

# The Wall Family

## Origins in America



Compiled By  
Ronald N. Wall  
1998

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*"Both justice and decency require that we should bestow on our forefathers an honorable remembrance."*

*Thucydides*  
400 BC

*"A people that take no pride in the noble achievements of their remote ancestors will never achieve anything to be remembered with pride by their remote descendants."*

*Thomas Babington Macaulay*  
1800-1859

*"Respect for our ancestors elevates the character and improves the heart"*

*Daniel Webster*  
1782-1852

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## Introduction

It's hard for me to believe that it was more than twenty years ago when I first started to document our family history. Since that time I've had to place the final period at the end of the life stories of so many loved ones. Redoing this history has made me realize how much I miss them all. It also reminds me of how old I'm getting.

The manuscript you now hold in your hands is more an update in style rather than substance. My first effort was composed on a rickety old portable typewriter without the benefit of a spelling and grammar checker. I hope you notice the improvement (in spelling and grammar) in this new document. Now I also have my genealogy records on my personal computer, which is equipped with one of the best genealogy programs available. The other major improvement in 1998 is the ability to include photos, some in blazing color. That was unheard of twenty years ago. There is some new information here, but not as much as I would like.

I know that many new Wall descendants have entered this world in the years between the first and this, probably my last effort at compiling the Wall family history. In my immediate family, six grandchildren have been added with more on the way, and some spouses of my children have come and some gone. I apologize to those of you I have unintentionally omitted from this version. I also regret that I do not have updates for all of the births, marriages and deaths in our family. I urge you to record those that I've missed in your copy of this manuscript so that they are preserved for future family historians. I will be pleased to add to my database any information that is sent to me.

Please feel free to copy this manuscript and pass it on to any interested party. You may also freely borrow information from it. I've tried to identify all my sources, especially copyrighted ones, and I urge you to do the same if you intend to publish your work.

I will probably continue my hobby of genealogy for years to come. I intend at some point to send my files to the World Family Tree project of Family Tree Maker and the Brøderbund software publishers. Once I do this they will be available on computer CD-ROM disks by owners of the Family Tree Maker software. These records will then be available to a much wider audience.

Finally, I dedicate this Wall history to my son and daughter and to all my grandchildren. Also, to the memory of my aunt and adoptive mother, Clara Wall Bridgman who started me on this project years ago with her notes on the family. Also to Aunt Florence Wall and the memory of Uncle Ira Wall without whose help much of the information on the early Wall family in Medina and Wayne counties would be lacking.

## The Wall Family Origins in America

The name Wall is found among many early German and English immigrants to America. The name in both languages is derived from persons who lived near a prominent wall, or near a creek or riverbank. The German spelling of the name was usually Wahl, but Wohl, Waal, Vaal and other variations can be found in eighteenth century records. Often the German name was altered when these families settled in areas with English speaking civil authorities who entered the anglicized version, Wall, in official records.

One of the earliest Wall families to come to the American colonies was Walter Wall and his children who were located in Gravesend, Long Island before 1700. Later descendants were located in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. This family was originally from England. Before 1790 several Walls arrived in Philadelphia from Germany and their names are found on ships' manifests and passenger lists. When the first U.S. census was taken Pennsylvania in 1790 there were Walls living in Philadelphia and the counties of Allegheny, Bedford, Chester, Dauphin, Montgomery and Northampton. By that time there were Wall families in almost every state from New York to South Carolina who were descended from German and English ancestors.

### John Michael Wahl

The immigrant father of our Wall family in the United States was John Michael Wahl who settled in Penn Township of Northampton County, Pennsylvania, and died there in September 1801. It appears that he commonly used his middle name, Michael. We do not know exactly when he and his family came to Pennsylvania. His son, Christian, was born in Germany in 1779 and it seems unlikely that they immigrated during the American Revolution, which did not end until 1783.

There is an interesting possibility for the identity of John Michael and his place of origin. There are records of a John Michael Wahl who was a Hessian mercenary soldier from the German State of Brunswick in the employ of the British during the American Revolution. This John Michael Wahl was discharged in Nova Scotia in 1783 at the age of 24 and his name appears on the list of deserters from Brunswick. He appears on the list probably because he did not return to Germany after the war.

Early on, when the embers of revolution were starting to glow in the colonies, King George went to his German cousin to recruit young German men as mercenaries. The bulk of these came from the German States of Hesse and Brunswick, although there were many from other states as well. Collectively, they were known as the Hessians.

The hiring of mercenaries was a common practice in eighteenth century Europe but Americans saw it as an act of aggression against the colonies, and it helped to inflame the already tense relationship with England. For the English government it was simply an economical way to reinforce the army when faced with the possibility of war. It relieved them of the need to maintain a large and costly standing army during times of peace. Many, if not most, of the Germans recruits were in trouble with German courts because of bad debts or misdemeanors. The incentive to enlist was a promise of clemency, a powerful motive in a time when a prison sentence for even a bad debt was a grim fate. The British recruiting effort was a success. More than 8,000 hired German soldiers (Hessians) landed in New York in June 1776 at the start of the war.

References to John Michael indicate he was a member of the Hesse-Hanau Rangers or the Hesse-Hanau Artillery Company that fought mostly in up state New York. In August 1777 in the battle of Bennington, New York the American army captured 400 Germans from these units, most of them from Brunswick. The American victory at Saratoga, New York a short time later raised the number of captured Germans to over 2,400. In the confusion of the battle many German soldiers took the opportunity to desert and fled to American communities with substantial German populations. The captured prisoners of war were marched south from New York to

prison camps in Virginia and elsewhere. More German soldiers deserted the columns when they passed near American German settlements.

Brunswick troops were sent to America as reinforcements until the end of the war. In April 1778 an additional 475 troops were sent. In April 1779 another 286 arrived in America. In May 1780 another 266 were sent and in April 1782 the final group of 172 arrived on American soil. John Michael was probably among one of the later groups. Of the more than ten thousand Germans soldiers that fought for the British 5,723 were from Brunswick. Only 2,708 of the Brunswick soldiers returned to Germany in the autumn of 1783. The remaining 3,015 were listed as dead, missing or deserted. Many of the missing were deserters or simply discharged soldiers who did not return to Germany. Some of them settled in Canada and many others in New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Britain wasn't the only belligerent to make use of German military expertise. Baron Frederick William Von Steuben, an ex-military officer in the army of Frederick the Great, came to America at the invitation of Benjamin Franklin and George Washington. He spoke no English yet he wrote the first field manual for the American army and was the man most responsible for turning rag-tag frontier militia into well trained soldiers at Valley Forge. He was given a field command and participated in the siege of Yorktown in 1781. After the war New York granted him land and he spent the remainder of his life in America.

It seems easier to rule out the mercenary John Michael Wahl as our ancestor than to prove he was. Biology and simple math says that our John Michael could not have left Germany before February 1779, since his son Christian was born in November 1779. If the soldier was among the first groups that arrived before April 1779 he could not be our John Michael Wahl. There is also a question of his age.

John Michael Wahl the soldier was supposedly 24 years old when he was discharged in 1783. Our ancestor made a will that was filed in Northampton County, Pennsylvania in 1801. In it he makes a reference to his old age. This is the main reason I do not believe that the soldier John Michael was our ancestor. If he was twenty-four years of age in 1783 he would have been about forty-two in 1801, hardly an old age. The census of 1800 was the first to give a close approximation of the ages of family members. In the Michael Wahl household in 1800 is one male forty-five years of age or older and one female in the same category. The soldier would only have been about forty-one the year the census was taken.

Of course, there is always the possibility that John Michael lied about his age. That may have been necessary to appear young enough to enlist and escape an unpleasant circumstance in the homeland.

The earliest Pennsylvania record of our ancestor that I have found is a petition dated October 28, 1784. The names of Philip Wahl<sup>1</sup> and Michael Wall appear on it, requesting that Peter Caler be appointed sheriff of Northampton County, Pennsylvania.<sup>2</sup> This is the first clear reference to our ancestor in America. Whatever the date of the Wahl family arrival in America, they probably settled in Penn Township soon after.

The first U.S. census of 1790 lists a Wall family consisting of two adults and three male children under sixteen living in Penn Township. The given name of the head of the household is not listed, but it is probably John Michael and his family. On March 1, 1793 Michael Wahl is a warrantee of 50 acres of land in Northampton County.<sup>3</sup> In 1800 Michael Wall and his wife are enumerated on the U.S. Census in Northampton County. Living near by is his son Philip Wall and wife. John Michael's son and our ancestor, Christian, does not appear on the 1800 census. Christian would have been twenty-one years of age and unmarried when this census was taken. It is likely that he was not living at home at the time.

There are other John and Michael Wahls in the records of eighteenth century Pennsylvania. A John Wall arrived in Pennsylvania aboard the ship "Harmony" from Hamburg,

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<sup>1</sup> Michael had a son Philip who would have been too young to be the Philip on this petition; we can speculate that this Philip was closely related to Michael, perhaps a brother.

<sup>2</sup> Pennsylvania Archives, Sixth Series, Vol. XI, pg. 267

<sup>3</sup> Pennsylvania Archives, Third Series, Vol. XXVI, pg. 206

Germany on July 25, 1796.<sup>4</sup> No indication is given of an accompanying family. There is a Michael Wall on the militia roll dated May 13, 1783 for Capt. Pitter Gower's Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Berks County Militia Battalion.<sup>5</sup> The tax rolls of 1784 and 1785 of Alsace Township, Berks County lists Mich'l Wahl a "single freeman."<sup>6</sup> A Christina Wahl is also listed on these rolls. I believe that Christina and Michael were related to Martin Greg Wahl who arrived in Pennsylvania aboard the ship *Ann Galley* and took an oath of allegiance in Philadelphia on September 23, 1752.<sup>7</sup> On January 14, 1779 an Elizabeth Wahl was born and soon after baptized by the Rev. John Waldschmidt. The minister's record lists her as the daughter of Martin and Christina Wahl.<sup>8</sup>

In Northampton County there were at least two other Wall families. William Wall is listed on the June 18, 1777 muster roll of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Company of Northampton county militia.<sup>9</sup> The July 9, 1781 muster roll of Captain Adam Deal's Company of Northampton militia also lists William Wahl. The tax roll of Northampton County, Pennsylvania dated December 27, 1781 includes William Wall.<sup>10</sup> On October 5, 1798 William Wall is included on the tax list for the town of Northampton in Northampton County.<sup>11</sup> Yost (or Jost) Wall is listed on the December 1781 tax assessment list of Northampton in Heidelberg Township. The 1810 U.S. Census of Northampton County also lists Jost Wahl living in Lehigh Township. I have found no evidence that William and Jost Wahl were related to our family; however, people of the same surname who lived near each other in small communities were usually connected by blood to some degree.

In 1801 John Michael Wahl, apparently near death, made his will. It was filed in Northampton County on September 18, 1801.<sup>12</sup> Written in German, it provides the concrete link between him and our Ohio Wall family. This will has a sad surprise in it. It seems that by the time of his death Michael has had a serious falling out with his older son Philip. That is a tragic thing for any family of any era. The translation of his will is as follows.

*"I, John Michael Wahl, a resident of Penn Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, am in a weak and feeble condition of the body. I herewith make my last Will and Testament. First, I decree that my beloved wife, Catharina Barbara, shall have her rightful possession and sustenance from my present farm. Second, [my] personal goods shall be sold and that she shall get one half of the money received. The other half of the money I give and bequeath to my youngest son, Christian. After the decease of my wife, I decree [that] the farm shall be sold at public sale, and that from this growing amount of cash I decree to my son, Philip, 5 pounds of Pennsylvania currency and no more, because he deceived me instead of being a support to me in my old age, he grieved and caused me to suffer by means of unkind and cruel treatments. The balance thereof shall be divided in equal shares among my natural children."*

There is another statement, besides the disinherited son, that stands out in this document. It is the remark; "The balance thereof shall be divided in equal shares among my natural children." Except for this will I have found almost no evidence of children other than Christian and Philip. Was this statement just a legal technicality or were there children we know nothing about? The 1790 census lists three children under the age of 16 in the household, two of which would have been Philip, age 15, and Christian, age 11. Who was the third? Ten years later the census shows only an adult male and female over the age of 45. The only Walls in

<sup>4</sup> Engle, *Names of Foreigners Who Took The Oath of Allegiance to The Province and State of Pennsylvania, 1727-1775, With the Foreign Arrivals, 1786 – 1808*

<sup>5</sup> Pennsylvania Archives, Sixth Series, Vol. III, pg. 59

<sup>6</sup> Pennsylvania Archives, 3<sup>rd</sup> Series, Vol. XVII, pg. 571, 702

<sup>7</sup> Strassburger, Ralph Beaver, *Pennsylvania German Pioneers, A Publication of the Original Lists of Arrivals in the Port of Philadelphia From 1727 to 1808*, pg. 486, Genealogical Pub. Co., 1975

<sup>8</sup> Pennsylvania Archives, 6<sup>th</sup> Series, Vol. VI, pg. 197.

<sup>9</sup> Roberts, Charles R., *History Of Lehigh County Pennsylvania*, Vol. 3, pg. 152, Allentown, Pa., 1917

<sup>10</sup> Mathews, Alfred, *History Of The Counties Of Lehigh And Carbon, Philadelphia, 1884*

<sup>11</sup> *United States Direct Tax Of 1798: Tax Lists For The State Of Pennsylvania, 5<sup>th</sup> Direct Tax Division, Northampton County*, National Archives Microfilm, M372, Roll 12

<sup>12</sup> Ernest F. Boettcher, *German Wills of Northampton County*, Vol. IV, W.P.A., 1939

Northampton County on the 1800 census are Michael and Philip. In 1810 Christian Wahl is the only Wahl or Wall listed in Northampton County.

The Wahl's were part of the congregation of the Ben Salem Lutheran Church in East Penn Township. I have attempted unsuccessfully to locate cemetery records of that church or its sister church in Lowhill Township. If those cemeteries still exist I suspect John Michael is buried in one of them. Both churches have survived in one form or another into modern times.

By the time of John Michael's death his two sons were grown and soon to start their own families. Our Wall family had taken root in a new country.

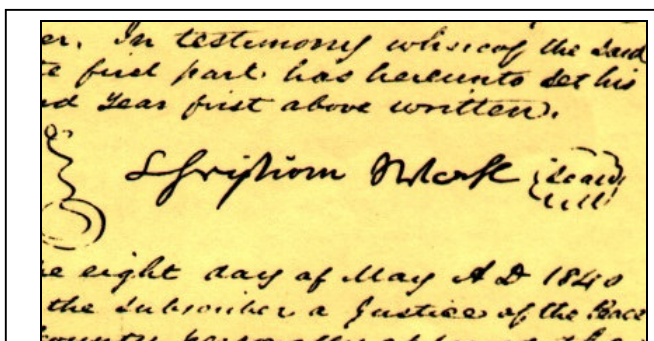
## Christian Wall

The spelling of our surname became consistently "Wall" rather than "Wahl" in public records during Christian's lifetime. It's likely that family members spelled it both ways for many years after Christian's death. His son and our ancestor Charles signed his will as "Carl Wahl" as late as the 1890's. When you see Christian's signature it is easy to understand how writers in English may have misinterpreted the spelling of his name. At first his signature appears illegible. His handwriting isn't bad, he simply signed his name in German. As you can see in the example the upper case C and lower case h in the German "Ch" are very different from an English writer. The "t" is a bit distorted in Christian's signature since it is usually written like an English capital "A" in German and he did not do the cross stroke. He made his "a" more like an "o" with the down stroke separated from the body of the "a". When you look at the last name you can see it would be very easy to mistake the "hl" for a double "l".

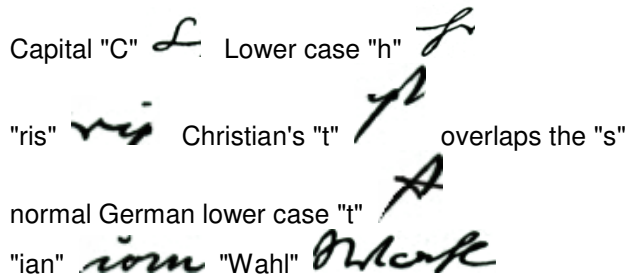
There is probably no one point in time when the "Wall" spelling became universal. Since that is the spelling that has come down to us I will use it from this point on to avoid confusion.

Christian Wall was born in Germany on November 27, 1779 and lived nearly half his life in Pennsylvania. He married there and all of his children were born there. Shortly after his father's death in 1801 Christian married Anna Catherine Bachman, daughter of Nicholas Bachman and Catherina Kindt. The Bachmans were from that part of Northampton County that later became Lehigh County and were members of a large clan of Bachmans in Lowhill Township. There is no record of the marriage of Christian and Catherine, but we can deduce the year to be about 1804 from the birth date of the oldest son, John.<sup>13</sup> The Bachmans were founding members of the Lowhill German Reform Church<sup>14</sup> in Lowhill Township of Northampton (now Lehigh) County and it is likely that the couple met and married in this church.

The earliest records of Christian and his family, other than his father's will, are the baptismal records of his eldest son John (February 1805) and his daughter Mary (December



Christian's signature on 1840 deed to James Metlin



<sup>13</sup> Hollenbach, Raymond E., CHURCH RECORDS BEN SALEM UNION CHURCH, *East Penn Township, Carbon County, Pa.*, 1964.

<sup>14</sup> Roberts, Charles R., HISTORY OF LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, 1914.

1806) in the Lowhill church. The first official record of him is the 1808 tax assessment list of East Penn township.<sup>15</sup> This assessment was made shortly after Penn was split into East and West Penn townships. That area is now part of Carbon County, Pennsylvania. Also about this time Christian is listed on the membership roll of the Ben Salem Lutheran and German Reformed Church mentioned earlier.<sup>16</sup> This church was still in existence as the Ben Salem United Church of Christ in Andreas, Pennsylvania when I did my original research in 1979.

When the Third Census of U.S. was taken in 1810, Christian Wall and his family were still living in East Penn Township.<sup>17</sup> By that time there were four children in the household: John, Mary, Charles and Rebecca.<sup>18</sup> Sometime during the next ten years the family moved west of the Alleghenies, following the pattern migration of the time. The next census shows they were living near the banks of the Susquehanna River in Union County.<sup>19</sup> That area is now Snyder County, Pennsylvania. By the time the 1820 census was taken five more youngsters had been added to the family, Catherine, Isaac, Judith, Abigail and Peter. The two youngest Wall children, Sarah and Daniel came along before Christian and Catherine once again packed up their family and belongings and departed Pennsylvania for the western frontier of Ohio.

Before 1811 all of Medina County and most of northern Wayne County was unbroken forest. Surveyors laying out the boundaries of the townships in the Western Reserve and workers cutting narrow traces through the forest between settlements were the only European Americans in the area before the arrival of permanent settlers. The American Indians used the area as hunting ground but there were no permanent villages, probably because there were no suitable clearings large enough in the dense forest. The nearest white settlement was a French trading post at Sandusky on Lake Erie to the northwest and Fort Wayne, Indiana much further to the west. A few hearty souls from the east came to Medina County shortly before the War of 1812; however, hardship, the real threat of British invasion and the imagined threat of Indian raids kept many more safely in New England and Pennsylvania. After Commodore Oliver Perry defeated the British fleet on Lake Erie in 1812 the floodgates opened and hundreds began pouring into the Western Reserve. Not long after the American Revolution Connecticut sold the land of the Western Reserve to wealthy speculators at a few cents an acre to raise money for its schools. These speculators in-turn sold it for a profit to land hungry pioneers. Many of the early settlers, both New Englander and Pennsylvanian bought their land in Canfield, Ohio from one of these speculators, Revolutionary War General Elijah Wadsworth whose name the town of Wadsworth bears.

The short trek from civilized eastern Ohio to the frontier counties was arduous. Peter Waltz, one of the first pioneers from Pennsylvania to come to Chippewa Township in Wayne County, Ohio described his trip years later. His family, along with the Rasor and Everhard families was among the very first to settle in that part of Ohio. The three families started from Mahoning County in eastern Ohio after purchasing their land from General Wadsworth in Canfield. Mahoning County was an established area with a large population (by the standards of the time). It is likely, though, that their journey actually began in Pennsylvania and Mahoning County was the jumping off place for the western frontier. The route they took was along what is today Route 224. The first day of the trip they traveled only six miles to Turkey Creek where they broke an axle on a wagon. In those days a traveler was in real trouble if he could not hew a new axle or wagon tongue from a tree with an ax. The next day they made it another five or six miles to west of Deerfield and camped along Yellow Creek. They were able to travel approximately thirteen miles to Suffield before breaking another axle the following day. A day later they came to Wolf Creek in Norton Township in Medina County and on west a short ways where they camped. On the fifth day they cut a trail through the forest to where John Everhard soon built his cabin. During the next week they continued the trail through the forest to Jacob Everhard's land. Finally, they cut their way through to the site of the Waltz homestead. The trip encompassed no more than fifty miles and took three weeks or more before they set foot on the land where they made

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<sup>15</sup> Mathews, Alfred, HISTORY OF THE COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND CARBON, Philadelphia, 1884.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., page 721

<sup>17</sup> 1810 U.S. Census, East Penn Twp., Northampton Co., Pennsylvania, pg. 56

<sup>18</sup> Hollenbach, CHURCH RECORDS BEN SALEM UNION CHURCH, 1964.

<sup>19</sup> 1820 U.S. Census, Penn Twp., Union Co., Pennsylvania (no page number)



their new home. Along the way they had to cut new roads, repair broken wagons and fight off the bears that attacked their hogs. The Waltz land eventually was the location of the "Waltz" church on the Medina and Wayne county lines just south of Wadsworth. The Waltz family donated the land for the church, giving it the name it had for several years. This church later became known as the High Church and in modern times the Emanuel Church of Christ (at right).



In 1875 Edward Brown, a minister in Wadsworth, published the "Wadsworth Memorial" a history of early Wadsworth and the four surrounding townships. He wrote at a time when some of Wadsworth's earliest settlers were still living, and it contains their memories of the people and conditions in Wadsworth and Chippewa during the early years. Peter Waltz's account is among them.

<sup>20</sup>

The Wall family made this trek a decade later so they may have made better time with fewer broken axles. But, it was still no Sunday drive for them and others who came after the original pioneers had blazed the trail. Also, Christian and Catherine probably started their journey in Jefferson County by way of Pittsburgh. The Fords from whom Christian bought his land in Chippewa in 1824 lived in Jefferson County. In 1824 Christian and Catherine had one young adult son and ten younger children ranging in ages from 16 to a few months. Anyone who has made long trips with children can sympathize with them. Wild animals and broken axles were pleasant diversions compared to entertaining ten children on a long, difficult trip.

Christian purchased from Stephen Ford and his wife Ruth approximately 110 acres in the Northwest Quarter, Section 15, Chippewa Township, Wayne County, Ohio on June 25, 1824.<sup>21</sup> The Fords had obtained it from the federal land office in Wooster probably as an investment when James Monroe was President. When Christian purchased it from the Fords in 1824 he paid \$250 for what was then essentially wilderness in the northwest quarter of section fifteen in Chippewa Township. He sold it sixteen years later to James Metlin for \$2300 dollars, a hefty sum in 1840 and not a bad return on his investment<sup>22</sup>. The site where Christian's farm lay is just south of Doylestown. The 1897 atlas of Wayne County shows that the land had been broken up into two parcels. N. Bittinger owned the northern most 30 acres and G. Whitman owned the southern 80 acres. The "Wadsworth Memorial" states that Christian came to Chippewa in 1823. He may have come to Wayne County ahead of his family to find suitable land for a farm. I believe that the rest of the family, except maybe for the oldest sons, didn't move to Chippewa until after Christian purchased his land.

Christian and his older sons must have labored long and hard after arriving in Ohio to clear the land, build a suitable house and get in the first crop. It is unlikely that the previous owners had done any of this. The Fords, like many original owners of lands in the Congress District of Ohio, purchased the land in 1818 from the government as an investment with no intention of moving there. In 1824 the Walls were faced with the monumental task of taming a primeval forest broken only by Indian trails and animal tracks. I grew up in this area when it was all farmland with a bit of woods here and there. It is hard to imagine a time when it was trackless forest, but that was the condition for the first few decades of settlement in the townships around Wadsworth.

In Wayne County, especially Chippewa Township, most of the settlers were ethnic Germans while Medina County was being settled largely by New Englanders from the states of

<sup>20</sup> Brown, WADSWORTH MEMORIAL, 1875

<sup>21</sup> County Recorder's Office, Book of Deeds, Wayne Co., Ohio, Vol. 23, pg. 172-174.

<sup>22</sup> Wayne County Deeds, pg. 364-365, recorded Nov. 26, 1840

Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont. The Pennsylvania Germans that did move to Medina County located for the most part south of Wadsworth. They preferred this area of the county close to other ethnic Germans in Chippewa. These Pennsylvania Germans of Chippewa and Wadsworth formed one community. They established their own schools and churches and spoke mainly German for decades to come.<sup>23</sup>

During the early years in Wadsworth the New England Yankees far outnumbered the Pennsylvania Germans whom the Yankees referred to as "Pennamites." That label refers back the "Pennamite Wars" in the Wyoming Valley of Pennsylvania during the early years of settlement there. Connecticut and Pennsylvania both claimed the area of the Wyoming Valley in Pennsylvania on the basis of old royal grants. Many citizens of Connecticut had the opinion that eastern Connecticut was becoming too crowded. Many moved to the western lands after they obtained grants in the Wyoming Valley from the colonial Connecticut government. Unfortunately, Pennsylvania did the same thing for its citizens, most of them ethnic Germans or Dutch. The result was many overlapping claims that ensured a bloody feud between the two groups. After the American Revolution, Connecticut relinquished its claim to parts of Pennsylvania in return for a large territory stretching from the western boundary of Pennsylvania to the western boundary of present day Lorain County in Ohio known as the Western Reserve of Connecticut. The southern boundary lay along the same latitude as the southern boundary of Median County. Unfortunately, the animosity between Pennamite and Yankee was not extinguished for many years to come. Fortunately, no blood was shed between the two groups in Ohio.

Elinore Schapiro, in her work "Wadsworth Heritage," published in 1964 says, "For a few years at the beginning, considerable antagonism existed between these two groups in Wadsworth, inspired by the differences in their eastern backgrounds and by the smoldering memories of the Pennamite Wars. At first so-called mixed marriages between members of these differing groups were violently condemned by both; but as the years passed, a gradual and peaceful assimilation took place. This phenomenon marks the outstanding difference between Wadsworth and many other townships of the Western Reserve, whose populations, almost completely Yankee from the beginning, maintained the predominance of New England culture until a much later date, some even until the present day."

Many of Catherine's relatives preceded her and her husband to Ohio and they may have been the motivation for Christian and Catherine to follow. In Wayne and Medina counties the Bachman name seems to have changed uniformly to Baughman, probably for similar reasons that Wahl changed to Wall. However, in Pennsylvania today, the descendants of Catherine's family still spell the name as Bachman. There is another interesting tradition about names that the Wall and Bachman family seemed to have followed. It is my observation that they often gave their children a first and middle name. Sometimes more than one child in the family had the same first name but unique middle names. The first name was used on formal occasions or in legal documents, and always with the middle name. Often these individuals went by their middle names in their day to day lives. Thus, in the Wall family John Michael Wahl was known as Michael Wahl. Anna Catherine was Catherine; Maria Magdalena was Magdalena, and so forth.

The task of clearing the new land for farms in Wadsworth and surrounding townships was enormous. Because the trees were large old growth forests the labor to cut them down and chop them up was immense. Most of the big trees were girdled rather than cut down. The bark of a tree was removed with an ax in a section (girdle) completely around it causing the tree to die. There it stood until it rotted or fell down in a storm. Peter Cherry, a boy when his family arrived in Wadsworth Township, wrote, "The usual way of clearing was to cut down the smaller fry, then girdle the larger trees, leaving them to rot down. The moon shining on the bleached trunks of these trees has scared many a boy. I know from experience."<sup>24</sup>

For twenty or thirty years this was the condition in Wadsworth and Chippewa. First a few openings were made in the forest and cabins built. In a few years these gave way to larger fields and the beginnings of a village here and there. There was a long period of hardship until the pioneer farmer produced a cash crop, before then living on subsistence farming from small gardens and wild game in the forest. In that era the musket was a valuable as the plow.

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<sup>23</sup> Schapiro, Wadsworth Heritage, 1964

<sup>24</sup> Schapiro, Wadsworth Heritage, 1964

Reverend Brown wrote, "The early settlers of Wadsworth were from the East, and had been accustomed to farm labor. They were a hardy industrious class of people, and were very economical. Their moral character was good and they were mostly religious. But very few of them had money to pay for their land, and had to buy on credit. Some of them had hard work to support their families till they could raise a crop on their own lands. A very few had money to pay for improvements, after paying for their land, and this helped the poorer class, as it enabled them to get employment in helping to clear land."

The Wall family may have been accustomed to this condition. They probably experienced it before when they first moved west of the Alleghenies from eastern Pennsylvania. Surviving that experience possibly provided the courage needed to do it anew. People from the more civilized East probably did it because they were ignorant of the hardships they would face. We don't know for certain if Christian bought his land on credit or with cash. The text of the deed from the Fords lead me to believe it was the latter perhaps with money left from his father's estate and from the sale of his Pennsylvania land. Even so, the Walls faced many of the same hardships other settlers encountered. Goods were rare and those that could be bought were extremely expensive. Salt, a necessity of frontier life, had to be brought down from Cleveland over the most primitive roads. Cloth and hard goods had to be trucked in from more settled areas of Ohio and even as far east as Philadelphia.

Most of the goods from the east were carried in large Conestoga wagons, the same kind settlers used when traveling across the western plains in later generations. These wagons were almost always painted blue. The wagon box was about three feet deep and the wheels were double-tired to keep the wagon from sinking in mud. They were covered with canvas stretched across arched poles. A tar bucket, used to lubricate the wheels, hung from the rear axle. The team pulling the wagon consisted of six or eight large draft horses. The driver rode the animal nearest a wheel and controlled the team with a single rein and a large "blacksnake" whip. The number of animals necessary for the team was calculated as one span (a pair) of horses for the wagon and the rest for the load, depending on the weight of the cargo.



**"Indian" Cave on Spruce Run. The stone wall is visible in the picture on the left.**

Unlike a few other frontier areas in the early nineteenth century, Indian attacks in Medina and Wayne counties were never a reality for the Walls and the other pioneers, possibly because there were no permanent Indian villages there. But, also because treaties were negotiated and signed between the government and the Ohio tribes in 1805 and 1806. Early on the Indian hunters had little competition from the few white hunters in the vast forest. By the time large game became scarce in northern Ohio the Indians had moved on to richer areas to the west in the United States and north in Canada. The Indians the settlers did encounter were the Wyandots and Ottawas. A few Wyandots camped around Chippewa Lake on occasion as late as the 1830's. The white settlers who met them reported that they were polite and friendly.

There is evidence in Medina County of the pre-historic Indians commonly called the Mound Builders. One of their mounds was located on lot 47 east of Sharon Center near the intersection of State Road 162 and County Road 44. Not far from there was my grandfather's farm. Close by it along Spruce Run, and County Road 126 is an ancient construction atop a small

cave in the side of the steep slope running down to the creek (or "crick" as I was brought up to say it). I always knew it as Indian Cave and it is my guess that it also belongs to the pre-historic Mound Builders, perhaps used for ceremonial purposes. It is a small wall of stone about 24 inches tall that encloses an area of a few square feet of level plane atop the cave entrance. It is far too short to be a fortress of any use and the stones are laid too precise to be a natural formation. The cave has a "keyhole" opening with a wider area at the top and a narrow jagged slit that goes to the floor. As kids we could crawl through the larger opening and inside was a room big enough to stand in. I was told that at one time the cave ran underneath the road along the edge of the hill. This part collapsed when workers were blasting for the road, and today only the room at the entrance remains. If there were ever any relics there they have long since been collected by the locals.

Other evidence of Indians in Medina County was still plentiful when I was growing up in Sharon Township. My grandfather and other farmers found many arrowheads and spear points in their plowed fields. My Uncle Bud Shanafelt had a large collection of these that he displayed in his home near Fixlers Corner and River Styx.

While Indians were not a threat to the Walls and other early settlers, disease was. The west part of Wadsworth was very swampy. Surveyors named the area the "Infernal Regions" and the sluggish stream that ran through it the River Styx, the name it retains today. The swamps and the River Styx were a great dread to travelers for many years. Causeways, one more than 1300 feet long, made of logs crossed the swamps.<sup>25</sup> The settlers of the time, although they suspected the swamps as the cause, did not know they were the breeding grounds of the mosquitoes that spread malaria and yellow fever through the population. In some cases entire families were swept away by the diseases. The years of 1824 through 1826 were particularly bad along Wolf Creek and the marshes of the Tuscarawas. As the land was cleared and the larger swamps drained when the Erie Canal was built these diseases all but disappeared. Even so, I remember those infernal mosquitoes in the swamp along Wolf Creek near Sharon as I was growing up. They were a big deterrent to fishing that stream or exploring the surrounding woods.

In 1844 and 1848 epidemics of erysipalatus fever killed a large number of people in Wadsworth. Erysipalatus fever is an acute disease characterized by the accumulation of fluid in tissues and inflammation of the skin and underlying tissues. Streptococcus bacteria are the cause. The bacteria break down red blood cells and destroy skin tissue. Often the patient died within two or three days after showing the first symptoms. The epidemic was wide spread through Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan. In 1844 of the 124 cases reported in a population of 1200 people, twenty-five died from the disease. In the epidemic of 1848 an even greater portion of the population died. The treatment for the disease was bleeding two or three times within 36 hours, sometimes to the point where the patient fainted. I'm no doctor or medical scientist, but I think this practice helped those patients along the road to heaven more so than the road to recovery.

The Walls were religious people, as were their neighbors. The Pennsylvania German community built the first church, the Waltz Church, in Wadsworth Township in 1828. Their log structure was erected on the site of the present day Emanuel United Church of Christ on the Wayne and Medina County Line near where Wayne, Medina and Summit counties meet. For many years this church was also known as the High Church. It predated the New Englanders' log Congregational Church located in the center of Wadsworth by two years. Burials were made in the churchyard even before the log building was constructed, some as early as 1817.<sup>26</sup> The cemetery is preserved today by the congregation of the Church of Christ. Christian and both his wives, Catherine and Magdalena, are buried there as well as other Wall relatives.

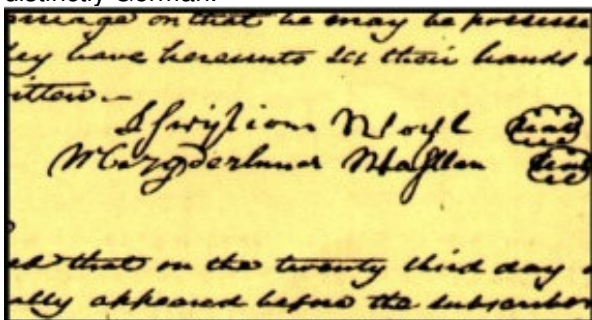


<sup>25</sup> Brown, WADSWORTH MEMORIAL, 1875

<sup>26</sup> Schapiro, Wadsworth Heritage, 1964

In 1830 Christian bought land on Lot 38 in Sharon Township, only two years after the township was brought to market by the minor heirs of original Connecticut Land Company owners. There is no evidence that he and his family ever lived on the land.

Catherine died some time in 1837 and Christian remarried to Catherine's sister, Maria Magdalena (Baughman) Feller. My Uncle Ira and Aunt Florence Wall located the headstones of Christian and Magdalena in the High Church cemetery and were disappointed that they could not find Catherine's. I believe they did locate it and didn't realize it. They photographed the headstones that they found. One snap shot (shown above) was of a badly eroded stone lying flat on the ground next to Christian's headstone. I recently reexamined this photo and used some computer software to enhance it. I can make out the word "Bachman" (Catherine's maiden name) and the year 1837 (the year she died) and the number 51 (her age at death). There is much more inscribed on the stone that is unreadable. The letters and numbers on this stone are distinctly German.



Christian and Magdalena were married in Wadsworth at the High Church on October 15, 1837. Catherine must have passed away only a few months earlier. In April 1838 Christian and Magdalena signed and recorded a nuptial agreement.<sup>27</sup> It states that both had children from previous marriages and possessed personal and real property of their own at the time of their marriage. At the death of one the other would not have claim to that property. Both

Christian's and Magdalena's signatures appear on this document.

In 1838 Christian purchased 101 acres in Lot 39 of Sharon Township. The following year he sold his land in Chippewa to James Metlin.<sup>28</sup> He probably moved to Wadsworth where he and Magdalena were living when the 1850 census was taken. There is no record that he ever lived on the land in Sharon and may have been one of several absentee landlords of Sharon farm land. He was sixty-one years of age in 1840. Christian died on October 24, 1853<sup>29</sup> in Wadsworth before reaching his 74<sup>th</sup> birthday and was buried in the High Church cemetery next to Catherine. His son Charles bought the Sharon Township property from the other heirs of Christian shortly after the estate was settled.

Christian died without a will. Jonathan Everhard and Christian's oldest son John were appointed administrators of his estate.<sup>30</sup> The inventory of Christian's personal property is interesting in that it gives us a glimpse into his life. Among the items sold at auction were one bay horse, a vinegar barrel, one bushel of potatoes, one iron pot, a bottle of bitters (no German would be caught dead without his bottle of bitters), a razor and "fixings," a powder horn (but no musket), and a snuff box. The sale of these and a few other items brought in \$242 to the estate. In addition to those items, set aside for the widow Magdalena were:

- 1 spinning wheel
- 1 parlor stove
- 1 family Bible and family pictures (I'd give my eyeteeth to find those)
- 6 chairs
- 3 pounds of wool
- 1 lot of clothing
- 1 chest
- 12 spoons
- 1 cow

<sup>27</sup> Article of Agreement between Christian Wall and Magdalena Wall, Medina County book of deeds, recorded April 23, 1840

<sup>28</sup> Christian Wall to James A. Metlin, pg. 364-365, Wayne County, Ohio Deeds, recorded Nov. 25, 1840.

<sup>29</sup> Brown, WADSWORTH MEMORIAL, 1875

<sup>30</sup> Christian Wall estate, Case #442, Probate Court, Medina Co., Ohio

6 plates  
 6 cups and saucers  
 1 sugar dish  
 1 milk pot  
 1 tea pot

These items may have been Magdalena's at the time of her marriage to Christian. They are listed as set aside for Magdalena without appraisal as part of the estate. Items excluded from the estate specifically for her support were wheat, oats, corn, an ax, one wood saw, eleven crocks of milk, potatoes, coffee mill and two hogs. The total value of these items was appraised at eighty dollars.

On December 6, 1853 Magdalena received \$500 cash from the heirs of her husband's estate and signed a quit claim deed; she relinquished any legal claim she may have had to the land in Sharon Township. The nuptial agreement they signed in 1838 may have precluded her from claiming the land, but the money and the quit claim deed were probably meant to remove any doubt as to its ownership. The deed is recorded in the Medina County Courthouse in Medina.<sup>31</sup> This is an important document because it lists all of Christian's living heirs. Magdalena spent the rest of her days in Wadsworth probably in the home she and Christian shared before his death. Magdalena died on March 28, 1865 in Wadsworth at the age of 77. She is buried in the High Church cemetery next to Christian.



Five years before her death, when the 1860 census was taken, Magdalena, age 72, was living in Wadsworth with Typhrena Feller, whose age is listed as 38.<sup>32</sup> The younger woman would have been born about 1821 or 1822. This was an important fact that I overlooked for years. It is the piece of the puzzle that identifies Magdalena and her connection to the Wall family before she and Christian were married. I've always had a peculiar hunch that the Magdalena Feller who married Christian Wall in 1837 was the (widowed) wife of Jacob Feller of Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. The evidence is convincing that the wife of Jacob Feller was the sister of Catherine Bachman. In 1821 Jacob and Magdalena Feller baptized a daughter, Typhrena, in the Lowhill church in Pennsylvania. Typhrena Feller was born on August 29, 1821.<sup>33</sup> This is such an unusual name that I should have made the connection years ago; however, it wasn't until lately while I was reviewing the Pennsylvania church records that the light upstairs came on. One of the problems was that when I copied the name from the 1860 census I thought that I could not have possibly deciphered it correctly. Since I was so unsure of the name I tried to mimic the handwriting of the census taker. Without knowing it I copied the name perfectly. The other problem is that the modern compiler of the old church records had typed the name incorrectly from the baptismal record. A German linguist later compared the old handwritten records with the typewritten manuscript and made handwritten corrections to many of the names. Typhrena's name was one of those he corrected, first from Prusena to Brefena and then to Typhrena. As I was reexamining the manuscript, her name practically leaped off the page at me. I have no doubt in my mind that Magdalena and Typhrena on the 1860 census were mother and daughter and the same individuals listed on the old baptismal record.

<sup>31</sup> page 90, Medina County Book of Deeds, recorded March 4, 1854.

<sup>32</sup> 1860 Census, Medina County, Wadsworth Township, pg. 15, family no. 214

<sup>33</sup> Ruth Story Kramer, "Lowhill Reformed Church Lowhill Township, Lehigh County, Pa., Surname Index", Allentown, Pa., May 1975

## The Children of Christian and Catherine Wall

Except for our ancestor Charles I've not traced much further the history of most of Christian and Catherine's children. This is due to a lack of time and means rather than a lack of evidence. What I've learned about them is mostly from Rev. Brown's "Wadsworth Memorial" and the other publications that based their information on his work of 1874. The U.S. censuses of Medina County, particularly Wadsworth and Sharon, provided me with some additional data. Finally, with the help of my Aunt Florence and Uncle Ira Wall I have some evidence from Wayne County, Medina County court records and information from headstones in cemeteries around Wadsworth and Sharon. These are lucrative sources and researchers interested in the history of the family should investigate all of them.

**John Wall**, the eldest son was born on December 24, 1804 in Penn Township, Northampton County (now Carbon County). He was christened Johannes and baptized on February 17, 1805 in the Lowhill German Reformed (Lutheran) Church. He was twenty years old when his father purchased the land in Wayne County. He married Mary "Polly" Baughman about 1828 probably in Wadsworth, although that is not certain since I've not located a marriage record for them. Polly was the daughter of Paul and Anna Barbara Bachman from Northampton County, Pennsylvania and John's second or third cousin. She was also the sister of Joel Baughman who married John's younger sister Abigail. Polly was born on September 24, 1804 and was baptized in the Lowhill Reformed Church in Northampton County, Pennsylvania. She was christened Maria Magdalena Bachman. Polly died some time between when the 1870 and 1880 censuses were taken. John remarried to Catherine, maiden name unknown, before 1880. John was a prosperous farmer in Wadsworth Township and somewhat the head of the Wall clan after the death of Christian. He was responsible for obtaining the quit claim deed from his stepmother Magdalena and was the administrator of his father's estate along with his brother-in-law Jonathan Everhard. In 1874 he was a member of the committee that put together the reunion of pioneers for the sixtieth anniversary celebration of the founding of Wadsworth. We have not located the graves of Mary or John. John and Mary had two sons.

1. Paul Wall, born August 6, 1830.
2. Daniel B. Wall born November 3, 1835.

Paul married first Kitty A. (maiden name unknown) probably about 1853. Kitty died on September 1, 1854 and is buried in the pioneer cemetery of the Emanuel United Church of Christ (the High Church) where Paul's grandfather Christian is buried. I suspect that Kitty died as a result of the birth of her first child and the child, Alice Wall, survived. Paul next married Isabella Ruthaker in Chippewa Township on December 24, 1857. Paul and Isabel are listed on the 1860 census in Wadsworth Township. In the household is Alice, age five. Also in the household is a John Wall, age 48 listed as a border and farm hand. The identity of this John Wall is a mystery. I have been unable to locate Paul and his family after 1860; however, an 1897 atlas of Wayne County lists Paul Wall with 105 acres in the Northeast Quarter of Section 4, Chippewa Township.

Daniel married Abigail Geiger probably about 1863. He appears on the 1860 census still in the home of his mother and father. He and his family are listed in all of the census returns for Wadsworth between 1860 and 1900. The children identified from the census returns were: Russel S., born in August 1864; Mary M., born in March 1866; twins Carrie and Anna, born in March 1870; John J. Wall, born in 1874. Daniel died on April 15, 1908 at the age of sixty-two. Abigail died in 1922. Both are buried in the Wadsworth cemetery as is their daughter Carrie Rohn Stevenson (1870-1960). I have a picture of Russel Wall taken at a family reunion in 1946. He is a distinguished looking gentleman and very tall.

**Mary Wall** was christened Maria Magdalena when she was baptized in the Lowhill Reformed German church in Northampton County, Pennsylvania. She was born on November 22, 1806. She married Jonathan Everhard in Wooster, Ohio on August 15, 1826 when she was nineteen years old. Apparently she bore no children and she probably died in 1829 in Chippewa.

I have not found a record of her death or place of burial but very likely it is in the Emanuel Church of Christ cemetery. Her husband remarried to Mary's sister Catherine.

**Catherine Wall** married Jonathan Everhard on June 11, 1829 in Baughman Township. Catherine was born in Northampton County, Pennsylvania in 1811 and was about eighteen years old in 1829 when she married. The Reverend Henry Weygandt, the pastor of the High Church, performed the ceremony. Jonathan and Catherine were among the earliest pioneers to purchase land and move to Sharon. They bought land on lot 68 on August 31, 1831 and apparently spent the rest of their lives on their farm in the southeastern part of the township. Jonathan was one of the administrators of Christian's estate when he died in 1853. Jonathan and Catherine are listed on the 1840, 1850 and 1870 censuses of Sharon Township. From those census returns we identified the following children:

1. Mary Everhard, born 1830.
2. Sarah Everhard, born 1833.
3. Sophia Everhard, born 1835.
4. Isaac Everhard, born 1837.
5. Elizabeth Everhard, born 1840.
6. Daniel W. Everhard, born 1842.
7. Fietta (spelling questionable) Everhard, born 1849.
8. Edwin Everhard, born 1851.

There is a large gap in years between Daniel and Fietta so it is possible there were one or two Everhard children who died before 1850.

**Rebecca Wall** was born on January 21, 1810 and baptized in the Ben Salem Union Church on March 11, 1810. She married Curtis Brouse on February 1, 1830 in Baughman Township also by Rev. Weygandt. Rebecca was twenty years old at the time of her wedding. There is a bit of a mystery about Rebecca's name. She was christened "Rebecca" shortly after her birth in Pennsylvania and she is listed as Rebecca on the marriage record in Wayne County. Rebecca appears with her husband and family on the 1850 census in Lorain County, Ohio. Also, the Compendium of American Genealogy gives her name as Rebecca. However, on the quit claim deed from her stepmother her name is given as Margaret Brouse. And, the sketch on the Wall family in the "Wadsworth Memorial" gives her name as Margaret. Was she named Rebecca Margaret or Margaret Rebecca? I suppose we will never know. Curtis and Rebecca removed to Indiana some time after 1850 and one of their grandchildren, Ulysses Chester Brouse son of Curtis, Jr. became mayor of Kendalville, Indiana and a member of the Indiana State Board of Agriculture in 1917.<sup>34</sup> The Brouse children we know of were:

1. Mary Brouse, born about 1833.
2. David Brouse, born about 1836.
3. Peter Brouse, born about 1838.
4. Curtis, born in 1840 in the Civil War he was a member of the 30<sup>th</sup> Indiana Volunteers.
5. Henry Brouse, born about 1845.
6. Jeremiah Brouse, born about 1847.

**Sarah Wall** was born probably in Union County, Pennsylvania about 1821. She married Abraham Keller on November 17, 1838 by a justice of the peace in Chippewa Township. Sarah was about seventeen years of age and her new husband was twenty-six. In 1831 the Kellers purchased land on lot 68 in Sharon Township next to brother-in-law Jonathan Everhard. They were also among the first pioneers in Sharon. The 1850 and 1870 censuses of Sharon Township lists the Keller family. Abraham gave the census taker his occupation as "carpenter" on the 1850 census and "carpenter and farmer" on the 1870. The Keller children we know of from those two census returns are:

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<sup>34</sup> Compendium of American Genealogy, Vol. VII, pg. 740



1. John Keller, born about 1839.
2. Barbara Keller, born about 1840.
3. Catherine Keller, born about 1841.
4. Christian Keller, born about 1843.
5. Solomon Keller, born about 1847.
6. Mary Ellen Keller, born about 1848.
7. Fanny Keller, born about 1849.
8. Ann Keller, born about 1850.
9. Charles Keller, born about 1856.

**Abigail Wall** was born in 1817 possibly in Union County, Pennsylvania. On November 7, 1839 she married Joel Bachman (Baughman) in Baughman Township, Wayne County, Ohio. Abigail and her husband were twenty-two years of age. Joel was Abigail's second cousin. They appear on the 1840 census in Chippewa Township in Wayne County. Abigail died in Wayne County on October 29, 1840 at the age of 23. I have not located Joel or any children on censuses after 1840. The 1853 quit claim deed from Christian's widow lists his living heirs. All of the children except Mary, Judith and Abigail are named on the document. Instead, Catherine Bower, Eli Hartman and Barbara Baughman appear on the deed. We know for certain that Eli was Christian's grandson and the son of Judith Wall Hartman who died shortly after Eli's birth. Barbara Baughman must have been Christian's granddaughter and the daughter of Abigail and Joel. The identity of Catherine Bower is a mystery but her name on the deed would indicate she was also a granddaughter. I thought perhaps she was also the daughter of Joel and Abigail but if she was she and Barbara had to have been twins. Also, I can't account for the name "Bower." Catherine is the square peg I can't fit into any round hole.

**Peter Wall** was probably born in Pennsylvania in Penn Township of Union County, in February 1819. He married Sybella Everhard on June 17, 1841 in Baughman Township. The Reverend Weygant performed the ceremony. Sybella was probably closely related to Jonathan Everhard, the husband of Catherine Wall. Peter was twenty-two and Sybella was nineteen. Peter and family appear on the census returns of 1850, 1860 and 1870. During those years he was living in Spenser Township where he probably spent all of his adult life. In 1900 he was living in the home of his son, Reuben. Peter and Sybella's children were:

1. Reuben S. Wall born in December 1842. Reuben served in the Civil War in Company B, 42<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Volunteers. He married Mary A. Hartman on July 3, 1865 and had two children, son William J. Wall born in November 1870 and daughter Jessie Wall born in July 1884. It is likely there were other children we know nothing about.
2. Jacob James Wall born in May 1849. His wife's name was Matilda and they had three children that we know of: Edith A. Wall born in July 1877; Lillian G. Wall born in November 1888; Harrison B. Wall born in May 1891.
3. Harrison E. Wall born in October 1853 and married Harriet Lance.

**Isaac D. Wall** was born on April 13, 1813. He was baptized in the Zilgels Lutheran and Reformed Church in Weisenberg Township, Lehigh Co., Pennsylvania.<sup>35</sup> He married Susannah Brouse about 1838 probably in Sharon Township. Susannah was probably closely related to the large Brouse family of Chippewa, perhaps a sister of Curtis Brouse who married Isaac's sister Rebecca. She was born on October 10, 1812 in Ohio.<sup>36</sup> Isaac purchased land on lot 66 in Sharon in 1833. He later purchased land in lots 21 and 22, probably about 1838. Isaac and Susannah lived in a log cabin on this lot, then built a frame house which was still standing in 1981 when "Early Sharon Township" was published. Jacob Derr, who became the mayor of Wadsworth occupied the house when the great cyclone of 1890 struck Sharon.<sup>37</sup> Isaac died on

<sup>35</sup> LDS ICI, Pennsylvania

<sup>36</sup> Brown, WADSWORTH MEMORIAL, 1875

<sup>37</sup> Ensworth and Vaughn, EARLY SHARON TOWNSHIP, 1981

September 11, 1870 and is buried in the Wadsworth cemetery. Susannah died on May 10, 1912. Their children were:

1. Sarah A. Wall born about 1839, married Uriah Wearstler; Sarah died in 1928. Sarah and Uriah apparently inherited the Isaac Wall farm or purchased it from the other heirs.
2. Lavina Wall, born about 1842, married William Rhodes.
3. David Wall, born about 1848; married Nettie Briggs in October 1869.
4. Ella Wall, born about 1856, married Tom Duley.

**Julia Wall**, christened Judith was born in late 1814 or early 1815. She was baptized in the Zilgels Lutheran and Reformed Church in Weisenberg Township of Lehigh County, Pennsylvania.<sup>38</sup> She married Joshua Hartman probably in Wadsworth or Sharon in 1834. Joshua was the son of Peter Hartman and Catharine Zollner and was born in Northampton County, Pennsylvania on January 9, 1813.<sup>39</sup> The Walls and Hartmans were acquainted in Northampton County. Christian and Catherine Wall were the sponsors for the baptism of Joshua's sister Catherine in the Ben Salem Church in Northampton County in 1807.<sup>40</sup> Julia died on May 1, 1835 at the age of twenty after the birth of one son, Eli Hartman born on October 31, 1834. Joshua married twice more and had sixteen children. He was a successful farmer in Sharon and died sometime after the cyclone of 1890.<sup>41</sup>

**Daniel Wall** the youngest of the Wall children was born on November 3, 1823 in Union County, Pennsylvania. He was still a baby when his parents brought him to Ohio. Daniel married Lydia Fry in 1843 in Wadsworth.<sup>42</sup> Lydia died on November 17, 1853<sup>43</sup> after the birth of three children. Daniel remarried to Sarah whose last name was probably Neff. They had at least six children I've identified from census records. Daniel worked as a peddler and farmer and lived most of his life in Wadsworth. He was still living in 1900. Daniel and Lydia's children were:

1. Catherine Wall, born in 1844.
2. Isaac Wall, born in 1846.
3. Abigail Wall, born in 1848

Daniel and Sarah's children were:

1. Emma Wall, born March 1855, married Henry Geiger.
2. Alice Wall, born in 1857.
3. Ameda Wall, born in 1859.
4. Amanda Wall, born in 1862.
5. Charles Wall, date of birth unknown.
6. Carl Wall, date of birth unknown.

## Charles Wall

Our ancestor Charles Wall was born in Northampton County, Pennsylvania on September 13, 1808. He was christened "Carl" (the German form of Charles) when he was baptized in the Ben Salem Church on October 9, 1808. He was about sixteen years old when his family left Pennsylvania for Wayne County, Ohio. On December 17, 1829 Charles married

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<sup>38</sup> LDS ICI, Pennsylvania

<sup>39</sup> Brown, WADSWORTH MEMORIAL, 1875

<sup>40</sup> Hollenbach, Church Records Ben Salem Union Church, 1964

<sup>41</sup> Perrin, Baskin & Battey, HISTORY OF MEDINA COUNTY AND OHIO, 1881

<sup>42</sup> Brown, WADSWORTH MEMORIAL, 1875

<sup>43</sup> Medina County, Ohio Burial Records, Medina County Court House

Sophia Frederick in Baughman Township of Wayne County. The Reverend G. Henry Weygant, pastor of the "Waltz" or "High" Church performed the ceremony.<sup>44</sup> Both Charles and Sophia were about twenty-one years of age. Sophia was the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Shank) Frederick, neighbors to the Walls. Charles Wall is closely connected to the early history of Sharon Township.

Sharon Township is directly north of Wadsworth in Medina County. It was the last in the Western Reserve to be offered to the public for sale. William Hart and Samuel Mather, partners in the Connecticut Land Company, were the original owners and the township was first known as Hart and Mather's town. For years after Wadsworth was settled land in Sharon was tied up as part of the estates of these two men. A few families settled in the township before the land was available for sale in hopes that they could gain title at a later date. In 1820, when the fourth U.S. census was taken there were six families and a total of thirty-four people living in the 25 square miles of the township. The township was finally available for sale in 1828.

Peter Moore and George White first surveyed the township in 1829. Moore suggested the name of "Gask" for his ancestral home in Scotland. This name only lasted a few months before the township was organized and the name "Sharon" was selected. Most likely the name was chosen to honor of the town of Sharon in Connecticut and the Biblical Rose of Sharon.

Because it was a wilderness for more than a decade after surrounding townships were settled Sharon was a favorite hunting ground in Medina County. It teemed with deer, bears, wild hogs, wild turkeys, carrier pigeons, wolves and an abundance of snakes. The names Wolf Creek and Great Bear Swamp give evidence today of the early condition of Sharon.

There is a famous story of a bear from the early years of Sharon. A group of men from Wadsworth began the task of cutting a road north through Sharon Township in 1819. Another group was working its way south from Granger and the two groups were to meet in the center of the township. The road was badly needed as an outlet to Cleveland. Several dogs accompanied their masters. A large bear lumbered out of the woods and the pack immediately attacked it. The bear reared up on its hind legs and put up a desperate fight. When Orin Loomis realized the hounds were getting the worse of the battle he ran up and swung his ax with as much force as possible and sunk it in the bear's mouth. Another man ran up behind the bear and struck the bear in the head with his ax and the bear was finished. This may sound cruel to us in this age of enlightenment, but meat was scarce in those days and bear meat was a welcome addition to the diets of those pioneers.<sup>45</sup>

The stories of snakes in the township are many. Rattlesnakes were abundant and very large. The swamps and rocky ledges in the township were perfect breeding grounds for rattlers and black snakes. One night Doctor Cassidy of early Sharon was riding in his buggy alone on Medina Line Road. His horse came to a sudden stop when it appeared there was a large log lying across the road in front of him. The horse would not move until the "log" slithered into the ditch. Sometime later a snakeskin was found in the woods near by. The snake that wore it was as thick as a man's thigh and 16 to 18 feet long. The skin was hung on a porch in Coddingtonville and people from all over the area came to see it.<sup>46</sup> Entertainment was scarce in those days.

Joseph Fixler told of his experience with a rattlesnake when he was a boy. He wrote, "Rattlesnakes were numerous and dangerous in those early days. On the farm of Uncle Sam Culp was located a rattlesnake's den which was known far and wide, and the den was avoided by all as much as possible. I remember when quite young I was gathering nuts in the vicinity of the den and was in the act of stooping down to pick up a walnut when I discovered a rattlesnake all ready to spring! I was so alarmed that I perhaps jumped ten feet and ran rapidly to the house, secured help and returned with them to the spot. We succeeded in killing the snake which had so frightened me, together with several others, all large ones."<sup>47</sup>

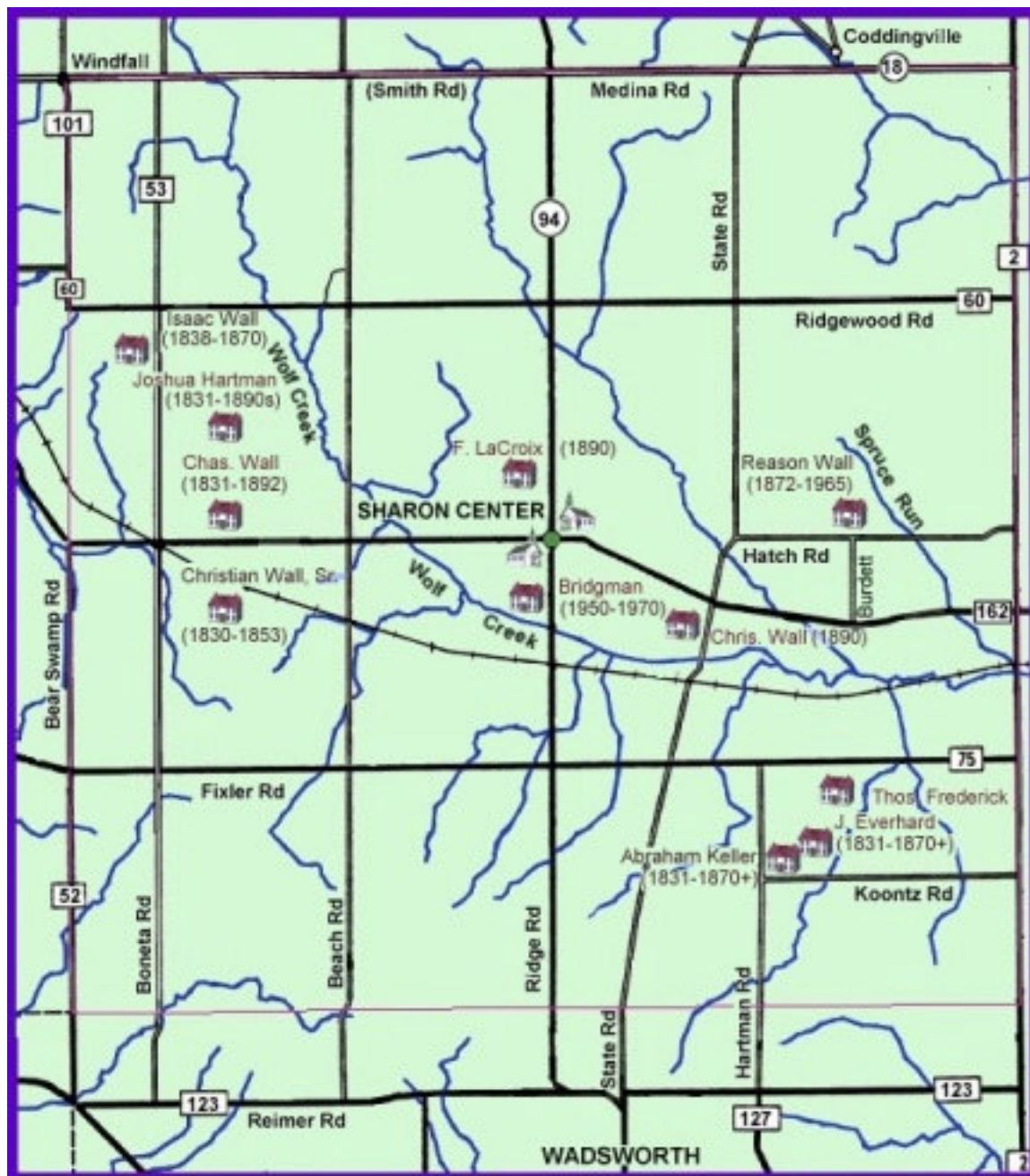
Rattlesnakes were extinct in Sharon by the time I came along. But, black snakes and other species were still abundant. I remember once on my grandfather Wall's farm a large black snake slithered across the road into his garden. The road was perhaps fifteen to twenty feet

<sup>44</sup> Wayne County Marriages, 1812 - 1865, Wayne County Library, Wooster, Ohio

<sup>45</sup> Brown, WADSWORTH MEMORIAL, 1875

<sup>46</sup> Ensworth and Vaughn, EARLY SHARON TOWNSHIP, 1981

<sup>47</sup> *ibid*



wide. The tail appeared on one side of the road as the head disappeared on the other. The only other time in my life that I have seen snakes of comparable size was when I was stationed in Thailand during the Vietnam War. I visited a zoo in Bangkok that had several large boa constrictors in pens and a pit full of extremely large king cobras. My grandfather would not allow us to kill snakes on his farm. They kept the mouse and rat populations, the main diet of snakes, in check and out of his granaries and chicken coops.

There were several varieties of snakes in Sharon when I was growing up. The most abundant were garter snakes. These snakes were small, docile and relatively harmless but their bite can cause a serious infection, something I didn't know at the time. My brother Art and I caught them for sport and I don't remember hearing of anyone bit by one. They lived in burrows in the ground made by other animals. Once we found a nest of them curled up in a withering mass of newborns larger than a softball. Regardless of how harmless they were I wasn't about to stick my hand into that hole in the ground.

Other types of snakes I know of were hoop snakes and blue racers. Our grandfather's barn had a chute, or silo, used for fodder to feed the livestock. In a crack in the wall lived a blue racer, a snake of dazzling colors. We loved to jump from the hayloft down the chute where we landed on a soft bed of cornstalks and straw. This fellow would stick his head out of the crack to see what all the commotion was about. Hoop snakes were so named because of a myth that they could take their tails in their mouths and roll like a hoop. Almost all wild game was gone from Sharon by the close of the nineteenth century. This was largely due to the popularity of ring hunts in the early days. Men and boys in the hunt would encircle an area and drive any wildlife within the circle towards the center. Experienced marksmen would shoot the animals suitable for meat or those considered a menace. Not many decades passed until all the bear, wild turkeys and pigs were extinct in the township. The last ring hunt was held in the western portion of Wadsworth and Sharon Townships in 1835. That may be unfortunate, but we should not be too harsh in our judgment of hunters in those early years. Wild game was an important source of meat and the bears, wolves and carrier pigeons were destructive to the farmers whose livelihood was threatened by them. The bears were said to attack domestic pigs, wolves loved lambs and carrier pigeons could strip a farm of all its grain in a very short time. The carrier pigeons that nested in the Copley swamp east of Sharon are said to have flown in flocks a quarter mile wide. They were so numerous that often the birds in the rear of the flock landed on those in front crushing them while they fed. The birds were also considered delicacy and were hunted to extinction by the early 1900's.<sup>48</sup> Joseph Fixler described the last ring hunt in the township.<sup>49</sup> "The news came down to the south part of the valley of the Styx, that bears and wolves had destroyed some sheep and pigs, and it spread like wildfire. A great hunt was organized with every man and boy requested to join. I was one of the party. There were between 400 and 500 gathered together. They started at the confluence of the Chippewa bottom. The men and boys were arranged ten feet apart and every four rods was a captain and they marched north through the dismal valley of the Styx. We started early in the morning and came back to Wilson's Corners and passed around the Great Bear Swamp. To make a long story short, no bear came out."

Land in Sharon was quickly snapped up when it was finally put up for sale. Christian was among one of the earliest pioneers to buy land there, purchasing a piece of land on lot 38 in 1830. Charles first bought land in the southeastern part of the Township in 1831 and was one of the earliest pioneers in Sharon Township. Six years later he purchased land on Lot 42 just south of his father's. After the death of Christian, Charles bought the land on lot 39 from the other heirs. He apparently sold the land in Lot 42 in 1859 to Isaac Ebbert and moved his family to his father's old land where he spent the rest of his life.

Charles is credited with locating and cutting the road through the woods from the Montville Township line to Sharon Center. Once a hunter was chased up a tree by wild hogs on Charles Wall's place not long after the first settlers arrived in township. Charles possessed the first wagon in Sharon. In the early days a wagon was considered a great luxury and was only used on Sundays. Charles paid thirty-five dollars and gave seven good three-year-old steers in exchange for the wagon.<sup>50</sup> On January 29, 1859 Orren B. Chatfield made an entry in his diary. He wrote, "I went to Mr. Wall's to a venture attended by nearly 300 people. They wrestled and jumped and sold whisky and had a good time."<sup>51</sup> This event was held either at Charles Wall's farm or at his brother Isaac's place near by.

Charles and Sophia had ten children. All except the oldest were born in Sharon. They were: Jonas, John, Christian F., Saloma, Thomas, Reason (our ancestor), Charles who died a month after his birth, William, who died when he was three years old, Margaret who died before reaching her first birthday, and Franklin.

Sophia died on August 23, 1886 at the age of 78. She is buried beside her three small children in the Wall plot of the Sharon Center cemetery on Ridge Road. Charles remarried Harriet Luke a widow with four children of her own. Charles died on January 10, 1893 in the flu epidemic of that winter. He was 83 years of age. He is also buried in the Sharon cemetery next

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<sup>48</sup> *ibid*

<sup>49</sup> *ibid*

<sup>50</sup> Perrin, HISTORY OF MEDINA CO. & OHIO, 1881, pg. 797

<sup>51</sup> Ensworth and Vaughn, EARLY SHARON TOWNSHIP, 1981

to Sophia and the children. Charles made a will on May 4, 1886 shortly before the death of Sophia. His son Christian F. Wall presented the document in probate court immediately after his death. The application to admit the will to probate lists the living heirs of Charles as:

- Harriet Wall, his widow
- John his son living in Sharon
- C. F. Wall, son living in Sharon
- Saloma Waltz, his daughter living in Sharon
- Thomas Wall, son living in Grangerburg
- Reason Wall of Sharon
- Franklin Wall of Akron in Summit County
- William N. Wall, grandson living in Akron
- Lusetta Razor, grand daughter living in Golden Corners, Wayne County

Grandchildren are named as heirs on probate documents only when specifically mentioned in the will or when their parent is deceased. William and Lusetta had to have been the adult children of Jonas who died in 1887. In his will Charles is very specific about how the debts of his children to him should be repaid to the estate. Any money left unpaid was to be deducted from the amount that heir received when the estate was settled. The will appoints Christian, the oldest living son, and Reason as administrators of the estate. Christian died the same year as his father and before the estate was settled. The other heirs then asked the court to increase the bond of Reason Wall due to the amount of money he was handling. Christian F. Wall of Sharon is buried in the cemetery of the Emanuel Church of Christ, the same cemetery where his grandfather and namesake is buried.

## The Great Cyclone of 1890

No one can discuss the history of Sharon without talking about the tornado that ripped through the township on the evening of April 8, 1890. It touched the lives of several Wall relatives, killed a man and his dog and severely injured the man's wife. Never before or since has there been a storm like it in Sharon Township. The Walls and relatives that suffered damage from the cyclone were Uriah and Sarah Wearstler son-in-law and daughter of Isaac Wall, Frank and Gertrude LaCroix son-in-law and daughter of John Wall, Christian F. Wall and Reason Wall both sons of Charles, and Joshua Hartman an in-law.



That morning there had been a storm with the sky becoming unusually dark, but with little rain. About five in the afternoon distant thunder was heard in the northwest and a thunderstorm moved in the direction of Sharon, but stalled northwest of the village. Just before seven P.M. it started to rain. A few minutes later a black funnel dropped from the clouds on the Uriah Wearstler farm. Witnesses described it as resembling a large (hot air) balloon swaying side to side. Jacob Derr, later mayor of Wadsworth living on the old Isaac Wall farm, was milking in his barn with his hired hand when they noticed the approaching storm. Derr sent his hand to the house to tell his wife and daughter to get in the cellar. He joined them for a few seconds and then foolishly went upstairs to see what was happening. It almost cost him his life. He stepped to the back porch just in time to have the door blown out of his hand, throwing him through two rooms and over a sewing machine, badly bruising him. The kitchen and back porch were completely blown away and the house moved from its foundation. The west end and roof of the barn were torn away and Derr's buggies were wrecked.

It next hit Joshua Hartman's barn tearing the roof off one end. The funnel traveled east and laid an orchard flat. It then lifted and moved towards the southeast and again touched down in the woods. It laid flat more than 500 sugar maple trees, twisting them off or blowing them over, and destroyed Arthur Beech's sugar house. It swept along towards the southeast taking fences and trees until it reached the Crane farm where it leveled the orchard and blew down the north part of the house, crossed the road, took the south roof off R.M. Brown's house and demolished the barn, covering the livestock with debris. Dick Brown was in his barn with Eugene Fulmer and seeing the barn begin to give way told Gene to "git." The wind carried them along until Brown caught onto an old stub and held on until the storm was by. Later, several large timber beams of the barn had to be sawed apart to free the animals that were still alive.

The tornado then struck Frank and Gertrude (Wall) LaCroix's barn, crushing it and destroying a buggy and wagon. It hit Isaac Brown's place blowing a lumber pile to pieces and ripping slate tiles off the roof of his new barn. The twister continued southeast and cut a swath of destruction down back of the Chandler, Conrad, Bodine and Joseph Waltz farms. It then turned east up over a hill and swept down on Christian Wall and destroyed everything on the farm except the house. Christian's new bank barn was blown into a pile of rubbish and pieces of it

were distributed over a half a mile around. The funnel turned northeast, swept up over the hill tearing down trees and everything in its path and hit Reason Wall's house, moving it from its foundation and causing it to lean so that no one could stand up straight in it and destroyed several buildings on the place. It next hit Mathew Bramley completely wrecking everything except his granary. Near by Frank Bramley and his family got into their cellar just as the storm hit their house tearing it away from over their heads and setting it on fire. It swept on towards the last house in Sharon, gathering itself as if for a last dreadful act of devastation. Mowing a narrow swath of trees up the hill in back of the Hughes Franks house. It tore the house from its foundation and what seconds before had been a place of peace and comfort was a pile of rubbish 70 feet wide and 200 feet long and barely three inches deep. It exited Sharon Township



Christian Wall's barn

and next hit the Henry Wall farm in Copley Township blowing over his barn before lifting and doing no more damage until it was well east of Akron.

Residents of Sharon outside of the storm track were startled to hear the church bells of the town ringing immediately after the storm passed. To them the storm seemed only unusually heavy. As the people of Sharon came running to the town center they were told that Richard Brown's barn was down and all of his stock inside. Someone came from Doctor Cassidy's with the news that Matthew Bramley's barn had blown down had he was badly hurt. Someone else brought the news that Christian Wall's barn was down and all his stock inside.

It seemed bad news was coming from all over but the worse was still to come. Soon someone arrived saying that Hughes Franks' house was blown away and Mr. Franks could not be found. Men immediately mounted horses and rode east toward the Reason Wall and Matthew Bramley farms where they were met with the terrible news that Mr. Franks had been found dead in the road and terribly mangled. His wife was found several yards away from where the house had been, badly injured and their dog dead beside her. Mrs. Franks survived but was crippled the rest of her life from her injuries.



## The Children of Charles and Sophia Frederick Wall

Three of Charles and Sophia's children died as youngsters. They were Charles, born in September 1842 and died a month later; William, born in 1845 and died before his fourth birthday; Margaret, born in March 1849 and died in February 1850 before reaching her first birthday; these three children are buried in Sharon Cemetery next to their parents. The other offspring of Charles and Sophia in the order of their births were sons Jonas, John, Christian F., daughter Saloma, sons Thomas, Reason and Franklin.

**Jonas Wall** was born in Chippewa on February 1, 1831. He married Mary Ann Geiger who was born in Pennsylvania on November 1, 1830 and brought to Ohio by her parents in 1835. Jonas and Mary Ann had three children we know of: Albert, who died when he was about two years of age; William N. Wall and Lusetta Wall Rasor, who are mentioned in the estate of their grandfather, Charles. Jonas apparently moved to Summit County early in his adult life probably to Copley Township. It is possible that the Henry Wall mentioned in the account of the tornado was also a son of Jonas and Mary Ann. But, if so it is strange that he is not one of the heirs mentioned in Charles Wall's estate. Jonas died on March 8, 1887 and Mary Ann on November 5, 1903. Jonas, Mary Ann and Albert are all buried in the Mt. Swingle Church of Christ cemetery in Sharon Township on Medina Line Road.

**John Wall** was born in Sharon on May 20, 1832. He married Adaline McConkey about 1855 probably in Sharon or Wadsworth. Adaline was born in Ohio, probably Medina County, on December 13, 1831. Adaline died on December 15, 1911 just after reaching her 80th birthday. John passed away a few weeks later on February 3, 1912 at the age of 79. They had the following children:

1. Sophia Wall, born in 1855, married Ervin Joseph Wiley. Died March 30, 1931.
2. Gertrude Wall, born October 7, 1857, married Frank William LaCroix in 1881, died on February 9, 1940.
3. Harriet Wall, born September 1, 1862, married Jay W. Gingery, died August 12, 1945.
4. Mortimer Oliver Wall, born February 9, 1869, married Delilah Bunnelle, died March 31, 1951.

**Christian F. Wall** was born February 24, 1834 in Sharon Township. He married Ann Mariah Geiger who was born in Pennsylvania in 1833 and who was probably the sister of Mary Ann Geiger, wife of Christian's older brother Jonas. Christian and Ann Mariah had one daughter, Jennie L. Wall who was born on March 26, 1865. She married Harvey M. Hollinger. Christian, along with his brother Reason were the administrators of their father's estate. Christian died in 1893, the same year as his father. Ann Mariah was living in the Hollinger household when the 1900 census was taken and probably died in Summit County. Christian is buried in the Emanuel Church of Christ (the Waltz Church) south of Wadsworth, the same place his grandfather and namesake is buried.

**Saloma Wall** was born on January 6, 1836 in Sharon. In about 1853 she married Paul Waltz, son of John Waltz and Elizabeth Brouse. Paul was born on June 15, 1827 in Wadsworth and died on August 7, 1914 in Sharon. Saloma died on February 14, 1895 in Sharon. Saloma and Paul Waltz had a large family.

1. David Waltz
2. Hattie Waltz
3. Joseph Waltz
4. Josiam Waltz
5. Sophia Waltz
6. Winifred Waltz

7. James Waltz, born about 1854
8. Thomas Waltz, born about 1856
9. John Waltz, born about 1860
10. Florence Waltz, born about 1862
11. Charles Waltz, born about 1864
12. William Waltz, born about 1866
13. George Waltz, born about 1868

**Thomas Wall** was born about 1838 in Sharon and died on March 22, 1919 in Granger or Sharon. He married Margaret Swain June 26, 1858 in Baughman Township, Wayne County, Ohio. Margaret was born about 1835 and died probably in Grangerburg on April 4, 1894. Thomas and family lived in Granger Township from some time before 1870 probably until their deaths. Both are buried in the Sharon Cemetery on Ridge Road. The children we know of from the censuses of 1870 through 1900 were:

1. Daphenia Wall, born about 1859;
2. Ella, born in 1862 and died when about two years of age.
3. Alla Wall, born about 1868.
4. Della A. Wall, born in June 1879 and married James S. Meyers and had a daughter Mabel Meyers.

**Franklin Wall** was born in September 1852 in Sharon Township. He married Mary J. Swaine about 1875. Mary was born about 1855. Franklin and Mary moved to Akron about 1890 where they were living when the 1900 census was taken. They probably died in Summit County and their place of burial is unknown to me. They had at least five children:

1. Clarence Wall, born about 1876.
2. Aviona Wall, born about 1879.
3. William N. Wall, date of birth unknown.
4. Rodney Wall, born about 1880.
5. Ernest Wall, born in February 1882.

## Reason Wall



Reason and Abbie Wall circa 1880

Reason was the sixth child born to Charles and Sophia on May 19, 1840 in Sharon Township. At the age of twenty-one he married seventeen year old Abigail Kuder, daughter of Jacob and Mary M. Kuder of Sharon. Abby was born on January 4, 1844 probably in Sharon. The Reverend Hamilton married the couple in Wadsworth on December 12, 1861. Between 1861 and 1870 Reason and Abby lived in Montville Township just west of Sharon and in Granger Township north of Sharon. In April 1872 Reason and Abby purchased approximately 94 acres in section 32 and 33 of Sharon Township from James H. Stoop. They were living there when the cyclone of 1890 hit their farm. Sometime later they purchased a farm just east of Sharon and lived there until their deaths. This property passed to the Stauffer family. The original farm passed down to their son and my grandfather, Reason Deforest Wall. It is located on Hatch Road, once known as Wall Road, just north of the intersection of Hatch and Burdett. This is the farm I knew as I was growing up in Sharon.

Reason and Abby had five children, Charles, William, Albert, Mary and Reason Deforest Wall. Abigail died on April 7, 1910 and the following notice was given of her death, "A devoted husband, five children, fifteen grandchildren, one brother and many relatives and friends remain to mourn her death. Death came to her Thursday morning, April 7, after a week of intense suffering at the age of 66 years, 3 months and 2 days. In her disposition as friend, neighbor, mother and wife, her life gives evidence of a rare genuineness. As a friend, she was faithful and sympathetic, though quiet by nature, nevertheless her influence was effective. As a neighbor, she was interested in her community and always ready to sacrifice her comfort."

Less than a year later Reason died, on March 24, 1911. Both he and Abby are buried in the Copley cemetery on State Route 162 not far from their old farm. A few months before his death Reason made his last will and testament. It is a hand written document dated December 31, 1910 and filed in the Medina County Courthouse. Paraphrased, it states in part:

*It is my will that the farm owned by me and containing about ninety four acres of land situated in Sharon township, Medina County, Ohio, shall be deeded by my executors to*

*my son R.D. Wall upon my son R.D. Wall paying to my executors the sum of four thousand dollars. It is my will that my other farm on which I now reside shall be deeded by my Executors to my daughter Mary Sophia Stauffer upon my daughter paying my executors the sum of three thousand dollars. I hereby give to my son R.D. Wall my cook stove and my wolf robe. I give to my son William Wall my lap robe. I give to my son Charles Wall my two horse blankets. I give my son Albert Wall my bath robe which was a present to me from Jimmie Hollinger. I direct my executors to sell my three watches at auction to the highest bidder, but no person shall be allowed to bid except my four sons.*

My Uncle Ira Wall once remarked he remembered his Dad saying he was promised a gold watch that was passed down to his mother from his grandfather, Jacob Kuder. After the death of Reason, he was unable to bid on the watch because he was the executor of the estate. The watches went to his three brothers.

### The Children of Reason and Abby Wall



Reason Sr., William L., Abigail, Reason D., Charles J., Albert A., Mary S.  
This picture was taken about 1907

**Charles Jacob Wall** was born in Sharon or Montville Township on February 9, 1863. He was married twice, first to Flora A. Houglan probably in the mid 1880's. Flora was born on June 13, 1863 and died on May 12, 1913. Charles then married Belle Daniels, about whom I have no other information. Charles died on October 31, 1944 probably in Sharon and apparently left no descendants.



Charles and Belle Daniels Wall, 1916

**William Lorenzo Wall** was born on January 31, 1865 in Montville Township of Medina County. He married Ida C. Hazen probably about 1890. Ida was born on August 4, 1863. The couple moved to Copley Township in Summit County where William raised hogs. Ida and William had two daughters, Martha and Luella. Ida died in Copley on June 16, 1917 at the age of 53. William retired from farming in 1940 and lived the rest of his life with his daughter Luella who never married. In 1956 on the occasion of his ninety-first birthday he was interviewed by the Akron Beacon Journal. He claimed to have never "smoked, drank or chewed." He also recalled the days of horse drawn streetcars in Akron and the Main Street canal. It is possible that the Henry Wall mentioned in the story of the cyclone of 1890 was in fact William and the name was reported incorrectly. He was 25 years of age and probably recently married when the tornado struck. A few days prior to his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday he died, on January 18, 1957 in his home in Copley. At the time of his death the Beacon Journal reported that he had two grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. His daughters were:



William L. Wall and Russel Wall (son of Daniel and Abigail Geiger Wall)  
1941

1. Martha Wall, was born in April 1892 and married first Charles Shanafelt and had two sons, Orlin and Neal. She married second Schuyler Wagar and lived in Medina. Her date of death is unknown to me.
2. Luella A. Wall was born on April 10, 1897 in either Sharon or Copley. She died on August 16, 1978 in Copley leaving no descendants.

**Albert Allen Wall** was born in August 1868 in Granger Township. He married Mary Wagner on April 20, 1890 in Wadsworth. Mary was born on May 20, 1871 in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Albert and Mary had three children, Kleber, Natina and George. Albert and Mary lived and farmed in Sharon from about 1895 until their deaths. In April 1940 the Akron Beacon Journal published a notice of their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Albert died sometime between 1940 and 1957. Mary died on November 3, 1957 in Sharon. Their place of burial is unknown to me. The children of Albert and Mary were:

1. The Reverend Kleber Wall was born in Sharon in September 1891. He married Esther Holmes. Kleber and Esther had one daughter, Esther Louise Wall. Kleber was the chaplain at the Ohio State Penitentiary in Columbus, Ohio for many years. He died in January 1957 at the age of 65. His wife preceded him in death.

2. Natina C. Wall was born on April 10, 1894 in Sharon. She married first Warren Calvery and had a son, George Calvery. She married second Charles Oplinger and third a Mr. Wheeler. Natina died on September 13, 1980 at the age of 86 and is buried in the Copley cemetery on Route 162.
3. George R. Wall was born in March 1897 in Sharon. He married first Hilda Everhard on June 25, 1917. George and Hilda had a daughter Jean. Hilda died on July 3, 1937 and George married Addi Sneider and had a daughter Karen. George's farm was at the corner of Route 162 and Route 44 just east of Sharon Center. When I was growing up in Sharon we passed his farm on the way to and from our grandfather's farm but I do not remember ever meeting him or his family. George died on July 3, 1966 in Sharon Township.

**Mary Sophia Wall** was born on May 20, 1871 in Sharon. She married Charles Stauffer of Sharon probably about 1880. Mary died on November 2, 1957 in Wadsworth. The children of Mary and Charles were:

1. Roy O. Stauffer who married Mae Worth. Roy was living in Ottawa, Illinois in 1978 and died there probably around 1990.<sup>52</sup>
2. Elnor R. Stauffer was born in 1882 in Sharon. Elnor married Jessie D. Daniels and had a son, Blake E. Stauffer. Elnor owned and operated with Blake the Stauffer's Country Store located on the southwest corner of the town center. He served for six years on the Republican Central Committee and in 1938 ran for County Commissioner, losing by a few votes. He ran again in 1940 and won handily and served in that capacity for eight years. He was Director and President of the Medina County Agricultural Society and served as Medina County Fair Board President from 1960 through 1968. He spent six years in the 1920's as the Sharon Postmaster and the Sharon Post Office was located in his store. Elnor passed away at the age of 85 on March 6, 1978 at the Crestview Nursing Home in Medina after a lengthy illness.<sup>53</sup>
3. Florence S. Stauffer was born on October 9, 1894 in Sharon. She married Howard Caskey and had three sons, Myron, Boyd and Clark. Florence died on January 30, 1993 at the age of 98. She is buried in the Copley cemetery.

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<sup>52</sup> Unidentified Newspaper Obituary (not dated)

<sup>53</sup> Wadsworth News Banner, March 1978, Obituary

## Reason Deforest Wall

Reason Deforest Wall, my grandfather, was the youngest child of Reason and Abigail, born on his parents' farm in Sharon on November 25, 1875. He married Winifred Pearl Tyler in Wadsworth on Christmas day, December 25, 1895. Reason was twenty and Winnie was nineteen years of age. She was the daughter of Rush Sebastian Tyler and Laura T. Stannard of Wadsworth.

As a young man Reason taught school in Sharon, Granger and Valley City drawing a salary of thirty dollars a month. In about 1905 he gave up teaching and took up farming. When his father passed away he came in possession of the 94-acre family farm on Hatch Road in Sharon Township (County Road 126). Grandfather actively engaged in farming until about 1960. During the last several years his son Herbert worked the farm. For more than fifty years Reason was a volunteer crop reporter for the Ohio Crop Reporting Service, an arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In the 1930's he served as a Medina County Committeeman for the old Agricultural Adjustment Administration under Franklin D. Roosevelt. Party affiliation was not a prerequisite for this post but he was an ardent Democrat and took an active interest in Democratic politics. My first exposure to politics came at his house watching the Democratic National Convention on his new television in 1952 and listening to him and my Uncle Del Bridgman, a republican, argue.

After Herbert died from cancer in 1960 my grandfather retired from farming. He paid me the greatest compliment he could in 1961 when he asked me if I thought with his brains and my brawn (which I had little of) we could keep the farm going. I knew that was unrealistic but I was greatly flattered.

The farm was located on one of the highest hills in the township about a mile west of the Medina and Summit county line and commanded a panoramic view of the southeastern part of the township. The original house on the farm burned down in 1927 and a new one was built the next year. I remember the "new" house from the 1950's as a large white frame building surrounded by windbreak of large cedar trees and shrubbery on three sides. In the front yard were a large elm and maple tree and a windmill with trumpet vine growing up it. Near the house were orchards of cherries, pears, peaches and apples. There were several beehives in the field east of the house. Behind the house by the kitchen Grandma had a small goldfish pond made from an old bathtub. Out by the road was a garage and just across the road a large oak tree. When the Hatch road was put through east of the farm Grandpa prevented the workmen from cutting down the oak tree. It still lives (in 1998) and the last time I saw it the trunk was a good twelve to fifteen feet in circumference. The house still stands on Hatch road, now paved, and for some reason the house looks much smaller now than it did forty years ago.

A short distance to the west was the large red bank barn (a barn with a ramp of dirt up to the upper level on one side). A driveway made a loop around the garden just west of the house and by the barn with a chicken coop and corncrib near by. Just to the rear of the house was a



Winnie and Reason D. Wall  
Circa 1952



woodshed with a belfry; the bell was once used to call the men in from the fields at dinnertime. Behind the woodshed was the outdoor john, not used much when I was growing up. Just south of the barn and along the dirt road was a small blacksmith and machine shop. West of the barn surrounding the barnyard (an area used to corral the livestock near the barn) was an ell-shaped building containing old farm equipment and feed. I remember seeing a couple



R.D. Wall Farm House ca. 1930

old buggies in those buildings when I was young. In the lower level of the barn were the stanchions for the cows and stables enough for two or three large horses. For awhile when I was growing up Grandpa had two large draft horses and a few milk cows. Also, on the lower level were some small pens for pigs or other small livestock. On each end of the barn was a chute, the one on the north for hay from the loft above and the other on the south for fodder. The upper level of the barn contained the tractors, wagons, plows, combine and other equipment. The hayloft was on the north end of the barn. Below the lofts on both ends were the granaries mostly for wheat and oats but sometimes other small grains. There were several large beams of oak about 12 to 14 inches wide and thick that spanned the barn for a width of probably 40 feet. As kids we enjoyed climbing all over the upper level of the barn and jumping down the hay and fodder chutes.

The lane from the barn to the back of the farm ran a short ways along Hatch road before turning north and was lined with black walnut trees. Grandpa had about twenty-five or thirty acres planted in corn, wheat, oats, hay and potatoes. As kids we were very fond of running through the cornfield when the corn was taller than we were. I also remember Grandpa saying that the corn should be knee high by the forth of July (or the crop would be small). The rest of the land was orchard, pasture and, for kids, the best little woods in the country. Spruce Run, a small creek, had its source in a spring just north of the farm and trickled through the woods to the Bramley farm next to Grandpa's. On the Bramley property were ledges and a waterfalls we called Devil's Hole and a small cave to explore. As kids we had a small paradise to romp in and didn't know it. But it wasn't all fun and games.

Grandpa believed in work. One of my earliest memories was a time when Art and I were probably about seven and eight years old. Grandpa had us steering the tractor pulling a wagon while he and my Uncle Herbert were digging potatoes. The north end of the field had a long slope to it and the tractor started to roll out of control. We were too small to reach the brake pedal and steer at the same time. Uncle Herbert ran to the front of the tractor and pulled the brake on by hand. That afternoon my grandmother put her foot down and told my grandfather that he was not to put us on a tractor again until we were much bigger. We also had the job of shoveling grain from the front of the grain bins to the back when it was dumped from the wagons. I didn't mind this with wheat but oats have tiny hairs that make you itch like the devil. I hated the oats. Other chores we had on the farm were feeding the livestock, shucking and grinding corn and gathering the eggs. Grandpa showed us how to use the separator to separate the milk from the cream. He tried to teach me how to milk, but I never learned the art well enough to amount to anything.

Grandma was struck with a crippling illness in the early 1950's that kept her confined to a wheelchair and bed. She died in the farmhouse on June 4, 1958. Two years later Reason retired from farming. After Herbert died in 1960 there was no one young and strong enough to take over the work. He bought a small house in Wadsworth and lived there for a few years. He died in the Wadsworth hospital on April 14, 1965 at the age of 89. Reason and Winifred are buried in the

Wall plot in the Sharon Cemetery just south of Sharon Center. Reason Deforest Wall maintained membership in the Lutheran Church in Sharon Center, the church of his parents and grandparents, but was not a religious man and rarely attended services. He was a man of the earth and his philosophy of life reflected that.



*The R.D. Wall farm as it looked in 1975 looking north from along Burdett road.*

## The Children of Reason and Winifred Wall

**Laura Lavonne Wall** was born on August 9, 1896 and was the eldest of the children of Reason and Winnie. She married Howard Ebert of Sharon about 1920. Laura died of cancer on April 23, 1928 and left no descendants.

**Harold Melville Wall** was born on May 1, 1898. He married Dorothy Seiford and they had one child that was still born. Harold and Dorothy were divorced and on December 24, 1936 he married Eva Marie Kuder, in Vicksburg, Michigan. Marie was the daughter of Hiram M. Kuder and Bessie Lee Ward. Hiram was the son of Hiram and Delina Mason Kuder. Hiram, Sr. was the brother of Abigail Kuder wife of Reason Wall, Sr. Marie was born on May 2, 1905 in Kalamazoo, Michigan and was previously married to Clyde K. Leonard. She had one son, Clyde K. "Bud" Leonard. Harold and Marie had two daughters, Carol and Margo. Harold and Marie lived in Kalamazoo most of their lives. For a short time they lived on the Wall family farm in Sharon but moved back to Michigan in the 1940's. They were charter members of the Lake Center Bible Church in Portage, Michigan. In the 1960's they helped establish the Berean Baptist Church in Portage. Harold passed away on August 28, 1988 in Portage at the age of 90. He is buried at the Mount Ever-Rest Cemetery in Portage. Marie was still living at the age of 93 in 1998 when this sketch was done.

**Hasel Mae Wall** was born in Sharon Township on October 5, 1900. She married Elbert Edgell on May 23, 1932. Elbert was born on April 11, 1896 in West Virginia. Hasel and Elbert lived for many years on a small farm in southern Ohio near Longbottom in Meigs County. As kids we spent some summers on their place there. Their house was a small one-story frame house with no indoor bathroom. It sat on the side of a hill and below it was a dirt road that separated the house and the barn. A short distance below the barn was a small stream that was always nearly ice cold. There was a small pond on the place and we used to take a leaky rowboat out on it. The Ohio River flowed not far from the farm and there was a large forest between their place and the river. Once, Art and I got lost in the forest and Art climbed the tallest tree we could locate to find our way out. Elbert was known as a teller of tall tales. I always enjoyed my time around them because they seemed always cheerful and easy going. Elbert died on November 23, 1972 and Hasel returned to Wadsworth to live for awhile with her sister Clara. Hasel suffered from

Parkinson's Disease and reached a state where she needed constant care. She was placed in a home for the aged in Medina and died there in about 1975. Hasel and Elbert had no children.



*The Wall family farm house as it looked in 1975. The windbreak on this side of the house is gone. The old garage foundation is in the foreground by the telephone pole.*

**Herbert Spencer Wall** was born on July 11, 1903 in Sharon. He married Ruth Naomi Hackett on May 15, 1928. Herbert and Ruth lived in Sherman, Ohio near Barberton in Summit County until about 1953 when they moved back to the family farm to help his father run it and care for his mother. Herbert and Ruth had five children: Leonard; Maynard; Charlotte; Winifred; and Paulette. Herbert died on liver cancer on January 20, 1960 at the age of 56 and Ruth returned to their home in Sherman.

**Clara Marie Wall** was born on April 20, 1905 in Sharon. When she was nineteen years old she married Platt Coolman in Wadsworth on November 7, 1924. Platt was a carpenter and the couple lived in Wadsworth at 187 Gordon Avenue until his sudden death of a heart attack on October 11, 1949. Clara never had any children but in 1947 she took to raise the two small children of her youngest brother, Vivian who was killed the year before in an auto and train accident. She raised us as if we were her own and we always called her "Mom" with the greatest affection. After Platt's death we moved to our grandfather's farm and lived there for over a year. He had remodeled the upstairs of the farmhouse into an apartment with its own kitchen and bathrooms. Clara worked at the Ohio Match Company to support us during this time and met Delsworth Worthy Bridgman of Sharon there. Clara and Del were married on January 5, 1951 and we moved to his house in Sharon Center.

Del died on November 12, 1967 and for several years Clara maintained the home in Sharon Center. In about 1973 she sold that house and moved to Wadsworth where she lived for three years with her sister Hasel. In 1976 she moved to Apache Junction, Arizona to be near Arthur who had opened a business there. She purchased a home in Apache Junction and lived there until about 1984 when she sold her house and moved into an apartment attached to Arthur's house in Mesa, Arizona. In about 1990 she was diagnosed with a rare form of blood

cancer. Even so, she maintained an active life style until the last couple of years of her life. She died on September 2, 1997 at the age of 92. When she died there were six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren who knew her as Grandma. She died in her home with her family at her side. She is buried next to Platt in the Acme Lutheran Cemetery west of Wadsworth, Ohio. She was a devout Christian and belonged to the Nazarene Church for many years.



*The Wall farm barn in 1975. The garden was in the grassy area in the foreground. The machine shop is on the left and the corncrib on the right by the barn.*

**Ralph Alan Wall** was born on May 26, 1907 in Sharon and married Esther Fitch. Ralph enlisted in the Army Air Corps about a month after Pearl harbor, serving from January 15, 1942 until September 15, 1945. He was stationed in Tucson, Arizona for part of that time as part of an aircraft ground crew. After the war Ralph and Esther settled in Topeka, Kansas where he worked at various agricultural businesses. He managed a poultry breeding farm and hatchery from 1947 through 1955. From that time until 1969, when he retired, he worked as a feed and seed salesman and assistant manager of a feed business. Esther worked as an auditor for the State of Kansas Income Tax Division for twenty-seven years until she retired in 1973. After their retirement Ralph and Esther kept busy with volunteer work for their church. They traveled extensively and have visited forty states, Canada and Nova Scotia. We visited them in Kansas at least twice while we were growing up. I learned what chiggers were at his farm in Kansas. Ralph and Esther now live in a retirement home in Topeka. They had no children.

**Necia Irene Wall** was born on June 4, 1909 in Sharon. She married George Faust Arnold on December 18, 1930. George was born on March 20, 1901 in Summit County, Ohio. George and Necia moved to Washington State after World War II where they lived in Selah near Yakima. They experienced the direct effects of the Mt. Saint Helens eruption in 1980 when the noonday sky turned dark as night and Yakima and surrounding areas were covered with several inches of volcanic dust. George and Necia had seven children: George who died a day after his

birth; Victor Eldo; Donna Mae; Alletia Irene; Marvin Lee; and Loretta Beele Arnold. George died on March 13, 1988 in Selah, Washington. Necia passed away on November 9, 1995 at the Edgewood Nursing Home in Montesano, Washington at the age of 86. When she died Necia had twenty grandchildren and twenty-nine great grandchildren

**Jessie Rhea Wall** was born on March 25, 1911 in Sharon. She married twice, first to Kenneth Mullet and second to Willie Powers. Kenneth was born on June 2, 1906 and is now deceased. Jessie and Kenneth were married on November 9, 1928 and had six children: Betty Lou, Elsie Mae, Alice Jean, Lois Ann, Stephen Deforest and Clara Jane Mullet. Jessie married Willie Powers on March 27, 1953 in Wadsworth. Willie died in Wadsworth on November 11, 1989. Jessie still lives in Wadsworth.

**Ira Deforest Wall** was born on August 16, 1914. He graduated from Sharon Center High School in June 1933. In December 1942 he enlisted in the Army and served in World War II as a radio operator with Army Engineer Combat Battalion 246, Company C. He received combat stars for campaigns in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe. Among his decorations are the WWII Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Distinguished Unit Badge, European African Middle Eastern Campaign, American Campaign Medal, and five Bronze Stars. He was discharged on November 30, 1945 and returned home to Ohio. On July 7, 1948 he married Florence Matty Smedley in Madisonburg, Ohio. Ira was an employee of the Ohio Injector Company of Wadsworth for forty-two years. After his retirement from the Injector Company Ira and Florence opened an antiques business in their home in Smithville where they lived for many years. In later years they moved to Wooster. Ira and Florence are responsible for much of the documentation of Christian Wall and family in Wayne and Medina Counties. Their help in this research has been invaluable. Ira died at the age of 83 on January 23, 1996 in Wooster after a long battle with cancer. He is buried in the Sherwood Memorial Gardens in Wooster. Ira and Florence had three children, James D., Linda J. and Susan D. Wall.

**Grace Winifred Wall** was born on August 30, 1918. She married Herman Francis "Bud" Shanafelt on June 22, 1940 in Wadsworth. Bud was born on March 2, 1914 and died in his sleep at the age of 84 on June 29, 1998. Grace and Bud lived on Fixler Road near River Styx for many years. Bud was an employee of Permold and retired from there. He was also a woodcarver and belonged to the Wadsworth Woodcarvers club. Grace retired from Dress Brothers in Wadsworth and is a member of the Alcyone Rebekah Lodge. Grace and Bud had five children: Peggy, Vivian, Shirley, Dennis and Laurel.

## Vivian Arlie Wall

Vivian was the youngest child of Reason and Winnie Wall and was born in Sharon on November 11, 1921. He grew up on his father's farm and graduated from Sharon High School in June 1939. He attended Stuart Business College in Akron for eight months in 1940 and 1941 studying accounting and bookkeeping. On June 22, 1941 he married Clara Luvenia Corbett of Copley Township in Summit County. In 1941 and 1942 Vivian worked for the Firestone Steel Products Company in Akron as a turret lathe operator until he was drafted into the Army on September 10, 1942. He completed infantry training at Mineral Wells, Texas and was transferred to Massachusetts to await shipment to the European Theater of Operations. He departed the States in April 1943 for Libya, North Africa and saw action there and in Sicily and Italy before World War II ended. During the war he was an intelligence scout and ambulance and light truck driver. In November 1945 he returned to the U.S. and was discharged at Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, Pennsylvania during the general demobilization. His medals included the Good Conduct Medal, European African Middle Eastern Service Medal with one Bronze Star. Early on the morning of March 31, 1946 Vivian was killed in an auto accident. He was twenty-four years of age. The following article appeared in a newspaper shortly after his death.



### **WAR VETERAN IS KILLED BY CRESTON TRAIN** Dies in Hospital After Sunday Crash - Third Fatality of Year.

CRESTON - Vivian Wall, 23, of Sharon Center, war veteran, died at the Lodi hospital about 11 a.m., Sunday from injuries received about 4 a.m., that day when his automobile was struck by a light engine at the main Street crossing here.

It was the second serious accident at the crossing in three days, two other youths being seriously injured Friday night.

In Sunday's accident Wall was traveling north and apparently alone in his car when he was struck by the engine without a train. The engine was traveling west.

Dr. B.M. Foster of Creston gave the youth first aid and sent him to the hospital in the Murray ambulance. It was found that the youth had a fractured skull and other injuries. He had been discharged from the army in November. His car was badly damaged and there was no information available here today as to where he had been but it was presumed from the direction of his travel that he was enroute home.

Wall is survived by his father and mother, Mr. And Mrs. R.D. Wall, of Sharon Center; his wife; two young sons, aged four and two years; and nine brothers and sisters.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Hilliard Funeral Home in Wadsworth with Rev. A.G. Lansberry, of Sharon Center, officiating. Burial will be made in the Sharon Center cemetery.

The youths injured at the crossing in a similar accident Friday night were Harold Totten of Creston R.D., and Dale Young of Coshocton. The former is reported as improved at the Lodi hospital but Young is reported as remaining in a serious condition.

The death of the Sharon Center youth is the third from motor vehicle traffic in Wayne County this year and the first since February.

Vivian and Clara were separated and in the process of a divorce when he was killed. Custody of his two sons, Ronald and Arthur, passed to their grandparents Reason and Winnie Wall. The boys' Aunt Clara Wall Coolman was granted legal custody in about 1948 and full guardianship at a later date. Vivian's wife Clara lived for many years in Arkansas and moved to Show Low, Arizona in 1990. She was killed in an auto accident in Wagon Wheel, Arizona on November 26, 1990 when her car was broadsided by an Apache Indian Reservation vehicle. It appears the accident occurred in poor visibility with rain and sleet and she was hit when she attempted a U-turn in the path of the on-coming truck. The accident occurred only a few hundred yards for the emergency medical center in Pinetop, Arizona but she was trapped in the car for more than an hour. Like her first husband, she died in the hospital from a massive skull fracture and other internal injuries. According to her wishes her body was cremated. Some of her ashes were buried on her property in Show Low and on the property of her sister Elinor Stockton in Winslow, Arkansas. The rest were put into the Pacific Ocean in San Diego, California.



**Arthur Arlie Wall** was born to Vivian and Clara in Wadsworth, Ohio on October 12, 1943. He graduated from Highland High School in Granger, Ohio in 1961 and then attended DeVry Technical School in Chicago studying electronics. He moved for a short time to Van Buren, Arkansas and worked as an electronics repairman in Fort Smith until he returned to Ohio. In 1964 he and a friend made a tour of the United States and Mexico. After returning to Ohio he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and received basic training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center near Chicago. While stationed in Ireland at a navy communications site he met Florence Denise Greer of Londonderry, Northern Ireland. They were married on November 1, 1966 in Londonderry. Denise was born on February 20, 1948. Art and Denise spent subsequent tours with the navy in Rota, Spain, Keflavik, Iceland and Norfolk, Virginia. While in Ireland and Spain Art participated in several cross-country automobile races and usually finished in the prize money.

In August 1974 Arthur was discharged from the navy and the family moved to Apache Junction, Arizona. For several years he owned and operated a TV sales and service business in Apache Junction. Under his management the single store and shop soon evolved into three stores including a Radio Shack. He sold the business in 1980 and took a job in Phoenix, Arizona as an electronics engineer with an aviation electronics firm where he now works. He also

conducts a sideline business in the manufacture and assembly of electronics components and has several contractors working for him.

Art and Denise have four children, Stephanie Mary, Jennifer Denise, Jeffery Arthur and Heather Marie Wall. Stephanie married Lewis Burnham and has two children, Philip Roy Burnham and Chelsie Denise Burnham. Stephanie and Lewis live in Payson, Arizona. Jennifer attended the University of Arizona in Tucson where she earned a degree in biology. She moved to the Los Angeles area and worked for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and lately Saddleback Hospital in Los Angeles. She married Tracy Scott Maziek in Laguna Beach, California on May 17, 1997. Jeffery Arthur and Heather Marie Wall were born on September 26, 1979 in Mesa, Arizona. Both graduated from Red Mountain High School with honors in 1998. Jeffery participated in varsity football and wrestling. Jeff and Heather are now attending the University of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff.