wagon train of 18 Mormons moving from San Francisco to Utah by way of southern California; it appears they did not want to go over Donner Pass that late in the year. Wahlen wished to become a Mormon and he settled in Mound Fort (Ogden) UT, where he married in 1860.

What became of Moses?

Moses Wertman, widowed, was in the 1900 Census in Roswell, Chaves Co. NM, living alone. He died 5 Mar 1931 in Geronimo city, Safford district, Graham county, AZ. Descendant Jan Werner provided a copy of his death certificate, issued by the Arizona State Board of Health. It states he had been a resident where his death occurred for 40 years. No doctor was in attendance and no cause of death was listed; however, his age was 78 years 9 months and 21 days. He was buried 7 Mar 1931 in Emery Cemetery, Graham Co., just southeast of Gila Co. The certificate verifies that his parents were Emanuel and Lucy Ann Wertman. The informant was E. W. Blake, undertaker in Geronimo.

What became of Sarah?

An Arizona marriage record shows that Sarah A. Wertman married Henry M. Matheny on 3 July 1893 in Safford, Graham Co., Arizona Territory. This provided another surname to research.

In the 21 July 1894 edition of the *Arizona Silver Belt*, I discovered, "Tragedy. Last Sunday evening, about six o'clock, Mrs. S. A. Matheny (better known as Mrs. Wertman) was shot and killed by L. J. Echols [b 1875 GA], near the Old Dominion

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smelter..... Echols was occupying a cabin belonging to Mrs. Matheny, and owed two months rent. On Saturday, she demanded payment and he claimed to have no money. Echols was absent from the cabin Saturday evening and Mrs. Matheny put a padlock on the door to keep him out. He returned sometime during the night and broke into the cabin.

“On Sunday, she went to the cabin... and again demanded the rent.” Echols was moving out his belongings. Sarah returned with a revolver, Echols appeared at the cabin door with a rifle, and shot Sarah in the head. At the inquest, the jurors found “Mrs. S. A. Matheny, about 45 years old and a native of England, ... came to her death on the evening of July 15 1894, in this county, by a gunshot wound, said gun being in the hands of L. J. Echols. We the jury believe that the shooting was done in self-defense.” However, Echols was sentenced to three years in the Yuma Prison.

Why did the newspaper article on Sarah’s death not mention her husband, Henry? Just a few months earlier, the 10 Feb 1894 *Arizona Silver Belt* told of the suicide of H. M. Mathery [sic] at his home near the Old Dominion smelter in Globe. Mr. Mathery [sic] was suffering from cancer and left “a letter addressed to his wife, reciting that, as he was afflicted with a fatal malady (cancer), he was unwilling to suffer longer the tortures of an in conquerable [sic] disease and therefore determined to take his own life. A small vial of strychnine was found under his shirt. He had never fully recovered from a “deplorable accident at the Old Dominion Copper Co.’s lime quarry” in 1892 when a charge unexpectedly exploded, causing him to suffer serious head and eye injuries.

What became of Lucy Ann?

Moses’ daughter, Lucy Ann, was age ten when her mother was killed. Her whereabouts are unknown from 1894 until 1903, when she married Richard Davis in Tombstone, Cochise Co. They had no children.

She married Charles Jefferson Grover on 23 Sep 1913 in Globe, Gila Co, and they had four children: Doris Grover, born ca 1919 in AZ, Charles Jefferson Grover, born 10 Sep 1920 in CA; Wertman Thomas Grover, born 14 May 1933, in Graham Co. AZ; and

Ernest William Grover, born 8 Dec 1926 in Gila Co. AZ. Lucy Ann died 16 Apr 1960 in Geronimo, Graham Co., and was buried in Emery Cemetery with a tombstone identical to the one marking the grave of her father.

The family story...

I traced a granddaughter of Lucy, who said the story passed down in the family was that after L. J. Echols killed Sarah, Moses killed him, and served some time in Yuma Prison. The newspapers of the time carried no such story, and the Arizona Penal System Archives found no prison record for Moses Wertman. I found a Phoenix marriage record in 1906 for Lewis Jackson Echols, born in Georgia, of the right age. I was able to trace him to Idaho and Washington through 1920. There is a 1930 Washington State Prison census record for a Jack Echols that matches his age and birthplace.

Sources

Information was found online, including census data from *Ancestry.com*; newspaper articles on *Croniclingamerica.loc.gov*, the Library of Congress website; tombstone information and photographs on *FindAGrave.com*; historical background on *Wikipedia.org*, and *www.celestialfamily.org/genealogy/histories/diary2.html*.

Information on Moses Wertman’s ancestry is from the files of Russell Dannecker, Wertman Family Association.

We are indebted to Jan Werner for the photographs of Emanuel, Lucy, Moses, and Sarah.

Finally, thanks to our long-time friend and history buff Nelson Lawry for searching the Arizona State Archives in Phoenix for Globe, Gila Co. records, where he found this case, #109, on reel 69.4.1, 1881-1917, page 114; and reel 69.4.4, 1887-1894, District Court, 17 Oct 1888.

From the President

It is with great sadness that I pass along this information about the passing of Wertman family members.

“Al” “Wertman

Some of you may remember Al from the Lockport NY reunion. Born 13 Apr 1946, he departed this life 21 Nov 2012. Let us remember all that Al did for the family association. May his memory live on.

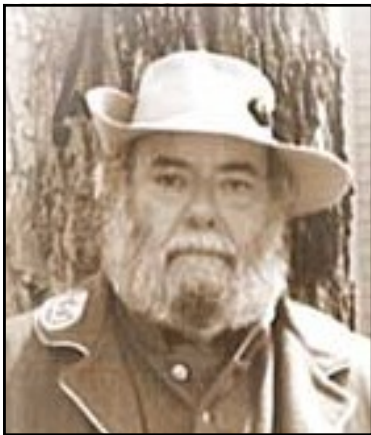
Howard Allen Wertman II⁸, Canandaigua NY (Howard Allen Sr⁷, Levi Allen⁶, Henry D.⁵, John⁴, Daniel³, Jacob², George Philip¹) ... worked at Mobil Chemical and retired as a warehouseman at the Canandaigua Wine Co. after 25 years of service.

Howard loved fishing, reading, and antiques. He also was an avid reenactor, portraying Major General Jubal Early. He was a member of the Civil War Heritage Foundation.

Howard is survived by his wife, Lois E. Wertman (Nudd), sons Chris (Kim) Wertman, Scott Taylor, Jeff Taylor, Gerald (Sherry) Lyons Jr., grandchildren Trey, Gabe and Drew Wertman, Sarah (Brad) Kidd, Samantha Rivet, Nicole Abernathy, Samantha Hamilton, Cassie Lowe, six great grandchildren and many close friends.

Al was a hard working man, a loving husband, father, grandfather, pappy and friend.

The march of another comrade is over, and he lies down after it in the house appointed for all the living. Thus summoned, this grave reminds us of the frailty of human life and the tenure by which we hold our own. “In such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh.” It seems well we should leave our comrade to rest where over them will bend the arching sky, as it did in great love when he pitched



his tent, or lay down, weary and footsore, by the way or on the battle field for an hour's sleep. As he was then so he is still - in the hands of the Heavenly Father. “God giveth his beloved sleep.”

Al portrayed Maj. Gen. Jubal Early, CSA.

Gerry Wertman

Gerry was willing to help the Association in many ways. I will never forget the day that Tom Young and I took him to the site of the original Wertman homestead. He was so excited to be standing on the land of his forefathers.

Gerald Andrew Wertman Jr.⁸, (George Andrew Sr.⁷, Fred L.⁶, Lewis⁵, Andreas⁴, Andreas³, Jacob², George Philip¹), 77, of Bethlehem Township, died Saturday, October 20, 2012, in his home. He was the husband of Phyllis Dugan Wertman. Born in Allentown, he was the son of the late George and Virginia (Kline) Wert-



man. A 1953 graduate of Allentown High School, he received a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Cincinnati. He was employed as a licensed professional engineer at the Bethlehem Steel Corp. and later Sungard Pentamation. He also served active and inactive duty in the United States Army for 28 years until retiring in 1987 as Colonel.

He is survived by his wife, Phyllis; son, Gerald A. Wertman, Jr. of Allentown; daughters, Lisa (Paul) Prass of Bethlehem and Kathryn Wertman of Colorado Springs, CO; step-daughters, Patricia (Michael) Sauka of Allentown and Kathleen (Peter) Bennett of North Andover, MA; former wife, Jean of Allentown; three grandchildren and five step-grandchildren. He was predeceased by a daughter, Renae Reichenbach.

Gerry led an interesting life, working to achieve Eagle Scout at 16, following his love of swimming in high school, supervising the waterfront at the Boy Scout Camp Trexler, and later in life, lap swimming at lunchtime at the YMCA.

He moved into his volunteer life delivering Meals on Wheels every week after playing his early game of tennis with “the guys.” He volunteered at Victory House and continued his love of being on the water as an instructor of Nautical Navigation. His hobbies were reading military/spy novels, theater and concerts. He rarely missed Mass and spent every morning in communication with God, praying and reading scripture.

The next time you are near Bethlehem PA, please stop at the First Presbyterian Church Memorial Garden, 2344 Center St., and thank Gerry for his service. Gone but not forgotten.

Paul M. Gerber

... father, grandfather and great-grandfather, 92, of New Ringgold, died Sunday, 6 January, in Orwigsburg [PA]. He was the husband of the late Leah M. (Deem) Gerber, who died 27 October 2005.

Born in West Penn Township, he was a son of the late Mahlon and Katie⁸ (Clause) Gerber [Janet⁷ (Leiby) Clouse, Kitty (Wertman) Leiby⁶, Daniel⁵, David⁴, George Philip³, Michael², George Philip¹]. He was a life member of Zion Stone Church, New Ringgold.

Gerber was an Army veteran of World War II, having served as a medic in Rome and North Africa. He earned the Good Conduct Medal, Meritorious Unit Award, American Theater Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, and the World War II Victory Medal. He was a member of C.H. Berry American Legion Post 173, Tamaqua. He was a carpenter from 1946-83.

Surviving are two daughters, Nancy, wife of Peter Uhlig Sr. of New Ringgold, and Kathy, wife of Robert Gill of Nesquehoning; a brother Ralph, and his wife, Elda, of Snyders; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He was also predeceased by a sister, Lois Steigerwalt; and a brother Lloyd.

Published in *Times News* 7 Jan 2013

Forests of Stone

Scattered throughout this great country and in many foreign lands are countless Forests of Stone. Some are perfectly aligned, delicately manicured and carefully guarded. Visited at times as a courtesy or for official inspections; at other times by somber faced friends and relatives of the precious remains lying beneath the sod of these hallowed forests. Others stand alone in private cemeteries, forgotten, covered with weeds, unkempt and unvisited.

Walking through these Forests of Stone, where each white granite marker stands in mute testimony to a life sacrificed or served to ensure our liberty and freedom, is sobering. Each stone stands at the head of a patriot, blind to race, color or creed, re-

mindful each visitor of the cost of freedom and the sacrifice that each citizen must be willing and prepared to face in order to perpetuate this freedom.

These Forests of Stone have stood as silent sentinels over our military dead since the first markers were carved by hand so many years ago. Weathering gracefully the ravages of wind and rain. ...

© Larry Dunn, USN Ret. Used with permission, Vietnam Veteran 8 Mar 2001, "Lest we forget!"

Wertman family members have defended this country from before the time that there was a country. There were Wertmans in the American Revolution, War of 1812, Civil War, Spanish American War, Mexican Incursion, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and both Gulf Wars.

And so we lay to rest another Defender, another Friend, another Cousin.

Yours sincerely,

Russell C. Dannecker, President, WFA

About The Wertman Family Association (WFA)

Since 2000, the rejuvenated Wertman Family Association has held annual reunions in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, 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.

Using the WFA website, <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!