

George & Lewis DeBlois – Family Story Attachment

George DeBlois Sr. (1710-1799):

Born in Oxford, Oxfordshire, England, in 1710, George married Elizabeth Wastie in Eynsham, Oxfordshire in 1734, by whom he had four children. Both he and his two sons were strong supporters of the King during the Revoltationary War. His petition for losses was approved and he eventually settled in England where he died in 1799. George was a brother of Stephen.

Lewis DeBlois UE (9 Sep 1727-9 Feb 1799):

Son of Stephen DeBlois and born in New York, Lewis was a successful merchant in Boston, his place of business being the “Sign of the Golden Eagle” in Dock Square. On 4 September 1748 in Boston, he married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Jenkins and Elizabeth Goddard, by whom he had four children. In 1775, Lewis, his brother Gilbert and several others, publically expressed support for the Crown in a letter to General Gage upon his departure for England on leave. In March 1776, he took with his family to Halifax with Howe's fleet and in May sailed to England with his brother Gilbert. He and his brother were “proscribed and banished” in 1778 for their intense and outspoken loyalty to the British cause as stated in the Banishment Act of the State of Massachusetts 1778:

“...have left this state, or some other of the United States of America, and joined the enemies thereof and of the United States of America, thereby not only depriving these states of their personal services at a time when they ought to have afforded their utmost aid in defending the said states, against the invasions of a cruel enemy, but manifesting an inimical disposition the said states, and a designs to aid and abet the enemies thereof in their wicked purposes, and whereas many dangers may accrue to this state and the United States, if such persons should again admitted to reside in this state.”

On 12 January 1783, all lands owned by Lewis DeBlois were seized by the state due to the crime of Treason against the Commonwealth. He died very suddenly in England after being out all day in 1799 aged seventy-one.

George DeBlois Jr. UE (6 Mar 1739-18 Jun 1799):

Son of George Sr. and born in Oxford, England, George on 25 December 1771 in Boston married his first cousin Sarah, the granddaughter of his uncle Lewis DeBlois and Elizabeth Jenkins, by whom he had 10 children. The couple lived in Salem, Massachusetts, but George had business connections with his cousins in Boston. He was a very pronounced and outspoken Tory and as a result was obliged to leave Salem in April 1775, abandoning property valued at £400 pounds sterling. He went to Halifax on 29 April 1775 on the Brig “Minerva” with his family where he became a successful merchant. Two years later, on 14 June 1777, he returned to New York on the transport “Catherine” where he remained until 28 July 1781 when he returned to Halifax on the “Britannic.” He engaged in a commission business until 1799 when, in ill health, he returned to Boston with his daughter Sarah and died at the home of his brother in Newport, Rhode Island. On 8 May 1802, Sarah sailed from Halifax on the schooner “Mary” with her sons Stephen and William and her daughters Lydia and Ann Maria, to make her home once more in Massachusetts. The following month the sons returned to Halifax but the daughters remained with their mother. Sarah eventually returned to Halifax where she died in 1827.