

THE WOMELSDORF FAMILY

BY

J. Floyd Womelsdorf

## PROLOGUE

The history of the Womelsdorf Family by Floyd Womelsdorf was sent to me, William Norvell Womelsdorf, by my uncle Floyd February 12, 1960, while I was stationed in Paramaribo, Suriname. This was because I, and my two sons, are the only male descendants of George Robert and Mary Ann Womelsdorf's three children, and the last to carry the name for their branch of the family. I am the son, and only issue, of William Ora and Clara Norvell Womelsdorf.

With the exception of this prologue, and the addition of the notation at the bottom of each page, I have attempted to provide a true copy of the entire history, including the bibliography, as written by my uncle Floyd. It is now stored on disk, and can be reproduced, added to, and up-dated at any time.

This task was undertaken when Edith L. Womelsdorf, William Ora's second wife, requested a copy of the original. She has maintained a close relationship with the children of George Robert and Mary Ann Womelsdorf's children, uncle Floyd's and aunt Gertrude's families, as well as corresponding with me.

Edith's request was made after she received a meeting notice of the Womelsdorf Family Association's 17th Annual Reunion in Womelsdorf, Pennsylvania, August 1-3, 1986.

I found the labor of copying to be interesting and enjoyable. Certainly, Uncle Floyd's time and effort spent to preserve the family history deserves a better end than resting peacefully in a seldom visited file.

## FOREWORD

The compiler of this family history, John Floyd Womelsdorf, became interested in the Womelsdorf family when he went from Columbus, Ohio, to Gallia County, Ohio, to visit some of his father's relatives. At that time he was only 16 years old. The older relatives stated that the family were pioneers in Ohio, and were well known in the colonial history of our country.

The author joined the navy, and in March of 1910, he visited Gravesend, a port of London, England. While there, a Union Castle Liner arrived from South Africa. That morning, a Count Daniel Frederick von Womelsdorf was found murdered in one of the ship's staterooms. This news aroused the author's further interest and caused him to wonder if both he and the Count descended from common ancestors.

At the end of his naval service he again visited Gallia County. He was told that many of his ancestors were buried at Mt. Zion Cemetery, a short distance from Gallipolis, Ohio. He visited this cemetery, finding the headstones that traced his family back to Mary Warren Womelsdorf, wife of Daniel Womelsdorf. Daniel was buried at Mossy Creek Meeting House, Harrisonburg, Virginia, in 1804. Three of their sons were also buried at Mt. Zion, and all had been born in Berks County, Pennsylvania. The author then visited Mossy Creek Meeting House Cemetery and found that Daniel had been born in Amityville, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

He then contacted remote relatives in Pennsylvania and was told at Womelsdorf, Pennsylvania, that there were several Womelsdorf family histories in existence. He subsequently found two, one owned by Carl Womelsdorf of Cartersville, Georgia, and the other by Hayden Womelsdorf of Minneapolis.

These histories, combined with the author's research, form this booklet. They have been substantiated by the references listed in the back.

## CHRONOLOGY

Von Womelsdorf - Womelsdorf - Womelsdorfe - Womelsdorff  
 Womeldorf - Womeldorff - Wommeldorf

Baron Peter Heinrich Von Womelsdorf progenitor of  
 the family 1576 - 1640

## Descendants and Their Wives

I	
Peter Hayden Von Womelsdorf	1601 - 1697 First in America
Kaetje Van Rensselaer	1604 - 1671
II	
Daniel Killian Von Womelsdorf	1626 - 1697
Rachael Van Der Poot	1627 - 1699
III	
John Frederick Womelsdorf	1655 - 1736
Elizabeth Livingston	1657 - 1748
IV	
Daniel Womelsdorf	1682 - 1764 Queen Anne's War
ELizabeth Wayne	1685 - 1767
V	
John Womelsdorf	1705 - 1737
Mary Meade	1705 - 1777
VI	
John Womelsdorf	1724 - 1785 Founder - Womels-
Anna Eva Weiser	1729 - 1792 dorf, Pa., French & Indian War with Geo. Washington
VII	
Daniel Womelsdorf	1751 - 1804 Captain, War for
Mary Warren	1755 - 1824 Independence
VIII	
Michael Womeldorf	1784 - 1861 War 1812, Member
Jennette Waddell	1796 - 1865 4th Ohio Legis- lature
IX	
William Waddell Womeldorf	1815 - 1875 Civil War
Sarah Waddell	1827 - 1889
X	
George Robert Womeldorff	1860 - 1895
Mary Ann Shadrach	1867 - 1953
XI	
John Floyd Womelsdorf	1890 - 1963 World War I
Margaret Davies Morgan	1903 -

Baron Peter Heinrich Von Womelsdorf(1576 - 1640)

Peter was born near Hohenems, Algauer Alps, Austrian Tyrol. At the beginning of the Thirty Years War he asked for and was granted asylum in Holland for his family and for himself. He arrived in Amsterdam in late 1620. He was quite wealthy, and later became a stockholder in the Dutch West India Company. The patroon system was controlled by the company for the purpose of colonizing New Netherlands (New York.)

Peter Hayden Von Womelsdorf(1601 - 1679)

wife

Katje Van Rensselaer(1604 - 1671)

Peter Hayden was born in the same area of Austria as his father. He married Katje in Amsterdam in 1624. Katje was the sister of Killian Van Rensselaer. Peter, his wife and family came to New Netherlands in 1642. He was the director of the Killian Van Rensselaer Patroon. This patroon was adjacent to the later Livingston Manor.

Daniel Killian Von Womelsdorf(1626 - 1697)

wife

Rachael Van Der Poot

Daniel, son of Peter Hayden, was born in Amsterdam and came to America with his father and mother in 1642. He married Rachael, daughter of Piet Van Der Poot, at Rensselaerwick, New Netherlands. His father-in-law operated an iron forge and smelter in what is now Morristown, New Jersey. The Dutch claimed all of New Jersey at that time. Piet died in 1659, so Daniel became the owner of the two forges and a master smelter operator.

John Frederick Womelsdorf(1655 - 1736)

wife

Elizabeth Livingston(1657 - 1748)

John, son of Daniel, was born at Rensselaerwick, New Netherlands. He attended Kings College, now Columbia University. He studied navigation there and subsequently became a ship's master along with his duties as smelter, forger, and operator of a grist mill. He frequently visited relatives and friends in Albany, New York, where he met Elizabeth Livingston. She was the daughter of John Livingston, a refugee Presbyterian

minister who, with his daughter and son Robert, had migrated to America from Amsterdam, Holland. Robert had been granted the Livingston Manor by Governor Thomas Dorgan of New York. Elizabeth came to Albany with her brother and married John in 1678. The British had taken over New Netherlands and named it New York. John was famous in the colonial days of New York, New Jersey and later Pennsylvania. He brought numerous colonists from England and Holland and a little later several shiploads of Germans from the Palatinate district to this country. He gave up navigation in 1725. While living in Trenton he operated forges at Morristown and Trenton.

Earlier, in one of John's shiploads of Germans, whose passages were arranged by Queen Anne, had included the John Conrad Weiser family. They were brought to New York City and sent up the Hudson river to Livingston Manor. A son, Conrad, later became famous in colonial history as an interpreter and messenger between the colonists and the Indians during the French and Indian wars.

Many of the Germans aboard this ship were artisans in several trades. John acquired a lease-hold from William Penn II of 200 acres in what is now Amity Township, Berks County. When he built a forge, paper-making plant and grist mill on this site he used several of the German artisans to man his plants.

Daniel Womelsdorf(1682 - 1764)  
    wife  
Elizabeth Wayne(1685 -1767)

Daniel was born at Trenton, New Jersey. He also attended Kings College. He married Elizabeth Wayne, daughter of John Wayne from what is now Waynesboro, Pennsylvania. They were married in Christ Church, Philadelphia in 1704. Elizabeth was the great aunt of (Mad Anthony) Wayne, a hero of the Revolution and the War of 1812. Daniel operated the forge at Trenton and in 1711 moved to Amityville, Pennsylvania, to take charge of his father's newer operations there. He became a naturalized citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1747. He was a great friend of Conrad Weiser, and it was his suggestion that Conrad and his friends at Schochary, New York should move to the Tulpehocken district of Pennsylvania, which is now Womelsdorf.

John Womelsdorf(1705 - 1737)

wife

Mary Meade (1705 - 1777)

John and Mary were married at the age of 18 in 1723. Mary was the daughter of Samuel Meade, a recent immigrant to Pennsylvania. John was badly wounded in an Indian skirmish in 1724, the year his only son, John, was born. He died as a result of these injuries in 1737.

John Womelsdorf(1724 - 1785)

wife

Anna Eva Weiser(1729 - 1792)

John was raised by his grandparents, Daniel and Elizabeth. He attended New Jersey College at Newark, which later moved to Princeton and became Princeton University. He married Anna Eva Weiser, daughter of Philip and granddaughter of Conrad Weiser. John was in the French and Indian War. He owned land in the Tulpehocken community of Berks County. This community, called Middletown, was on some of his and his wife's grandfather, Conrad Weiser's land. John planned this settlement as a townsite which became Womelsdorf, Pennsylvania in 1762. He had a forge at Womelsdorf and made, among other things, the Kentucky long rifle.

Daniel Womelsdorf(1751 - 1804)

wife

Mary Warren(1755 - 1814)

Captain Daniel, son of John, was born in Amityville, Pennsylvania. He attended what is now the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia. He had a first cousin, Reverend Peter Muhlenberg, who had accepted a pastorate at Woodstock, Virginia. Both Daniel and Peter were great-grandsons of Conrad Weiser. Daniel visited Peter at Woodstock frequently; there he met Mary Warren of Front Royal, Virginia. They were married in Front Royal in 1774; the ceremony was performed by Peter. They lived in Amityville where Daniel worked for his father and operated the forge at Womelsdorf.

Daniel and Mary had eleven children. In 1776 Daniel fought in the Revolutionary War. He joined as a second lieutenant, and by 1779 was a captain. He was in several battles, among them the Battles of Trenton, Monmouth, and Brandywine Forge. (His cousin Peter joined the Eighth Virginia Regiment, was appointed a colonel and rose to the rank of Major General.)

In 1793, Daniel moved to Augusta County, Virginia, where his wife had inherited some property. In 1795 he applied for, as a war bounty, a section of land in the Ohio Territory of the Northwest Territory. He was granted a section in what is now Gallia County, Ohio, and obtained a patent for it. Because of the abundance of Continental Currency, Daniel was able to buy enough at a discount to purchase four more sections adjacent to his at \$1.50 per acre.

When the patents for the Ohio properties were issued, they were mistakenly issued under the names of Womeldorff so the families used that name and the name of Womeldorf.

Daniel moved three of his negro slave families to Ohio to homestead his land. They built a home for Daniel at the foot of Mt. Zion Hill, three mile north of Gallipolis. The slaves were freed after the home was completed. The family legend is that George Washington gave Daniel some seeds from an American Coffee Tree on his Mount Vernon Estate. At any rate, there is an aged coffee tree on the site of the old home. Daniel never lived in his Ohio home, he contracted Pneumonia and died in 1804. He is buried at Mossy Creek Meeting House.

Their son Michael moved to Ohio in 1802 to supervise the properties there. His mother, sisters Eleanor and Sarah, and brother George moved to Ohio in 1804. His brother Daniel moved to Ohio in 1814. The mother was the first member of the family to be buried in Ohio. All are buried in the Mt. Zion Cemetery.

At this point in the family chronology, it is necessary to bring in the family of John Waddell and his descendants. John was born in Glasgow, Scotland, about 1702. He married about 1726 and a son, Alexander, was born in Glasgow in February 1732. In 1735 John and his family moved to Ulster, Ireland, where another son, James, was born in 1732. There were other brothers and sisters but we are concerned with Alexander and James. In 1746, the family migrated to America, arriving in Baltimore, Maryland, and moving in 1747 to what is now Bath County, Virginia.

Alexander was a great friend of Daniel Boone. He became a trapper, trail blazer and guide. He was with Daniel on several exploration trips to Kentucky and Ohio. He and Boone were with the Virginia Militia under George Washington when this militia, under General Braddock of the British Army, attacked Fort Duquesne (Pittsburgh) in 1755. They were badly defeated, and Braddock was killed. Washington, Boone and Waddell escaped.

Alexander did not marry until he was 37. He married 17 year old Eleanor Roush of Bath County in 1769. He was in what some historians claim to be the first battle of the Revolution, the battle of Pt. Pleasant, Virginia (now West Virginia). He was also in the Army of Virginia and was in the battle of Yorktown at Cornwallis' surrender to Washington. Alexander lived to be 102 years old.

The daughter of Alexander's son, William, married our ancestor Michael, son of Daniel Womelsdorf. Alexander's son, John, married Sarah Womelsdorf, sister of Michael. Sarah lived to be 99.

James, Alexander's brother, had his arm injured in an accident when he was ten. The arm healed but was left crooked. He attended the Virginia Academy at Lexington (now Washington and Lee University) and studied for the ministry at William and Mary College, Williamsburg, Virginia. He married Mary Gordon, daughter of John Gordon of Gordonsville, Virginia. He obtained leave from his church and fought with the Army of Virginia. Later, he was an instructor at the Virginia Academy and was instrumental among others in creating a university out of the school.

James' great-granddaughter, Sarah, married William Waddell Womelsdorf, one of Michael's sons.

## WADDELL CHRONOLOGY

John Waddell	1702 -
Son's:	
Alexander Waddell	1732 - 1834
Eleanor Roush	1752 - 1827
Rev. James Waddell	1737 - 1808
Mary Gordon	1752 - 1819
Alexander's Descendants	
William Waddell	1773 - 1859
Mary Ross*	1773 - 1837
John Waddell	1783 - 1839
Sarah Womelsdorf	1787 - 1886
Daughter of William and Mary	
Jennette Waddell	1796 - 1856
Michael Womelsdorf	1784 - 1865
James Descendants	
James Waddell	1774 - 1848
Sally Grimes	1776 - 1815
Son of James, II	
John Waddell	1794 - 1875
Lucinda Armstrong	1803 - 1892
Daughter of John	
Sarah Waddell	1827 -
William W. Womelsdorf	1815 - 1875

\*Mary Ross was the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Betsy) Griscom Ross. Her mother was the same Betsy who had contracted to make the United States' first flag

Michael Womelsdorf(1784 - 1865)

wife

Jeanette Waddell(1796 - 1856)

Michael attended Virginia Academy at Lexington, Virginia until the age of 18. At this time, He moved to Ohio to supervise his father's properties. He married 17 year old Jeanette Waddell, daughter of William Waddell, in 1814 at Mt. Zion Church, Gallia County, Ohio. At the age of 23 he was a member of the Ohio Legislature. He was a sergeant in the War of 1812. Michael inherited and accumulated extensive property. He was a farmer, brick and tile manufacturer, breeder of race horses, and owned two Ohio River steam packets. He left his four sons each a section of land, and his daughter a half section. All were improved by large brick homes.

William Waddell Womeldorff(1815 - 1875)

wife

Sarah A. Waddell(1827 - 1885)

William attended the Gallipolis Academy at Gallipolis, Ohio. At the age of 31, he married 19 year old Sarah Waddell. He was a captain of the 6th Ohio Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. In 1852, he and his brothers, Francis, David, and James, contracted to build a section of the CHV & T Railroad (now the C & O) from Gallipolis to Vinton, Ohio. They had heavy financial losses because the section of the track south of Vinton repeatedly sank in the swamps.

George Robert Womeldorff(1860 - 1895)

wife

Mary Ann Shadrach(1867 -1953)

Robert attended the Gallipolis Academy, Rio Grande College at Rio Grande, Ohio, and Van Sycle's Business College at Springfield, Ohio. In 1883 he married Mary Ann, 16 year old daughter of John Henry Shadrach. At the time of Mayme's marriage, Mr. Shadrach had a farm adjacent to Robert's mother's farm. He was formerly an iron furnace worker and part-owner of the Buckeye Furnace at Buckeye, Ohio. Robert was a traveling passenger agent of the C & O R. R. at Huntington, West Virginia. Later he operated a general store at Bladensburg, Ohio. He also cured and forwarded leaf

tobacco and shipped livestock to the markets in Cincinnati and Pittsburgh. He died in 1895 at the age of 35, leaving a widow, two sons, and a daughter.

Mary Ann and her children moved to her parent's farm. Later she moved with her children to Columbus, Ohio, to better their education. Robert is buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery, Gallia County, Ohio. Mary Ann died in Jackson, Ohio, at the age of 86. She is buried there.

Mary Ann was the granddaughter of Eben and Mary Ann Williams, formerly of Utica, New York. The Williams and their six children Thomas, Laura, William, Everett, Elizabeth, and Mary Ann went in their canal boat through the Erie Canal to Lake Erie and Cleveland, Ohio. They then followed the Ohio and Erie canal to Portsmouth, Ohio, where they remained for the winter. That winter, Thomas, Laura, and Mary Ann were married; Thomas to Ann Selby, Laura to Lott Davies, and Mary Ann to John H. Shadrach. All three remained in Ohio. In the spring of 1852 the rest of the family went on to California. They took their canal boat down the Ohio, up the Mississippi and the Missouri Rivers to Independence, Missouri and then they continued by covered wagon to Yreka, California, where they settled. We are descendants of Eben and Mary Ann Williams. Floyd Womelsdorf's wife, Margaret is also a descendant. Her maternal grandmother was Laura William Davies.

Children of George Robert and Mary Ann Womeldorff  
(All resumed the old name, Womelsdorf, in 1902)

William Ora Womelsdorf(1885 - 1957)

wife

Clara Davis Norvell(1889 - )

William graduated from North High School in Columbus, Ohio. Later he took a course in architectural engineering through the International Correspondence School of Scranton, Pennsylvania. Although he studied this, he became a traveling salesman for the Sowers Leach Lumber Company of Columbus. He then became salesmanager of the Manchester Lumber Company of Manchester, Alabama. In 1910 he married Clara, daughter of Judge Peyton Norvell of Jasper, Alabama. He moved to Detroit and went into business for himself. He later married Edith Tyler of Toronto, Canada. He remained a lumberman until 1954, when he retired and moved to Mitchell's Bay, Ontario, Canada. He died in a hospital at Wallaceburg, Canada, in June 1957.



## CHILDREN OF DANIEL AND MARY WOMELSDORF

Peter wife Edith Spencer	1775	Lawyer and merchant, move with family to Va., returned to Pa. the following year to enter University of Pennsylvania, U. S. Senator from Pennsylvania.
Phillip	1776	Died at age 15
Conrad	1777	Moved to Va., studied for the ministry, later moved to North Carolina
Mary husband Robert McCormick	1778	Moved to Va., mother of Cyrus McCormick
Frederick wife Nancy Elkins	1780	Moved to Va., was a mine operator founded hamlet of Womelsdorf, now in Randolph County, West Va.
Hannah	1781	Married Amos, a banker in Pittsburgh, grandparents of Andrew Mellon
Eleanor husband David Ridgeway	1783	Married David at Gallipolis, Ohio, David was a merchant
Michael wife Jeanette Waddell	1784	Moved to Gallia Co., Ohio, he was a farmer, brick and tile manufacturer and owner of two Ohio River steam packets, Sergeant in War of 1812, member Ohio legislature 1807
Sarah husband John Waddell	1787	Married John from Va., she lived to be 99, Michael's wife and Sarah's husband were brother and sister
Daniel wives Eva Moyer Sarah Bing	1788	Educated at what is now Lehigh Univ., married Eva and returned to Va. to manage his father's property. When she died he married Sarah. They went to Berks Co., Pa. He was a Colonel in the War of 1812, moved to Gallia Co., Ohio
George wife Martha Mills	1789	He was a farmer and moved to Ohio from Va.

## CHILDREN OF MICHAEL AND JEANETTE WOMELSDORF

William W. 1815 wife Sarah Waddell	Married a grandniece of his mother, farmer and dealer of horses, Captain with the 6th Ohio Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War. He and his brothers invested and lost on contract build- ing CHV & T R.R.(now C & O)
Francis W. 1817 wife Cynthia McCloud	Francis was a merchant and farmer, owned hardware and feed store in Gallipolis, Ohio, later moved to ancestral home which burned in 1903
David W. 1820 wife Jane Kerr	Merchant and manufacturer of brick and tile, Civil War Veteran
James A. 1825 Ann Mossman	Farmer, County Commissioner and Sheriff, Major during Civil War
Jane 1828 husband John McCormick	School teacher who later married a farmer

## CHILDREN OF WILLIAM W. AND SARAH WADDELL WOMELDORFF

Jane Elizabeth husband Hunter Carter	1848	Her husband operated a wholesale hardware business in Huntington, West Va., when he retired they moved to Gallipolis
Lydia Lucinda husband Edione Campbell	1852	She was a registered nurse, her husband was a farmer and operator of a gravel pit out of Gallipolis
Jeanette Sybil husband Safford Carter	1854	Her husband was a farmer and itinerant preacher
John M. wife Sarah Gates	1856	Station agent for the CHV & T R.R. at Vinton and farmer, he reassumed the name Womelsdorf in 1902
William G. wife Mary Morgan	1858	He was a prosperous farmer, was killed when a team of horses ran away with him
George Robert wife Mary Ann Shadrach	1860	Attended Rio Grande College and Van Sycle's Business College, he was a traveling salesman and operated a general store at Bladensburg, Ohio, shipped cured tobacco and livestock to Pittsburgh and Cincinnati on Ohio River steam packets
Nancy Anne husband John E. Shadrach	1865	Her husband was the brother of Mary Ann, he was a drayman before he became a superintendent of construction for the Xenia Gas and Electric Company of Xenia, Ohio. He was killed in a construction accident

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