

Wetterhold & Weatherhold & Weatherholt – 1726

A large number of Wiederhold emigrants in the US are descendants from the Alsatian region between Germany and France. They had already assumed the name Wetterhold. They were shepherds, moved with their flock, and the name appears in multiple villages in the region. That region switched control from Germany to French several times. Later generations, after emigration, also used the names Weatherhold and Weatherholt.

Much of the information in this story was collected by Carina Wetherhold and placed on her Ancestry genealogy page. I used that information to assemble that large branch on Wiederhold.org/tree. It included a comprehensive genealogy by Gary D. Weatherholt: [The Family of Jacob Weatherholt, 1760-1837](#); Indianapolis, 1994. I have been in contact with Gary Weatherholt since.

Most emigrants are linked to the main Wiederhold family in Hessen, Germany.

- Johann Nicolaus Wiederhold was born 1667 in Neukirchen in Hessen but appears by 1698 as Johann Nicolaus Wetterhold in Osthoffen, Alsace, as a shepherd and dies in Altwiller there. He is an ancestor of Johannes Heinrich Wetterhold (1813-1869)
- A century later Johann Nicolaus Wiederhold (1778-1728) arrived in the Alsace, also from Neukirchen, Hessen. He is an ancestor of Johann Jacob Wetterhold (1726-1763)

It seems likely that the families stayed in contact.

Johann Jacob Wetterhold (1726-1763)

Johann Jacob Wetterhold was born in 1726 in Altwiller, Alsace, but emigrated 22 Oct 1754, and in that year had daughter Elisabeth (1754-1778) born in Lynn, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. His wife is unknown, but likely came from the same region. We assume she travelled with him, and that they brought a son with them.

John Wetherhold (abt. 1752) and children

There are many descendants in the US of three Wetherholds, Josef Wetherhold (1754-1865), George Wetherhold (1801-1869), and William Wetherhold (1808 or 1810-1880). Their ancestry is poorly documented. The genealogy by Gary Weatherholt, on page 22, surmises that they are all children of John Wetherhold, and that this John Wetherhold is the son of Johann Jacob Wetterhold, likely born in the Alsace before Johann Jacob emigrated. We follow that assumption in the Wiederhold genealogy, allowing the many US Wetherholds and Weatherholds to trace their ancestry back to the Wiederholds in Hessen.

Johann Nicolas Wetterhold (1722-1791) joined the revolutionary army and became the commander of Fort Everett

On 14 January 1756, Benjamin Franklin wrote, "To secure Lynn and Heidelberg Township, whose inhabitants were just on the Wing, I took Trexler's company into Pay, and I commission'd Wetterholt, who commanded a Watch of 44 men before in the Pay of the Province, ordering him to complete his Company." [Bob Nagle:Lynn-Heidelberg Historical Society; <http://www.lynnheidelberg.org/forteverett.html>, retrieved 20]

Johann Jacob, at age 33, remarried around 1759 Susanne Christina, and had 3 children with her. In 1763 he was shot by Indians in what is known as the [Stentson's tavern massacre](#), and died soon after, in Bethlelehem, Pennsylvania.

Soon after Johann Jacob's death Susanna Christina married Michael Kern (+1833). He came from the Netherlands. They moved with the orphaned children to Morgantown, Virginia. It seems that Michael became a wealthy man. In 1772 he provided the land for what is now the University of West Virginia (West Virginia was split off from Virginia in 1868). He died July 1833. Christina Susanna had 4 more children with him and died about 1810 in Morgantown.

A puzzle. Another Wetherhold at that time, John, is cited as the father of three children, but no birthday nor spouse is shown in any source I have seen. John's oldest son is another Joseph Wetherhold (1794-1865). Given that date John's birthdate might range from 1776 to 1754 for a birth at age 18 to 40. The 1969 Wetherhold genealogy assigns him as a son to Jacob Wetherhold, known as Jacob Wetterhold (1760-1837) in the 1994 Weatherhold genealogy. But that would mean a John was born before Jacob turned 16. That is highly unlikely. Since there is no further documentation, I consider John Wetherhold a half-brother of Jacob Wetterhold. Jacob was born when his father, Johann Jacob Wetterhold (1726-1763) was 34 years old. It is more than likely that Johann Jacob had an earlier relationship, or maybe was married in Germany, before he immigrated in 1754, since there is also an Elizabeth Wiederhold, born in 1754. Such a hypothesis is also given on page 357 in the 1994 Weatherholt genealogy. We give John Wetherhold birthday if 1752, which implies he was born in Germany, which might account for a lack of records. But he could equally well have been born shortly after arrival in the US, but prior to Jacob's marriage to Susanna Christina in 1758, and the subsequent birth of a half-brother, Jacob, in 1760.

A son of Johann Jacob Wetterhold and Susanna Christina, Jacob, took on the name Weatherholt (1760-1837). He was given 100 acres in the Ohio territory on a bend of the Ohio river for military service in the war for US Independence and moved there. That area subsequently became the state of Indiana. Jacob also operated a ferry there across the Ohio river to Cloverport, Kentucky. In 1816 Abraham Lincoln used the ferry to travel to Washington. Today (2020) there is no ferry and it takes a half-hour drive to travel via a bridge 10 miles downriver.

Much of the family became involved in shipping along the Ohio river.

Names used: Johann Jacob Wetterhold also appears in genealogical records as: Jacob Wedderhold; Johann Jacob Wedderhold; Johann Jacob Wetherholt; and J. Jacob Wetherholt. The son from his second marriage, Jacob Jacob Wetterold (1760-1837), also appears as Jacob Weatherholt; and Johann Jacob Wedderhold. But his children are mainly recorded as Weatherholt. An early, handwritten, entry uses the name Wiederhold.

Johannes Heinrich Wetterhold (1813-1869)

Nearly a century later another Wetterhold left the Alsace. Johannes Heinrich Wetterhold was born in Lorentzen, Alsace on April 8 1813, and married there in 1842 Maria Elisabeth Bach (1812-1879). They had two children there. Henry, apparently born in 1844, shortly before the family's departure to the US, moved later to upstate New York and married there. Around 1876 Henry and his wife moved to Michigan with 4 children and had 4 more children there. A third child of Johannes Heinrich is born as Christian Christopher Weatherhold in New York in 1846. There are 3 more sons. I still have to track further descendants.

Weatherholtz (1787)

Jacob Weatherholt (1787) married in 1817 Elizabeth Fawley(1796) , both were from Virginia. But their 13 children and further descendants all used the name Weatherholtz, likely the spelling entered at their baptism , perhaps by a German-speaking preacher. But the 10 children of John West Filmore Weatherholt (1857-1918) and Anna Elisabeth Turner (1860), reverted to the Weatherholt spelling, as did some other descendants, as Nora (1877) and Charles (1879).

Rose Wederholt (1889}

Rose Wederholt was born in Brooklyn, New York, and had three children and one granddaughter there. Census records from 1920 state that both her parents cam from Italy. I have not been able to make any connections at this time, so that these 5 Wederholts remain a disconnected twig of the Wiederhold tree.

Joseph Bernard Wiederhold – Wiederholt (1835-1910)

Joseph Bernard Wiederhold was born in Kefferhausen and emigrated with his wife Maria Anna Kessler (1929-1879) and three children to Illinois and had nine more children with her there and after 1861 in Wisconsin. Their marriage is actually recorded in 1958 in Galena, Illinois. He remarried in 1881 with Dorothea Catherine Weber (1856-1941) and they had anort 9 children All but his first child used the name Wiederholt.

Background and History

Anjiao 院安娇 Carina Wetherhold provided me with安 many pointers. She placed information she found on [her web page](#) at Ancestry.com as Pumaweather:

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/169962812/family/familyview>

- Gary D. Weatherhold: The Family of Jacob Weatherhold, 1760-1837; Indianapolis, 1994; provided by Carina Wetherhold, 2020, 419pp.
- Ray G. Wetherhold: The Descendants of Joseph Wetherhold; H. Ray Haas, Allentown PA, 1969 & 1971, 60pp; https://ocgs.com/projects/rescue/family_files/files/WETHERHOLD%20Family.pdf .
- Check: Anette Kunselmann Burgert: Eighteen Century Emigrants from Northern Alsace to America; 1992 (library or \$99. Available at LDS library in Utah as 974.8 B4pgp v. 26).

Names of immigrants in the US were spelled various ways – spellings that made it easier to deal with local situations.

Note: An Entry for Mary Shing abt 1808 seems to be a misreading for Mary Shue, a common family name in the region, traced, but no credible linkage found.

Draft as of 5 March 2021.



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