

The Wortman Word

WARREN'S CORNER

Many thanks to all who sent letters, e:mail and Christmas cards over the past few months. I'm excited about the growing interest in *The Wortman Word*! It seems to be taking on a life of its own.

The success of *The Wortman Word* comes from our readers and their many Wortman conversations. Those conversations have answered 2 posted queries and linked at least 2 lost cousins back to their families.

This issue is about many different Wortman families. I've put together a story about another Warren Wortman, whose disappearance is classic family legend. Also, that account answers the question many have asked -- how did I get started in genealogy? I've also recently received a fascinating e:mail that just might answer a lot of questions about Wortmans in New Jersey.



WARREN, AMY & KIDS AT DC

The holidays and winter always bring to mind food. One new subscriber, Lisa Wortman Andis, came to our attention, thanks to alert reader Faye Wortman. (apologies to Dave Barry) Lisa had an article in "A Taste of Home." You'll learn about her, her family

and some of her family's favorite meals! Amy (my wife) suggests readers send in their family's traditional recipes or meals. Perhaps we can discover some food connection to our long lost ancestors.

For all you on-line Wortmans, you will note I have elected to omit the e:mail listing. Do not despair, web heads! Find an e:mail listing on my web page - <http://www.soundsurf.com/wortman/word.html>.

On a very sad note, I must report the passing of Dorothy "Dot" Metzler. (See *The Wortman Word*, Summer 97). If you read anything from this issue, read Bill Wortman's touching letter about his ~~gunt~~.

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WARREN EDGAR WORTMAN

by *Warren John Wortman*
his Grandnephew

My mother had goaded me for years to follow up my curiosity about my Wortman roots. After my parents moved from Oregon to Maryland in the 1950s, all contact with my father's family ended. Dad's nuclear family had all passed on and he was strangely quiet concerning the Wortmans. Finally, in 1988, I wrote a note to the United Methodist Church in Joseph, Oregon, seeking information on any relatives. To my amazement, Reverend Charles W. Chase returned a letter with several enclosures. These included listings of Wortmans and Landers from the Wallowa County phone book, plus an article written by Erma Landers (my Dad's 1st cousin) about her grandparents, John and Lydia Wortman. What a find! With one simple act of kindness, Pastor Chase had connected me with dozens of cousins. From that day forward, I was hooked on genealogy.

Grasping the opportunity, I mailed letters to the Wallowa Wortmans and Landers families, complete with self-addressed stamped envelopes and a few simple questions.

Many responses came back. Suddenly I had discovered my Wortman extended family and their annual family reunion.

One mystery puzzled me, though. Many cousins were extremely curious about my name. It seems another Warren loomed in our heritage.



Warren Edgar Wortman
1873 - ?

Warren Edgar Wortman, my grandfather's oldest brother, was born in Winterset, Iowa in 1873. Today, Winterset is known as the birth place of John Wayne. In 1873 its fame was a shiny new train station.

John and Lydia moved their growing family from Winterset to Elba, NE, then Ord, NE and finally Enterprise, Oregon. In 1900, the Wortmans were a family with 8 children, Warren,

Eva, Charles, Ida, John, Earl, Ersa and Ord. Inexplicably, in about 1906, Warren disappeared. Ord's son Keith Wortman recalls:

"As best I can remember of what Dad [Ord] said, was he came home from school to eat lunch and Warren was there and gave him a silver dollar before he went back to school.... Dad said that was the last time he ever saw Warren, and that he was ever home."

In 1932 the county of Wallowa formally declared

"Warren E. Wortman was a former resident and inhabitant of Wallowa County, State of Oregon, and lived and resided in said County and State until about the year 1906 when he left Wallowa County, Oregon, and has not been seen or heard from since about that time by any of his family and has not been heard from since he left Wallowa, Oregon."

I have always been grateful to Rev. Chase for his kindness to me, a complete stranger. He opened up to me a world of genealogy and a family I never knew. Now I attempt to return the favor, with my quarterly newsletter, *The Wortman Word*. It is with great joy that I can now help people (re)discover their families.



NEW JERSEY WORTMANS

e:mail by Mary Clark
MClark5518@aol.com

I have a Wortman in my ancestry as well. This line is in New Jersey. I am descended from Dirck Jense Woertman who came from Holland in 1647, married Marretje Tunis Denyse, resided in Brooklyn and had a son named Jan Dircksen Wortman. Jan Dircksen Woertman bought August 14, 1701 from John Royse, 1025 acres in Raritan, NJ. His son was Peter Woertman who left a will Nov. 9, 1776 at Bridgewater, Somerset County, NJ.

Peter married Margaret (from my research, I believe her last name was Brokaw). His will names children Peter, John, Cattrin (wife of Peter Sutfin), and Margaret (wife of Stephen Hunt) late dec'd, and Margaret's children: Stephen, Margaret and Cattren Hunt. His son John (Johannes) Wortman was born Sept. 25, 1755 and died May 19, 1831 in Bedminster, NJ. He served in the Revolutionary War, according to Stryker's book, page 479, 829 & 850. He is buried in Schomp Cemetery, Bedminster. John married Charitee Messler, who is named in the will of her father James Messler, as "daughter, Charitee Wortman." James Messler

(originally Metzeler, Messeler) was one of Cornelius Messler & Adriantje Van Arsdale's sons. Cornelius Messler lived in New Brunswick and he and his wife are buried there. James Messler also names in his will dated March 9, 1803, a granddaughter Jane Wortman. He and Charitee had (at least) a son named Benjamin.

Benjamin Wortman was born May 2, 1788 and died July 5, 1854 in Chester, Morris County, NJ. He married Ruth Howell, daughter of Israel Howell. Their daughter Mary Wortman was my great-great grandmother on my mother's side. She married Joseph C. Buck of Succasunna, Morris County, NJ.

Another will of a Peter Wortman of Roxbury, Morris County, yeoman, probated June 28, 1779, names wife Mary and sons Joseph (youngest son, under 21), Andrew (oldest son), and daughters Elizabeth, Alshe, Sarah and Margaret.

There is also an inventory of the estate of a Josephus Woortman of Morris County, Administrators Martha Woortman & Elijah Jones, Jr. on April 5, 1777.

The wills mentioned are in the NJ Archives and you may have this information

already. Please let me know if there seems to be any connection with your family.

There are two other John Wortmans buried in Schomp Cemetery, Bedminster, NJ: John D. Wortman, died Jan. 29, 1860 aged 70 years, and John Wortman, died August 25, 1807 aged 77 years, 8 months.

And just for fun, Samuel Wortman, a private, who was one of George Washington's bodyguards, known as "The Life Guard." - from a book called Jerseymen in the Revolution by the Society of the Cincinnati.

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Another NJ Wortman



William Wortman (1859-1903)
1st Wortman owner of the
Pottersville, NJ mill

SHELBY COUNTY, IN WORTMANS

by Lisa Wortman Andis

To fill you in on our family, we are the only Wortmans in Shelby County, I think. My great-grandfather was John Thomas Hendricks Wortman. His wife was Ora Etta Goodwin. He was a plumber and electrician. He started our family business that my grandfather, Lyall Eugene Wortman worked in until his death at age 50 from a brain tumor in 1956.

Lyall's brother Lawrence lived for years in Indianapolis and retired to Casselbury, FL where he and his wife, Louise Gottlieb, both died a few years ago. They had 2 children - Dwight and Carolyn. Carolyn and husband Harold Arnold also live in Casselbury. Dwight Wortman was in the 1944 graduating class (Morristown High School) then was killed on Iowa Jima (I think) in W.W.II. The school for years gave an award named for him and fellow classmate Charlie Rouse, also killed in the war, the Rouse-Wortman Award, given to the best all-around athlete and academic achievement combined. Back to my grandfather, he married Velma Irene Davis. They had 4 kids, my father James Robert (Bob) in 1931, Janet Irene Wortman, in 1932, a teacher in Richmond, IN of 5th grade, Donald Eugene, in 1943, a

physicist for Harry Diamond Labs in Wash., DC, living in Rockville, MD, and William Keith, in 1939, a teacher in Evansville, IN who retired last year as head of the distributive education area for Evansville Central School systems.

My dad took over the family business at his dad's death after serving in the USMC radio and electronics corps. He expanded the business from selling appliances, TVs, stereos, and hardware to doing plumbing and electric contracting and bringing several industries into our area by expanding some existing natural gas lines into a major utility running from New Castle down to Milan. We have branched out to where my brother, Jay Lee Wortman, owns the hardware and contracting operation known as "J.R" Wortman Co." and my parents operate "Fountaintown Gas Co." My mother, Sue Ann Myer Wortman, is doing accounts payable and payroll to keep active in the family business. I manage our real estate interests - mostly 16 apartment units known as "Three Oak Estates".

Lisa Wortman Andis is the mother of 3 kids - Ashley Susanne (15), Kyle Stephen (12) and Jordan Wade (7) and very active in the Methodist Church.



Proud Daughter

Lisa Andis, of Morristown, Indiana, has a terrific mom -- Sue Wortman! In the October/November 97 issue of *Taste of Home*, Lisa talks about her mom's best meal -- broiled pork chops, creamed peas & potatoes, Hawaiian salad and German chocolate birthday cake. As quoted from a *Taste of Home*, Lisa remembers, "My mom always prepared our favorite foods on our birthdays and invited our grandparents to celebrate with us". Scrumptious looking pictures of Sue Wortman's meal fill the magazine. A picture of Sue Wortman can be found in the article - "My Mom's Best Meal".

YOUR LETTERS

A Lot about Lot

[Last issue Judy Pons queried: "Looking for information on LOT WORTMAN who was in Westmoreland Co., PA in 1811 and in Muskingum Co., OH about 1816...."]

I forwarded the following info provided to me, almost as a lark, by the late Dorothy (Dot) Metzler of Pottersville, NJ.]

From the book, Ohio Valley Genealogies:

" Lot Wortman, b. in New Jersey about 1779; d. 1839; probably a descendant of John Wortman, who emigrated from Holland to America in 1750, and settled in Bedminster township, Somerset county, N.J.; m. in Westmoreland county, Penn., Margaret Metzlar, d. 1860; removed to Muskingum county, Ohio, about 1808; had issue, twelve children, of whom: 1. Jesse-David, b. in Muskingum county, 1824; d. Dec. 28, 1898; m. 1860, Jane P. Jamison, daughter of Barkley and margaret Jamison; 2. Jonathan-Washington, settled in Zanesville; 3. John settled in Kansas."

Dot had handwritten about Lot's father: "John Wortman buried Pluckemian [NJ] (difficult to read) had a cannon ball forge."

Warren,
A MILLION thank yous!!!! I have seen references to Wortmans in New Jersey but had no idea if Lot came from that group or not. I can't wait to see what else I can now dig up.

I'll let you know what I find. And thank you again and again.

Judy Pons
Salem, Oregon

Judy,
It appears that Lot Wortman was my great great grandfather. I am enclosing below some Wortman family history that was prepared by my Aunt Ruth Wortman Hoover.

Dave Wortman
Don Mills, Ontario

[Dorothy Gunness had the same "Hoover" letter]

...Also, I wrote to Judy Pons in Salem, Oregon, and think I may be able to help her on Lot Wortman. (The Wortman Word -- In Search of.)

Dorothy Wortman Gunness
Pacific City, Oregon

[Another Lot descendant, Thomas Wortman, recently sent a huge stack of info on Lot & probable kin.]

Thank you for the information regarding Thomas, another descendant of Lot Wortman. I will write him a letter.

Thanks again for all you do for us Wortman descendants.

Judy Pons
Salem, Oregon

About the Web Site

Warren, I use Netscape Navigator and your pages look GREAT...I printed them out to add to my "collection." THANKS.

Emma Becraft
College Park, MD

I enjoyed your Wortman web site, having worked at the Aberdeen Proving Ground with John D. Wortman for several years. Very interesting and very well presented. My compliments to you.

Ermalee McCauley
Havre de Grace, MD

Dorothy Metzler, 1914-1997

I am writing to let you know that my Aunt Dot died on October 4. She struggled to stay alive longer than most of us would, but finally drifted off peacefully with her son and granddaughter present. Although not happy to lose her, our family is relieved that she is no longer suffering and confident that she has gone to a better place.

As you might imagine, her wake and funeral were major events. I got the opportunity to meet friends and extended family who shared interesting and amusing stories about Dot and our family. It was an honor to serve as one of her pallbearers.

After the funeral there was a reception where we continued to reminisce about Dot's life and times. These days it is rare for someone to be born and die in the same house. Her granddaughter brought three photo albums spanning the last hundred years. It was obvious that these were Dot's favorites (probably arranged for this specific purpose).

Your name and the Wortman Word were mentioned several times while I was in New Jersey. We are grateful that you visited Pottersville in June and wrote such kind and flattering articles. I am pleased that you got a chance to experience Aunt Dot and could capture her essence to share with your readers. Thank you again.

I hope that you and your family are well. I am looking forward to many more enjoyable issues of the Wortman Word.

William Wortman
Batesville, VA

The Wortman Word**Relatives Found!**

What luck to find a website about my family on the internet. On my first visit to rootsweb, I find you. My father's mother, Dorothy Laura Henry, nee Waters, often talks about her Aunt Pearl. Olive Mae Wortman was her mother.

Katherine Benz
Brooklyn, NY

[Olive and Pearl are daughters of Daniel D. Wortman, Civil War Vet and granddaughters of Milton Lad Wortman]

Another Moncton Descendant

I can't thank you enough for all your help in locating the Wortman family members.

Grace Simmons
Dale City, VA

[Grace is an ancestor of George and Moriah Wortman, original settlers of Moncton, NB]

**Oops!!!**

Careful reader Pete Livolsi points out the B-17 Bomber crew consisted of 10 members, not 12, as stated in our Fall article. On B-17 bomb missions, the crew consisted of: Pilot, Co-Pilot, Engineer, Tail Gunner, Navigator, Waist Gunners(2), Ball Turret; Tail Gunner and Radio Operator. Thanks Pete!

OUR READERS

Christmas Reunion



Son Ed, Jr. (right), back from Okinawa, spent time with parents Ed and Goldie Somerville over Christmas in California.



(l-r) Cyclists Frouke De Quillettes, Anne Holmes & Warren Wortman after 50 miles! Picture by Dave Holmes

100 Miles

Who would have thought that Warren Wortman, age 41 and father of 3, could have bicycled a century (100 miles)? Well he surprised many, including himself, with help from Dave Holmes, Anne Holmes and Frouke De Quillettes. The route started and ended in Salisbury, MD looping through Assateague Island.

How to Subscribe to the Wortman Word

For a 1 year subscription of *The Wortman Word*, a quarterly newsletter send \$10 to:

**Warren Wortman
PO Box 522
Columbia, MD 21045**

For more information:

(410) 997-7216,

or e:mail:

Warren_Wortman @compuserve.com

or see our web page:

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Warren_Wortman

Back issues available for \$3 each!

Vol 1.1 6 pages	Dirck J. Wortman, Reunions, Where We Live (map), Dan Wortman (Civil War Vet)
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Vol 1.2	Ken Wortman, Reunions, Nebraska Blizzard of 1888, Wortman Disease
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Vol 1.3	Reunions (Map), Milton Lad Wortman, Moncton Wortmans, Wortman Origin
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Vol 1.4	Jacob Wortman on the Oregon Trail, Guest Editor, Wayne Wortman '97 Reunions
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Vol 2.1	Wortman Mill of Pottersville, NJ, Dirck Woertman Found, John Murray Wortman, Wortmans On-Line
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Vol 2.2	The Wortmanns (Map), Wortmans On-Line, Military Wortmans
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IN SEARCH OF...

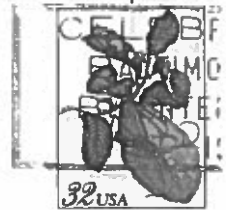
Looking for *more* info on **LOT WORTMAN**, b. 1779 NJ, m. **MARGARET METZLAR** 12 July 1803, d. Muskingum Co., OH, 7 Feb 1839. Possible brothers, **BENJAMIN** and **JOHN**. His father also may have been **JOHN WORTMAN** of New Jersey and owned a cannon ball forge. Lot's children: Rachel, Samuel, Joshua, Elizabeth, John, Elija, Margaret, Rebecca, Jessie, Mary, and Jonathin.

Thomas Wortman, 1024 Londonderry Dr, Vandalia, OH 45377

Request information on **GEORGE WORTMAN** who lived in Centralia, IL at some time during the 1890's. Also, info on **LAWRENCE** and **DAVID WORTMAN**, sons of my uncle **GEORGE RAYMOND WORTMAN** would be appreciated.

Joanne Wortman, 61 Eckernkamp Drive, Smithtown, NY 11787

Warren Wortman
P.O. Box 522
Columbia, MD 21045



David & Johnnie Lee Witt
32 Mallard Street
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

23328+6317



Seeking ANY info on **WILLIAM WORTMAN**, b June 1747, d. Nov 1833, Stokes Co., NC. He was buried in the Muddy Creek Friends Cemetery. The 1790 Stokes Co. census lists the **WILLIAM WORTMAN** household as 1 male over 16, 2 males under 16 and 5 females, no other free people or slaves. It is likely that **WILLIAM WORTMAN** is the father of **SAMUEL WORTMAN**. **SAMUEL WORTMAN** married Patsy Jane in North Carolina in 1804. They moved to Rush County, IN and lived there for over 20 years. Also, possibly kin to **MILTON WORTMAN**.

Warren Wortman, PO Box 522, Columbia, MD 21045