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## Descendents of Henry Dewald of York County, Pennsylvania

### Generation 1

#### Henry Dewald of York County, Pennsylvania

Most of the information I have on the family of Henry Dewald came from a typescript written by Newland DeVault. It was published in 1975, about a year before his death. Newland spent many years doing genealogical research on the DeVault Family. Some day I hope to update and republish his manuscript.

Henry Dewald was born on the west side of the Rhine River, not far from its source in Switzerland and adjoining France. He immigrated to America along with thousands of other German, French, and Swiss emigrants, most of whom shipped from Rotterdam, Netherlands, at the mouth of the Rhine River. Along with Henry were his wife, Mary Catherine (Greaver); their first two children, Margaret and Phillip; Henry's younger brother, Phillip Dewald; Mary's brother Gabriel Greaver; Gabriel's wife, Ann Elizabeth; and their daughter, Catherine. They arrived in Philadelphia on September 23, 1766, having sailed on the ship "Chance," Charles Smith, Master. The trip is said to have taken six months and cost \$1,500. Henry signed the ship's register as "Henrich Dewalt;" however, once in America, he seems to have quickly adopted the spelling "Henry Dewald."

One of the great mysteries of our family is the nationality of Henry Dewald. Some branches of the family believe he was French and others believe he was German. I have read the research that Newland did on this matter and am convinced, as he was, that Henry was German. One thing that everyone seems to agree on is that Henry married a German woman. Her name was Mary Catherine Greaver.

Henry Dewald and family soon settled in Hanover, York County, Pennsylvania. In those days all of the land in Pennsylvania had been granted to William Penn by the King of England. In order to obtain a patent deed to a parcel of land one had to make application to the Penn family. The land would then be surveyed and a title granted. Henry applied for and obtained title to two adjacent parcels of about one hundred acres each. You can easily make out the original boundaries of the Dewald farm on modern maps of the area. Although much of the area around the farm has been built up into housing developments and strip malls, the Dewald farm is pretty much open ground.



Henry Dewald farm, Hanover, York Co., Pennsylvania

When my wife and I were there in October 1999, the northern half was planted in field corn and the southern half consisted of several large estates with cattle and horses grazing in fenced pastures.

Within a few years of his arrival in America the Revolutionary War was in progress. Henry immediately enlisted in the York County Militia. One year later he was appointed a Lieutenant. He served throughout the war. Many of Henry's female descendents have used his service record to obtain admission to the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

Henry and Mary had a total of eleven children. All lived to maturity. Their names were: Mary Margaret DeWald, Phillip DeWald, Ann Elizabeth DeWald, Gabriel Davault, Catherine DeWald, Mary Elizabeth DeWald, Henry Dawalt, Jr., Valentine Davault, Frederick Davault, Jacob Davault and Juliane DeWald. Seven of these children eventually migrated to East Tennessee. (You are a descendant of Mary Elizabeth Dewald; I am a descendant of Frederick. Both Mary Elizabeth and Frederick were among the seven children that migrated to eastern Tennessee.)

Henry and Mary Catherine Dewald were very much involved in St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. When the Church acquired a parcel of land on Chestnut Street in downtown Hanover, Henry, and three others, were the Church officials in which title to the land was placed. St. Matthew's Lutheran Church still stands on this property. When Henry and his wife died, they were buried in St. Matthew's Churchyard. About 1920, St. Matthew's was expanded. It was at this time the graves of Henry and Mary were moved to Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Hanover and buried between the graves of Jacob and Julian (DeWald) Wortz. The following inscriptions are from their gravestones:

“In memory of Henry Dewald who was born April 10, 1733 and departed this life April 16, 1817, aged 84 years and 6 days.

Death is a blessing to all mankind. It is the evening of that restless day which we call life.”

“In memory of Mary Catherine wife of Henry Dewald who was born August 8 1737, died October 2<sup>nd</sup> A D 1830, age 93 years, one month and 24 days.”

## **Migration to East Tennessee**

The migration to east Tennessee started with a trip by Henry Dewald around 1797 to look for farms for four of his sons. On this trip Henry purchased two tracts of land. The first was purchased on September 25, 1797, from John Bishop, for "\$400.00 current money of Virginia." It was located in Sullivan County on the south bank of the Holstein River and contained 400 acres more or less. The second purchase was a tract of 637 acres purchased from John Been. It was located on both sides of the Watauga River in Washington County. This tract was about four miles from the in Sullivan County tract.