

DEWOLF Family of Lyme, Connecticut

Generation No. 1

1. BALTHAZAR¹ DEWOLF was born 1620 in Belgium, and died 1696 in Lyme, New London, CT. He married ALICE MARRUS PECK Abt. 1645 in Guilford, New Haven, CT. She was born 1625 in London, EN, and died 1689 in Lyme, New London, CT.

Notes for BALTHAZAR DEWOLF:

BALTHAZAR DEWOLF... was in Hartford, Connecticut by 1656. In 1668 Balthazar DeWolf and his family removed to Lyme which was the seaport center of commerce. The origin of the name DeWolf(e) and the relationships are in Belgium, Holland, Germany and the Russian Baltic Provinces. The DeWolfs have proof of their noble origin with a family coat-of arms from the official Archives Nobilities of Belgium. This pride taken in their name DeWolf rather than in a title, recalls the splendid old motto of the Rohans: Roi ne puis, Monseigneur ne daigne, Monsieur s'us. -A King I cannot be, a nobleman I do not deign to be, a gentleman I am. All the theories of Balthazar's descent—Russian, French, Dutch and Jewish-- suggest he had a keen interest and natural ability as a merchant and businessman. Whatever Balthazar was - he had a dream and goal for business and that of a land developer which he shared with his sons and grandsons. In Lyme, CT., the DeWolf family built vessels which went out to many markets and brought back cargoes of spices, coffee, sugar, and other merchandise needed in Colonial New England. The Dewolfs became the great merchants inherited from their immigrant ancestor, Balthazar DeWolfe, and before him. The same characteristics, whether personal or physical, seem to be strongly marked in all this particular family. The family business flourished in Lyme and Middletown providing employment for hundreds of skilled craftsman from ship builders to carpenters, sailors and wharves workers, merchants and shop keepers just to name a few jobs that kept a thriving economy going in New England. Business was profitable with money from the shipping trade and commerce and with land development of saw mills and grist mills on waterways.

Child of BALTHAZAR DEWOLF and ALICE PECK is:

2. i. EDWARD NATHAN² DEWOLF, b. 1646, Guilford, New Haven, CT; d. 24 Mar 1709, Lyme, New London, CT.

Generation No. 2

2. EDWARD NATHAN² DEWOLF (*BALTHAZAR*¹) was born 1646 in Guilford, New Haven, CT, and died 24 Mar 1709 in Lyme, New London, CT. He married REBECCA TINKER 1670 in Lyme, New London, CT. She was born 1650 in Lyme, New London, CT, and died 1712 in Lyme, New London, CT.

Notes for EDWARD NATHAN DEWOLF:

EDWARD NATHAN DEWOLF... was a man of property and great wealth, and like his father lived in Lyme and was highly respected. He was a millwright and land developer -- the builder and operator of two saw-mills, and a grist-mill. Edward was instrumental in the building of a new church in Lyme. It is recorded in the Lyme record that in May, 1686, the town of Lyme laid out to Edward De Wolf twenty-two acres of land on account of his work for the town in the matter of the new meeting house. In 1688, Edward settled upon the Eight Mile River, and in the same year liberty was granted to him to build a grist-mill. He subsequently built a second saw-mill near his home on the Eight Mile River. He lived near one of his mill sites, near the village of Laysville. There was some condition or quality, either in education, character, family, respect, ability, personal attractions or other unknown quantity which enabled this DeWolf family to marry into some of the best families in Lyme and the neighboring towns. As the tree is known by its fruit, we are left to draw our chief inferences in regard to the traits of mind and character of Balthazar DeWolf and his children from what we can learn of their descendants and their unique sense for business and commerce. Again we look at historical records to see further proof of their sense of integrity and community service when Edward DeWolf served as a soldier in King Philip's War, along with his younger Stephen when they participated in the Swamp fight, which was the victory that brought to a close this bloody struggle of that period of war. For their loyal service the DeWolfs received a share in the town of Voluntown, CT. How easy it seems today to trash one's family from another time and place, and lest we forget, family forever, for always, and no matter what.

Child of EDWARD DEWOLF and REBECCA TINKER is:

3. i. CHARLES³ DEWOLF, b. 18 Sep 1673, Lyme, New London, CT; d. 05 Dec 1731, Middletown, Middlesex, CT.

Generation No. 3

3. CHARLES³ DEWOLF (*EDWARD NATHAN², BALTHAZAR¹*) was born 18 Sep 1673 in Lyme, New London, CT, and died 05 Dec 1731 in Middletown, Middlesex, CT. He married PRUDENCE BECKWITH 1694 in Glastonbury, Hartford, CT. She was born 22 Aug 1676 in Lyme, New London, CT, and died 16 Jun 1737 in Wethersfield, CT.

Notes for CHARLES DEWOLF:

CHARLES DEWOLF... resided in Glastonbury and Middletown, CT and the family were members of the Lyme Congregational Church. Charles owned of several mills, a general merchandise store, and engaged in trading and shipping from the Lyme port. Charles DeWolf amassed considerable property. In Lyme, he had vessels built which went out to many markets, including to the West Indies bringing back needed cargoes and supplies. It is probably by these means that his son, Charles DeWolf, Jr. made his 'venture' to the island of Guadaloupe to pursue further business interests and it is with this generation that the DeWolf family separates into two branches: the Lyme branch and the Bristol, Rhode Island, family.

The oceans no longer have dinosaur ships of trade laden with the riches of spices, coffee, sugar, and cargoes from far away places. The reign of the DeWolfs as the dominant family of merchants and traders will end one-hundred years following the death of Charles DeWolf, Sr. of Lyme, CT. For five or more generations, the DeWolf descendants life was as sea captains who were engaged in shipping and trading, and other sons worked as knowledgeable merchants and mill owners. All of these descendants enjoyed great wealth, respect and prominence in their communities. By the standards of their day - they were an extraordinary family with a keen business sense and enjoyed personal friendships with U.S. Presidents and leaders of the nation.

Children of CHARLES DEWOLF and PRUDENCE BECKWITH are:

- i. II CHARLES⁴ DEWOLF, b. 1695, Lyme, CT; d. 1726, Guadaloupe, Fr W I; m. MARGARET POTTER, 31 Mar 1717, Guadaloupe, Fr W I; d. 14 Mar 1788, St. Eustacius, B W I.

Notes for II CHARLES DEWOLF:

This Rhode Island Branch of DeWolfs is descended from Charles DeWolf, Jr. (1695-1726). Charles Jr. ventured to the island of Guadeloupe where he prospered and became the founder of this extremely wealthy and noted Rhode Island branch of this DeWolf family.

Charles DeWolf, Jr. sons and descendants were sea captains and running ships between their mansions in Newport, Rhode Island to the West Indies. For more than 75 years, from the 1760's to the 1820's, the DeWolf fathers and sons were engaged in an extensive shipping, commerce, and trading. The family business flourished in Rhode Island which providing employment for hundreds if not thousands of skilled craftsman from ship builders to carpenters, sailors and dock workers, merchants and shop keepers, just to name a few jobs that kept a thriving economy going in New England. Business was profitable with money from the shipping trade. The DeWolfs opened a bank, an insurance company and a rum distillery on the Bristol waterfront. By one account, a quarter of the town's residents did business directly with the family.

Early trade was with the planters on Barbados and certain other West Indian islands. The needs of the West Indies sugarcane growers coordinated with the available trading resources of Rhode Island; building materials were in short supply on many of the Caribbean islands and charcoal was needed to fuel their sugar mills. The ships returned to Narragansett Bay with sugar and molasses. A notorious "triangular trade" developed. Merchants loaded ships with rum - produced in local distilleries and the ships sailed to the west coast of Africa to trade for the unemployed natives and gold, and then to the West Indies to sell the cargo and take on a shipment of molasses for the trip home to the rum distilleries. During this period, Newport held a position of dominance. For a time it was the most important port on the American continent. Newport's preeminence corresponded with the rise of a wealthy merchant class and emergence of a sophisticated and cultured society on Aquidneck Island based on income from shipping. Narragansett Bay ship captains and owners were involved in numerous other private shipping. They were never averse to making a profit, and the constant wars of the European powers frequently blocked them from open, legitimate trade.

The Rhode Island branch of the DeWolf family were by far the richest and most extravagant family because of their slave trade in America. Seven sons engaged in slave trading and were all sea captains with largest fleet of ships and their ships outnumbered more than the U.S. Navy. Charles' sons had phenomenal careers as a business leaders and founders of colossal enterprises. Beyond the shipping and trading industry, Dewolf sons were United States Senators and bankers and owners of an insurance companies. This family had an

executive genius and imagination for business. The sons were owners of large Bristol mansions {Linden Place, Mt. Hope, The Farm, and many others}, and entertained U.S. Presidents, General Knox, Governor Bradford and a list wealthy and prominent leaders. They were personal friends of Thomas Jefferson.

James DeWolf, grandson of Charles DeWolf, Sr., relinquished his seafaring life to become engaged in commercial ventures of his day. James DeWolf was the richest man in Rhode Island and was the 2nd wealthiest man in all the United States. This Honorable James DeWolf was the largest ship owner of this Rhode Island family, sending out vessels to all quarters of the globe, building up a large trade with ports of northern and southern Europe as well as Russia and China, and his vessels were also engaged in the whaling business.

Eventually a failure in the sugar crops in Cuba and West Indies would cause a collapse to their wealthy empire and changes in the trading laws and social standards of the day brought an end to the DeWolf empire.

4. ii. ESQ MATTHEW NATHAN DEWOLF, b. 1697, Lyme, New London, CT; d. 1783, Bolton, Toland, CT.

Generation No. 4

4. ESQ MATTHEW NATHAN⁴ DEWOLF (*CHARLES³, EDWARD NATHAN², BALTHAZAR¹*) was born 1697 in Lyme, New London, CT, and died 1783 in Bolton, Toland, CT. He married (1) SUSANNAH CURRIER in Bolton, Toland, CT. She was born in CT. He married (2) MAYFLOWER ANCESTOR PATIENCE BREWSTER 1721 in Lebanon, New London, CT. She was born 1700 in Lebanon, New London, CT, and died 1797 in Bolton, Toland, CT.

Notes for ESQ MATTHEW NATHAN DEWOLF:

MATTHEW NATHAN DEWOLF... was noted for his habit of enterprise and industry as a merchant, trader and owner of several saw mills and grist mills in Bolton, Connecticut. Matthew served in the CT. Military Campaign of the Indian Wars of 1746. Records of the Bolton School System dating back to 1731 state: "it was voted that Matthew DeWolf serve on a committee with two others in behalf of the town to procure a schoolmaster for the schooling of the children in this town." Matthew DeWolf was a prominent business owner and respected church member. Matthew married into the Brewster family of Mayflower origins.

Child of MATTHEW DEWOLF and PATIENCE BREWSTER is:

5. i. SR EDWARD⁵ DEWOLF, b. 20 Nov 1735, Bolton, Toland, CT; d. 1790, Simsbury, CT.

Generation No. 5

5. SR EDWARD⁵ DEWOLF (*MATTHEW NATHAN⁴, CHARLES³, EDWARD NATHAN², BALTHAZAR¹*) was born 20 Nov 1735 in Bolton, Toland, CT, and died 1790 in Simsbury, CT. He married ELIZABETH 1756 in Granby, Hartford, CT. She was born 1737 in Middletown, Middlesex, CT, and died 1787 in Simsbury, CT.

Notes for SR EDWARD DEWOLF:

EDWARD DEWOLF... was an industrious and honorable mill owner in Granby and Simsbury. He served his country at the age 40 years in the Revolutionary War as a Private in 1776 with the 18th Connecticut Militia under Gen. Oliver Wolcott and Captain Jonathan Buttolph.

Descendants and sons of Edward DeWolf, Sr. would leave Connecticut for farming in Vermont, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and onward to Illinois. These descendants the Lyme branch of the DeWolf family have not been confined to agriculture. They have made their mark in all the learned professions and in many business careers. One descendant was a noted theology professor at Boston University, several were clergymen, teachers, engineers, and others have made their mark in learned professions and in business pursuits. Possessed with a strong physical character, tireless energy, dauntless courage and indomitable will, DeWolf sons and grandsons were well equipped by nature to endure the toils, privations and hardships of pioneer life and this Lyme, Connecticut, branch of the family moved westward.

Child of EDWARD DEWOLF and ELIZABETH is:

6. i. II EDWARD⁶ DEWOLF, b. 12 May 1768, Granby, Hartford, CT; d. 17 May 1835, Conneaut, Ashtabula, OH.

Generation No. 6

6. II EDWARD⁶ DEWOLF (*EDWARD⁵, MATTHEW NATHAN⁴, CHARLES³, EDWARD NATHAN², BALTHAZAR¹*) was born 12 May 1768 in Granby, Hartford, CT, and died 17 May 1835 in Conneaut, Ashtabula, OH. He married SARAH COLSON BILL 1792 in Hartford, CT. She was born 1768 in Lebanon, New London, CT, and died 12 Jan 1854 in Springfield, Erie, PA.

Notes for II EDWARD DEWOLF:

Edward DeWolf, Jr. removed from Connecticut to New York State where he served as a Captain with the N.Y. Militia in the War of 1812 in Gideon Orton's Company of Col. John Pryor's Regiment and received a pension. After the war and prior to 1820, Edward DeWolf and family were residents of Conneaut, Ohio, and were engaged in farming. His sons were farmers, a blacksmith, a postmaster, and another was a constable.

Child of EDWARD DEWOLF and SARAH BILL is:

7. i. CHARLES⁷ DEWOLF, b. 02 Oct 1794, Windsor co, VT; d. 15 Jul 1870, Hampshire, Kane, IL.

Generation No. 7

7. CHARLES⁷ DEWOLF (*EDWARD⁶, EDWARD⁵, MATTHEW NATHAN⁴, CHARLES³, EDWARD NATHAN², BALTHAZAR¹*) was born 02 Oct 1794 in Windsor co, VT, and died 15 Jul 1870 in Hampshire, Kane, IL. He married BETSY PUTNAM 02 Jan 1813 in Luzerne, Washington, NY. She was born 17 Dec 1794 in Windsor co, VT, and died 21 Mar 1881 in Hampshire, Kane, IL.

Notes for CHARLES DEWOLF:

Charles DeWolf was born in Vermont and lived in New York and Pennsylvania. In 1863 Charles and his wife Betsy removed to Illinois, along with a number of his children. Charles DeWolf served as a Private in the NY Militia in the War of 1812 in Col. Pryor's Regiment and received a pension from his service. Charles was a farmer and was stung to death by a swarm of bees when raking hay in an orchard near his home in Pigeon Grove, DeKalb county, at the age of 75 years. Charles DeWolf family were founding members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Beaver Center.

Child of CHARLES DEWOLF and BETSY PUTNAM is:

8. i. EDWARD LOTAN⁸ DEWOLF, b. 19 Sep 1816, Corinth, Saratoga, NY; d. 19 Nov 1883, Genoa, DeKalb, IL.

Generation No. 8

8. EDWARD LOTAN⁸ DEWOLF (*CHARLES⁷, EDWARD⁶, EDWARD⁵, MATTHEW NATHAN⁴, CHARLES³, EDWARD NATHAN², BALTHAZAR¹*) was born 19 Sep 1816 in Corinth, Saratoga, NY, and died 19 Nov 1883 in Genoa, DeKalb, IL. He married SARAH ANNE REED 1840 in Beaver Center, PA. She was born 30 Aug 1819 in Canada, and died 08 Nov 1898 in Genoa, DeKalb, IL.

Notes for EDWARD LOTAN DEWOLF:

EDWARD DEWOLF... was born in Saratoga county, New York, and his family removed to Pennsylvania. At age 32, Edward was working his farm and felling trees when he suffered the loss of one of his legs in 1851. In 1865, Edward and Sarah Ann removed to DeKalb county, Illinois where he was a letter carrier for the Post Office in Genoa for 12 years. Edward DeWolfs were members of the Methodist church at Genoa.

Children of EDWARD DEWOLF and SARAH REED are:

9. i. RANSOM FRANCIS⁹ DEWOLF, b. 02 Apr 1847, Beaver Center, PA; d. 1895, NE.
10. ii. EDWARD LEMONZO DEWOLF, b. 08 Oct 1856, Beaver Center, PA; d. 27 Oct 1900, Cortland, DeKalb, IL.

Generation No. 9

9. RANSOM FRANCIS⁹ DEWOLF (*EDWARD LOTAN⁸, CHARLES⁷, EDWARD⁶, EDWARD⁵, MATTHEW NATHAN⁴, CHARLES³, EDWARD NATHAN², BALTHAZAR¹*) was born 02 Apr 1847 in Beaver Center, PA, and died 1895 in NE. He married (1) CLARINDA BASSETT 05 Aug 1869 in Kane Co, IL. She died 1877 in DeKalb Co, IL. He married (2) MATILDA JANE WOOD 31 Mar 1879 in Sycamore, DeKalb, IL. She was born 05 Dec 1845 in Cortland,

DeKalb, IL, and died in NE.

Notes for RANSOM FRANCIS DEWOLF:

RANSOM F. DEWOLF... served a Private in the Illinois 17th Cav. Regiment in the Civil War in 1865. Ransom was a industrious and hard working farmer in Illinois and Nebraska. They were members of the Methodist church.

Child of RANSOM DEWOLF and CLARINDA BASSETT is:

11. i. REV DR LOTAN REID¹⁰ DEWOLF, b. 09 Feb 1873, Cortland, DeKalb, IL; d. 21 Oct 1924, Omaha, Douglas, NE.

10. EDWARD LEMONZO⁹ DEWOLF (*EDWARD LOTAN⁸, CHARLES⁷, EDWARD⁶, EDWARD⁵, MATTHEW NATHAN⁴, CHARLES³, EDWARD NATHAN², BALTHAZAR¹*) was born 08 Oct 1856 in Beaver Center, PA, and died 27 Oct 1900 in Cortland, DeKalb, IL. He married MALINDA ELIZABETH WOOD 17 Nov 1881 in Cortland, DeKalb, IL. She was born 01 May 1859 in Cortland, DeKalb, IL, and died 08 Oct 1939 in Sycamore, DeKalb, IL.

Notes for EDWARD LEMONZO DEWOLF:

Edward Lotan DeWolf came to Illinois when he was a lad of 9 years old. Edward worked as a farmer on the Wood pioneer farm in Cortland. He died suddenly of a heart attack at age 44 years, leaving his wife with two small daughters to mourn his departure. The Edward DeWolfs were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Sycamore.

Child of EDWARD DEWOLF and MALINDA WOOD is:

- i. SARAH ELIZABETH¹⁰ DEWOLF, b. 27 Jan 1893, Cortland, DeKalb, IL; d. 01 Apr 1972, Sycamore, DeKalb, IL.

Notes for SARAH ELIZABETH DEWOLF:

SARAH ELIZABETH DE WOLF attended Sycamore rural school at Lovell's Crossing through grade six. Sarah was affectionately known as "Bessie" to her friends and family. She was born on the original David and Ruth (Cary) Wood farm in Cortland township which was settled in 1833 by her grandparents. When Bessie was only 7 years old, her father died and her mother married Fred Campbell, a widower neighbor farmer with three small children. Bessie contracted polio at age 15 which greatly weakened her arms, but with her fortitude and perseverance, she was able to accomplish nearly every task with exceptional skill. She was the most remarkable, kind and generous lady known. Added to her exceptional personal qualities, she had tremendous ability and skill at quilt making and sewing as did her grandmother Ruth Carey Wood who was a professional sewer. For nearly 50 years, Bessie served as the adult Sunday School Teacher at the Malta United Brethren (Methodist) Church and Mayfield Congregational Church and served on various church committees and was Superintendent of the Sunday School. She brought her children up in church and the Christian way of life. She was an avid reader with a good size library.

Generation No. 10

11. REV DR LOTAN REID¹⁰ DEWOLF (*RANSOM FRANCIS⁹, EDWARD LOTAN⁸, CHARLES⁷, EDWARD⁶, EDWARD⁵, MATTHEW NATHAN⁴, CHARLES³, EDWARD NATHAN², BALTHAZAR¹*) was born 09 Feb 1873 in Cortland, DeKalb, IL, and died 21 Oct 1924 in Omaha, Douglas, NE.

Notes for REV DR LOTAN REID DEWOLF:

Rev Dr Lotan Reed DeWolf, clergyman, was gifted and began preaching at a young age. He attended the Academy at Central City; earned a Ph.D. from Wesleyan University in Nebraska; and was also given an honorary Doctor of Divinity for his work and endeavors in the Methodist ministry.

Child of REV DR LOTAN REID DEWOLF is:

- i. REV DR LOTAN HAROLD¹¹ DEWOLF, b. 31 Jan 1905, Columbus, NE; d. 1986, Virginia.

Notes for REV DR LOTAN HAROLD DEWOLF:

The Rev. Dr. Lotan Harold DeWolf, 1905-1986; Professor of Philosophy at Boston University (1934-44), Prof. Systematic Theology at Boston University School of Theology (1944-65); and Dean of Wesley Theological Seminary (1965-72) in Washington, DC. The Rev. Dr. L. Harold DeWolf, clergyman and noted theologian, attended York College, graduated from Boston University School of Theology, S. T. B., and Ph.D. degrees. Dr. DeWolf was the major professor and mentor to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King.

Dr. DeWolf served various churches in Nebraska and Massachusetts as pastor for 14 years before becoming a lecturer, instructor and professor in Boston University. In 1965 he was named first dean of Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., a position held until his retirement in 1972. During these seven years he helped establish Wesley as one of the top United Methodist seminaries in the United States. Dr. DeWolf believed that "By their deeds ye shall know them" challenged every Christian to work to overcome the problems of the world-hunger, poverty, fear, crime, war, injustice- and he, himself, wrote, lectured, and traveled extensively in the field of crime and justice. He was president of the board of directors of "Offender Aid and Restoration in the United States of America." Each year at their annual banquet the L. Harold DeWolf Distinguished Service Award is presented to a worthy recipient. He worked in community groups to improve methods of justice, and frequently visited inmates in city and state prisons. He was instrumental in bringing about the release of at least two prisoners who had received unjustified sentences. He was the noted author of 15 published books, covering all aspects of Bible, theology, ethics and criminal justice. Perhaps best known is "A Theology of the Living Church," for many years the textbook for systematic theology in seminaries of many denominations. His "Crime and Justice in America: A Paradox of Conscience" was acclaimed by many judges, criminologists and law professors as one of the best definitive books on that subject. His last book, "Eternal Life: Why We Believe," expressed his unswerving faith in immortality. He was said to be a professor who made a difference in the lives of his students and the faculty who served with him.