

Henry Yost (1749-1803) P-329631
Gunsmith and 1st Lieutenant of the Maryland Militia

Henry Yost was born in 1749 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania to Hans Yost and. His father was an immigrant from the Duchy of Franconia (modern day Germany) and his mother Eleanor Catherine Marshall was born in nearby Fairfax County, Virginia. By 1750 Henry had married Polly Marie Waggoner in Hagerstown, Maryland and they began what would become a large family. Their children would include George, Ann, Jacob, Rebecca, John, Mary, Henry, James, William, Fletcher, and David.

During the War of American Independence, Henry Yost and his brother John of George Towne (now Georgetown, Washington, D.C.) manufactured muskets and bayonets for the American forces. Henry (Heinrich) and John (Johannes) Yost (Youst) entered into contract with the Revolutionary Committee of Safety as early as October 1775 to produce muskets and bayonets exclusively for the Continental Congress for one year.

They committed themselves to delivering to Annapolis 75 muskets with bayonets by May 1776. But they ran behind, and by May 1 the weapons had not yet arrived in the capital of the Province of Maryland. Therefore, they received a letter admonishing them. They then committed themselves to producing not only the 75 weapons by May but to deliver an additional 25 each following month to Major Price of Georgetown.

They must have completed the first order by May 23, because Col. Beall was told on that day to deliver muskets produced by John and Henry Yost to the company stationed in Port Tobacco on the Potomac.

In addition to supplying arms for the revolutionary cause, Henry enlisted as a private in Capt Jacob Sharer's Company of Maryland Militia from 1776-7. He also swore the Patriots Oath of Fidelity to Maryland and the Cause before Hon. John Stull, in February, 1778. In March of that same year, Henry was commissioned a 1st Lieutenant. He also rendered service in Capt John Funk's Company of Maryland Militia in June of 1778.

During and after the war, Henry and his family stayed in the area of Elizabeth Towne and George Towne. Upon his death, Henry was supposedly buried in the Old Presbyterian Cemetery on Beverly Street in Staunton, Virginia. Unfortunately, the stone marking his final resting place has been lost to time.

Submitted by Samuel Preston Adams III
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