

John Wertz, Sr., Newport, Perry County, Pa., son of **Peter** and **Mollie (Foose) Wertz**, was born at Landisburg, Perry County, April 24, 1819. His great-grandfather, **Daniel Wertz**, came from England and settled near Landisburg. He was a farmer, and became well known in this community, where he passed his entire life. His son, the grandfather of **John Wertz, Sr.**, settled with his parents at Landisburg, was a carpenter, and died at the age of eighty-six years, his wife surviving him a few years. **Peter Wertz**, father of **John Wertz, Sr.**, also had his residence at Landisburg and worked at carpentry. He married **Mollie Foose**.

John Wertz, Sr., was not favored by opportunities in securing an education. At Little Germany, he attended a subscription school when he was twenty years old, paying for his tuition himself. When only a small boy, he drove a cart in the ore banks of his father. At sixteen years of age, he began to learn shoemaking, but not liking the work, he did not complete his apprenticeship. At nineteen years of age, he ran away from home, having only nineteen cents in his pocket, and went to Mt. Arabella Furnace, where he was employed in chopping wood for six months. After this, he drove a team on the canal for one season, and then came to Newport, where he arranged to learn carpentry with **Mr. Foster**, his wages to be six dollars per month. His next engagement was with **Mr. Beatty**, for whom he worked on the canal as a carpenter, receiving thirteen dollars per month and his board. While engaged here, in 1838, he learned that **John Musser**, of Lewistown, Pa., was employing carpenters, and going to that town he agreed to work for **Mr. Musser** one week on trial. As a result of this experiment, he was employed permanently at twenty dollars per month, and worked for nine months. During the next two years he worked in the boat yard at Lewistown, and then for two or three years following, was employed by different persons in the boat yard at Newport. In 1850, he aided in constructing the bridge spanning the Juniata River. In the same year, he went to Illinois and for five months was employed in the construction of the Burlington and Peoria Railroad. At the end of this time, he returned to Newport where he worked at house carpentry in the summer, and in the winter found employment on the canal. Later, he bought a farm, which he cultivated for a time and then sold. In 1884, he built his present home, which he occupied the following year, and opened the store which he still conducts, having for some time prior to that year carried on a small business. **Mr. Wertz** is an adherent of the Democratic Party, and advocates "free silver."

On December 22, 1842, **John Wertz** was married to **Miss Mary Frye**, of Tyrone, Pa.; their children are: **William**, born October 34, 1843; **Mary Jane (Mrs. Perry Rider)**, of Newport, Pa., born March 31, 1845; **Catherine (Mrs. John Barrick)**, Newport, born December 11, 1846; **Emma Rebecca (Mrs. Joseph Murphy)**, of Miller Township, Perry County, Pa., born September 9, 1849; **Mary Ellen**, born September 29, 1847, died young; **Martha Eve**, born June 15, 1853, died aged twenty years; **John**, of Harrisburg, and **Margaret (Mrs. John Hanes)**, of Altoona, Pa., twins, born June 17, 1856; **Peter**, born November 13, 1858, resides at Newport, Pa.; **Charles**, born June 4, 1860, farmer in Iowa; **James**, born December 26, 1863, farmer in Dakota. **Mrs. Wertz** died in 1886. She was the daughter of **Abraham Frye**, and was born in Perry County in 1824. **Mr. Wertz** married as his second wife **Mrs. Catherine Zimmerman**, a widow. He is a member of the Lutheran Church.