

# Wertman *Lines*

Newsletter of the Wertman Family Association

ISSN 1535-7856 / June 2007 / Vol. 7 / No. 1

## **Register by 02 August:**

- ! Wertman Family Reunion 2007**
- ! Friday-Sunday, 17-19 August**
- ! Lehigh County, Pennsylvania**

## **Officers, Wertman Family Association**

**President:** Russell C. Dannecker

<dannecker@efortress.com>

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

6343 Memorial Rd., Allentown, PA 18106

Annual membership: \$20 per family

**Webmaster:** Tom Young <teyoung3@verizon.net>

**Website:** <<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~wertman>>

## **Directors at Large:**

Shirley Daniels '07

Ed Sterrett '07

Mary Ellen Wagner '09

Edwin F. Wertman '09

**Historical Acceptance Committee:** Tom Young,

Chair <teyoung3@verizon.net>

**2007 Reunion:** Larry & Shirley Wertman,

6343 Memorial Rd., Allentown, PA 18106

610-395-6707

**Newsletter:** *Wertman Lines* is issued twice yearly.

To submit an article for publication, please contact the President or Historical Acceptance Committee Chair. Next issue: January 2008

## **From the President**

Dear Wertman Descendants and Friends,

George Philip Wertman [GPI] had settled by 1749 in Lynn Township, present-day Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. In the early 20th Century, a large group of Wertmans gathered at Ontelaunee Park near GPI's homestead for annual reunions. This year, the Wertman Family Association carries on that tradition as we return to the area of our family's origins in Pennsylvania. You, your relatives, and friends are cordially invited to attend the annual WFA reunion 17-19 August 2007 in Lehigh County.

Researchers will meet all day on Friday near the site of GPI's original cabin. On Friday evening, local historian Richard Miller will speak after a family dinner. The family picnic, business meeting, and auction will be held on Saturday at Ontelaunee Park. On Sunday, we will form carpools to visit cemeteries where family members were buried and travel to locations of former Wertman homes. Reunion details begin on page 2.

Please join me in expressing appreciation to Larry and Shirley Wertman for taking charge of this year's reunion, and Ed and Virginia Wertman for helping with this year's arrangements.

Please make your reunion and hotel reservations now! I'm looking forward to seeing you in Lehigh County in August.

Yours truly,

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

***Dues are due! Printed copies of Wertman Lines are mailed only to CURRENT members of the Wertman Family Association upon their request.***

## 2007 Wertman Family Reunion

from Larry and Shirley Wertman

### Lodging

The Reunion Committee has reserved a block of rooms at the Hawthorne Suites, just off I-78 and Rt. 100 in Fogelsville, PA, on Main St. Our group rate is \$84 per night 16-19 August, plus tax, for a room with a king bed and pull-out sofa or two queen beds. A \$99 suite sleeps four. The room charge includes a continental breakfast buffet and use of the fitness center and internet. No pets are allowed. A Cracker Barrel restaurant is within walking distance.

To make your reservations, call 610-366-9422 or 1-800-527-1133 and state that you are with the Wertman reunion. Reservations are needed by 02 August to receive the group rate.

### Researchers' Meeting

Presentations begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, 17 August, at the Ontelaunee Rod and Gun Club, 7974 Gun Club Rd., New Tripoli.

Lunch is on your own. Nearby restaurants are: Foulkers at Blue Ridge, at the stop sign in New

Tripoli; Schleichers Restaurant on Rt. 309; or the Northwestern Grill on Rt. 309.

### Friday Dinner

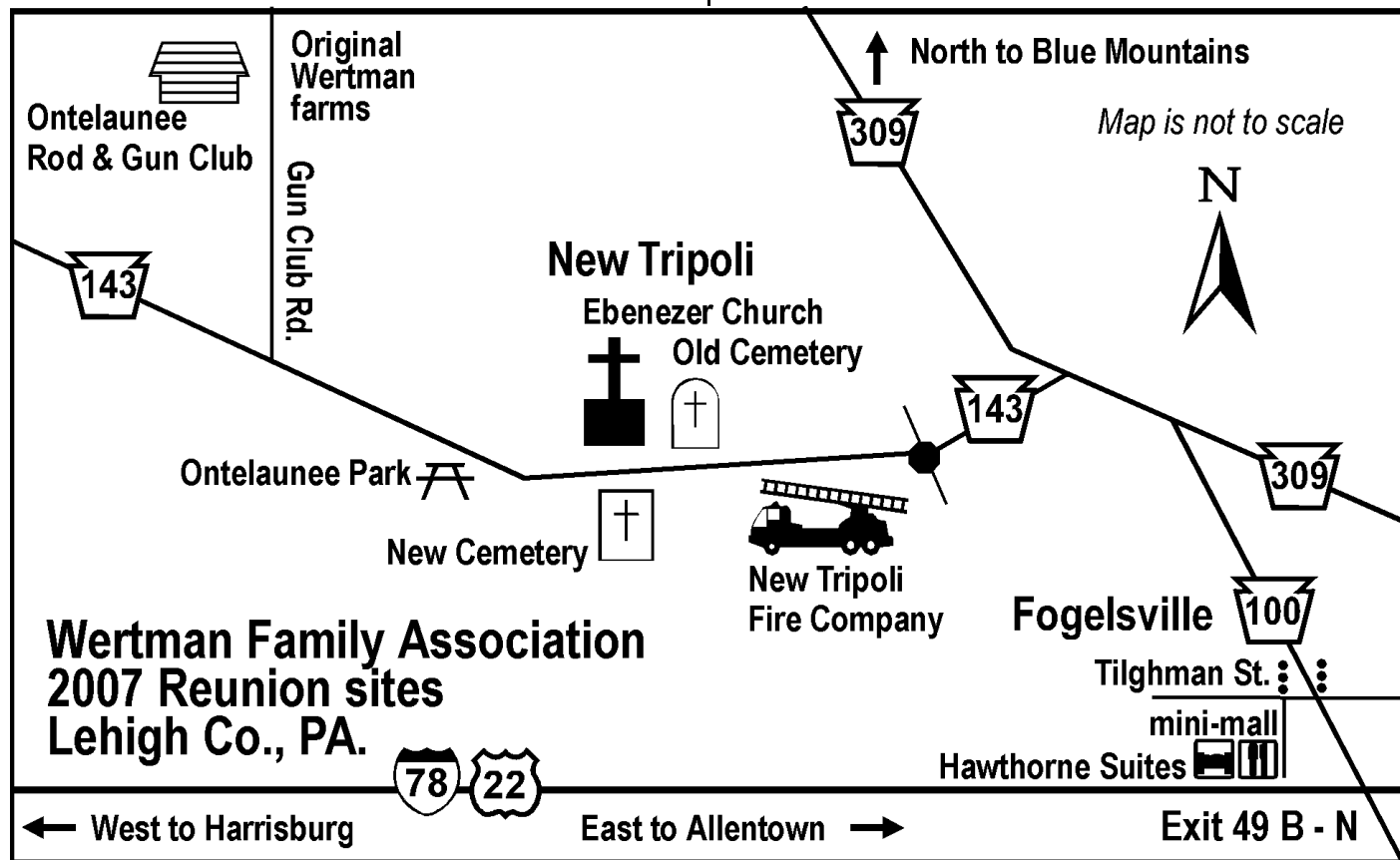
Dinner at the New Tripoli Fire Company will start at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, 17 August. The cost is \$12.50 for adults or \$9.50 for children age 6-12. Chicken, filling, beef, green beans, corn, and sweet potatoes will be served family style. Desserts are shoo fly and cherry pies.

### Guest Speaker

Our dinner speaker will be Richard Miller. The local historian will talk about superstitions and traditions of the Pennsylvania Dutch people.

### Picnic and Business Meeting

The annual picnic on Saturday, 18 August, begins at Noon at Ontelaunee Park, Rt. 143 in New Tripoli. The cost per person, all inclusive, is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 6-12. Feast on hot dogs, hamburgers, pulled pork sandwiches, cole slaw, potato salad, baked beans, corn on the cob, and cake. Coffee, soda and water will be provided as well. The annual meeting and auction will follow the meal.





### ***Directions***

To reach the Hawthorne Suites: from I-78/US 22 take exit 49-B (Fogelsville) onto northbound PA 100. At the first traffic light, turn left onto Tilghman St. At the following traffic light, turn left into the mini mall. The motel is on the right at the end of the road, behind the Cracker Barrel.

To New Tripoli activities from Hawthorne Suites: take PA 100 north for 8 miles to a "T" intersection and turn left onto PA 309. Travel 2.6 miles and bear left onto PA 143. Drive 2.9 miles through New Tripoli, passing Ebenezer Church and its two cemeteries and Ontelaunee Park. Turn right onto Gun Club Rd. (Look for the Ontelaunee Rod and Gun Club sign.) Drive 1.3 miles; the club will be on your left. (See the map on page 2.)

### ***Election of Officers***

Ken Cool, Nominating Committee Chair, presents the following slate of officers proposed by the committee: President, Russell C. Dannecker; Vice President, Frank Strickling; Corresponding Secretary, Lois Wheeler; Historical/Genealogical Secretary, Jenny Ewing; Treasurer, Shirley

*This card postmarked 22 June 1911, New Tripoli, is labeled "Residence of L. E. Wertman and New Tripoli Church."*

Wertman; Webmaster, Tom Young; Board of Directors, Shirley Daniels and Kathy Bucher. Board members serve four-year terms; other terms are two years. Any WFA member in good standing may submit one additional nomination for each position to Ken at 260-925-0251 or <kencool@sbcglobal.net> by 19 July. The nominating committee will obtain the consent of each nominee before finalizing the ballot.

### ***Monument Dedication***

The Wertman Family Association is erecting a memorial stone in the old cemetery of Ebenezer Church in New Tripoli in memory of George Philip Wertman and his family. GPI was a founding member of the church. The dedication will take place during the reunion weekend. Donations toward the cost of the memorial may be mailed to the WFA Treasurer, Shirley Wertman, 6343 Memorial Rd., Allentown PA 18106.

## **Wertman Family Association Reunion, 18-20 August 2006 Fort Wayne, Indiana**

*from Lois Wheeler, Secretary*

### ***Researchers Meeting, Friday, 18 August***

President Russ Dannecker welcomed 20 attendees to the 2006 Wertman Family Association Reunion Researchers Meeting. He expressed how much he looks forward to the meetings each year. Special thanks were extended to Ken and Carol Cool for making all arrangements for this year's reunion. The meeting agenda was distributed, and Ken Cool gave a presentation on the Wertmans of Indiana, all of whom were descendents of Solomon. Handouts of information about this family were passed around.

Russ Dannecker then gave a presentation on *That Woman, Kitty Schlear*. During last year's video interview, Mary Alice Wertman McLaughlin mentioned that in her youth when cousin Willoughby Wertman was planning to visit their home, her mother stated that she hoped he wasn't going to bring "that woman" with him. After considerable research, Russ determined that *that woman* was Catherine "Kitty" Wertman Schlear and the problem in those days was that she had some Native American blood and was too dark-skinned. Russ's handout contained a picture of Kitty.

Tom Young and Russ Dannecker gave a presentation on the US census data project they are working on. They have prepared a spreadsheet with the purpose of creating an index to all Wertmans and related individuals from 1790 to 1930. Copies were given out. It is a prodigious task, which they feel is just a beginning. While working on this endeavor, they determined that genealogists are hunters and gatherers. The hunter is very exact, collecting names and dates, the older the better, while the gatherer is more interested in wider information, putting "meat on the bones." The two determined that Tom is the hunter, and Russ the gatherer. This makes a fine combination and we get the best of both worlds.

From this census database they are looking at various spellings of the surname Wertman and attempting to determine which ones belong to our family. Also, Tom is interested in migration patterns. He admitted that progress in this area has been

slowed by the birth of his first grandchild. Judging by Tom's pictures, she indeed seems to be a beautiful addition to the family.

Tom discussed a DNA project that he is involved in and suggests we do our best to get as many Wertman males as possible involved in it. This service is free and has a few drawbacks, but is better than nothing. The field is growing and there will be rapidly expanding progress in the area.

After lunch, Russ distributed DVD's of last years' interviews featuring Rosa Wertman Strickling and Mary Alice Wertman McLaughlin. Russ then video-recorded this year's interview with Bernadine Frankhouser Sterner. She was born in Allentown, Pennsylvania, 20 September 1918, the daughter of George and Ella Wertman.

Shirley Daniels gave a presentation showing migration of the first six generations of the Wertman family, starting with George Philip I in 1749 in Lynn Twp., PA. By the sixth generation, his descendants had spread from coast to coast. Maps of the migration were given out. Shirley also had examples of given names that were used over and over again.

This was followed by a presentation by Russ Dannecker and Tom Young on the Five Rubens. An immense amount of work has gone into researching and trying to untangle the life stories of five men named Reuben Wertman/Wartman. Illustrated outlines were passed out.

There is family lore that there were five Wertman sons and five daughters. Using early pastoral records, Russ speculated which female baptismal sponsors for Wertman children may have been daughters of GPI. Presentation outlines were distributed.

The last presentation, also by Russ, was about clearing the name of Emmanuel B. Wertman, who was recorded as a Civil War deserter. Russ proved that Emmanuel had not deserted but had been a prisoner of war. After parole, he joined the US Navy using a different version of his name and had a colorful naval career during the war. Again, Russ had beautifully illustrated handouts.

### ***Family Dinner, Friday, 18 August***

Dinner at Don Hall's Guesthouse Hotel and Conference Center as always was an opportunity to become better acquainted with distant relatives while dining. There were 20 in attendance.

Our after-dinner speaker was Curt Witcher, manager of the Historical Genealogy Department of the Allen County Public Library. Mr. Witcher spoke about peopling the mid-west and the patterns and records of their migration, emphasizing how to do better research. Importance was placed on knowing the background of what makes people migrate. He pointed out that dates and places are not enough; it is necessary to know the history of the area and understand the culture of the people.

There are many ways the Allen County Library can help in furthering our research. This facility is not only the second largest genealogical library in this country, it is one of the finest in the world. Mr. Witcher previewed what is in store for this library to make it even better. They are in the last phases of building a new facility, and for several years have been housed in temporary quarters. The move to the new building will take place in December and the library will be closed all month.

### ***Family Picnic and Annual Business Meeting, Saturday, 19 August***

Saturday's picnic was held at Lester's Banquet Hall. This inside venue highlighted the smart planning of our host, Ken Cool, as rain had been predicted for the day. Carol Cool provided the children with some clever toys and amusements that also caught the attention of some adults. The

*Members of the Wertman Family Association met in Fort Wayne, IN, 18-20 August 2006.*

admirable behavior of the youngest generation made one even prouder to be a member of the Wertman family. The hall was decorated with a Wertman Family Association Family Reunion banner as well as Russ's traditional chart of all known family members. This year the chart wrapped around the large room almost twice. In future years, we may have to rent a stadium to accommodate the banner.

After enjoying the picnic fare of hamburgers, hot dogs, beans, salads, and more, Russ Dannecker called the business meeting to order, again extending our thanks to Ken and Carol for all of the work they put into making this reunion another success.

Award recipients were: Russ Dannecker from RI had traveled the farthest; Rosa Strickling, at the grand age of 96, again was the most senior lady; Pete Cooper at 78 was the most senior man; and the youngest attendee was Maya Cool, aged 2 years.

The minutes from the 2005 reunion were approved as written in the June 2006 newsletter..

Newsletter editor Shirley Daniels reported that there had been two issues of *Wertman Lines* at the cost of \$103 for the January edition and \$137 for the June edition. They were mailed to 27 individuals and 50 organizations.

Treasurer Shirley Wertman reported that the current balance was \$3,956.07, without the proceeds of today's auction.

The Reunion Committee was disappointed with the small turnout; however it was felt that the nucleus of the really serious researchers was present, and we certainly would leave with more knowledge than we came with.



The 2007 reunion will be held in the area where early Wertmans settled, Lynn Township, Lehigh County, PA. Our hosts will be Shirley and Larry Wertman. They would like to have the monument to George Philip Wertman put up at the Ebenezer Church by reunion time, 17-19 August.

Russ Dannecker would like a sign on Gun Club Road in Lynn Township saying it was previously Wertman Road. Members voted to petition Lehigh county for permission to have the additional sign.

Suggestions were given about where to hold the 2008 WFA reunion, perhaps in Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania or Virginia. Virginia was mentioned with the idea of being able to visit some Civil War sites where Wertmans participated.

Historical Acceptance Committee chair Tom Young reported that the DNA project is up and running. We have one volunteer so far, and are encouraging all direct-line male Wertmans to participate. It was suggested that everyone encourage eligible brothers, uncles, and cousins to be part of the project. There have been no changes to our web site. We have had fewer inquiries this year than previously.

Ken Cool was appointed head of the nominating committee for next year. Ken will select other members of the committee to work with him.

Larry Wertman reported on the proposed memorial for George Philip I. A pentagon nine feet tall and three feet wide would cost \$15,000 to \$18,000. During discussion of the project, it was thought that the cost was too high and such a large monument would be out of place. Attaching metal plates to the monument was suggested as costing less and being more durable than engraving. For either plates or engraving, it will be necessary to know what wording we are going to use. The fact that old stones are often lost means we would have to probe before setting the monument to make sure it is not being placed over an old grave.

For this project to move forward, we need to determine the cost, size and wording of the monument. A final price for the project was recommended in the \$5,000 to \$6,000 range.

Russ Dannecker adjourned the meeting until August 19, 2007. The meeting was followed by our annual auction.

## Could We Be Related to 17th C Werckmann's from Alsace?

*from Katherine Bucher*

WERCKMANN names show up on a list of emigrants and family from Waldhambach, the oldest village in the Krumme Alsace, Canton of Drulingen, Arrondissement of Saverne, Department of Bas-Rhin. While they are "family" and not the actual emigrants, there's a possibility that others bearing the Werckmann name did leave but just don't appear on the lists that the author used to identify emigrants. The names of John Philipp Werckmann and then John George (father of John Philipp Werckmann's wife) were so close to what we're looking for that a search of the church records from this area might be productive.

**Maria Christina Werckmann**, a Lutheran. Born Waldhambach 12 Feb 1713. Died Waldhambach 15 Dec 1783. Married Johannes Ruhl, a knitter of drawers, at Waldhambach 10 Nov 1735. She was the daughter of John Philipp Werckmann.

**John Philipp Werckmann**, a Lutheran. Born in Waldhambach, baptized in Waldhambach 20 Nov 1689 and died before Feb 1761. On 12 Jan 1710, he married Anna Margaretha Mathia, a Lutheran, who was baptized in Waldhambach 6 Sep 1689 and died in Waldhambach 05 Jan 1761. Her father was John George Mathia, a Lutheran, censor at Waldhambach, born ca. 1652 and died at Waldhambach 5 Dec 1700. John George Mathia was married to Anna Margaretha Wagner, a Lutheran, born ca. 1661. Her father was Hamann Wagner.

**John Beat Werckmann**, Lutheran. Shingler at Waldhambach. Born ca. 1642. Father of John Philip Werckmann. Died in Waldhambach 5 Feb 1705. He married Anna Margaretha Dietrich, a Lutheran, born ca. 1649. She died in Waldhambach 01 Aug 1717.

The source I found only lists direct ancestors of the emigrant, so it's possible that John Philipp Werckmann had other children than Maria Christina.

*Source: Wesner, Doris. Alsatian Connections, Volume I. Closson Press, 1995. Pgs. 410-412.*

## 2007 Wertman Family Reunion Registration Form

**Friday-Sunday, 17-19 August 2007      Lehigh County, Pennsylvania**

Please print

Name	
Address	
City/State/Zip	
Telephone	Cel phone
E-mail	Please e-mail my WFA newsletters
Please send me printed newsletters by US mail (only mailed to those with dues paid!)	

<b>Friday, 17 August</b>	<i>Number attending</i>	<i>Cost per person</i>	<i>Total cost</i>
Researchers' Meeting, Rod & Gun Club		\$0	\$0
Dinner at New Tripoli Fire Company, adult		\$12.50	\$
Dinner, age 6-12		\$9.50	\$
Speaker, Richard Miller		\$0	\$0

<b>Saturday, 18 August</b>	<i>Number attending</i>	<i>Cost per person</i>	<i>Total cost</i>
Picnic at Ontelaunee Park, adult		\$12	\$
Picnic, age 6-12		\$6	\$

**Wertman Family Association dues of \$20 per family are due 1 July.**  
To continue receiving mailed copies of the newsletter, be sure your dues are paid!

<b>Annual Dues</b> 1 July 2007-30 June 2008	\$20 per family	\$20
<b>2007 Reunion Events, Meals, and Dues</b>	<b>Grand Total, Check Enclosed</b>	<b>\$</b>

Please make your check payable to the **Wertman Family Association**.  
Mail your check and Registration Form to: 2007 WFA Reunion, c/o  
Shirley Wertman, 6343 Memorial Rd., Allentown, PA 18106  
If you have questions, call 610-395-6707

## Eighty Years Ago

Victory Park  
Slatington, PA  
13 August 1927

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Wertman Reunion was called to order by the Pres. George Wertman. The meeting was opened with a hymn by the members and a prayer by Rev. Kellar. The regular routing of business was then transacted after the reading of the minutes.

The following officers were nominated: Pres. George Wertman; Vice Pres. Robert T. Wertman; Historian Mr. Mervin Wertman. There being no opposition for the different officers, a motion was made and seconded that the Sec'y. cast a ballot for each and every candidate....

A motion was made and seconded that all bills presented by the Treas. Henry J. Wertman be paid in full. A collection was held as in former years, the amount of which being \$25.38. By a unanimous vote of the members, Victory Park was again chosen as the next meeting place of the Reunion with the date unchanged, the second Sat. in August. All members were urged by the Pres. George Wertman to register that their names may be written in the invitation album.

After thanking all committees for their good work the Pres. George Wertman appointed the same committees for the coming year.

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Calvin Geiger entertained with a few piano selections.

After interesting speeches by Mr. Gearhart and Rev. Kellar the following gifts were presented by Rev. Kellar. For the oldest gentleman present a box of silk hose. Mr. Philip Wertman aged 91 years. For the oldest lady present a box of silk hose. Mrs. Sarah Ebert aged 77 years. For the youngest baby present a silver baby spoon. Miss Hattie Helen Miller.

The meeting closed with the singing of a hymn by the members.

Robert A Wertman, Sec'y.

[There were 172 names on the list of attendees.]

The logo for Wertman Lines features the name 'Wertman' in a large, bold, blackletter-style font. The word 'Lines' is written in a smaller, cursive script font, positioned below the 'er' in 'Wertman'.

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