

DEC 10, 78

TO ALL WARTHENS, THEIR FAMILIES, IN-LAWS, FRIENDS, AND INTERESTED
ON-LOOKERS

First things first--let me wish all of you a joyous Christmas and the very best for the New Year ahead. All of us here in San Francisco are fine and we're hoping you are, also.

As you know by now, I did not make that big trip back east this summer. I felt I just didn't know enough about what I was looking for and where to find it to justify the time and money for such a trip. However, what with the recent progress we've made on some old theories plus many interesting new developments, it will be almost mandatory that an eastward excursion be attempted next summer with stops in NE Iowa, Chicago, central Indiana, Detroit, central New York, greater NYC and northern New Jersey, Washington D.C. Baltimore, western Maryland, northern Virginia, West Virginia, Licking & Perry Co's Ohio, Jasper and Ray Co's in Missouri, Russell Co. Kansas, Las Vegas and home.

It will be a long trip--perhaps 6-7 weeks and it should determine once and for all whether we stand a good chance at tracing our particular branch back beyond Theodorick Warthen b. 1782 in Maryland, as I feel that so much information has been developed this year, that we know exactly where we are at regarding the old theories, have one powerful new one and that our potential for 'cracking the case' improves almost daily.

This was not so at the beginning of the year, when, during January, February, March and most of April, we were dead center, just treading water and going nowhere.

Things began reversing themselves in April with the discovery of a Nicholas Warthen living in Licking Co. Ohio in Newton Twp. just a 'stone's throw' from Theodorick in a tax census taken there in 1834. After many phone calls and letters and research plus a trip by my sister to Indiana and work done by Pearl Warthan of Calmar, Iowa we have the following picture of this man who may have been a brother to Theo. and Alban or some other very close relation.

Nicholas Warthan was B. in Md. 10 June 1786. The first record we have of him is early in 1817 when he applied for a license in Fredericktown, Md. to marry Elizabeth Spurling of St. Mary's Co. Md. which he did later in the year at a Lutheran Church in Lovettsville, Va. Nicholas and Elizabeth, according to the 1820 census of Frederick Co. had a daughter B. 1818-19 and, according to the 1830 census, another B. about 1822. We do not know their names. A son, James Perry Warthan was born 20 June 1820 and a 3rd daughter Agatha in 1823-4. Agatha married Daniel Foreman in Perry Co. Ohio in 1842.

James Perry went with his father to Ohio in 1833-4 and on to Blackford Co. Indiana in 1847 where he married Elizabeth Snyder of Stark Co. Ohio in Grant Co. Indiana in Oct. or Nov. of 1847. They had sons: Joseph (1850), John Wesley (1857), James Oscar (1859), Marvel N (1862), William (1867) and 4 daughters. Many of the 'Worthens' living in central and northern Indiana are descendants of James Perry Warthan, who died 22 Oct 1904 in Hartford City, Indiana.

According to the 1830 census Nicholas' 1st wife was still living though she must have been ill as apparently no more children were born of this union after 1824 and Nicholas remarried, Henrietta Maria Mitchell in 1832. They were married by a Catholic priest in the home of Walter Mitchell, Henrietta's older brother, near Fredericktown.

They were still in Md. in 1833 when a daughter Anexzeale was born. She later married a David H.F. Stout in Blackford Co. Ind in 1849.

By April 1834, Nicholas and his family are in Licking Co. Ohio where, in that month, his 2nd known son was born.

Emanuel Warthan was born 30 Ap 1834 in Ohio. He moved with his family to Indiana and then on to Chickasaw Co. Iowa where, early in 1864, he went to Minnesota and entered the Union side in the Civil War. His regiment was sent to Arkansas where Emanuel took ill. He was sent home to Iowa and died in Nicholas' home there on 8 Oct 1864, age 30. He was not married.

In 1836 a bench warrant was issued for Nicholas' arrest in Licking Co. in connection with some stolen wheat but Nicholas could not be served and arrested as he was 'out of the county' so we presume that about this time he 'moved' to Perry Co. Ohio about 25 miles distant from the 'Warthen conclave' in Licking Co. Here, his last 3 known children were born. Susan Warthan was born 12 Dec. 1841 and married Micholaus Bender in Iowa in 1864. Mary C. Warthan was born 24 May 1846 in Ohio and married Basil Gardner in Iowa in 1860.

Benjamin Warthan was born in Ohio 27 Aug 1839 and moved with his family first to Indiana and then Iowa where on 7 Sept 1862 he married Amy Norena Hewitt who was born in Whiteside Co. Ill. in 1847 and moved with her family to Iowa as a young child. Benjamin and Amy had sons Enoch (1861), (well, no one's perfect!), Franklin Henry (1870), Ezra James (1872), Albin Clark (1877), Perry (1879) and James (1885) in addition to 5 daughters. All of the Warthan's in NE Iowa and around Sparta, Wisc. are descended from Benjamin. Pearl Warthan of Calmar, Iowa has made 5 or 6 trips to the local court houses and spoken to many people in the area on our behalf and is responsible for at least 60% of the information we have been able to develop on this probable branch of our family. Benjamin died in 1917. His wife Amy did not pass on until 1930.

Nicholas and his family moved to Blackford Co. Ind in 1847 and from there to Chickasaw Co. Iowa about 1856. Nicholas, who had been a shoemaker and farmer all his life, became too feeble to tend his fields shortly after the move to Iowa and Henrietta, who was already deaf, fell down a flight of stairs around 1861, broke a hip and walked only with the use of crutches or a cane the balance of her life. They became dependent upon their son Emanuel for their support and when he died in 1864, Nicholas and Henrietta (who had to endure the worst winters of anyplace in the country) fell upon hard times and Nicholas, who died 13 July 1872, at the age of 86, lived out the last years of his life in the most abject poverty and illness. We do not know when Henrietta died but in 1881 she finally began receiving Emanuel's Civil War pension for which Nicholas had first made application some 12 years before!

Nicholas is buried at the Catholic Church in Utica Twp. Chickasaw Co. Iowa. He, like so many of the Warthens (including great grandfather Burdette) was tall, well built and had red hair as did his son Emanuel.

Trying to prove a blood relationship between Nicholas and Theodorick and Alban is our most crucial project now for so many reasons, the least not being that we have a large group of people who seem to be related to Nicholas and would therefore be related to us if we can prove the link.

1. Thomas Warthen was born 1788-94 in Md. In 1817, he married Matilda Mitchell, sister of Nicholas' 2nd wife. They had only 1 son and he died young. In 1820 and 30 Thomas is in Frederick Co. living near Nicholas and in 1840 is living in Perry Co. Ohio next door to Nicholas. It would not be presumptuous to assume that Nicholas and Thomas were brothers or at least first cousins.
2. John Warthan was born 1795 in Md. and died 18 May 1825 in Fredericktown. John married Henrietta Spurling, sister of Nicholas' 1st wife, in Fredericktown in 1817. They had sons Henry J. (1818), George (1820) and Joseph (1824) in addition to one daughter. After John died in 1825, Henrietta took the children and moved north to Emmittsburg where she died in 1852. Many successful Warthens in the north of Frederick Co. and around Baltimore are descended from John. In 1820 John was in Frederick Co. living about 2 miles from Nicholas. John was Catholic.
3. Henry Warthen was born 1790 in Md. He married Roseanna Mooney, a native of Ireland and probably Catholic. They had one son Henry, born in Md. but he died young. Henry was a shoemaker and moved to Perry Co. Ohio where he appears in the 1850 and 60 censuses. In 1861, a year before he died, he opened a shoemakers shop in Cincinnati, Ohio. Both John and Henry are possible brothers to Nich. and undoubtedly close relatives.
4. John Francis 'Frank' Warthen. Born 1777-9 in Md. Died at Newmarket, Md. 4 Ap 1838. We do not know the name of his first wife who he married about 1796. He married Elizabeth Drill in 1807 and began living with Kerney Atkins about 1818, though we don't know if they ever married. Kerney used the name Warthen in the 1840 census. Frank had sons Henry (1797), a son, name unknown, born 1800-10, John Francis (1819), James Henson (1822), Andrew Jackson (1827), William Henry (1832) and at least 2 daughters. Frank's 2nd wife, Eliz. Drill came from the only Drill family in all of Md. In → IN 1810+20 1820, her parents were living next door to Nicholas. A married brother was living next door to his parents. At the same time Frank was living 2 doors from John. Frank is very important for 2 reasons. One, we have traced this family right down to the present day and know much about them. Secondly, there is some reason to believe that Frank may belong to the generation ahead of Nicholas and instead of a brother or cousin, may be an uncle and could be our first link with the generation including the father of Theodorick and Alban.
5. Susan Warthen was born 1800-02, apparently in Virginia, which does not disturb us as there is some evidence that Theodorick's family may have been in Va. sometime after 1792-6 and that both he and Alban lived there until both eventually went to Ohio. There is a Susan Warthen living in Anne Arundel Co. Md in 1850 who says she was born in Va. in 1802 and in 1860 she is still there and living in a household with an F.G. and Alberta Crisp who could be either her daughter or the wife of a nephew since both are aged 24. If this is Susan's daughter then the implication is that Nicholas (assuming Susan is also Nich. ~~brother~~ ^{SISTER}) had yet another brother, about whom, apparently, we know nothing.

Now, none of this does any harm to the theory proposed by our cousin Ted, in Las Vegas. For years Ted has believed that the father of Theo and Alban was the John Warthen ^{who} was in Randolph Co. W. Va. from about 1792-7 and who's daughter Mary married John Wilson there in 1796. Ted believes that this John came to W.Va. from Montgomery Co. and later went to Ky. and died there after 1800.

He believes that the 16 year old Mary married the 40 year old John Wilson to provide a home for several of her younger brothers and sisters, who, for some reason, were not going on to KY. (Perhaps a remarriage to a younger woman who did not want the burden of all of John's other children is involved here). Ted thinks that Alban and originally Theodorick were amongst this group. Later John Wilson is in Harrison Co. W. Va. very nearby where Theo. goes to live about 1814. But in 1806, several of John's (Wilson) son's go to Licking Co. Ohio to take up land near Newark and this is where Alban first appears in 1810.

There is much merit in this theory and it is possibly still the strongest we have. There is one overriding thing that makes it look bad and that is that this group was all part of the Catholic-British group. Every single one of these Wathen/Warthen's who ended up in Nelson & Washington Co. Ky were part of the original Wathen's of St. Mary's Co.

However, I still believe that Ted's theory has great merit. It may be that he is totally correct or, more than likely, he may have the broad outline correct but not the details. He may have the wrong John or the "John" could be a Joseph or, instead of going to Ky he may have gone to N.C. or Tenn. or Ind. but I suspect that whatever the final truth of all of this is to be it will include at least a part of this theory.

I have currently undertaken the task of attempting to sort out all of the Montgomery Co. Warthen's in an attempt to isolate those who went to Randolph Co. and see what I can find out about them. I have already found several glaring errors in previous research done in this area and shall possibly find more. My attempt shall be to show that there was more than one line of Warthen's in Mont. Co. at the time John left there for W. Va. or that the W. VA. 'Warthen's' were comprised of at least two only distantly related lines of which Mary's father belonged to the non British Catholic one and went elsewhere than Ky.

If Ted is completely correct in his theory, it shall run counter to his belief (and mine also) that we are looking for a Germanic Warthen of probably Lutheran or Protestant background.

Those are our strongest theories. However, there are others. We are still watching a Henry and Edward Worthen of Fairfax Co. Va. They were both born about 1745 and in Va. by no later than 1762. We are not certain who they are but apparently have accounted for most of their sons. One, a Joseph, who is still in Fairfax Co. in 1817, is of particular interest but this would appear to be another Catholic family and several other things do not fit the pattern we need.

A Nicholas Warthan who dies in Anne Arundel Co. in 1792 is a mystery to us as is a William Wathon who is there in 1790 with 2 sons under 16 years of age. All attempts to find out anything further about either of them have proven futile, so far.

But perhaps even more important is the fact that in this household there is also a Francis Warthen who says he was born in 1838 in GERMANY!!! Now, this is a very recent discovery and I haven't verified this information but there is no particular reason to doubt it's truth and if true the implications are profound in light of the controversy concerning the foreign background of our family. But, there is more! In 1870, in Blackford Co. Ind. living a few doors from James Perry, Nicholas' 1st son, is a Susan Warthen who says she was born in 1803 in Va. I have not proven that the Susan in Md. in 1860 is the same Susan in Ind. in 1870 but there is a high probability they are the same and that this is a sister or SIL of Nicholas and an aunt to James Perry.

And finally, Francis' background feeds more fuel into the controversy regarding our background which, say several family members, is German, whereas the bulk of the proof so far seems to point to England.

Now, we aren't quite through with Frederick Co. Md. yet. There is a Martin Warthen who appears in the militia there in 1794, marries a Hannah Wilson in 1798 and is in Fredericktown in 1800 and 1810 and could be a brother to Frank. A Mary Warthen marries a Thomas Dunn there in 1798 and goes with him to live at Fort Frederick in Washington Co. Either or both had a prior marriage as they have a number of children listed in the 1800 census. Could Alban & Theo. be among them? We are checking the possibility of a military background of Thomas. A Sarah Wathen marries a George Rolan in Fredericktown in 1794 which is all we know of she or her husband.

And, there are others. As to where they all came from the eventuality will probably show varied backgrounds as we do not feel they all come from the same line. Because of the repetition of certain names (John, Martin, Francis, Etc.) we feel some of them may be traced back to the St. Mary's Co. Wathens. The two Spurling girls who married John and Nicholas came from St. Mary's Co. also.

Then, so the story goes, around 1778, three sons of an Ignatious Wathen (Warthen) settled in Montgomery Co. right on the border of Frederick and just a few miles from Newmarket where Frank Warthen first appears so doubtless several of these will trace back to that line.

Thirdly, we still have one of our two prime candidates for Theo & Alban's father or grandfather in the person of David Wathon who died in Fred. Co. in 1767 leaving a daughter Mary and sons John and William. We had lost the track of this line until quite recently when I realized that David & his family lived in the western portion of Fred. Co. which became Washington Co. in 1776. Since then we have picked up the trail of his daughter and will know more when about 30 rolls of film pertaining to Wash. Co. arrive here from Salt Lake City in a few weeks.

Now, we've known of this David for sometime but couldn't explain him. We are now developing a possible background for him and this background is tied to our second big discovery of the year. There is a family story that we are descended from a William Warthen who came from the Rhine and settled here prior to the revolution. There was no reason to give this story any substantiation until earlier this year when I found a single reference to a Willem Wathens having been at Gravesend in New Amsterdam (now Coney Island) around 1640.

Since then, I've found 3 more references to this Willem Wathens. However, be forewarned that I've also found him referred to twice as William Watkins and once as Willem Wilkens. There is a long history concerning Gravesend and Willem's wife Susanna Spicer and I will not go into it all here as there are still many questions to be answered about all of this. But this Willem did have a son, born posthumously, in 1644, named Hendryck, in addition to, apparently, at least one other son.

There is a Henry Worthen in the tax lists for Baltimore, Md. in 1703. Now, John Wathen, the original Md. immigrant, had a son Henry, born in St. Mary's Co. about 1695. He should have been in Chas. Co. by 1703, however, even if we add 5 or 6 years to this boy's age, he could not have been in a tax list by 1703 so the obvious question is, if he isn't John's son, who is he?

All of this leads to the possibility of another line of Warthens in Md. in the early 1700's and possibly a German one although there is now doubt about not only Willem's last name but about his background as even if he is a Warthen it may still turn out that he, also, was British, as in 1646, all the families in Gravesend but 2 were supposed to have been British. (The other two were German but not Warthens). However, I have proof of at least one Frenchman being there in 1644 so there is a possibility there were others who were unknown to most historians.

There is one very major connection here which causes me to be very excited about this Willem. When Willem died, about 1643, his wife Susanna remarried a Henry Brezier, member of a French-Italian military family. Henry was Capt. of a small group of troops sent by the Dutch to watch over their investment in the far reaches of what is now Brooklyn. This name, over the years, became 'Americanized' to Brasher. The Brashers moved to Md. around Anne Arundel Co. and later west to Montgomery and Fred. Co. where in 1838 a Thomas Brasher is executor of the will of Frank Warthen. Just coincidence or a distant but valued relative? Well, in 1874 in NYC, a Capt. Thomas Brasher places an ad in the NY Genealogical Magazine requesting information about a Henry Brezier who married Susanna, widow of Willem Wathens in NYC in 1644 (1644)

Was this Thomas the same Thomas or a son? And what might he have been able to tell us? I am sending for his military record in hopes of tracing descendants of his on the chance that maybe some member of his family might know what he knew or even have some old records from last century, the originals of which are now extant.

There is more high circumstantial evidence concerning this possible link not worth going into yet.

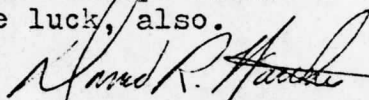
A Joseph and John Wellin (Wallin, Walling) are living in Fred. Co. after about 1776 and in 1800 have several sons each. We have the names of several including a Henry B. 1788-9 and a John in 1795, both of which fit people we are tracing. There are other sons, born earlier. There was a Walling family in Fred. Co. at this time but correspondence with a Dr. James Arthaud in Columbia, Mo. has revealed that these two men do not belong to the Walling family. They attended the same church where several of the Warthen's were members, intermarried into at least one family with which we also intermarried and arrived in W. Md. from the NYC/ N. N.J. area around 1750-60 which is when we feel that David may have arrived and from the area he may have come from. David, William, John, Joseph and Henry were their most used names. It is a long shot and I'm still investigating this and, in several weeks may put a Walling descendant and professional researcher, A Mrs. Neuhauser of Chevy Chase, Md. to work on this.

One important point left out above is that one son and one grandson of Joseph and John later used the name Worthan consistently so the whole point is that a deliberate ~~and~~^{or} mistaken name change may have happened along the way and several Warthens got their name spelled Wellin by a clerk somewhere and there it stayed until a generation or so later when the younger family members adopted the English language and found an error had been made and began reversing it.

That does it for our viable theories but mention ought to be made of a discovery of another early Warthen will while I was in SLC. It belonged to a Henrietta "Wharton" who died in Chas. Co. Md. in 1747. She was a daughter of Ignatious Wathen a son of John the immigrant. In this will, Henrietta gives us the married surname of 3 of her sisters and the full name of ~~the~~ an additional BIL and gives us certain information which allows for a more correct aligning of the order of birth for most of the balance of her brothers and sisters and, most importantly, names two heretofore unknown brothers who lived to adulthood and probably married and had children....a Jeremiah and a Francis, not surprisingly. All this allows us to begin developing two further lines we didn't know existed.

In all, including her own name, 6 sisters are mentioned. These match exactly the names of 6 of Ignatious' daughters. In addition, the name of the 3rd brother mentioned matches one of Ign.'s sons. But the kicker is this. In this will Henrietta mentions her sister Mary Brent. A few years later in Chas. Co. a will is filed by a Mary Wathen Brent. This at a time when only several hundred families existed in the whole county. The chances that a Mary Wathen married a Brent and that a Mary Wharton married a Brent and that she had 5 other sisters all of whom had the first names of the Wathen sisters is, mathematically, unreal. The reality is that when Ign. filed his will in 1757, Francis and Jeremiah were either dead, 'black sheep' or had already been provided for and so were just not mentioned.

That is about it except for a special added page for my Missouri cousins which wouldn't interest anyone except them. Goodbye, goodluck in the New Year and wish me luck, also.


David R. Warthen