

The Wortman Word

A Quarterly Newsletter about Wortman, Workman and Wortmann families

An Award Winning Newsletter

WARREN'S CORNER

The response to my postings on the world wide web concerning Frank "Buster" Wortman has been remarkable. It seems everyone has an opinion about this St. Louis mobster. Many thanks for the many responses already received. Anyone else wanting to give your input into an upcoming article, please feel free to drop us a line.

Please note our new web address and e:mail. Thanks to web guru, **Odin Wortman**, we are now located at <http://wortman.net> and warren@wortman.net.

This issue features 3 Wortmans - **Alvis and Stanley Charles**, as well as centenarian **Erma Landers**. Also, your letters included congrats for this newsletter's award and a Choctaw Wortman connection. The *News* discusses the remarkable birth of Thomas Duboyce.

Your cuz,




ERMA MAY LANDERS

Three months after celebrating her 100th birthday, Erma Landers died on Oct. 14, 1999.

Born on Alder Slope, OR, July 17, 1899 to **Cora Wortman** and **Edward Che-**

noweth, she was married to Emmet Landers from 1919 until his death in 1988. She loved gardening, fishing, hunting and camping. Her grandkids say her apple pies and apple butter were the best in the world.

She is the Ggranddaughter of **Milton Wortman**(*TWW Vol. 1.3*) and granddaughter of **John Murray Wortman**(*TWW Vol. 2.1*).



Clockwise from lower left: Cecile(l) and Erma(r); Erma (2nd from left), w/Cecile, John & Ray; Recent picture of Erma.

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ALVIS WORTMAN

*As remembered by E.
Donald Wortman,
his son*

My father, Alvis Donald Wortman, was born in 1914 in Prosser, WA to Henry and Glennie (Hooper) Wortman. He is the grandson of **Dan Wortman** (*TWW Vol. 1.1*), the civil war veteran. He had two sisters: Hazel and Jeannie, two brothers: Fred and Harry. Fred died at an early age.

Alvis was baptized a Methodist. They had a house in Elgin, Oregon, but for some reason the family lost the house and split up for a while - probably due to a lack of money. Alvis started smoking at an early age and always told the story of how Hazel found a pack of Lucky Strikes, told on him and got him in trouble. They were a poor family and Alvis dropped out of school for a time so he could make enough money to buy new clothes for school. He never did finish high school, but completed a certificate in the Navy.

Alvis left home and joined the navy about 1930. Hazel told me the story, that during WWII my father had his nose broken in a barroom brawl. Alvis was stationed aboard the USS Arizona but was in the Base hospital the day it was sunk on December 7, 1942. He was a cook in the navy and could manage well the ship's stores and all that went with it. He rose through the ranks to become a chief petty officer.

During the war he met my mother who was a waitress. She was dating his brother



Harry. Harry was a merchant seaman at the time. It was not hard for her to decide to go for my father who was giving her more attention than Harry. It was synched when my father gave her a new wallet with \$80 in it.

After the war, they decide to go down south to Arkansas to see her family. They got down there OK. While driving on one of the local roads, one of the retreaded tires blew out. My father lost control of the car. It turned over a couple of times. This was the only time my mother ever

saw my father scared. When the car stopped rolling my mother's right arm had a compound fracture. My father was okay. They took my mother to her sisters. She had a miscarriage and the country doctor botched setting the broken arm. My mother developed a bone infection that lasted for two years and left her arm crippled.

We lived in Washington, DC, when I was born, in 1947. It was a tough time. She had a small pelvis and when I was born my collar bone was broken in the delivery. She continued to have a chronic bone infection. My father had a chronic shortage of money, but my mother ate well because my father was always bringing home food from his job.

We moved to San Pedro, California and lived in the navy housing provided by the Long Beach naval station in 1952.. We moved to San Francisco and my father went to Korea. While he was gone my mother hit the bottle pretty hard and the catholic welfare system removed me from her for a time.

Some how she got me back and snuck me out of town on a greyhound bus. She got drunk in a bus station and was put in jail not once but twice. It was some place in Texas and at that point we no longer took the bus, but hitchhiked the rest of the way to Arkansas to her mother's.

We went back to San Francisco and moved to Patuxent, Maryland. For two years I had



a normal childhood. In 1954 my parents split. I never saw my father again. He died in 1957 of a stroke and cirrhosis of the liver.

Author **Donald Wortman**

(*TWW Vol. 2.4*) is a magician and works at California State University Long Beach as the

supervisor for Facilities Support. Pictured above are his two beautiful daughters, Alysha (l) and Megan(r).

Stanley Charles Wortman

Submitted by his daughter Mitzi Wortman

[note: Stanley is **John Murray Wortman's** (*TWW Vol. 2.1*) grandson].

As soon as I could hold my head up, I was rocking on a horse. As soon as we could walk Dad (Stanley Charles Wortman) carved Roxie and I stick horses. We pretended we were outlaws, Annie Oakley or Calamity Jane shooting the guns out of bad guys hands Dad always had a cowboy story. Here's one of his gems...

"Growing up we couldn't afford horses so us kids learned to ride practicin' on calves. We'd spur 'em till they bucked. One time Dad had caught one of them Nez Pearce Indian Appaloosa runnin', out on the range. People sad it was a 'Man Killer', So it musta bucked 'em off and killed 'em. I rode it out ta the Huck' a' berry patch one day. My cousin said, 'You're scirred ta spur 'em in the shoulders.' He spurred his and it kinda crow hopped 'round. So I reached down and jus' tuched 'is shoulder with my spurs an' boy he wen' in 'a air. I wen' up out of tha' saddle, I reached for the saddle horn to try ta grab it ta hang on and it was two or three feet under where I reached. I wen' so high a bird cudda built a nest in me. When I cum back down bout broke ma back. I was scirred ta get back on but I knew I hatta. Ya know when a horse throws ya off ya gotta get back on.

I usta play Cowboys an Injuns with ma cousins. They had the bridle and the saddles on their horses and I didn'. I didn' have nuthin' only a halter on my horse. I hatta be an Injun and they was the cowboys they was chasing me. Out through the brush I wen' jus' lickedy split, goin' like a devil and I come out ta a road and I wen' down the rod and wen' round this turn and he was a runnin' for all he's worth. They wasn' in sight yet and up comes a wire fence and the gate was set. I tried ta stop 'em but he wouldn' stop and I tried to turn him and he wouldn' turn. He jus' run square into that gate full tilt, don' ya know. Oh, when he hit that, he hit and shot back and I wen' on lika bullet. I musta cut an artery or sumnt', thought I cut my eyes out, 'cause I was bleeding so much from my forehead I couldn' see but that didn' bother me too much. Ever' one else was scared I'd bleed ta death. I didn' panic 'cause I always figgered if it was ya time ta go there was nothin' ya could do 'bout it. ♣

YOUR LETTERS

Relative Reconnection

Thank you so much for connecting me to Deborah French re; **Benjamin Franklin Wortman**. It turns out that she is the granddaughter of my father in laws' sister. I did not have a clue as to what happened to her after she married Roy Lower and moved to Washington even though my mother in law often spoke of her before her death. I really appreciate everything you do to help me with this task. It seems this little thing has connected me to a whole branch of the family that I feared never to find.

I am sending this word of appreciation to you as I know it must often seem like a thankless job for you in what you do. I appreciate your Wortman letter and all the rest of the things you do.

Pearl Wortman
Ggwortman@aol.com

Congratulations

I received the Wortman Word yesterday & I do believe it is the best one yet. Congratulations on the honor your newsletter and you received!

Phylliss Smith Davis
Glendale, AZ

[Great-Granddaughter of Margaret Alice Workman, whose parents were Josiah Workman & Mary Ann Heaton, all born in Greene Co, IN (1836-1858)]

Award-winning issues

9/9/99

I received my copy of The Wortman Word. Congratulations upon receiving the Excellence award in the Family Association Publications contest. I'm not surprised. BUT, I waited to read which two issues had been submitted to no avail. Could you let me know? I really enjoyed the issue. It looks to me as though on the back page that

Charlene Talbot with her sharing of information may help answer the query of Gail Robbins! How's that for quick results from The Wortman Word?

[Editor's note: Whoops, forgot to mention, the 2 issues submitted were: the Fall '98 and Winter '99 issues.]

9/23/99 1:17 AM

I just now pulled out my notebook with The Wortman Word issues and looked at the Fall '98 and Winter '99 issues. I enjoyed reading through them again, finding them interesting and informative. But then, I've always found your issues interesting and informative. Thanks for letting me know. My daughter (Carol Ann Michalski, another subscriber) is visiting us now with her husband and 2-year old. She's also been interested in knowing which of your many good issues won the award. Thanks for letting me know.

Laurene Campbell
Palto Alto, CA

Cookies

An elderly man was at home, dying in bed. He smelled the aroma of his favorite chocolate chip cookies baking. He wanted one last cookie before he died. He fell out of bed, crawled to the landing, rolled down the stairs, and crawled into the kitchen where his wife was busily baking cookies. With waning strength he crawled to the table and was just barely able to lift his withered arm to the cookie sheet.

As he grasped a warm, moist, chocolate chip cookie, his favorite kind, his wife suddenly whacked his hand with a spatula.

"Why?" he whispered. "Why did you do that?"

"They're for the funeral."

Submitted by E. Donald Wortman
ewortman@csulb.edu

YOUR LETTERS

Composed in Kokomo, Indiana By the Kokomo Choctaws.

A good old German had three sons,
and those three sons were brothers,
Now Warthmann was the name of one-
The same name bore the others.

Now these three sons to Virginia came
They were pioneers back yonder,
But two of them got married soon,
The other chose to wander.

Now this last son wed a Choctaw maid-
And from this came fame and glory,
For to this time the straight black hair
Proclaims how true the story.

About this time he changed his name
From Warthmann unto Wortman
For said he to his Choctaw wife,
"A change can never hurt one."

Their children grew up big and strong-
This tribe was always lucky.
One settled down in Tennessee,
Another in Kentucky.

Now this last Wortman had two sons,
Yes, these two sons were boys.
One stayed at home with the old man,
One came to Illinois.

Now Isaac was this last son's name,
He settled down on Brewster.
A hill just east of Shelbyville-
Was Shelbyville's first booster.

Now Ike had many girls and boys-
They grew up strong and healthy.
He raised them all as Democrats,
So none were ever wealthy.

Now there's Wortmans scattered o'er the land,
You'll see them everywhere.
You'll know them by their swarthy skin,
High cheek-bones and black hair.

Now some are proud of Royal blood,
Some dream of fields of glory.
But all are proud of that old name-
The subject of this story.

*My mother found a letter that was written in
1931 by a William F. Wortman for a family reun-
ion. It is the history of the Wortmans in Shel-*

*byville, Illinois. I am not sure how the Kokomo
Choctaws composed it.*

Submitted by Michael Wortman
Mt. Zion, Illinois

Charles Ramsey Workman

I have done some research into my family and have ran into a major problem. My G grandfather Charles Ramsey Workman b12 Aug 1853 and D 1947 was a descendent of Stephen Workman who had married Florence Wilson. Not much is known about Charles except that he married Nancy Jane Bought (Baugh). He also had 3 children Moley, Stonewall Jackson (my grandfather), and Lizzie. Charles moved from WV to KY and possibly to OH., as we live in the Tri-state area. Charles also had a first wife Elizabeth ?? .

Grandfather Stonewall Jackson Workman married Martha Herald and had 14 children. After his death my grandmother married a Lee Workman from the Southshore Ky. area. Martha's daughter Irene married for the fifth time to a Carl Workman form the same area of Ky. We know that they were not directly related however we cannot find any information on them to find out were they came from or who they are descended from.

Also my father's brother Arthur introduced me at the age of 16 to a man in his 70's or 80's as my great Uncle Arthur. However, from the records and information that we can locate we have been unable to trace any of this.

How is it that your grandmother marries the second time to a Workman, your Aunt also marries a Workman and then you have a great uncle Arthur and no one can locate any of them? We've searched Records and Books but no luck.

Bernie Workman
Bernjwork@aol.com

WOR(TK)MAN(N) NEWS

Birthday Celebration!

Longmont, CO Lynn Aalfs (far left) celebrates her father's mother's (Ida Aalfs) 100th birthday.. Also depicted above are her mother, Marie Wortman Aalfs and brother Brent Aalfs. Ida Aalfs is now 104 and doing as well as can be expected living in Akron, Iowa.

A Wee Workman

At 9:00am, 31 October 1999 Lilee's sister-in-law Shelly and Darrell Workman had a 2 lb. baby boy, Darrell Elijah Workman, at their home. Later Lilee took them to the hospital. Last word mother and son are doing fine.

Sent by *Lilee Workman, Columbus, OH*

Drying Out

Pacific City, OR Once again, **Dorothy Guinness** (*TWW Vol. 3.3*) is drying out her basement. Thanksgiving floods put more than 50 inches of muddy water into her basement. Dorothy reported it took more than 2 days to just get the mud and water out. She is expecting more of the same for Christmas.

Dorothy descends from **George Wortman** (*TWW Vol. 1.3*). She is the author of "We are Wortman".

Ruth Wortman Hurt

A memorial service will be at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 21, 1999 in Lake Grove Presbyterian Church in Lake Oswego for Ruth Wortman Hurt, who died Sept. 15 at age 88. Mrs. Hurt was born Sept. 20, 1910, in New Bedford, PA. Her maiden name was Wortman. She was a homemaker and had been registered nurse in Ohio and Colorado. She lived in the Portland area for nine years and was a member of the church. She married Charles A. Hurt in 1937; he died in 1989.

Survivors include her daughters, Ruth Ann Moore of Aura and Elizabeth Hurt Pearson of Wheaton, Ill; sisters, Nancy Traxler and Georgetta Wylam, both of Denver, and Martha Frantz of Montrose, Colo.; seven grandchildren; and four Ggrandchildren. Private interment will be in River View Cemetery. The family suggests remembrances to the church or Health Dynamics Hospice in McMinnville, OR. Arrangements are by Riverview Abbey Funeral Home.

Sent by: *Janet Wortman, Portland, OR*

Officer Delivers Wortman Grandchild

Germantown, MD - When Melissa Wortman DuBoyce went into labor, she delayed her trip to the hospital just a bit too long. For Montgomery County Police Officer Robert L. Hunt, Melissa's procrastination led to his most interesting night of his 5 year career when he delivered Thomas Robert DuBoyce. Thomas is quite the celebrity, with stories in 4 papers and 4 TV stations!

Thomas Robert DuBoyce is the 6th child of Melissa. His Wortman family line is: (*Melissa Janine*⁷, *Donald Eugene*⁶, *Lyall Eugene*⁵, *John Thomas Hendricks*⁴, *Allen P*³, *Ephraim*², *William*¹). William probably started in New Jersey, the line moved from NC to IN and finally MD.

Sent by: *Faye Wortman, Evansville, IN*

WOR(TK)MAN(N) NEWS

Wortman/Singleton Marry

Vancouver, WA - Monique Wortman and Durelle Singleton were married July 16 in the Marshall House in Vancouver, WA. They spent their honeymoon on a cruise to Mexico and visiting amusement parks in California.

The bride, a second grade teacher fro the Beaverton School District, is a graduate of University of Portland and Oregon State University. She is the daughter of Shary and Eldon Wortman, Scio. The bridegroom, a case manager at the Youth Employment Institute, is a graduate of Oregon State University. He is the son of Ava and Durelle Singleton, Portland. The newlyweds live in Portland.

Sent by *Ardonnah Nowlin, Sweethome, OR*

Cutest Tricker-Treater

Relax folks, this fuzzy creature is not a lion, tiger or bear, but rather a kitty cat. In fact,



she was awarded "Cutest" by the Thunderhill Elementary School at their annual Halloween dance. Congratulations to **Laura Wortman**, a descendant of **Milton Lad Wortman** (*TWW Vol. 1.3*) and daughter of Warren and Amy Wortman.

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

e:mail:

warren@wortman.net

or see our webpage:

<http://wortman.net/word.html>

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Back issues available for \$5 each!

Vol 1.1 6 pages	Dirck J. Wortman, Reunions, Wortman map Dan Wortman (Civil War Vet)
Vol 1.2	Ken Wortman, Reunions, 1888 NE Blizzard, Wortman Disease
Vol 1.3	Reunions (Map), Milton Wortman, Moncton Wortmans, Wortman Origins
Vol 1.4	Jacob Wortman -- Oregon Trail, Guest Editor, Wayne Wortman '97 Reunions
Vol 2.1	Wortman Mill- Pottersville, NJ, Dirck Woertman, John M. Wortman, Wortmans On-Line
Vol 2.2	Wortmanns Map, Wortmans On-Line, Military Wortmans
Vol 2.3	Warren E. Wortman, NJ Wortmans, Shelby Co., IN Wortmans
Vol 2.4	Wor(tk)mans in Sports, Wortman Reunions (map)
Vol 3.1	German/Dutch Origins Workman Reunions
Vol 3.2	TWW Subscribers (map), Wor(TK)man(N) Lines (map)
Vol 3.3	Alma Wortmann, Other Wor(kt)man Publications
Vol 3.4	Joseph Wortman, Reunions, Newsletter Award

IN SEARCH OF...

Searching for info about Sophia **WORTMAN**, b. 11 Nov 1864. possibly near Walsrode, Hannover, d. 15 Feb 1941. Her birth record has not been found. Father was Heinrich **WORTMAN**; mother's maiden name was **DIERKS**. She immigrated to Henry County, Ohio in 1885 and naturalized in 1887. Sophia may have corresponded with a brother, Friedrich (a mail carrier in Germany), until 1930. She also had a brother named Dietrich (in Germany), another brother who imm. to CA, and two sisters.

Terry Wittenberg, 1474 W. Grace St., Chicago, IL 60613

Seeking subscriber Kimberly S. **WORTMAN**'s address formally of 216 N Bridge St., Somerville, NJ

Warren Wortman, PO Box 522, Columbia, MD 21045, warren@wortman.net

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



EXP: 4/14/01
David & Johnnie Lee Witt
32 Mallard Street
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

Seeking info on William **WORTMAN** b. 1819-1821 possibly NY or PA (d. 1870-1880 Barrington Twp, IL, m. Lucy **HARLON** b. 1826 - 1826 NY(?). Children: Amos b.1849 d. 1929 m. Emma Irene (?); Albert b. 1853-55 d.(?); George b. 1861-63 - d. (?). Is War of 1812 vet William **WORTMAN**, William's father?

Thomas W. Brown, 520 West Halsey, Maryville, MO 64468, tbeinc@msc.net,
http://www.tbeinc.com/fam_hist/

Seeking ancestors of Daniel **WORTMAN** who appears in NC record around 1750. Married Mary Margaret **KNARTZER** and est. their home in the NW corner of Cleveland Co., NC.

Ivo Wortman, Jr., 199 Dogwood Lane, Lillington, NC 27546