WETZEL FAMILY GENEALOGY

Compiled by:
James E. Wetzel September 2, 1984

LOVES IT! I don't think this is a battlefield to mess with!
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-servents 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 suite 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 Midr'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 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 whitesmen, 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's 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.

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 Mary 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.

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,

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:


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
Albert Leroy, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. 

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

Follansbee, West Virginia 26037 10.47mZ-1l7

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

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

Campbell, Patrick Edward, Mr. and Mrs.
Warjorie Ann Wetzel)
Offspring -
Kristen Ann Campbell Zis-1-aLt t
Kelly Lynne Campbell
1604 Duchess Lane
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15236 1
Phone - AC 412 653-3971

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

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

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

Domalakes, Lawrence David, Mr. and Mrs.
(Anna May Hombosky)
Offspring -
Jennifer Ann Eiche

(t/Flegal, James Starr, Mr. and Mrs.
(Helen Winifred Starr)
Offspring -
Kathleen Eleanor Flegal

Andrew James Flegal
2427 Rachel Court
Marietta, Georgia 30066
Phone 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

(Sallie Kate Reed)
Offspring -
Stephen Ray Reynolds (1964)
Robyn Kay Reynolds (1967)
Kimberly Ann Foster (1971)
Mark Allen Foster (1972) Twin
Linglestown, Pennsylvania 17112
Phone - AC 717 469-7236

Ganster, Barbara Jane, Miss
(Barbara Louise Wetzel)
Offspring -
Carole Louise Long
201 Mount Joy Road
Phone - AC 814 765-6677

Ganster, John Francis, Mr. and Mrs.
(Albera May Wetzel)
Offspring -
Eric John Ganster
Joseph Richard Ganster
Patricia Ann Ganster
John Francis Ganster
Barbara Jane Ganster
James Ross Ganster

Sea Village
Shallotte, North Carolina 28470
Phone - AC 919 579-3852

6. Reed, William Wetzel, Mr. and Mrs.
(Marian Helen Shaull)

Offspring -
Chad Nathan Reed
Karen Ann Reed

33.5744
703 East Coover Street
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055
Phone - AC 717 697-6880

Ganster, Patricia Ann, Miss

Clearfield, Pennsylvania 16830

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

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

Petrus, Ronald John, Mr. and Mrs.
(Richanne Hill)
608 Agee Road
Diego, California 92122

Reed, Fred Bowman, Mrs.
(Dorothy Jane Wetzel)
Offspring -
Jacqueline Wetzel Reed
Fred Bowman Reed (Deceased)
William Wetzel Reed 1-1-6-8453
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania
17055 one - AC 717 766-2357

William Wetzel, Mr. and Mrs.
(Michael Len Foster (1972) Twin
Matthew Eugene Foster (1973)
1332 Piketown Road
El Cajon, California 92021
Phone - AC 714 442-8282

Long, Dean Richard, Mrs.
(Barbara Louise Wetzel)
Offspring -
Carole Louise Long
201 Mount Joy Road
Phone - AC 814 765-6677
John Lloyd, III, Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman
Michelle Sheaffer

L43. 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. 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 -
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 -
Christopher Daniel Wetzel

32. Wetzel, Fred Robert, Mr. and Mrs. (Esther Emma Schreiber) Offspring -
William Henry Wetzel 1678 Montpellier Avenue Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15216 Phone - AC 412 531-2655

1. Brown, Clifford Allshouse, Mrs. (Geneva

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


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

7. Wetzel, Walter Ross, Mrs. (Hattie McCormick) Birth - Died -
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