

**STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF
PROCEEDINGS HAD AT THE
REUNION OF THE WERTZ
FAMILY, HELD AT HARRISBURG,
PA., OCTOBER 25, 26, 27, 1912**

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WILLIAM J. SNYDER

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REUNION OF THE WERTZ
FAMILY, HELD AT HARRISBURG,
PA., OCTOBER 25, 26, 27, 1912**

STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF
PROCEEDINGS HAD AT THE SECOND
REUNION OF THE WERTZ FAMILY,
HELD AT HARRISBURG, PA.,
OCTOBER 25, 26, 27, 1912.

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The Wertz Family Association was organized at Rock Island, Illinois, Oct. 6-7-8, 1911. The organization was formed in accordance with the following articles:

ARTICLE I.

That the name of this Association be the "Wertz Family Association."

ARTICLE II.

MEMBERSHIP.

Any person who bears the name of "Wertz," or related thereto, shall be eligible to membership in this Association.

ARTICLE III.

This Association shall consist of the following officers: President; first, second and third vice president; secretary-treasurer; corresponding secretary; assistant corresponding secretary; also an advisory board consisting of five members, to be selected by vote of the association.

ARTICLE IV.

The meetings of this Association to be held annually, at such time and place as the Association may decide.

ARTICLE V.

MEMBERSHIP FEE.

The membership fee of the Association shall be one dollar, payable at enrollment.

ARTICLE VI.

Special meeting may be called by the president, stating the object of the meeting.

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OFFICERS
of the
WERTZ FAMILY ASSOCIATION.

MRS. ESTELLE RYAN SNYDER.....President
1305 Ashland Block, Chicago.

WILLARD W. WERTZ.....First Vice President
Pres. Wertz Auto Co., Lincoln, Neb.

LEE POTTERFIELD.....Second Vice President
225 W. Jefferson St., Kirkwood, Mo.

C. H. WORTZ.....Third Vice President
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WILLIAM J. SNYDER.....Secretary Treasurer
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GEORGE W. WERTS, Jr.....Corresponding Secretary
Attorney at Law, Aledo, Ills.

MISS CORA HOSELTON.....Assistant Corresponding Secretary
Millersburg, Ia.

ADVISORY BOARD.

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JAMES W. WERTZ.....Grand Junction, Iowa

JOHN W. WERTZ.....Stuart, Neb.

HIRAM E. WERTZ.....Quiney, Pa.

JOHN A. WERTZ.....Johnstown, Pa.



MRS. ESTELLE RYAN SNYDER, CHICAGO, ILL., PRESIDENT
WERTZ FAMILY ASSOCIATION.

SECOND ANNUAL RE-UNION PROCEEDINGS

The Second Annual Reunion of the Wertz Family Association was held at Harrisburg, Pa., on the 25th, 26th and 27th days of October, A. D. 1912.

The first meeting took place in the rooms of the Board of Trade building, and was called to order by the President, Mrs. Estelle Ryan Snyder, at two o'clock p. m., October 25, 1912.

THE PRESIDENT: Ladies and gentlemen, I take much pleasure in introducing to you the Honorable John K. Royal, Mayor of the City of Harrisburg, who will welcome you to the City of Harrisburg.

MAYOR ROYAL: I trust you will pardon me on account of the fact that I am suffering with a severe cold. I knew nothing at all of your meeting until this morning when the Secretary of the Board of Trade asked me if I would not come before you and give you some few words of greeting. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to extend the right hand of fellowship to the stranger within our gates. It is one of those duties which are imposed upon the chief executive of this city, and one which I have had the pleasure to do a number of times during my one year now in the office. But I do not know that I have ever had to meet a family re-union like this, as I am told that it is. I am not thoroughly familiar with the objects of your association, and, therefore, I cannot speak along those lines; but I do say to you that we have here a city which we are all proud of and one that we are always glad to have the stranger come and see. We think we have a modern, up-to-date city, and the scenery surrounding us we think is beautiful and will compare with anything in the United States. We have clean streets, filtered water; the streets are well lit day and night; and, above all, we have moderate taxes.

In conclusion I want to say to you that I trust you will make yourselves perfectly at home while in our midst; you may do just as you please. And when I look at the faces here I know that I will have none of you before me in an official way. (Laughter.) If you see anything you like in the city take it home with you, it is yours. (Laughter and applause.) I trust that your stay may be a pleasure as well as a profit to yourselves, and I take great pleasure in assuring you that the citizens of Harrisburg are glad of the opportunity to greet you and wish you a pleasant visit. I thank you. (Applause.)

The President at this point after thanking Mayor Royal for his kind words addressed the assembly as follows, to-wit:

It affords me great pleasure to stand before this assemblage this afternoon and call to order the second annual re-union of the Wertz Family. In the name of my illustrious third great grand-sire, Jacob Wuertz, one of the pioneer settlers of Pennsylvania, I bid you welcome to the State of his adoption. Jacob Wuertz was a German by birth, being born somewhere in the Palatinate early in the seventeenth century. At the age of 26 years he left the country of his nativity and emigrated to America. Contrary to our traditionary belief, Jacob Wuertz came to this country alone, as he was not married at the time. In all probability he left his sweetheart in Germany, setting forth to the new country fired

with ambition and determination to found a home in the land of the free to which he could afterwards bring the girl of his choice. He joined a band of pilgrims who left the Palatinate in 1731, passing through Holland, where the Synod was in session at that time. This band of people consisted of nearly 800 Palatines who had been persecuted at the hands of the German government on account of their religious views. In those days Catholicism was rampant, and whatever religion the crown recognized as the true religion the people were obliged to follow. It was at this time that Lutheranism began to take such a hold in the southern part of Germany; the following of Luther grew so enormous that the Government became alarmed at so many people deserting Catholicism and embracing the new religion; a general religious persecution ensued. Now the Palatinate, which is situated in the southern part of Germany, was a Lutheran stronghold, and when these people found that they could not worship in accordance with their own ideas and beliefs they began to leave that part of the country by the hundreds. During this period eight thousand Germans emigrated from Germany to England alone, many of them staying in England but a short time, going on as soon as opportunity arose to America. The group of which Jacob Wuertz was a part went direct to Holland. The Synod was in session at Dort when the pilgrims arrived. The entire Synod in a body visited the wayfarers, prayed with them, sang hymns and gave them food and medicine, as well as a great deal of good advice in starting them on their journey. Now all of this band of 800 Germans did not go to America; many of them remained in Holland. But we know positively that a large body of them boarded the ship "Britannia" of London, with Michael Franklyn as Master of the Ship, sailing from Rotterdam for America, arriving at Philadelphia, the port of entry, September 21st, 1731, where they took the oath of allegiance to the Constitution of the United States.

Jacob Wuertz was one of the passengers on this ship "Britannia of London," as shown by the ship's original log which is now in the custody of the State of Pennsylvania and which can be seen at any time at the capitol building in this city. The ship's log gives Jacob Wuertz' age as 26 years. He is the only Wuertz in the entire company. And not only is he the only Wuertz in this entire company, but he is the first Wuertz to land on American soil.

From 1731 to 1733 we have no actual proof of where he lived. We know, however, that he became a pioneer in the great commonwealth of Pennsylvania when it was in its infancy. He was keen enough to recognize the possibilities of this great State, and on March 3rd, 1734, we find him occupying a pre-empted claim of 118 acres in Coventry township, in the county of Chester, known as Pleasant Dale. In the meantime Anna Barbara Hoff, aged 33 years, in company with her twin brother Christ Hoff, of the same age, arrived in America on the ship "Samuel," with Hugh Percy as captain, on August 17th, 1733. Our natural deduction is that Jacob Wuertz had succeeded in making a home for the sweet-heart across the seas and had sent for her to come to the land of his adoption. On December 29th, 1734, Jacob Wuertz and Anna Barbara Hoff, of Coventry, were married by the Rev. Johann Caspar Stoeber, one of the prominent early missionaries. The record of this marriage you will also find in the capitol building of this city. Among these Harrisburg records are to be found the baptismal records of the first three children born to this marriage. John Cunradt, the eldest son of Jacob Wuertz, (who was my own second great grand-father), was born October 15th, 1735, baptized October 25th, 1735. Maria Katherina, born August 8th, 1738, baptized January 10th, 1739. Anna Margaretha, born June 14th, 1740, baptized September 22nd, 1740.

Jacob Wuertz and his family remained in Coventry for a period of ten or twelve years. Family tradition says that they lived for a time in York county, but the only proof we have of this assertion is that the youngest son, Johann George, was born in York county, January 31st, 1745, as shown by his birth certificate. There was still another son,