

Henry Dennis

Henry Dennis, on the Loyalist Directory, is noted as the brother of John, but John's brother Henry died 20 August 1757 (see records of Philadelphia Meeting). More likely it refers to John's father, also a Quaker, born circa 1721, who owned land in Delaware and Philadelphia, having an iron works in the latter as part of his boat-building business in Solebury Township, Bucks County.

"The War of Independence which broke out in America in 1775 found the Dennis families in the English colonies there divided. Such men as Captain John and Ensign Ezekiel Dennis of New Jersey and Lieutenant Daniel Dennis of Pennsylvania fought valiantly with the rebels. Others remained on the side of Britain, sometimes not out of any particular loyalty to the Crown but rather to their religious beliefs. Two who refused to enter the revolt because fighting violated their Quaker creed were Henry Dennis, then 55, a wealthy Delaware and Pennsylvania landowner and iron works proprietor, and his 18-year-old son, John. They probably were descendants of Quaker Joseph Dennis from Woodbridge, New Jersey, who had become a pioneer settler at Quakertown, Pennsylvania some 60 to 70 years before. Father and son took refuge within the British lines at New York and were never to see their estates again. Henry died a few years later while encamped with others on Staten Island."

- Eric R. Dennis, *The Dennis Saga* (Halifax: Chebucto Agencies, Ltd, 1984)

I have various conflicting sources about the date of Henry's death: the Canadian Dictionary of National Biography entry about his son John (http://www.biographi.ca/009004-119.01-e.php?&id_nbr=2830&interval=25&&PHPSESSID=mde9inoeivhmii4dsjhj1nte53) says 1782, the article by Dorothee Hughes Carousso, "Esther King of Philadelphia & Bucks Counties and her Bowyer, Lynn and Elfreth Children," *Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine* Vol. 24, No. 4 (1966) says that Henry died after 1791 "probably in New York State" (Henry's second wife was Martha Lynn, a descendant of the above Esther King). My late grandfather-in-law said 1791, but I do not know his source.

(Information provided by Holly Adams)