

Wertman

Lines

Newsletter of the Wertman Family Association

Reunion Registration Due 21 July

- 2008 Wertman Family Reunion
- Friday-Sunday, 22-24 August
- Ashland County, Ohio

From the President

Dear Wertman Descendants and Friends,

The Wertman Family Association (WFA) is returning to Ashland County, Ohio, for its 2008 Family Reunion. Three days of activities will take place Friday-Sunday, 22-24 August. Researchers will share information at a meeting on Friday, and there will be a family dinner that evening. A picnic, business meeting, and auction will be held on Saturday. On Sunday, a group will carpool to cemeteries where family members are buried.

George Philip Wertman had settled by 1749 in Lynn Township, present-day Lehigh County, PA. Some of his descendants stayed in the area and their offspring remain there. Others moved to Danville, PA. Martin's family moved to Berks County, PA. Other groups of the family moved further, settling in Ashland, OH, Lockport, NY, and Genesee County, MI. From these places and more, Wertman descendants have spread across the country.

Wherever you live, we cordially invite you and your family to join us at the 2008 WFA reunion. We thank Frank and Judy Strickling for making the arrangements for this year's event.

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

Yours truly,

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

2008 Wertman Family Reunion

from Frank and Judy Strickling

Lodging

The reunion committee has reserved a block of rooms at the AmeriHost Inn, at the intersection of I-71 and US 250, just east of Ashland, OH. The group rate is \$79 per night plus tax. A continental breakfast buffet is included. To make your reservation at the group rate, call 419-281-9809 **by 21 July** and say that you are with the Wertman Family Reunion.

For those who prefer the Super 8 across the street, the basic room rate is \$65.88 plus tax.

Researchers' Meeting and Lunch

Presentations will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, 22 August, at Peace Lutheran Church, 1300 Smith Road. The church kitchen crew will offer a buffet lunch at noon with cold meat and cheese sandwiches, potato salad, fruit salad and beverages, for \$7 each. The meeting will end at 4:00 p.m.

Friday Dinner

A family style supper at Peace Lutheran Church will include chicken, Salisbury steak, potatoes and gravy, two vegetables, salad, dessert, rolls and beverages, for \$10 per person.

Guest Speaker

Frontiersman re-enactor Simon Kenton will visit after dinner and tell about his role in opening the Ohio territories to settlement that more than rivaled that of his friend Daniel Boone. By his 18th birthday, Kenton had already won frontier renown as a

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woodsman, fighter and scout. He will relate trials, tribulations and hardships, especially with the Indians, in the years just before Solomon Wertman's migration to Ashland County. The first settlers arrived in Ashland County in 1808. The town of Ashland was laid out in 1815. In 1817, there were four cabins. As late as 1820, there was Indian trouble in the area. Settlers continued to come, mainly from New York, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania (Germans). By 1830 when Solomon arrived, the population of Ashland had increased to 235.

To learn more about Simon Kenton's incredible story, read *The Frontiersman* by Allan W. Eckert.

Picnic and Business Meeting

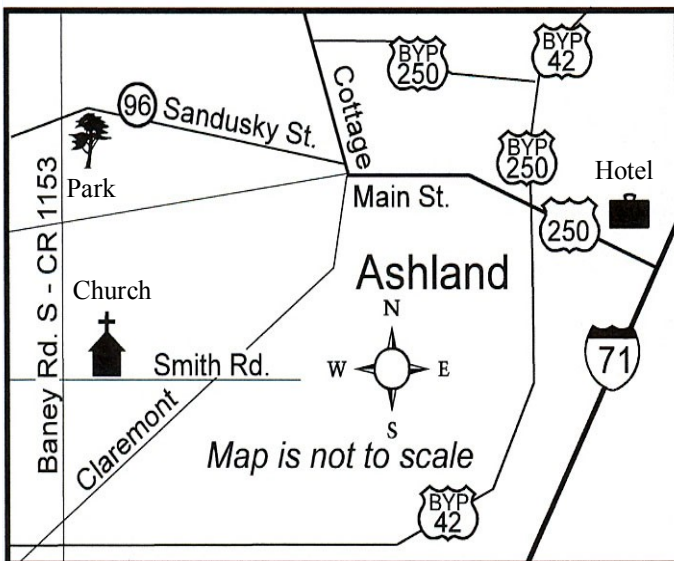
The family outing will be held on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Brookside Park West, Baney Road and Sandusky Street, Ashland. There is a pavilion with chairs and benches, but you may prefer your own lawn chair. Lunch will be a "good old Ohio bar-b-que" including chicken, ribs, three side dishes, rolls and beverages for \$14.50 per person. The annual business meeting and auction will follow the meal.

Pay Respects on Sunday

On Sunday, carpools will visit Wertman family burial sites, such as the Homerville, Ohl and Ashland cemeteries.

For more information

If you have questions about this year's reunion, please contact Frank and Judy Strickling, Chairs, 2008 WFA Reunion Committee, 1058 Oak Hill Circle, Ashland, OH, 44805-2947. Telephone 419-289-3158 or e-mail <fjstrick@zoominternet.net>.



WFA Reunion, August 2007 Lehigh County, PA

from Lois Wheeler, Secretary

Minutes, Researchers Meeting

President Russell Dannecker opened the Wertman Family Association's researchers' meeting at 10:00 a.m. on August 17, 2007, with a welcome to all. There were 31 in attendance.

Russ explained why the meeting was being held at the Ontelaunee Rod and Gun Club. This is the area where the first known home was of our mutual ancestor, George Philip Wertman I. The cabin was within a few yards of the building in which we were having our meeting. He then told how, after a great deal of very astute sleuthing, he was able to determine the probable, exact site of the original dwelling. This involved such things as eliminating the bottom of a pond as the location of foundation stones. The thought that we were virtually on the spot of our mutual beginnings in America over 250 years ago was awesome!

Tom Young presented an update on our web exposure and some of the problems obtaining domain names and web sites. This area continues to be a work in progress. The key seems to be, *keep it simple*. We will probably limit the information to the first four generations of the GP1 family. "Google Books" and *footnote.com* were mentioned as helpful genealogical sites.

Richard Daniels followed with information on six known Wertman sons who migrated to Illinois. This group produced an astonishing number of descendants. Handouts were available for browsing.

Tom Young briefly discussed the Sorenson DNA project. So far we have only one Wertman participant, however 20 kits were available at the meeting, so we hope to have more results next year.

Russ Dannecker related a coincidental tale of the Daniel Z. Wertman family of Lower Sandusky, OH. On a whim, he located the graves; a short time later, the wife of Daniel Z.'s great-grandson inquired if he had any information on their branch of the family!

Participants enjoyed lunch at a nearby restaurant. The food was good and very efficiently served.

The afternoon started with Russ Dannecker relating the rest of the story of the colorful Civil War veteran, Ruben Wertman. With the help of records in

the library in Medina, OH, Russ found that Ruben was buried in Homerville Cemetery, Medina Co. He was able to locate the grave and assure that proper veterans' recognition would be placed there.

Shirley Daniels, the next presenter, reviewed a most attention-grabbing time-line of world events that might have influenced the lives of our ancestors.

Russ Dannecker talked about Wertmans in Michigan. He spent several weeks there this year with the intention of documenting Wertmans there. His first discovery was that this task couldn't be completed in the time he had available. He concentrated on the family of Emanuel B. Wertman, who moved to Otsego Co. in the northern part of the state. He will need to return at a later date to untangle various other Michigan families.

Russ followed with an explanation of Geogen, a web site that creates maps showing the concentration of family names in various areas of Germany and Austria. After trying numerous spelling variations of the name Wertman with little success, he found a number of people named Werthmann and Wortman in the state of Bavaria, and concentrated in the picturesque little village of Wertheim. He showed some pictures of it and murmurs went through the group that it might be a great place for a future reunion!

The meeting ended with Tom Young updating information on George Philip I's grandchildren. There is still some questionable or unproven information that he will continue to pursue.

On Friday evening, a delicious Pennsylvania Dutch dinner was served at the New Tripoli Fire Company. Richard Miller gave a most interesting presentation of Pennsylvania German customs and local history after the meal.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Wheeler

Minutes, Business Meeting

President Russell Dannecker called to order the Wertman Family Association business meeting on August 18, 2007, after the family picnic held at Ontelaunee Park. He welcomed the largest attendance since 2000 and presented the following special awards: Melanie Skrocarski, from Atlanta, who came the farthest, received a flashlight timepiece; the most senior lady award, a cut glass music box, went to Mary Alice McLaughlin, who

arrived on this earth in 1911; the most senior gentleman, Herb Dannecker, who was born in 1927, received a gold tie tack; and Megan June Feil, nine weeks old, received a pop-up book.

Ed Wertman moved to accept the minutes from 2006 as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Shirley Wertman reported \$6,745.80 in the treasury, before paying expenses for the reunion and adding profits from the auction. Donations received for the monument totaled \$3,900. Jan Dannecker moved to accept the treasurer's report.

Tom Young announced that free DNA kits were available for anyone, either male or female, wishing to participate in the project.

The Reunion Committee gave their report and thanked everyone for their participation.

Shirley Daniels announced that two issues of our newsletters had been mailed to 52 organizations and 27 individuals.

The nominating committee presented the following slate of officers:

President - Russell Dannecker
Vice President - Frank Strickling
Recording Secretary - Lois Wheeler
Treasurer - Shirley Wertman
Webmaster - Tom Young
Genealogy/Historical Secretary - Jenny Ewing
Board Members - Kathy Bucher and
Shirley Daniels

Jan Dannecker moved to accept the slate, which was voted on and accepted by the membership.

Frank Strickling invited the group to Ashland, Ohio, in August 2008 (dates to be announced). A star of the program will be a frontiersman re-enactor from the early 1800s, just before Solomon Wertman arrived in the area.

The Historical Committee announced the passing of researcher Janice Withering in Michigan, sister of Phyllis Gable.

Cathy Dannecker moved to close the meeting.

The annual auction followed. Then, the group reassembled at the Old Ebenezer Church Cemetery in New Tripoli, where the pastor dedicated our simply beautiful monument to George Philip Wertman I. Family members placed flowers on all Wertman graves in the cemetery.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Wheeler

The “Reading 11” of Lynn Township 1777: More of the Story

by Hal and Brenda Merz

Our German ancestors’ resolve was tested more than we know. Wertmans were more involved in Colonial military conflict due to several factors; undoubtedly there is more in histories and records. The Pennsylvania Archives, Series 2, Volume XIV, pages 625-627, gives a picture of the 1777 arrest of eleven men in Northampton County, Pa. This was no small family matter; it extended to the Wyoming Valley. We begin with excerpts giving testimony from some of the people involved.

“At a Meeting of the Standing Committee, held at Easton, the 15th day of February, 1777, present, Peter Kohler, Arthur Lattemore, Jacob Shoemaker, Timothy Reed, Jeremiah Trexler. Abraham Berlin, Peter Myer & Peter Beisel.

“On Motion Peter Kohler was chosen Chairman *Pro Tem*.

“*The State of Pennsylvania vs. William Thomas & others.*

“For certain treasonable practices committed by them against the said State, as well in signing certain papers to the prejudice of the American Cause, as in their Conversation, &c....”

The “certain papers” referred are a mutual self-defense agreement signed among some 80 residents of the Lynn Twp. area. (For the text of the agreement and another view of the matter, see “Bad Tories,” by Richard Hull, published posthumously in *Wertman Lines*, June 2002.)

“Peter Gift says that Jacob Oswald read the papers to him and that he heard Philip Moser say if they signed that paper they might stay at home & not go with the Militia, for the Militia were going to draft & if any of the Signers should be fetched by the Militia they would defend themselves & Assist one another ag’st them.

“Andrew Miller says, that he heard Philip Moser say that there was a Proclamation given out that they should have peace again, as in the year 1763, if they laid down their

Arms, and whoever sign’d that paper might have peace. That William Thomas & his two Brothers & Samuel Custard were present at the Meeting held at Burghart Moser’s in Lynn Township.”

From the book *Sweet Land of Liberty*, we learn that some Moravian residents of the area lost their property just because they refused to commit to either side of the conflict, being neutral as a religious conviction. Burghardt Mosser, at whose home there was a meeting about the pact, may have been a Captain in the Militia. This needs more research.

“Frederick Sander says, that the intent of Signing that paper was that whoever signed it might stay at home, & not go to the Camp with the Militia.

“Jacob Oswald says, that William Thomas came to his house on the evening of the 15th December last, Jacob Wertman being in Company with him; W. Thomas asked this examinant to go along with him to Philip Moser’s, & that he should take pen & ink with him; accordingly they went together to said Moser’s; in the meantime Wertman went and gave Notice to Daniel Oswald & others to attend to said Moser’s also; when they came to Philip Moser’s, Wm. Thomas said to said Jacob he should draw a piece of Writing which they would sign in Order to defend themselves against the Wyoming People and others who had threatened to come and destroy their property; which the s’d Jacob Oswald at first refused to do, but however, afterwards consented and the s’d Wm. Thomas & Philip Moser told him what to write word for word.”

Another reason presented to sign the paper was a threat of harm from people who were involved in the Wyoming massacre, the site of repeated, armed conflict between settlers from Connecticut and Pennsylvania natives (later, Tories and Indians). Some Northampton County people were deeply involved in the Wyoming conflict, and some had been sent to Wyoming to police the situation, for which they received land grants in Northampton County (source, Harvey’s *History of Wilkes-Barre, Pa.*, annotated by Louis Ogden, family researcher; Hal Merz’s ancestors). The mention of these events alone would be enough to convince some people to

sign the defense pact. To learn more of the fragile condition of those times, read the letters in Series 2, Volume XIV, leading up to the dates recorded here.

“Thomas dictated more than Moser; said Oswald took only a Minute of the Writing that Evening in Order to Write it next day; Wm. Thomas & Philip Moser gave Notice to those present to attend at Burghart Moser's, next day by 10 O'Clock in the forenoon, in Order to Sign the said paper; Next day Jacob Oswald went to Burghart Moser's & wrote the paper which is the same now shewn to him by the Committee—Wm. Thomas told him to put a penalty in the same which he did of Fifty pounds.”

William Thomas was a wealthy landholder of Northampton County plots amounting to more than 1,000 acres. He actually became the leader of the Bucks County Volunteers, the Loyalist regiment in which George Phillip Wertman II participated.

“*Same Meeting:*

“Colo. Geiger says, that when William Thomas was a prisoner at the house of Michael Shnyder about the 24th Decem'r last, the said Thomas said to the Colonel, I am a prisoner now, but Lord Howe will be over the Delaware in a short time and then you will be a prisoner.

“Philip Moser says, that it was strongly reported that some of the Militia under Colo. Geiger and some from Wyoming would come and take away all their clothing, and for that reason they had made the Writings in order to defend themselves; that Philip Anthony had been up at Wyoming and had told the people there that he the said Moser was a great Tory and that they should come down and destroy his Effects. ”

William Thomas' Loyalist sentiments threatened the very person (the arresting Col. Geiger) who had control of his destiny at that point. Phillip Anthony was another Lynn Township neighbor, whose land bordered Ebenezer Church. Philip Moser and GPI were neighbors and founders of Ebenezer Church.

“Upon hearing the several Evidences in the above Cause, and the confession of the parties themselves, it appears that they are severally guilty of the charge laid against them; for which they were committed;

therefore, *Resolved*, That each of them Sign a Parole drawn up by the Council of Safety of this State; that they give Sufficient Security for their future good behavior in the respective Sums, to their Names hereunder set, which Security to be a Freeholder and Associator; that each of them pay the sum of Money to his respective Name annexed, being the Costs accrued thereupon, and that each Man pay his Gaolers:

¹ William Thomas to give bail in £400 & pay Cost, £18-4-6

² Philip Moser, £400 £18-4-6

³ Michael Ohl, £200 £18-4-6

Jacob Wertman, £200 £12-3-0

⁴ Daniel Oswald, £200 £12-3-0

Peter Sholl, £200 £12-3-0

Casper Baldauff, his own Bail, in
£100 £6-1-6

Michael Buck, £100 £6-11-6

⁵ Henry Stininger, £100 £6-16

Jacob Oswald, £100 £6-16

Martin Stuck £100 £6-16”

“A bill how Cost Accrued, Viz :

Acco't of Cost sent up by the Council of Safety, £91-9-2

¹ This person is also mentioned in Colonial Records of Pennsylvania, Vol. XI, pg. 89. Also, Thomas is mentioned in a list of confiscated estates in Pennsylvania Archives, Series 6, Vol. XIII, pp. 227-228.

² It appears (from Mosser genealogies online) that his son Phillip Mosser moved to Gregg Township of Centre County with John Schoch (1761-1799), at whose administration Jacob Wertman (d 1806) is mentioned.

³ Subject of Chapter 5 in Fox's *Sweet Land of Liberty*. He had been named Captain of the Heidelberg Townshp militia in 1775. Ohl resigned from the militia out of disgust over treatment of the Moravians.

⁴ Listed in Pennsylvania Archives, as paying a fine in May 1778 for not reporting to muster duty.

⁵ Along with GPII, Stininger fled to the British. See Pennsylvania Archives, Series 6, Vol. XIII, pp. 227-228.

Cost pd by Mr. Berlin to the Guard that brought them from Reading by order of Committee there, £19-10-4

5 Committee Men with horses attending here each 3 days is 15 days at 10s. -p., £7-10-0

1 do. no horse, 3 days, £-10-0

3 do. no horses, 2 days, 12[s.] & one 5s., £-17-0

Committee's Clerk attendance 4 days, £1-13-6

[total] £121-10-0

“The said 15th Fbry 1777.

“Michael Buck, Casper Baldauf, Henry Stininger, Jacob Oswald, Martin Stuck, Taken before Peter Kohler, Chairman, Cond'd that they & each of them be of future good behavior towards the State of Pennsylvania, each sent in all respects, especially in £100 during the present dispute between the Colonies and Great Britain. Whereupon they signed the Parole and paid Costs.”

It appears these five men were actually present at the council meeting, and that they were only fined 100 pounds, which they paid in person.

“At a Meeting of the Standing committee held at Easton the 20th day of February, 1777, present, Abraham Berlin, Peter Kohler, Arthur Lattemore, Peter Beisel, Jacob Shoemaker, Timothy Reed, Anthony Moor & Jeremiah Trexler.

Vogel Family Reunion

from Jim Chester

Descendants of Edward F. Vogel have scheduled their third bi-annual reunion 11 and 12 July in California, MO. The main event is a pot-luck lunch beginning at noon on Saturday. On Friday evening, participants will meet at Green Grove Church cemetery at 6:00 p.m. to look for family tombstones, then move indoors to study the family further and examine probate records from 1868 to 1914.

Edward F. Vogel was the son of Lydia Wertman (daughter of Jonathan Wertman and Hannah Preisch). The Vogel family website is <www.edvogelfamily.com>.

For more information, e-mail Sally Vogel at <VogelTut@aol.com> or phone 573-796-3269.

Michael Ohl sent in £400

George Blose £200

Philip Moser, £800

Melchior Hay, £400

William Thomas £800

George Custard, £400 [another person who fled to the British and went to Nova Scotia]

Daniel Oswald, £400

Burghart Moser, £200

Peter Shull, £400

Zachariah Haller, £200

Jacob Wertman sent in £400

Burghart Moser, £100

Zachariah Haller, £100”

Why were Haller and Burghart Moser's names mentioned twice with two different amounts?

Why did Jacob Wertman send in £400? His fine was not the heaviest as with William Thomas and Phillip Mosser.

“Taken in Committee Cond'd, that they the said Michael, Philip, William, Daniel, Peter & Jacob, & each of them be of future good behavior towards the State of Pennsylvania and the other United Colonies during the present dispute between the said Colonies and Great Britain. Whereupon they severally signed the Parole and paid Costs.”

Evidently Jacob Wertman and several others did not come to the February 20 meeting, but sent in their fines to the committee.

Some points for further research

Henry Oswald went to the British. Is he the same Oswald listed in the General Muster Roll June 18th 1777 with Philip Wertman ?

Daniel Oswald is in the first class General Muster Roll June 18th 1777. Is he the same one listed above as paying a fine?

Author's notes:

Most of the information in the preceding article came from the Pennsylvania Archives, Series 2, Vol. XIV. We are unsure if this is the same series that Richard Hull used, but some of the information we came across is different.

Have many of you tried the following? Google Wertman “Pennsylvania Archives”. Try various spellings including Wertman and Vortman. Happy hunting. - Hal

2008 Wertman Family Reunion Registration Form

Friday-Sunday, 22-24 August 2008 Ashland County, Ohio

Please print

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

Friday, 22 August	<i>Number attending</i>	<i>Cost per person</i>	<i>Total cost</i>
Researchers' Meeting, Peace Luth. Church		\$0	\$0
Lunch at Peace Lutheran Church		\$7	\$
Dinner at Peace Lutheran Church, adult		\$10	\$
Dinner, age 6-12		\$6	\$

Saturday, 23 August	<i>Number attending</i>	<i>Cost per person</i>	<i>Total cost</i>
Picnic at Brookside Park West		\$14.50	\$
Picnic, age 6-12 (hot dog and side dishes)		\$5.50	\$

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!

Annual Dues 1 July 2008-30 June 2009	\$20 per family	\$20
2008 Reunion Events, Meals, and Dues	Grand Total, Check Enclosed	\$

Please make your check payable to the **Wertman Family Association**.
Mail your check and Registration Form to: 2008 WFA Reunion, c/o
Frank Strickling, 1058 Oak Hill Circle, Ashland, OH 44805-2947
If you have questions, call 419-289-3158 or e-mail <ffstrick@zoominternet.net>

About The Wertman Family Association (WFA)

Since 2000, the rejuvenated Wertman Family Association has held annual reunions in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and New York. Those who attend learn more about relatives who lived before them, and form relationships with cousins from around the country.

Through the WFA website at <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~wertman/>, strangers can discover long-lost family connections. The *Wertman Lines* newsletter, issued twice yearly, and the WFA web pages disseminate accurate information about the family's heritage. Last year, the association dedicated a monument to the family and the "founding father," George Philip Wertman, in New Tripoli, PA.

We invite you to join us!

WFA Dues are due!

Annual membership is \$20 per family. Printed copies of *Wertman Lines* are mailed to CURRENT members of the Wertman Family Association upon their request. You may pay dues with your reunion registration, using the form on page 7.

Officers, Wertman Family Association

President:

Russell C. Dannecker <dannecker@efortress.com>
32 Burgess Rd., Foster, RI 02825 (401-647-3991)

Vice President & 2008 Reunion Chair:

Frank Strickling <fjstrick@zoominternet.net>
1058 Oak Hill Cir., Ashland, OH 44805-2947

Corresponding Secretary:

Lois Wheeler <rileywheeler@sbcglobal.net>

Genealogy/Historical Secretary:

Jenny Ewing <jewingii@earthlink.net>

Treasurer:

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

Webmaster: Tom Young <teyoung3@verizon.net>

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

Directors at Large:

Katherine Bucher '11; Shirley Daniels '11;
Mary Ellen Wagner '09; Edwin F. Wertman '09

Historical Acceptance Committee:

Tom Young, Chair <teyoung3@verizon.net>

Newsletter: *Wertman Lines* is issued twice yearly. We welcome articles for publication. Please submit your article by e-mail to the President, the Historical Acceptance Committee Chair, or the editor, Shirley Daniels, at <shirleyminerdaniels@verizon.net>. The next issue will be published in January 2009.

Register now for the annual Wertman Family Reunion 22-24 August 2008, Ashland, OH

Wertman

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