

# Wertman

*Lines*

Newsletter of the Wertman Family Association

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## **RSVP by 12 July 2004**

- **WFA Annual Reunion**
- **Friday-Sunday, 13-15 August 2004**
- **Danville, Montour County, PA**

## **Dear Wertman Descendants,**

By 1749, George Philip Wertman had settled in Lynn Township, present-day Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. Two of his sons, Michael and Simon, later migrated to the area near Danville, Pennsylvania. So, like our pioneer ancestors, the Wertman Family Association (WFA) is going to Danville. You, your relatives, and friends are most cordially invited to attend the annual WFA reunion.

Details follow, but here is a summary of the events. The researcher's meeting will be held on Friday, 13 August. That evening, there will be a family dinner and speaker. The family outing and business meeting will be held on Saturday, 14 August. On Sunday, 15 August, we will visit several cemeteries where family members were buried and perhaps travel to the locations of former Wertman homes.

Please join me in expressing appreciation to the WFA 2004 Reunion Committee. Tom Young, Elva Young and Althea Wertman made the arrangements for this year's reunion. Thank you!

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Complete details can be found on the Wertman Family Association Website at <http://free-pages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~wertman>. If you or anyone in your family is interested in attending, please respond by 12 July to Tom Young, PO Box 282, Riverside, PA 17868. You may phone Tom at 570-275-3626, or e-mail [teyoung@copper.net](mailto:teyoung@copper.net) if you have any questions.

Hoping to meet you in August, I am,

Yours truly,

Russell C. Dannecker  
President, Wertman Family Association  
6th Great Grandson  
of George Philip Wertman

## **Two Questions**

*by Tom Young, 2004 Reunion Chair*

Why Danville?

On a personal level, Danville has always been one of my favorite places. My mother was born there and, while serving as a Navy nurse during World War II, met my father. They married and moved to St Louis, where I was born. My grandparents rarely, if ever, left Danville and I cannot imagine that they were pleased when their youngest daughter moved so far from home. We made the 800-plus mile trip east almost every year and I have fond memories of those visits to Cooper Street, where my grandparents and four of my mother's six siblings lived in five neighboring houses. The others were close by and there always seemed to be someone coming and going. It was very exciting for an only child to be around so much family. It was with this past in mind that I decided to move home. The adjustments from large city to small town have not been easy, but there is always family with helpful advice and the research opportunities are plentiful.

Which brings us to the second question: Why is the 2004 Wertman Family Reunion coming to Danville?

Our previous reunions have been held in places with significant Wertman history and the area around Danville is no exception. Simon, a son of George Philip Wertman, settled near Bloomsburg by 1807 with his two sons, John and Jacob. Both migrated to Ashland, Ohio. Simon's brother, Michael, settled in Hemlock Township by 1810 with three of his six sons. Of these, Daniel migrated to Lockport, New York; but John and Henry remained, forming the basis for many of the Wertman families in this area. While Michael and Simon's brother, Jacob, stayed on the family homestead in Lynn Township, one of his four sons, Daniel, settled near Turbotville by 1803.

It has recently been discovered that one of Simon's two daughters, Barbara Creutz; two of Michael's six daughters, Catherine Ebner and Christina Fenstermacher, and four of Jacob's five daughters, Barbara and Katherine Heimbach, Elisabeth Krum, and Margaret Sander, also settled nearby. Of these, several were here well before their brothers and male cousins. So, there has been a Wertman presence here since the 1790s that continues to this day.

We hope that you will be able to attend the 2004 Wertman Family Reunion and see our town for yourself.

## 2004 Wertman Family Reunion

by Tom Young, 2004 Reunion Chair

The Reunion Committee is pleased to announce the events and schedule for the 2004 Reunion. We hope that you can join us Friday-Sunday, 13-15 August, in Danville, Montour County, PA.

### Schedule

#### Friday, 13 August, 9-noon and 1-4 p.m.

Reunion registration and the Researchers Meeting will be held at the Mahoning Township Municipal Building Meeting Room, 1101 Bloom Road, Danville. The agenda has not been finalized, but the meeting will be geared toward challenges faced by family researchers and is open to everyone. Presentations are always interesting and informative, so please come!

#### Friday, 13 August, 6-9 p.m.

Family dinner (see Meals, page 3) and speaker at Buster's in Danville. Reservations and advance payment are necessary. Our speaker will be Sis Hause, local history columnist for the *Danville News*. Everyone is encouraged to attend. You are welcome to hear the speaker even if you do not attend the dinner.

#### Saturday, 14 August, Noon-3 p.m.

A family outing will be held at Saint James United Church of Christ, 2507 Bloom Road, Danville. Several of our earliest Wertmans attended this church. In the church cemetery, just a few feet away, are graves of Jacob Wertman and his wife, Maria Magdalena, ancestors of the Cooper Township Wertman family. Reunion registration continues at the outing. There is a pavilion with tables, but feel free to bring your own lawn chair. A meal will be served for a nominal fee (see Meals, page 3). The WFA Business Meeting will follow. We will hear committee reports and select a location for next year's reunion.

#### Sunday, 15 August, Noon

Visit Wertman family cemeteries including New Rosemont in Espy, Lazarus in Grovania, Fairview and Odd Fellows in Danville, Old Union Church in Turbotville, and other locations, if time allows.

#### For additional information:

Contact Tom Young, 2004 Wertman Family Reunion Committee, PO Box 282, Riverside, PA 17868. Phone 570-275-3626 or e-mail [teyoung@copper.net](mailto:teyoung@copper.net)

#### Hotel Arrangements

The Reunion Committee has reserved a block of rooms at the Hampton Inn, 97 Old Valley School Road, Danville, PA 17821. Our group rate is \$89 per night for Thursday through Sunday, 12-15 August (plus state and local tax).

To make your reservations: Call 1-570-271-2500. Please tell them that you are with the Wertman Family Reunion 2004 (Tracking Code: WFA). Please make your reservations as early as possible. The block of rooms will be held only until 12 July.

The inn features 71 rooms, king beds, suites, a meeting room, an indoor pool and hot tub. Each guest room has a coffee maker, iron, ironing board, data port, and free in-room movie channel. There is no surcharge for local or calling-card calls. Other

amenities include a free breakfast bar, complimentary copies of *USA Today* (Mon.-Fri.), free coffee and tea in the lobby, and 24-hour front desk, message and fax service. Connecting rooms, cribs and hair driers are available. Phone (570) 271-2500; Fax (570) 271-9110. Check in time is 3 p.m.; Check out time is 11 a.m.

### Location

The Hampton Inn, Danville, is off Interstate 80 at Exit 224 South, 35 miles from the WilliamSPORT Regional Airport.

Other area attractions are the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds, Knoebel's Amusement Park, the Geisinger Medical Center and the Little League Museum. Within two miles you can eat at BJ's Ribs, Friendly's, Mulberry's, Perkins, Wendy's and other restaurants.

### Meals

The Reunion Committee has made arrangements for several meals and needs your registration (see page 11) and payment **by 12 July**.

### Friday, 13 August

#### Breakfast

There is a free, continental breakfast buffet for those staying at the Hampton Inn.

#### Lunch

Lunch is on your own. The Researcher's Meeting will break for lunch around noon. Within a few miles of the meeting room are restaurants offering lunch choices in every price range.

#### Dinner

Our group will meet at 6 p.m. for dinner at Buster's Bar & Grill, 587 Valley Road, Danville (570-389-1925). We need your reservation and payment in advance. (Please use the form on page 11.) There are three dinner choices: chicken parmesan (\$14), broiled haddock (\$13), or prime rib (\$19). The price includes tax and gratuity, a salad, two side orders and a beverage. There is a children's menu.

### Saturday, 14 August

Lunch is at the church: The cost is \$9 per adult for either one-quarter barbecued chicken or an eight-ounce hamburger, and \$4.50 per child for a hamburger or hot dog. Each meal includes baked beans, chips, cole slaw, potato salad and beverage.

### Sunday, 15 August

Meals are on your own.

## 2003 Minutes

from Shirley Wertman Miner Daniels, Secretary

Please review these minutes and bring any additions or corrections to the Business Meeting.

## Wertman Family Association Researchers Meeting

15 August 2003 in Lockport,  
Niagara County, New York

**Welcome:** At 9:15 a.m., Russell Dannecker, President of the Wertman Family Association (WFA), called to order the fourth annual meeting of Wertman researchers, held at the Best Western Inn, Transit Road, Lockport. In the midst of a massive power failure through most of New York, Ontario, Ohio, Indiana and Michigan, the Reunion event was in a small area of town unaffected by the blackout. Russ introduced Anita Robinson Reid, who has acquired early reunion records, photographs and research of the late Isabel Wertman Stage. The collection contains ten boxes of materials including minutes of the first Wertman reunion held in Michigan in 1915. Anita read a humorous prayer about God protecting computers and the information on them.

**Niagara County Resources:** Russ introduced David Dickinson, Niagara County Historian, who invited us to take advantage of their wealth of information. He then introduced Wayne Jagew, Niagara County Clerk, who spoke of the common bond among people, and reminded us that history is now, also. The County Clerk oversees the historian's office, which is located opposite the courthouse.

**Putting Rumors to Rest:** Russ described a search for the "F. R. Wertman family bible," which Anita found referenced in Isabel Wertman Stage's materials, that reputedly showed roots "back to Germany." Tom Young, Historical Acceptance (HAC) Chair, searched the internet for younger people in Floyd Rollem Wertman's family tree, while Russ searched the telephone directory. They successfully traced the bible — to Robert Wertman in Albuquerque — but the earliest dates were in the 1850s. The same Robert Wertman passed along a family story — undocumented — that their ancestors, probably Werthmanns, living in Germany near Holland, came on a Dutch ship and settled first in Delaware, later going to Pennsylvania. Wilmington may be a new area to check for immigrant lists.

**HAC Report:** Tom Young expressed his appreciation for the work of committee members Ken Cool, Hal Merz (appointed after Dora Kamalu resigned), Linda Meyers, Ed Sterrett, and Esther Walton, none of whom were able to attend this year's meeting. Tom will select new committee members to bring fresh ideas and revise the process, which seems cumbersome.

**Web Site Report:** Webmaster Tom Young has installed an invisible counter for the web site at <http://www.freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~wertman> and found it is averaging 1.6-1.7 visits a day. Our site aims to be the definitive source, which corrects errors that proliferate in inaccurate research. Four generations are online, although some birth orders are unknown; Tom will add explanatory notes to show why we believe our information is correct. Our goal is to gather new data from our contacts. Tom and Russ have solved the ancestry of most people who have requested information.

**DNA Analysis for Genealogical Use:** We may want to consider using this tool in the future, since our only tie of the five sons to George Philip Wertman I is information given by a great-grandson to Matthews and Hungerford for their Lehigh County History. We would need to carefully select two not-closely-related male Wertman descendants from each line to be tested. (Female DNA passes to all children of the mother but then continues only through females.) The DNA portal of Rootsweb has more information.

**Document Archive Project:** Jenny Ewing, Historical Secretary, will collect and organize documents, photographs, diaries, letters and any other records (not family trees) pertinent to the history of the Wertman family. She urged members to send scanned and/or photocopied images, each with an attached summary of names, dates, ages, locations, document type and repository, so that she can catalog them in a searchable database. The images will be stored in a PDF format on CDs, with backup copies sent to different locations for safe-keeping. WFA members may request specific information from Jenny by mail (1449 St. Rt. 89, Ashland, OH 44805) or e-mail ([jewing@offworld1.net](mailto:jewing@offworld1.net)). This project is important for research and is invaluable as a central repository of copies of irreplaceable documents.

### **George Philip (GPI) Wertman's Homestead, Lynn Township**

*presented by Russ Dannecker*

To pay off debts incurred by the Revolutionary War, Congress levied a direct tax in 1798. Each property owner (including businesses) was required to list his name and occupation, and describe his principal dwelling, land holdings, other structures, and the number of slaves. Since window glass was often the most expensive article in a house, the tax became known as the "Glass Tax." Returns from the Federal Direct Tax Census of 1798 survive only for Maryland, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and part of Georgia, and Pennsylvania's records are at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

The *Pennsylvania Archives, Sixth Series*, Volume XII, shows Philip Wertman of Lynn with 300 acres, "a good frame house and barn." The 1798 "Glass Tax" showed Jacob Wertman (son of GPI) with 300 acres, a 34x24 frame, two-story dwelling with one stone and log barn and one springhouse. On the same property, his son Daniel lived in a 22x14 log, one-story dwelling. In earlier research, we established the location of GPI's land near the present Ontelaunee Rod & Gun Club. Since the stone house near the Gun Club, at the corner of Lentz and Gun Club (formerly Wertman) roads, in the early photograph from the late Maude Transue, could not be the original Wertman frame home, Russ's goal was to find where the earliest dwelling was.

Russ learned from a Gun Club caretaker that a log cabin on the property had served as the original clubhouse. The club's treasurer, Edgar Kern, remembered meeting with his father and other club founders in a log cabin. A picture in the club's 50th anniversary booklet (1935-1985) shows that part of the clubhouse was a two-story log cabin, part a two-story frame building. It was located where today's clubhouse access road turns south, within 500 feet of the former home of Andrew Wertman, great grandson of GPI (GPI, Jacob, Andreas, Andrew), shown at Lentz and Gun Club roads on a 1917 map. Mr. Kern remembered that just west of the present clubhouse, built in 1956, were ruins of a one-story log home, farm buildings and springhouse. (Daniel Wertman's on the 1798 Direct Tax list?) The square-cut stones from this cabin's doors and windows were used in other Gun Club construction, such as foundation stones in the fishing-pond dam in the 1960s (perhaps the origin of the family story that the foundation stones were in the fishing pond). It is a strong possibility that we now know where George Philip Wertman built his first home!

## **Forts Franklin and Everett, Frontier Defenses along the Blue Mountains**

*presented by Richard and Shirley Daniels*

William Penn and his sons had bought land fairly from the Native American occupants for over 70 years. But in 1755, after the Delawares became angered by fraudulent land deals, squatters, and the rum traffic, their warriors (allied with the French in the French and Indian Wars) began attacking white settlements along the frontier. The Provincial Government built a chain of forts 10-15 miles apart but abandoned most of them within a few years, after the hostilities decreased. Only slight traces of these forts remained 130 years later, when the Governor appointed five commissioners to locate the sites. Their report included maps, descriptions, oral history, and related material from diaries, letters and petitions published in the *Pennsylvania Archives*.

Fort Franklin, north of the Blue Mountains in Northampton Co. (now Schuylkill) was poorly constructed and badly equipped. In May 1757, George Wertman and 24 others, "all Inhabitants of Berks County... within four miles of and about Fort Franklin, over the Blue Mountains," petitioned the Governor to rebuild and continue the fort. Only George Gilbert and Adam Spittlemeyer signed the petition, "at the request & on behalf of all the petitioners."

Fort Everett was south of the mountains near Lynnport. Forty-one Lynn Twp. men signed a petition in May 1757 requesting better defenses and suggesting that moving the soldiers from forts north of the mountains, where there were few settlers, to the south would be a deterrent against the scalping parties. The *Pennsylvania Archives* did not list the signers, "whose names appear chiefly in German," but a microfilm in the State Archives in Harrisburg shows their signatures.

Using information from the Commissioners' Report, Shirley and Richard located both fort sites in July 2003 and photographed them and their nearby commemorative markers. GPI's known land near the Gun Club is about 4 miles south of Fort Franklin and 2 miles north of Fort Everett. The Report states that the area in Albany Twp., Berks Co., and adjacent Lynn Twp., Northampton (now Lehigh) Co., was known as Allemangle during the Indian wars; Fort Franklin was known as the fort "above" Allemangle while Fort Everett was the fort "at" Allemangle.

A map in the Report shows "Sam Wertman" near Fort Franklin's site in 1893. Shirley and Richard traced records for his land in the Schuylkill Co. Courthouse in Pottsville and found that Samuel D. Wertman (Sam), widower, sold six parcels to his son Clarence in 1923. Other family names appeared in the land transactions, either as neighbors or grantors, such as Bibelheimer (Sam's wife was Maria Bibelheimer), Daubenspeck (Sam's parents were Samuel Wertman and Elizabeth Daubenspeck) and Brobst (Sam's grandparents were Andrew Wertman and Maria Elizabeth Brobst. Andrew was a son of Jacob and grandson of GPI). Sam obtained one of the six parcels from George and Catherine Wertman, who bought it from Michael and Tracy Schuck. An 1856 Patent at the State Archives in Harrisburg said this land was "part of the old provement tract of Jacob Wertman," and that it contained three one-story log houses including one "erected 50 years ago," and one "erected 13-14 years ago by George Westman," with six acres of cleared land, and apple and cherry trees, "some 50 years old." Thus, the earliest date that Wertmans could have been on this land, from those documents, was 1806.

More study is needed to determine whether GPI was a party to the Fort Franklin petition and/or a signer of the Lynn Twp. petition.

### **Lunch**

After lunch on our own at nearby restaurants, the group reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

### **Wertman Wives**

*presented by Tom Young*

Recent information from the IGI suggests that an Everett was the wife of GPI. If GPI is buried at Ebenezer Cemetery, she is probably buried there also. They perhaps had two daughters, one of whom may have married a Straub. Not all of the birth dates are known for GPI's five known sons. Because Michael was the first to have children and the first to die, perhaps he was the oldest.

### **Catherine Flack (Flach), Wife of Johann Michael Wertman -prepared by Ed Sterrett**

A Taufschein for Daniel, son of Michael Wirthman and "his conjugal housewife Catherine, a born Flack" identified Michael's wife. A 1760 will of Johannes Flack named two daughters, Catherine and Ana Maria. Johannes' wife and burial place are unknown. Peter Heimbach, Phillip Moser and Phillip Wertman witnessed the will. Catherine was to inherit her father's estate and effects and give

her sister 20 pounds in three payments beginning when Ana Maria came of age. Their brother was mentioned in the will but not named; possibly he was John Flack, listed on Capt. John Nicholas Weatherholt's 1758 Muster Roll as age 25 and born in Germany. A ship list showed two men named Hans Flack on the *Speedwell* arriving in Philadelphia in 1749. Where they came from is not known.

On 7 August 1761, one of the baptismal sponsors of Jacob, the first child of Michael and Catherine Werdmann, was Catharina Maria Flachin, believed to be Catherine's mother and wife of Johannes. On 2 October 1763, the female baptismal sponsor of George Philip (GPIII), their second son, was Anna Maria Flachin, probably Catharine's sister. Catherine and Michael went to Hemlock Twp., Columbia Co., PA in the early 1800s. Michael died there in 1817, and his will provided for her care by two sons. Catherine's death date is unknown. Of their six daughters, five are unknown.

#### **Maria, Wife of Jacob Wertman**

Jacob is presumed to be the second son of GPI. A baptismal record named Maria as the Jacob's wife. Sources are unclear about who she was or whether Jacob had more than one wife. However, an 1821 estate document showed the widow Mary renouncing to her son Jacob as administrator for Jacob Sr.'s estate. Orphans Court records for 1838 showed eight shares were distributed to their other three sons and five daughters.

#### **Jane Purcell (Purcel), Wife of George Philip (GPII) Wertman**

*prepared by Ed Sterrett*

Trinity Anglican Church records in Digby, NS, showed that on 6 May 1795. Jane Purcell, "daughter Pierce," married GPII. He had lost his PA land because he was a Loyalist, and received land in Nova Scotia. But it is possible that Pierce Purcell may not have been her father but an earlier husband. Pierce died of apoplexy and was buried 5 December 1793. Eighteen months later, Jane married Philip. Jane's age was given as 80 years when she died in November 1825, indicating birth in 1745. Jane would have been 39 in 1784 when reports showed her as one of the two people (one male, one female) in the family of Pierce Purcell, who received land. She would have been 50 at the time of her marriage to GPII.

GPII was buried 24 August 1819 at age 78, indicating his birth circa 1741. In his will dated 21 May 1819, he left part of his estate to his adopted

son, Philip (Wertman) Dowlin(g) and part to his daughter, Margaret, should she require it. Margaret Brobst, born 1776, who some list as a daughter of Michael, may instead have been this daughter of GPII. Many questions remain!

#### **Barbara Stapleton (Stebelton), Wife of Simon Wertman**

Records of Simon's first child and last child showed a Barbara (no surname) as the mother. She was the daughter of Tobias Stapleton; Simon was named as a son-in-law in Tobias Stapleton's will. Simon's will named four children; two sons, John and Jacob, moved to Richland Co., OH, between 1830 and 1840. Simon and Barbara moved to Bloomsburg, PA, and there are good church records for them including communion records. Simon died in late 1820 and Barbara survived him. He was buried in the old Lutheran Cemetery but his remains were moved to Espy, PA, in 1925 when the cemetery was relocated due to construction. There is no evidence of Barbara's burial. A Barbara in the communion records until 1823 could have been Simon's wife or their granddaughter.

#### **Anna Margaret Reichelderfer, wife of Martin Wertman, and Elizabeth, Possible First Wife**

Anna Margaret Reichelderfer was not the mother of Martin's children but was his later wife. She was probably Maria Margaret Reichelderfer, daughter of Frederick Reichelderfer (his brother, Henry, also had a daughter named Margaret). She was administrator for her late husband, Jacob Stapleton, in 1794. (He was probably a brother of Barbara Stapleton.) Her will leaves her estate to Stapleton children, who were born about the same times as Martin's children. Both she and Martin were buried in Salem-Belleman's graveyard in Berks Co., Pennsylvania.

An unknown Elizabeth was possibly the mother of Martin's children. A 1779 baptismal record for Margareda Catharina Straub shows Martin Wertman and wife Elizabetha as sponsors. No tombstone has been found for Elizabeth.

#### **New York Wertman Civil War Soldiers**

*presented by Russ Dannecker*

Four Wertmans from Lockport were Civil War veterans. Brothers Daniel A. and George were sons of Jonathan Michael Wertman and Hannah Preisch. Two of their cousins also served: Emanuel, son of Daniel Wertman and Magdalene "Polly" Blosser, and William W., son of Moses Wertman

and Sarah Preisch. The four soldiers were grandsons of Daniel, great-grandsons of Johan Michael and great-great-grandsons of GPI.

**Daniel A. Wertman**, born 19 November 1839, married Maria Barbara Vogel in August 1861. At age 23, he enlisted in the 19th Battery, New York Light Artillery in August 1862 for three years. He was injured in training and discharged due to disability in March 1863. He died 6 December 1880 in Saint Clair Co., MO. He and Hannah had four children.

**Emanuel Wertman**, born 7 October 1842, married Margaret Hinebaugh in March 1865 and later Matilda "Matie" E. Stumpf. At age 19, he enrolled in Battery M of the 1st New York Light Artillery in October 1861. He had been listed as a deserter in April 1862 because after the battle of Edenburg, near Winchester, VA, his unit didn't know where he was. Military records from the National Archives included a Memorandum from the "Mis-Index — Camp Parole" indicating he had been a Prisoner of War.

How long he served and when he was paroled are unknown. He and Polly had three children. He died 2 December 1898 and was buried in Shaeffer Cemetery.

**George Wertman**, born 17 August 1842, married Mary Ann Leib in October 1868. At age 20, he was drafted into Company F, New York Infantry, in July 1863. He participated in the battles of Mine Run, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North Anna, Cold Harbor and Petersburg. He was wounded and hospitalized three times. In July 1865, after Lee's surrender, he was discharged at Washington, DC. He died 11 May 1914 in Flint, MI, of valve disease of the heart. He and Mary Ann had two children.

**William W. Wertman**, born 11 August 1841, was drafted into Company E of the 122<sup>nd</sup> New York Infantry the same day as his first cousin George — 28 July 1863. Nearly 22, during the next 17 months he would become ill, meet Susan M. Kinne, marry her on Christmas Day 1863 during a short furlough, return to his unit and participate in some of the most intense fighting of the war. His unit was at Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North Anna, Totopotomoy and Cold Harbor. He became permanently disabled after a rifle ball shattered his hip socket at Cold Harbor, and he developed gangrene. He was released just before Christmas in 1864. He and Susan had seven children. He died 13 March 1904 in Lockport and was buried in Shaeffer Cemetery.

## New York Wertman Materials

*presented by Anita Robinson Reid*

**Anita Reid of Olcott, NY**, acquired the late Isabel Wertman Stage's collection of materials from a man in a nursing home who had gotten them from Isabel's son, who isn't interested in genealogy. Anita found Lynn Dashner's name from the 2001 Wertman Family Reunion and through Lynn, got in touch with Russ Dannecker. Thus the Wertman family now knows what happened to early Wertman reunion records for which WFA members had been searching. Anita displayed several notebooks of minutes and pictures from reunions held in Lockport, NY, and Flint, MI, beginning in 1915.

Ten boxes contain fascinating papers and photographs. Anita shared some military service items including William W. Wertman's draft certificate and his pocket notebook. From his Civil War diary, we found that William was 5 ft. 11 inches, had blue eyes and light complexion. He was issued, in August 1863, 1 forage cap, 1 blouse, 1 pair trousers, 2 flannel shirts, 2 drawers, 1 pair booties, 2 pair stockings, 1 blanket; in January 1864, 2 pair drawers; in April, 1 rubber blanket, 1 piece tent, 1 blouse, 1 pair drawers; in August, 1 forage cap, 1 pair trousers, 1 flannel shirt, 1 pair drawers. He mentions having typhoid fever and a sore foot. "Coal harbor June 1st, 1864. Wounded about 4 o'clock P. M. in right hip by a minnie rifle. Taken to Brigade hospital at White House landing." (See Russ' presentation.)

Anita is sorting through these materials as well as looking through death, burial and obituary records to find connections. She handed out some recipes copied from an old notebook, believed used by Lydia Wertman Vogel-Shrader, 1846-1910. Many of the recipes list ingredients but no instructions. For example, "Sponge Cake — 2 ½ cup sugar, 1 cup milk, 4 eggs and 1 teaspoon of saleratus" (baking soda).

## Daniel Wertman of Lockport

*presented by Anita Robinson Reid*

Robert Morris sold portions of New York State to the Holland Land Company, based in the Netherlands, before the Revolutionary War. Joseph Ellicott, an officer for the Holland Land Company, surveyed the land and divided it into lots. Daniel Wertman bought some of this land in Lockport in 1833. Daniel was the son of Johann Michael Wertman and grandson of GPI. Daniel and his wife,

Maria Barbara Oswald, had 11 children, all born in Pennsylvania:

1. **Elias Oswald Wertman**, 1809-1887, married Mary Kistler and had eight children. Elias was a tanner, and one of the children died in a tanning vat. The family moved to Illinois.

2. **Benjamin Wertman**, 1810-1874, remained a bachelor. He also moved to Illinois.

3. **John B. Wertman**, 1814-1895, married Sarah Preisch, and had five children. Sarah was the widow of Moses Wertman, John's brother, who died in 1844.

4. **Jonathan Michael Wertman**, 1815-1907, married Hanna Preisch. Jonathan was buried in Stahler Cemetery, Lockport.

5. **Daniel Wertman (Jr)**, 1816-1898, married Mary Magdalena "Polly" Blosser. Three of their children moved to Flint, Michigan. They had four other children. Daniel and "Polly" were buried in Shaeffer Cemetery, Lockport.

6. **Moses Wertman**, 1818-1844, married Sarah Preisch. He was buried in Stahler Cemetery, Lockport.

7. **Michael Wertman**, 1819-1895, married Lydia Stahler. They were buried in Stahler Cemetery, Lockport.

8. **Emanuel Wertman**, 1821-1897, married Elizabeth Stahler, who died at age 19. He then married Elizabeth Huntington. They moved to Illinois and later to Kansas.

9. **Lydia Barbara Wertman**, 1825-1840, was buried in Stahler Cemetery, Lockport.

10. **Abalona Wertman**, 1827-1849, married Daniel Stahler. She died 13 days after their daughter, Abalona, was born. They were buried in Stahler Cemetery.

11. **Noah Wertman**, 1828-1894) married Florinda Gilson.

The Researchers Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m. Twenty-two researchers signed the attendance sheet: Shirley M. Daniels, Columbia, MD; Richard Daniels, Columbia, MD; Larry Wertman, Allentown, PA; Shirley Wertman, Allentown, PA; Mary Ellen Wagner, Ambler, PA; Lois Wheeler, Cleveland Hgts., OH; Edwin Wertman, Macungie, PA; Virginia Wertman, Macungie, PA; Dorothy Dannecker, E. Greenwich, RI; Jenny Ewing, Ashland, OH; Frank Strickling, Ashland, OH; Shirley Null, Ashland, OH; Rosa Strickling, Ashland, OH;

Nancy Johnson, Ashland, OH; Mary McLaughlin, Springfield, PA; Tom Young, Danville, PA; Russell Dannecker, Foster, RI; Anita Reid, Olcott, NY; Barbara Sanford, Olcott, NY; Dave Wertman, Wildwood, NJ; Kathy Wertman, Wildwood, NJ; Marie Wertman, Lockport, NY.

## Evening Presentation

Thirty-five people attended the dinner (paid individually) in the function hall at the Best Western Inn and several others joined us for the evening presentation by John Hall.

## Journeys through History

*presented by John Hall,  
Niagara County Historical Society*

The Hall family followed typical migration patterns. They came to America (Connecticut) and then moved westward. Probably someone walked to Lockport to look over the place, liked it, walked home, and moved the family, most likely with others from the same area. They left Greenwich in May 1827 and settled in Lockport in September, living for some time aboard a packet boat. After acquiring land, building a shelter, clearing land, and getting the crops in and livestock settled, they built a church. The settlers made things with materials at hand. The stone church they built still stands after 168 years.

Lockport was fairly civilized at that time. The 363-mile Erie Canal from Albany to Buffalo had opened in 1825. It had taken Irish laborers great effort to cut through stone and build the five flights of locks between Lockport and Buffalo. But the canal lowered shipping costs and reduced travel time from 7 weeks to 7 days. Agricultural centers shifted, and western New York became a major producer of fruits and vegetables. Agriculture in New England declined. Bath and Arkport shipped products and produce by ark via the Susquehanna to the Port of Baltimore and thus had access to the world. They couldn't get the ark upstream, so sold it and walked back. With a 60-foot drop in the canal around Lockport, raceways produced a lot of power, so industry grew as well. Business sprang up to accommodate needs of those using the canal. For example, when the canal closed in winter, horses had to be kept wherever they were when the canal froze over.

A steam sawmill opened in 1849. In 1910, power was cheaper in Lockport than in Niagara Falls. Natives of the area developed the first fire hydrant and underground water system, Harrison

radiators for cars (now Delphi) and a new type of wallboard. The downtown was heated with steam piped into town. Lockport was booming until after World War II, when the canal ground to a slow death after the proliferation of semi trucks.

Mr. Hall shared some interesting items printed in 1871 in the local newspaper: stores were open 24 hours a day to accommodate the canal traffic. There was refrigerated cold storage for fruit. The area experienced frost in July. The largest pear producing area needed boxes for shipping, and the champion of a crew of women working in a factory put together 1,000 boxes in one day. A local entrepreneur built a \$3,000 house and barn. Every person has a story!

## Wertman Family Association Business Meeting

16 August 2003, in Lockport,  
Niagara County, New York

**Call to Order and Welcome:** After a picnic lunch at Lockport Locks & Erie Canal Cruises, Wertman Family Association (WFA) President Russell Dannecker called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Russ introduced WFA officers and committee members. Local contact Anita Reid handed out Visitor's Questionnaires from the Niagara County Office of County Historian. Mary Ellen Wagner requested that everyone sign a quilt block and Shirley Daniels asked that everyone sign the attendance sheet. Fifty-three people introduced themselves and told where they live.

**Attendance Awards:** Russ presented four awards: Dave Wertman, Wildwood, NJ, who came the longest distance, received a wheeled carrier; Rosa Wertman Strickling, age 93, the most senior lady, received a cut glass candy dish; Herb Dannecker, born April 1927, the most senior gentleman, received a video history of Lockport; and Cameron Dannecker, age 4 months, received a large stuffed bear as the youngest in attendance.

**Secretary's Report and Newsletter:** Shirley Daniels asked for any corrections or additions to the 2002 minutes included in the June 2003 newsletter. Members moved, seconded and voted to accept the minutes as printed. Shirley mailed thank you's after last year's reunion and a follow-up news release for the Ashland newspaper. She publicized this year's reunion by sending news releases to papers in Lockport, Ashland OH and Allentown PA and mailed one-page fliers, for bulletin boards, as well as news releases, for publica-

tion, to genealogical and historical societies and libraries.

Shirley mailed January 2003 newsletters to 53 genealogical and historical societies and libraries and to 59 individuals without e-mail or who have requested postal copies, and July 2003 newsletters to 53 organizations and 86 individuals. She will remove names of individuals who are not current with dues before the next mailing. Anyone interested may request a newsletter in PDF format via Russ Dannecker's e-mail list. Shirley sends Tom Young a newsletter file in html to be linked to the WFA web page at <http://www.freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~wertman>. Members moved, seconded and voted to accept the secretary's report.

**Treasurer's Report:** Shirley Wertman reported a balance of \$2,076.18 in the treasury. She reimbursed Shirley Daniels for printing and postage and paid reunion expenses, including \$490.68 for the cruise and \$95 for the meeting room at the Best Western. She has received \$227 in '03-04 dues and other receipts. She will mail notices to those who have not yet paid dues of \$20 per family due July 1. Members moved, seconded and voted to accept the treasurer's report.

**Historical Acceptance Committee (HAC)/Web Site Report:** HAC Chair/Webmaster Tom Young will appoint new committee members this year to get different ideas and a fresh outlook on how the committee works and seek ways to make the process more effective. He asked serious researchers to volunteer for consideration as members. The purpose of the committee is to be sure all published information is correct to the best of our knowledge. The web site receives an average of 1.6 "hits" a day. Tom updates reunion information each year and adds newsletters in html format twice a year. Members moved, seconded and voted to approve Tom's report.

**Historical Secretary's Report:** Jenny Ewing explained the new Document Archive project. She will collect and organize scanned and/or photocopied images from members, catalog them in a searchable database and store the images in a PDF format on CDs, with backup copies sent to different locations for safekeeping. This project is invaluable as a central repository of copies of irreplaceable documents. Members moved, seconded and voted to approve her report.

**Reunion Committee:** Russ thanked Dave Wertman of New Jersey, a former Lockport resident, for his work on the 2003 reunion. Russ pro-

posed that the 2004 WFA reunion be held in Danville, PA, August 13-15, and appointed Tom Young as chair of the Reunion Committee. Tom will select other committee members. Danville is near where GPI's sons Simon and Michael settled. Members moved, seconded and voted to approve the Danville location and dates.

**Election of Officers:** The nominating committee (Ken Cool, Phyllis Gable and Phyllis Hull, none of whom were present) submitted the following candidates for office: President, Russ Dannecker, two-year term; Vice President, Ed Wertman, two-year term; Corresponding Secretary, Janice Witheridge, two-year term; Historical Secretary, Jenny Ewing, two-year term; Treasurer, Shirley Wertman, two-year term; and Directors at large, Shirley Daniels and Ed Sterrett, four-year term. Since Janice has had health problems, members nominated Lois Wheeler as an additional candidate for Corresponding Secretary. Members voted to close the nominations and elected by voice vote Lois Wheeler as Corresponding Secretary and all sole nominees as listed above for other offices. The President re-appointed Tom Young as Webmaster/HAC Chair for another two-year term.

**Quilt Presentation and Auction:** Jan Dannecker presented the completed heritage quilt to Mary Ellen Sterner Wagner, who bid the highest amount for it at the 2001 reunion. Russ read what each part of the quilt represented in Wertman family history as Jan pointed to the elements. Russ then conducted this year's auction with proceeds going to the WFA treasury. The winning bids included: Ed Wertman, \$23 for four quilted placemats and napkins made by Mary Ellen Wagner; Lynn Dashner, \$35 for an American flag table runner quilted by Mary Ellen Wagner; Kerri Wertman, \$15 for a honey-bee pillow made by Mary Ellen Wagner; Bonnie Wertman, \$11 for a gift basket donated by Ruth Ann Feil; and Dave Wertman, \$100 for a quilt made by Barbara Sanford. Russ also auctioned a wreath from Bernadine Sterner.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m., and many of the attendees boarded a canal boat for a two-hour cruise through two locks along the historic Erie Canal. Because boarding time was imminent, there was no time for the group to close with the Wertman Reunion song by Mertie Wertman. Anita Robinson Reid found the words in Isabel Wertman Stage's collection of early reunion materials.



*The remains of Daniel and Barbara Wertman's cabin in Lockport*

**On Sunday, 17 August,** 17 people car-pooled in four vehicles to search for Wertman family tombstones in the Stahler and Shaeffer cemeteries, and found Daniel and Barbara (Oswald) Wertman's early cabin, which is vine covered and collapsing. Some members suggested that a good use of WFA funds would be to stabilize such historic places, add footstones on earliest Wertman graves where inscriptions are unreadable or repair broken tombstones.

### **Picnic/Business Meeting Attendees**

These people signed the Business Meeting attendance form: David & Kathleen Wertman, Wildwood, NJ; Donald & Mary Stope, Lockport, NY; Bill & Bonnie Wertman, Lockport, NY; Frank & Judy Strickling, Ashland, OH; Jenny Ewing, Ashland, OH; Rosa Strickling, Ashland, OH; Gerry & Nancy Johnson, Ney, OH; Shirley Null, Ashland, OH; Mary McLaughlin, Springfield, PA; Barb & Butch Sanford, Lockport, NY; M. Eileen Robinson, Lockport, NY; Lois Wheeler, Cleveland Heights, OH; Anita Reed, Olcott, NY; Lawrence & Shirley Wertman, Allentown, PA; Virginia & Ed Wertman, Macungie, PA; Lois & Howard (Al) Wertman, Farmington, NY; Richard & Shirley Daniels, Columbia, MD; Sandra Boyle, Lockport, NY; Patricia Juliano, Lockport, NY; Robert, Mahlon & Musette Weller, Liverpool, NY; Jan & Russ Dannecker, Foster, RI; Kelly, Josh & Cameron Dannecker, E. Aurora, NY; Dolores & Henry Dannecker, Long Pond, PA; Ron & Kathy Dannecker, E. Amherst, NY; Max Dannecker, Foster, RI; Dorothy Dannecker, E. Greenwich, RI; Tom Young, Danville, PA; *Additional attendees:* Herb & Issy Dannecker, Mike & Lynn Dashner.

# Meals, Dues & Registration Form

## Wertman Family Reunion

Friday-Sunday, 13-15 August 2004

Danville, Montour County, Pennsylvania

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

<b>WFA Reunion 2004: Event</b>	<b>Number attending</b>	<b>Price per person</b>	<b>Total (Please enclose check)</b>
<b>Friday, 13 August</b>			
Researchers Meeting, Mahonig Twp Bldg		\$0	\$0
Dinner at Buster's: Broiled Haddock		\$13	
Dinner at Buster's: Chicken Parmesan		\$14	
Dinner at Buster's: Prime Rib		\$19	
Speaker's Presentation, no dinner		\$0	\$0
<b>Saturday, 14 August</b>			
Family Outing, Saint James UCC			
Adult Meal, 1/4 BBQ Chicken		\$9	
Adult Meal, 8 oz Hamburger		\$9	
Child's Meal, Hamburger		\$4.50	
Child's Meal, Hot Dog		\$4.50	
<b>Annual 2004 WFA Dues</b>	per family	\$20	
<b>Total Charges, Dues and Meals</b>			

Please return your completed form with payment by **12 July 2004**

Make your check payable to **Wertman Family Association**

Mail to: Tom Young, 2004 Wertman Family Reunion Committee  
PO Box 282, Riverside, PA 17868

If you have questions, phone Tom at 570-275-3626 or e-mail [teyoung@copper.net](mailto:teyoung@copper.net)

Others who might be interested in the Wertman Family Association:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

## **2003-2005 Officers Wertman Family Association**

- President: Russell C. Dannecker  
*dannecker@efortress.com*  
32 Burgess Rd., Foster, RI 02825  
401-647-3991
- Vice President: Edwin F. Wertman  
*edwertman@aol.com*
- Corresponding Secretary:  
Lois Wheeler  
*lwheeler@rmrc.net*
- Genealogy/Historical Secretary:  
Jenny Ewing *jewing@offworld1.net*
- Treasurer: Shirley Wertman  
6343 Memorial Rd.,  
Allentown, PA 18106  
Annual membership: \$20 per family
- Webmaster: Tom Young  
*teyoung@copper.net*  
Website: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~wertman>

- Directors at Large  
Shirley Daniels  
*rdaniels2@compuserve.com*  
Phyllis Gabel  
*phgproofreadwiz@aol.com*  
Ed Sterrett  
*esterrett@mindpring.com*  
Frank Strickling *fjstrick@bright.net*
- Historical Acceptance Committee: Tom Young (chair) *teyoung@copper.net*
- 2004 Reunion, Fri.-Sun., 13-15 August, Danville, PA; Tom Young (chair) *teyoung@copper.net*

### **2004-05 Dues Are Due**

Wertman Family Association dues of \$20 per family are due 1 July. Copies of this newsletter will be mailed to individuals who have requested a printed version and whose dues are current. You may include dues with your reunion registration (see page 11) or mail your check (payable to the Wertman Family Association) to the Treasurer, Shirley Wertman, at 6343 Memorial Rd., Allentown, PA 18106.

**Wertman**  
Wertman Family Association  
c/o Shirley Daniels  
6487 Sleeping Dog Lane  
Columbia, MD 21045-2250