

MICHAEL HOLT FROM WURTTENBERG, GERMANY TO VIRGINIA AND NORTH CAROLINA

Hans Michael Hold was christened in the Lutheran Church at Stetten am Heuchelberg, according to records there, on 30 December, 1696. At the age of 20, he came to America with his Mother and step-father, Johann Spath. Village records show his grandfather, Jonas Hold, born in 1601, served for a time as the Mayor of Stetten. HIS SON, Martin and his second wife, Anna Brickmann, were the parents of Hans Michael. Martin died in 1710 and his wife remarried in 1714.

The ship that brought Michael and his family to America in 1717, was originally bound for Pennsylvania. The passengers had agreed with the ship's captain to be indentured in America as a way to pay for their passage. A severe storm blew the ship off-course and it landed on the coast of Virginia instead. Since no buyers were there to meet the ship and the Captain wanted payment so he could repair his ship and return to England, Governor Spotswood became involved. He reached an agreement with the passengers that he would pay their indenture provided they would go to the Shenandoah Valley to work in the iron mine that had opened there in 1714. It was being worked by earlier immigrants from Germany. It became known as the Germanna Colony. It was located between present day Culpepper and Fredericksburg, Virginia. When the mine played out, the workers dispersed in different directions and the village fell into disarray. However, in 1956, a group of descendants purchased 279 acres of land and presented it to the State of Virginia as a park to commemorate the Germanna experience. Among the monuments erected on the site is one honoring the 20 families, including the Holt's. Each year on the third Sunday in July, a reunion is held at Germanna Community College located nearby.

In 1717, Michael married Ann Elisabeth Sheible, daughter of George Sheible, who had immigrated from Neunberg in Baden. Land records indicate that Michael Holt received a grant of 400 acres on the Robinson River near Germanna in 1726 and another 245 acres in 1728. He made the trip back to Germany in 1734, with Rev. John Casper Stoever to collect funds in support of the Hebron Lutheran Church. Unfortunately, Pastor Stoever died on the return voyage. The church did eventually flourish and played an important role in the Revolutionary War. Michael and Elisabeth had eight sons and several daughters. In 1755, he moved his family to Orange County, (now Alamance) North Carolina. He accumulated large land holdings, much of which are now part of the town of Burlington, NC, where he died in 1767.

The eldest son, **George**, was born in 1717 in Germanna and married Mary Magdalene Stoever, daughter of the Rev. Stoever. After her death he married Cisse (last name unknown). He died 13 Feb 1798 in Orange Co. NC. His children were Elizabeth and George.

Son **Nicholas** (1719-1787) married Eva Wilheit (1723-1807) and had seven children. They were Michael (1746-1788); James (ca 1750-1816); Nicholas II (1755-bef 1812) married 1st Sarah Anderson, 2nd Nancy unk; John (1760-1823) who married Frances Jackson and moved to Bedford TN; Francis (1760-1835); and Rachel Catherine (1763-ca 1840).

Michael Holt II (1723-1799) married 1st Elizabeth Margaret (Peggy) O'Neill (1726-1765), and 2nd Jean C. Lockhart (1745-1813). Children of Michael and Peggy were: Margaret m. John Powell; Elizabeth m. Tobias Smith; Sarah m. John Harden; Joshua m. Eleanor unk; Isaac m. Letitia Wales Scott then Mary (Polly) Blair; Mary m. Anthony Thompson; Katherine (Kitty) m. cousin William Holt, Michael III m. Rachel Raney; William m. Sarah (Sallie) Steele, and Joseph S. (1755-1835) m. Mary/Polly.

John (1726-1802) married 1st to Mary Elizabeth Bobo/Baubeau of French Huguenot descent, and 2nd to Mary/Polly Hancock. They had a family of eight children: Shadrack, Elizabeth, Elenor, Mary, John, Amelia, Jeremiah and William who married his cousin Kitty.

Peter (1725-1810) married 1st Elizabeth Tribble and 2nd Rachael Renfro and had nine children: Jacob, Ephraim, Peter, Frances, Joel, William, Michael, John/Jack, and a female m. Constable. Peter served in the Revolutionary War while living in Burke County NC before he moved to Washington Co. TN

Christopher (1727-1802) m. Elizabeth unk on 2 Nov 1755 and had Absolom, Reuben, and John (1761-1841) m. Isabel Hardeman and moved to Williamson County, TN where they reared 12 children.

William was born in 1727 and died in Orange Co NC in 1799.(No further information.)

Jacob born about 1729 and died after 1793. Married Jane unk and died in Alamance County in 1852, leaving two children: Isreal (ca 1765—1836) and Hannah (bef 1780-after 1793).

This was a very industrious and creative family who left a legacy of patriotism, philanthropy, education and religious conviction any family could be proud of. In 1837, Edwin M. Holt, son of Michael III, built a cotton mill on Alamance Creek where he organized the first cloth works in the South. He developed and manufactured the “Alamance Plaids” which were recognized as the first colored cotton material commercially manufactured in the Southern United States. The Holt family owned 24 cotton mills by 1900. Through a series of mergers, they became Burlington Industries. When Edwin died in 1884, at his plantation “Locust Grove”, he was said to be the wealthiest man in North Carolina. The story is told that after the War Between the States, he loaned the North Carolina Railroad \$70,000 without asking for any security. His son, Thomas Holt, became Governor of North Carolina in 1891.

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