

pioneer spirit, his descendants didn't stay in one place but spread out across the country. This branch of the family was spelling their surname W*I*L*L*Y*A*R*D and, of course, all variations thereof.

The children of Peter that stayed in Maryland were nearly as prolific, and a great many Williards in Maryland can trace their ancestors to Peter. The rest can trace their line back to Mary Elizabeth's other son Dewalt, who is my ancestor. Unlike the rest of his family, Dewalt did not become a Moravian. He remained a member of the German Reformed Church, as did his descendants. Dewalt also did not live in Graceham, but instead in Burkittsville, a short bit away from Frederick toward the west. Of all family in this time period, Dewalt's grave is the only one that is lost to us. Dewalt was 75 when he died. He was reportedly buried on his farm in Burkittsville, but his gravesite can no longer be found. According to the History of Frederick County Maryland, Dewalt's farmland in Burkittsville had apparently belonged to Josephus Harley, and it is on that land, in Mr. Harley's house near the spring, that the Burkittsville Congregation Reformed church had its origin. The land came to Dewalt in 1752, when his son Elias was 12 years old.

One of the current mysteries about Dewalt's family is exactly how many children he and his wife Anna had. There seems to be evidence in Germany that they had at least a few children who did not come to America with them, but we do not yet know why. The evidence is supported by the fact that Elias and his wife gave their children names that seem to be consistent with Elias' "lost" family in Germany. In any respect, for the family that came to America, Elias was the oldest son and the second child. His younger brother was named Dewalt Jr. Both Elias and Dewalt Jr. fought for the

crown in the French and Indian War and for the Maryland Militia in the war for Independence. According to Revolutionary Patriots, Elias was a Second Lieutenant in the 34th Battalion of militia on June 11, 1776 under Captain George Poe, his brother in law.

Elias is buried in Middletown at the Reformed Church and, but for the marker placed by Daughters of the American Revolution, his gravestone would be virtually unidentifiable, as time, the winds and rain have worn it almost smooth.

A few descendants of, Elias, went west and became among the very first settlers in eastern Ohio, in Columbiana County, a short drive south of present-day Youngstown. Phillip, Dewalt's grandson, arrived in Ohio around 1805-1810. Phillip's family, like his cousins in Carolina, were having their name spelled W*I*L*L*Y*A*R*D, and pronounced "Williard." In Ohio, the Williard name is the more common, unlike in Maryland where the name quickly abbreviated even further to "WILLARD".

On his homestead, Phillip built a house. This house was later owned by Phillip's son John and, in later generations, referred to as the Williard "Mansion". John was known as "Squire John Willyard", presumably because he held so much land. Eight generations of Willyards lived in that house until it was torn down in the 1980s. We can't know today exactly what that house looked like, but Phillip's brother George also built a house in Middletown, Maryland, near Burkittsville. This house is known as "New Freedom". It is a federal style home that has been excellently restored by its current owner, James Bealle. Jim is not a Williard descendant, but he has become a friend to many of us and has a great interest in the family. The house has been registered as a National Historical Landmark, and

Jim and his wife Sandy have restored it to the George Willard era (but they have not, I should add, removed the plumbing, electricity, or the kitchen appliances. After all, they do live there, and there is a pretty cool swimming pool on the property, too). In the summers, Frederick Community College conducts archeological digs at the old house, in the well and under the kitchen. One of the things they found that I found most interesting is a set of silverware buried beneath the kitchen floor. The running theory is that when soldiers were coming through in the Civil War, the valuables were hidden under the floor and, for some reason, forgotten.

(Note: a report of the archeological digs may be seen at <http://www.fred.net/jbeall/pub1.html>)

In addition to migrations to North Carolina and Ohio, the Williards migrated to Virginia, West Virginia, Indiana, and points west, with a significant number ending up in Collingsworth, Texas. As the country expanded, so did the family. And as they expanded, they left their mark on country, and countryside. The Williards saw conflict in the French and Indian War, in the Revolution, in World War II, and almost certainly every conflict in-between. They founded Heidelberg College, in Tiffin, Ohio. They were US Senators, lawyers, and actually held some respectable positions, too.

As we all know, though, it is the stories, and the tangible reminders, that make family history so captivating. I want to tell you a few of those stories. In the George Willard House that is owned by Jim Bealle, there is a window in the bedroom containing original glass from George's day. In the lower left-hand corner of the window, there are initials scratched into the corner. Jim believes that they came to be there when Jacob Remsburg came to visit and to propose to George's daughter