

WETZEL FAMILY GENEALOGY

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Compiled by:  
James E. Wetzel September 2, 1984

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## Wetzel Family Genealogy

The name of Wetzel, Wetzell, or Weitzell is indicative of Teutonic ancestry with a long identification with Germany. The name Wetzel was first applied to a person who whetted, whittled, or sharpened tools with a cutting edge.

Our original ancestors landed in Philadelphia on September 16, 1747, on the Palatine Imported Queen Elizabeth Hope, from Rotterdam east from Deal, England, with 300 other emigrants. This Wetzel family had moved from Holland to Switzerland in 1740 and in 1747, they came to Pennsylvania.

In that hard period of life the mother died on the ship leaving three children Heinrich, Martin, and John. These young boys in their teens were deserted by their stepfather and were sold as bond-servants and separated. Heinrich settled in New York, Martin located in Berks County, Pennsylvania. He served in the Revolutionary War and participated in the battles of Long Island, Brandywine, and Germantown. John Wetzel first located in Hareford Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania. He was our grandfather, Henry B. Wetzel's great, great, grandfather.

John Wetzel, Sr., was born in Holland in 1733, and came to America in 1747, with his mother, stepfather, and two brothers. His father's name was Johan Jacob Wetzel or Jacob Werner Wetzel. His mother's name is unknown. He married Mary Bonnett in 1756. They originally settled in Rockingham County, Virginia but returned to Lancaster County and remained there until 1764.

John and Mary with four children started out across the Alleghenies to settle and find a new home on **the western frontier**.

John Wetzel was a brave and honest Dutchman. Against the advice of neighbors he started out into the wilderness with three other families with no intention of turning back. They were headed for free land of promise in the Wheeling Creek area of present day

Marshall County, West Virginia which is along Big Wheeling Creek, fourteen miles from the Ohio River. He built his cabin in Indian country far from the fort at Wheeling. Here our ancestor John Wetzel, Jr. was born August, 1770.

At the outbreak of the Revolutionary War the threat of Indian attacks worried the Wetzel family. One day while hunting, one Wetzel brother spotted a bear that seemed to act quite strange. Later that evening John Sr. shot the bear which turned out to be an Indian prowling outside his cabin door. No investigation was reported. Indians were fair game in those days.

John Wetzel, Sr. served as a captain during the Revolutionary War. He served with distinction and fought bravely in many encounters with Indians during the war. The Wetzels also had Indian problems while establishing their home, which was near Midway<sup>4</sup>lebourne, in Tyler County, West Virginia.

Many stories, some surely legends or tall-tales; are written about the exploits of this frontier family. John Wetzel Sr. and his four sons Martin, George, Lewis, and John Jr. (our ancestor) were storied in fact and legend in West Virginia history. One story worth mentioning is the tragic death of John Wetzel, Sr. and his son George.

John Wetzel, Sr., and his sons Martin, Lewis, and George were attacked by Indians on the Ohio River two miles above Fish Creek in June of 1786. Ordered to land on shore the Wetzels attempted to escape across the river. The Indians fired upon

Page 3

their canoes mortally wounding John Sr., and his son George. They were buried in coffins made of hickory bark on the bank of Grave Yard Run near Baker's Station, West Virginia.

The slaying of John Wetzel incensed the Wetzel brothers hatred for the Indians. Lewis, and his brothers hunted for sport and vengeance.

Lewis Wetzel was the older brother of our direct ancestor John, Jr. His exploits on the frontier are legendary. Some mention of Lewis is necessary to fully understand the circumstances our early ancestors experienced in establishing their life in the West.

Lewis Wetzel by today's standards would be considered an outlaw. He was a hunter and scalper of redmen, hunted by both red and whitemen, accused murderer and bold frontiersman. His life was spent hunting down and killing Indians. The Indians referred to him as "Death Wind" because he could run so fast. His long black hair hung to his knees making him fair game for scalping.

Wetzel was once tried for killing an Indian and had to elude military authorities for several months before his trial and eventual acquittal.

Many stories about his skills as a hunter, tracker, and marksman are told in the book, Lewis Wetzel, Indian Fighters The Life and Times of a Frontier Hero by C.B. Allman:.

John Wetzel, Jr., also had his share of encounters with the redskins. When only sixteen years of age he was shot in the arm and captured by the redmen. While being transported in the Indians' canoe, the Indians were spotted by John's neighbors. John escaped during the ensuing battle by striking an Indian in the skull with a tomahawk and then cutting off the Indian's fingers as he tried to hold onto the overturned canoe.

Page **4**

Another time John barely escaped an Indian ambush by running nine miles barefoot through the snow.

A final episode finds John and two other men trailed by Indians and their dogs. The men spotted an Indian creeping toward them. John took aim at the Indian and struck him between his eyebrows at 40 yards distance. Other Indians soon confronted the men. Three Indians with uplifted tomahawks approached. John

was in front and said to his friends to shoot the left and right Indian respectively with John taking the middle one. All three men fired at the same time killing the Indians. They reloaded and shot the dogs also.

John Wetzel, Jr. was our direct ancestor. He was the seventh child of John and Mar:y Bonnett Wetzel. He was born August, 1770, and died May 1817, at age 47 years. He wed Eleanor Williams about 1794, and resided in Ohio County, Virginia. He was a farmer, a dealer in real estate and as mentioned previously an Indian fighter. George Rynehart was the first born of nine children, and probably had to assume the duties of head of household after his father died in 1817. John and Mary are buried at the McCreary Cemetery, near Big Wheeling Creek, two miles from the old Wetzel homestead.

George Rynehart Wetzel, the first son of John Jr., and Eleanor Wetzel, was born December 31, 1795, in Ohio County, Virginia and died September 19, 1848, in Bell Township, Clearfield County, Pennsylvania at age 52 years.

Page 5

He grew up in Ohio County, Virginia. During his early years he was involved in helping make peace with the Indians, where his family had settled many years before and established their homes.

On December 27, 1818, he married Sara Yost. She was born in 1795 and died October 23, 1840. They moved from Ohio County to Mifflin County, Pennsylvania then to Clearfield County, Bell Township where they remained until their deaths. They are buried in Burnside Cemetery. The spelling of his name appears to have been changed to Rinehart.

George and Eleanor had seven children. Their sixth child, James Stackpohl Wetzel was Grandfather Wetzel's father.

After his father's death in 1848, James S. Wetzel at the age of 17 along with his sisters Mary and Sarah petitioned the Clearfield

County courts for a guardian named Jacob Walters. This is on the records in the courthouse File F, No. 3, 209, Rinehart Wetzel dated November'16, 1848,

James Stackpohl Wetzel was born July 20, 1831, in Clearfield County, Bell Township, and died July 2, 1911. He was married to Sara Baird, who died December 26, 1910. They lived in Burnside, Pennsylvania where he was a blacksmith. They had ten children as follows Laura, Clara, Bennie, Edward, Mary, John B., Henry. B., William F., Della and Enoch.

Henry Blake Wetzel was born in Burnside, Pennsylvania on September 2, 1869. He married Sallie Kate Ross on December 17, 1892. She was born on November 17, 1872. He was a farmer who also hauled lumber and coal with a horse and team. The children and their birthdates are as follows: Walter Ross, April 15, 1894, Sara Nan, November 1, 1895, James Clyde, September 7, 1897,

**Page 6**

Inez Ruth, June 1, 1901, Mary Elizabeth, April 23, 1903, Geneva Winifred, December 19, 1904, Fred Robert, September 9, 1908, Dorothy Jane, July 29, 1910, and Henry Orrin May 18, 1913.

Henry Blake died January 20', 1949, and his wife Sallie Kate passed away on January 12, 1959. They are buried in Burnside Cemetery, Burnside, Pennsylvania.

This short presentation of the Wetzel Family Genealogy was prepared for the 56th Henry B. Wetzel Reunion by James E. Wetzel, son of Henry Orrin Wetzel seven generations after our ancestors arrived in the Colonies from Holland.

The stories, names, and dates used in preparation for this text came from the following sources:

George Rynehart Wetzel Family 1729-1974, compiled by Myrtle and George Wetzel, Marion Center, Pennsylvania, 1974.

Lewis Wetzel, Indian Fighter: The Life and Times of a Frontier  
Hero, C.B. Allman, The Devin-Adair Co., Publishers 143, Sound  
Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Conn. 06870, 1939,1977.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard B. Wetzel, Marion Center, Pennsylvania  
Gerald H. Wetzel, Butler, Pennsylvania

Limited editions of the Rynehart Wetzel text may be  
purchased from Howard B. Wetzel, R.D.#1, Box A1, Marion Center,  
Pa. 15759. The current cost is \$5.00 plus shipping. The current  
cost of the Lewis Wetzel book is \$7.50.

James Edward Wetzel  
Butler, Pennsylvania  
September 2, 1984

-1983-WETZEL ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE LIST

Albert Leroy, Jr., Mr. and Mrs.

(Debra Lyn Wetzel) 13. Flegal,  
Offspring - Wendy Starr, Miss / .574 :4-  
Andrea Lyn est eihurc."--  
Dana Renee  
Joshua Albert  
Roxanne Lane

7. Domalakes, John Edward, Mr. and Mrs.  
(not Jr.)  
(Suzanne Louise Peters)  
Offspring -  
Karen Louise Domalakes  
Janet Suzanne Domalakes

Follansbee, West Virginia 26037 ,D0.7maZolt,  
Phone - AC 304 527-4413

Bait Street  
Frackville, Pennsylvania 17931  
Ph 1 8 4 6

(1. Brown, Clifford Alishouse, Mr. lbr.  
(Geneva Winifred Wetzel, deceased)  
Offspring -  
Sandra Lee Brown  
Robert Earl Brown  
210 East Pine Street  
Clearfield, Pennsylvania 16830  
Phone - AC 814 765-4536

8. Dlamalakes, John George, Mr. and Mrs.  
Sara Jane Wetzel)  
Offspring -  
John Edward Domalakes (Not Jr.)  
Paul George Domalakes (home)  
Joan Gail Domalakes

Brown, Robert Earl, Mr. and Mrs.  
(Barbara Ellen Ianaro)  
108 North Second Street  
Clearfield, Pennsylvania 16830  
Phone - AC 814 765-6360

14. Foster  
, Leonard  
Leroy, Mt. and  
Mrs. 2 . Hill,  
Sherman J.,  
Mr. and Mrs.  
(Joanne  
Domalakes, Lawrence David, Mr. and Mrs.  
(Anna May Hambosky)  
Offspring -  
Jennifer Ann Eiche

4. Campbell, Patrick Edward, Mr. and Mrs.  
(Marjorie Ann Wetzel)  
Offspring -  
Kristen Ann Campbell Zis-1-aLtt S  
K e l l y L y n n e  
1604 Duchess Lane  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15236 1)  
Phone - AC 412 653-3971

D (tv.41 ZR,uly.04)ryStal Ann Domalakes  
104 West Spring Street  
Frackville, Pennsylvania 17931  
C a m p b e l l  
Phone - AC 717 874-4092

7  
Dimmick, Barry Lewis, Mr. and Mrs.  
(Carole Louise Long)  
Offspring -  
Amy Jo Dimmick  
Barry Lewis Dimmick, Jr.  
201 Mount Joy Road  
Clearfield, Pennsylvania 16830  
Phone - AC 814 765-5137

10. Everist, Donald Gilbert, Mr. and Mrs.  
(Sandra Lee Brown)  
2699 Centennial Court  
Alexandria, Virginia 22311  
Phone - AC 703 931-1416 (unlisted)  
til (Flegal, James Starr, Mr. and Mrs.  
(Julie Ann Violand)  
Offspring -  
Kathleen Eleanor Flegal

Domalakes, Joan Gail  
Offspring -  
Gretchen Pamela Wirth  
Patrick Timothy Wirth  
739 North New Street  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018  
Phone - AC 215 867-1721

Andrew James Flegal  
C4-04-s, 'Aeaa', 7ki-a-Z  
2427 Rachel Cour  
Marietta, Georgia 30066  
Phon AC 401 973-0384

Flegal, Russell Cole, Mr. and Mrs.  
(Helen Winifred Starr)  
Offspring -  
James Starr Flegal  
Wendy Starr Flegal  
310 Southwest Third Avenue  
Clearfield, Pennsylvania 16830  
Phone - AC 814 765-1074

*Reg*

(Sallie Kate Reed)  
Offspring -  
Stephen Ray Reynolds (1964)  
Robyn Kay Reynolds (1967)  
Kimberly Ann Foster (1971)  
Mark Allen Foster (1972) Twin

*HY3*



Michael Len Foster (1972) Twin  
Matthew Eugene Foster (1973)  
1332 Piketown Road  
Offspring -  
Richanne Hill Donald Scott Hill  
1890 Winrow Road  
El Cajon, California 92021  
Phone - AC 714 442-8282

X

Long, Dean Richard, Mrs.  
(Barbara Louise Wetzel)  
Offspring -  
Carole Louise Long  
201 Mount Joy Road

Clearfield, Pennsylvania 16830

Phone - AC 814 765-6677

✓4. Long, William Earl, Mr.  
(Sara Nan Wetzel, deceased)  
Offspring -  
Elizabeth Imogene Long 326 South  
Broad Street Lititz, Pennsylvania  
17543 Phone - AC 717 626-2717

Linglestown, Pennsylvania 17112  
Phone - AC 717 469-7236

I" < Ganster Barbara Jane, Miss

?44<sup>1</sup>5<sup>4</sup> i4e JP f---.0 9,3  
16. Ganster, James Ro, Mr.

McGonigal, Ross Carl, Jr., Mr. and Mrs.  
(Patricia Ann Reed)  
Offspring -  
Susan Ann McGonigal  
6418 Farris Drive  
Lakeland, Florida 33803  
Phone - AC 813 646-0976

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-/24,, Petrus, Ronald John, Mr. and Mrs.  
(Richanne Hill)  
608 Agee reet  
Dieg Calif 122  
one - AC 714 53-9 g,  
25. Reed, Fred Bowman, Mrs.

✓  
27.  
2884 →

Ganster, John Francis, Mrs. Ae1005P?  
(Alberta May Wetzel)  
Offspring -  
Patricia Ann Ganster  
John Francis Ganster  
Barbara Jane Ganster  
James Ross Ganster

(Dorothy Jane Wetzel)  
Offspring -  
Jacqueline Wetzel Reed  
Patricia Ann Reed  
Sallie Kate Reed  
Fred Bowman Reed (Deceased)  
William Wetzel Reed 1-1-6-  
Seter-iset-Stres\_t  
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania  
17055 one - AC 717 766-2357 AL

(Separate)

Sea Village  
-K1, --en-be2110.. /L. 5, bad f-S  
Ganster, John Francis Mr. and Mrs.  
Shalotte, North Carolina, 28459  
(Patricia Diana Reed)  
Phone - AC 919 579-3652

Offspring -  
Eric John Ganster  
Joseph Richard Ganster  
309 Chateau Court  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15220

6. Reed,  
Mrs. (Marian Helen Shaul)

William Wetzel, Mr. and

ace4, -.1 7; " " Offspring -

33.57U4; L Chad Nathan Reed  
Karen Ann Reed  
703 East Coover Street

.J19. Ganster, Patricia Ann, Miss Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055  
Phone - AC 717 697-6880

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63-3-53 67

John Lloyd, III, Mr. and Mrs.  
Hoffman)

L43. Sheaffer,  
(Jane Offspring

Michelle Sheaffer

Suzanne

John Lloyd Sheaffer, IV  
524 West Lexington Road  
Lititz, Pennsylvania 17543  
Phone - AC 717 665-6364  
Starr, James Wilbur, Mrs.

(Inez Ruth Wetzel)

Offspring - Helen Winifred Starr 310 Southwest Third Avenue  
Clearfield, Pennsylvania 16830 Phone - AC 814 765-1074

**A**0. Truschel, William Joseph, Mr. and Mrs. (Jacqueline Wetzel Reed)  
Fredrick Joseph Truschel  
Timothy Lincoln Truschel Jones Road  
R.D. 6  
Butler, Pennsylvania 16001 Phone - AC 412 586-9448

33. Wetzel, Henry Orrin, Mr. and Mrs. (Barbara Elizabeth Beatty) Offspring -  
 Marjorie Ann Wetzel James Edward Wetzel Debra Lyn Wetzel 47-  
 D Hall Drive  
 Phone - AC 412 823-6287 Turtle Creek, Pennsylvania 15145
34. Wetzel, James Edward, Mr. and Mrs. (Cynthia Lee Terwilliger) Offspring -  
 Curtis James Wetzel  
 Jeffrey Lee Wetzel  
 127 Oberlin Drive  
 Butler, Pennsylvania 16001  
 Phone - AC 412 287-0140
- 35. Wetzel William Ross, Mr. and Mrs. (Betty Jane Miller)  
 Donald Henry Wetzel 109 Bonaparte Drive  
 Shallotte, North Carolina 28459 Phone - AC 919 579-3131

Wetzel, Donald Henry, Mr. and Mrs. (Grace Daniel)  
 Offspring -  
 Kimberly Ann Wetzel  
 Christopher Daniel Wetzel

- <sup>-1/</sup>32. Wetzel, Fred Robert, Mr. and Mrs. (Esther Emma Schreiber) Offspring -  
 William Henry Wetzel 1678  
 Montpelier Avenue  
 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15216 Phone -  
 AC 412 531-2655  
 DEMASED

1. Brown, Clifford Allshouse, Mrs. (Geneva

1. Wetzel, James Clyde Offspring -  
 Barbara Louise Wetzel  
 James Clyde Wetzel, Jr.  
 Born - September 7, 1897  
 Died - July 5, 1974
2. Wetzel, James Clyde, Jr.  
 Died - April 9, 1943

3. Wetzel, James Clyde, Mrs. (Margaret Ruth Hill)

Offspring - Barbara Louise Wetzel  
 James Clyde Wetzel, Jr.  
 Born - November 5, 1902  
 Died - April 6, 1974  
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4. Wetzel, Mary Sallie, Mrs. (Sallie Kate Ross)

Offspring - Same as for Henry Blake  
 Wetzel, above  
 Born - November 17, 1872  
 Died - January 12, 1959

5. Wetzel, Walter Ross

Offspring - William Ross Wetzel  
 Sara Jane Wetzel  
 Joanne Wetzel  
 Alberta May Wetzel  
 Born - April 15, 1894  
 Died - January 5, 1978

6. Wetzel, Walter Ross, Mrs. (Daisy Belle Mitchell) Offspring - Same as for Walter Ross

Wetzel, above  
 Born - July 8, 1894  
 Died - December 12, 1938?

7. Wetzel, Walter Ross, Mrs. (Hattie McCormick)

Born -  
 Died -

31  
 Changed  
 8/84  
 (Separated)

~~Mirror Lake  
 R. D. 1  
 New Florence, Pennsylvania 15944  
 Phone - AC~~

2. Byers, Harry Donald, Mrs. (Mary Elizabeth Wetzel) Born - April 23, 1903  
 Died - January 20, 14.78

3. Long, Dean Richard  
 Offspring - Carole Louise Long Born -  
 July 8, 1925  
 Died - August 30, 1978

4. Long, William Earl, Mrs. (Sara Nan Wetzel)  
 Offspring - Elizabeth Imogene Long Born -  
 November 1, 1895  
 Died - September 1, 1979

5. Reed, Fred Bowman, Jr,  
 Offspring - Jacqueline Wetzel Reed  
 Patricia Ann Reed Sallie  
 Kate Reed

Fred Bowman Reed, III William Wetzel Reed Born - May 4, 1910  
Died - February 9, 1965 '

6. Reed, Fred Bowman, III Born - June 5, 1943 Died-April 11, 1966

7. Starr, James Wilbur

Offspring - Helen Winifred Starr Born - July 28, 1900

Died - May 2, 1981

8. Wetzel, Henry Blake

Offspring - Walter Ross Wetzel

Sara Nan Wetzel

James Clyde Wetzel Inez Ruth Wetzel

Mary Elizabeth Wetzel Geneva Winifred Wetzel Fred Robert Wetzel

Dorothy Jane Wetzel Henry Orrin Wetzel

Born - September 2, 1869

Died - January 21, 1949