

Herman Greathouse in Twain: The Conflicting Timelines of Herman Greathouse of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia

A comparison of the conflicting timelines of Herman Greathouse of Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania; Frederick County, Maryland; Frederick, Hampshire, Augusta, West Augusta, Yohogania and Ohio County, Virginia versus Herman Greathouse of Philadelphia and Lancaster County, Pennsylvania; and Baltimore County, Maryland between 1745 and 1796.*

Proof that Herman Greathouse who married Mary Stull and resided in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania; Frederick County, Maryland; Frederick, Hampshire, Augusta, West Augusta, Yohogania and Ohio County, Virginia, was not the same Herman Greathouse who married Mary [maiden name unknown] and resided in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and Baltimore County, Maryland between 1745 and 1796.

Problems:

There were two contemporary men by the name of Herman Greathouse who lived in their respective counties of Philadelphia County, PA; Frederick County, MD; Frederick, Hampshire, Yohogania and Ohio County, VA; and Lancaster County, PA; and Baltimore County, MD between 1745 and 1796.

The two contemporary men by the name of Herman Greathouse, both married wives, who were named Mary.

Between 1759 and 1772, Paw Paw, Hampshire County, VA was located 112 miles west of Marriottsville, Baltimore County, MD. This journey would have taken about five days by wagon.

Between 1773 and 1796, Herman's Run, Yohogania or Ohio County, VA was located 263 miles west of Marriottsville, Baltimore County, MD. This journey would have taken about thirteen days by wagon.

Conclusions based on the evidence presented below:

- There were two contemporary men by the name of Herman Greathouse who lived in their respective counties of Philadelphia County, PA; Frederick County, MD; Frederick, Hampshire, Yohogania and Ohio County, VA; and Lancaster County, PA; and Baltimore County, MD between 1745 and 1796.
- The two contemporary men by the name of Herman Greathouse, both married wives, who were named Mary.
- Herman Greathouse of Baltimore County, MD, husband of Mary [maiden name unknown] was related as age about 75 in 1792 by Francis Snowden Esq., Justice of the Peace, Baltimore County, MD. So Herman Greathouse was born about 1717. While in 1786, **Herman Greathouse of Baltimore County, MD** sold a certain lot or piece of land containing six [6] acres to Christopher Yeakle of Philadelphia County, PA. The text of the deed reads in part, "Whereas **Henry Gratehouse** late of Lancaster County Yeoman **Father of the said Harman Greathouse** ... Lawfully Seized ... during his life time ... a Certain Lot or Piece of Land situated in Springfield Township in the county of Montgomery (late the County of Philadelphia) ... Containing 6 acres ... Now this Indenture Witnesseth that the said **Herman Gratehouse the**

* Richard Greathouse, Herman Greathouse In Twain: The Conflicting Timelines of Herman Greathouse of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, 3 February 2012.

Eldest Son of the said Deceased [Henry Grathouse] for and in consideration of the Sum of Seven Pounds Seven Shilling and Six Pence in Gold and Silver Coin unto him in Hand well and truly paid by the said Christopher Yeakel ...”

- Johannes Adolph Grothaus, was named in the records of St. Michael’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, as a trustee/warden in the founding documents of the church in 1738; as an elder of the church at the First Convention of the Lutheran Ministerium in 1748; and he stood on the side of Rev. Heinrich Melchior Muhlenberg, as an elder representing the church during the 1762 Rapp Suite which was decided in court. Therefore, St. Michael's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Germantown, Philadelphia County, PA was exactly where we should expect to find children of Johann Adolph Grothaus witnessing baptisms and marriages, when they became "of lawful age 21" or an adult, which was required in Lutheran churches at the time.
- Therefore, Herman Greathouse, husband of Mary Stull, both of Philadelphia County, PA; Frederick County, MD; Frederick, Hampshire, Yohogania and Ohio County, VA; was probably the son of Johann Adolph & Anna Amelia Miller Grothaus of Springfield, Philadelphia County, PA. **Herman Greathouse of Harmon’s Creek**, Ohio County, VA was named in three deeds between 1792 and 1796, as having a corner to land of Alexander Wells, William Griffith and Thomas Edgington. In Thomas Edgington’s 1796 resurvey of his 935 acre tract, his corner was to **Harman Greathouse deceased**.

Evidence:

| Herman Greathouse of Philadelphia County, PA; Frederick County, MD; Frederick, Hampshire, Yohogania and Ohio County, VA | | Herman Greathouse of Philadelphia and Lancaster County, PA; and Baltimore County, MD | |
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| 1738–1762 – Germatown, PA | Church Records: Johannes Adolph Grothaus, was named in the records of St. Michael’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, as a trustee/warden in the founding documents of the church in 1738; as an elder of the church at the First Convention of the Lutheran Ministerium in 1748; and he stood on the side of Rev. Heinrich Melchior Muhlenberg, as an elder representing the church during the 1762 Rapp Suite which was decided in court. | | |
| 1745, Jun 2 – Germantown, PA | Baptism: Anna Maria Schellmeier, Witness: Herman Grothaus, Records of St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Germantown, PA, [Page 223]: Anna Maria, daughter of Georg Michael Schellmeier, born 9 Jan 1745, baptized 2 Jun 1745. Godparents: Herman Grothaus and Anna Maria Baretin. | | |
| 1746, Before May - | 1746, Before May – Marriage: Herman Greathouse & Mary Stull were married near Elizabeth Town | | |

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| Elizabeth Town, MD [Hagerstown] | [present-day Hagerstown, MD], Frederick County, MD. | | |
| 1746 – May Elizabeth Town, MD [Hagerstown] | 1746, May – Conception: Rachel Greathouse was conceived between Herman & Mary Stull Greathouse after their marriage. | | |
| 1746, Jun 9 – Along South Branch of Potomac, Frederick County, VA | 1746, Jun 9 - Debt: Abraham Tegarden to Johnathan Hedges, Witness: Herman Greathous I promise to Pay to Johnaton Hegs [Hedges] or his assigns the Sum of fourten Pounds Maryland money to Be Payd at or upon the first Day of November Next ensuing for ussally Received asissties my hand this Ninth Day of Jun: 1746. Abraham Tegarden Test Herman {his H G mark} Greathous Daniel {his D mark} Cresap View @ University of Pittsburgh | | |
| 1747, Apr 12 – Germantown, PA | 1747, Apr 12 - Baptism: Rachel Greathouse, St. Michael's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Germantown: Rahel [Rachel], daughter of Herman and Maria Grothausen, born the 20th of February, 1746, baptized the 12th of April 1747. Sponsors: Jurg [George] Rieger & Barbara Riegerin. | | |
| 1749, Apr 17 – Frederick, MD | Will: John Stull of Hagerstown, Frederick County, MD named daughter Mary Greathouse, husband of Herman Greathouse, and their daughter, Rachel Greathouse in his will. | | |
| 1749, Apr 27 – Frederick, MD | Land: Samuel Ogle Esq. Governor of Maryland to Herman Greathouse of Frederick County, MD, The Chestnut Spring, 50 acres. | | |
| 1749, Feb 7 – Frederick, MD | Will Inventory: Daniel Stull, Witness: Herman & Mary Stull Greathouse | | |
| 1750 – Frederick, MD | Debt: Herman Greathouse was named on a list of debts formerly due Cleburn Simms, deceased (1750), | | |

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| | Innkeeper. | | |
| 1750, Sep 15 – Frederick, MD | Baptism: Juliana Sybilla, daughter of Herman Grothaut [sic, Grothaus], born May 1750, baptized 15 Aug 1750 by Pastor Johann Valentin Kraft [Feb 1745, Jan 1749 – Feb 1751]. Sponsors: Conrad Hackmeyer and Juliana Laibensteinin, single. | | |
| 1751, Jun 19 – Frederick, MD | Land: Thomas Lucas of Frederick County, MD to Jacob Holland of Prince George’s County, MD, Witness: Herman Greathouse. | | |
| 1751, Jul 26 – Frederick, MD | Debt Payment: Herman Greathouse received payment of a debt for smithing work from the final settlement of the Daniel Stull estate. | | |
| 1752, Mar 17 – Frederick, MD | Bill of Sale: Herman Greathouse of Frederick County, MD, farmer have sold, set over and delivered in Plane and Open Market one stear two yars olf this spring with a half crop on the off Ear and a slit in the near ear until James Walling of Frederick County, MD, having reserved one Pistole in hand therefore I do warnt & Defend the sade stear unto the said Warling. Witness my hand this 17 day of March 1752. | | |
| 1753, Oct 10 – Frederick, VA | Land: Herman Greathouse obtained land on the long bottom of the Potomac River, adjoining Wm. Bickerstaff prior to 10 Oct 1753. | | |
| 1753, Oct 10 – 1755, Mar 28 Frederick, VA | Survey: Herman Greathouse assignee of Thomas Hartley, warrantee; obtained a survey between 10 Oct 1753 – 28 Mar 1755; 275 acres where Hartley lives on long bottom of Potomac River; adjoining Greathouse, Wm. Bickerstaff. Chain carriers: Ezekial Rose & Henry Fraks Jr. Surveyor: Thomas Rutherford. | | |
| 1753, Oct 10 – 1755, Mar 28 Frederick, VA | Survey: Herman Greathouse assignee of Solomon Turpin of Frederick County, VA, warrantee; obtained a survey between 10 Oct 1753 – 28 Mar 1755; 249 acres where Turpin lives on long bottom of Potomac River; adjoining Thomas Rutherford. Chain carriers: | | |

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| | Ezekial Rose & Henry Fraks Jr. Surveyor: Thomas Rutherford. | | |
| 1754, Mar 18 – 1755, Mar 28 Frederick, VA | Chain carriers: Neills Friend & Herman Greathouse; for survey of John Friend, assignee of Neills Friend of Frederick County, VA; no warrant, date from survey 18 Mar. 1754 – 28 Mar 1755; 194 acres on Potomac River; adj. his own land, Neills Friend. Surveyor: Thomas Rutherford. | | |
| 1754, May 1 Hampshire, VA | Hampshire County was created by Virginia from Augusta and Frederick. | | |
| 1755, Oct 18 – Hampshire, VA | Land: Herman Greathouse of the Colony of Virginia, farmer to John Hildebrand of Frederick County, MD, Chestnut Spring, 50 acres. | | |
| 1757 – Frederick, MD | <p>Militia Service: Herman Greathouse served as a private for 5 days of service in Cpt. Joseph Chapline’s Company, Frederick County, MD Militia. This company was garrisoned at Fort Frederick in 1757.</p> <p>Question: Which Herman Greathouse served in Cpt. Joseph Chapline’s Company? Answer: Herman Greathouse who lived on long bottom of Potomac, adjoining Thomas Rutherford; William Bickerstaff; Col. Washington and John, Neills and Andrew Friend; appears to have served in Cpt. Joseph Chapline’s Company, because he was living in the neighborhood with Joseph Chapline at Sharpsburg, MD between 1749 and 1753. By 1757, Herman Greathouse was residing at present-day Paw Paw, then in Hampshire County, VA, which was located 43 miles west of Fort Frederick which is north of present-day Hedgesville, VA. This journey would have taken about two days by wagon.</p> | | |
| | | 1757 – 1758, Between Frederick, MD | Migration: Jacob Greathouse, son of Henry Grothaus, moved from Heidelberg, Berks County, PA along the Monocacy Road through Frederick, MD to Anson |

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| | | | County, NC, where he obtained a land patent for 200 acres along south west Pee Dee River on 1 Jul 1758. |
| | | 1759, Nov 21 – Baltimore, MD | <p>Land: Robert Marshall of Ann Arundle County to Herman Greathouse of Baltimore County, Herman's Valley, 10 acres, along Piney Falls, opposite present-day Marriottsville, MD.</p> <p>On 17 Jan 1792, in answer to complaint entered in court by John Elder, regarding Herman's Valley, Francis Snowden Esq. related that "Herman Greathouse Aged about Seventy five years" was duly sworn before him.</p> <p>A "Herman Greathouse aged about 75 years" in 1792, would have been born about 1717.</p> |
| | | 1759 – Baltimore, MD | Tax List: Herman Greathouse |
| | | 1760, Feb 6 – Baltimore, MD | Survey and Patent: Herman Greathouse obtained a survey and patent for Herman's Valley, 10 acres on 6 Feb 1760. |
| | | 1762 – Baltimore, MD | Tax List: Herman Greathouse |
| | | 1763 – Baltimore, MD | Tax List: Herman Greathouse, Delaware Hundred |
| | | 1763 – Baltimore, MD | Ordinary License: Herman Greathouse obtained an Ordinary license to operate a tavern at Herman's Valley, 10 acres. |
| 1765, Jul 23 – Frederick, VA | Survey: Herman Greathouse & William Bickerstaff, chain carriers; for survey of William McCracken, assignee of Herman Greathouse; no warrant, surveyed on 23 Jul 1765; 69 acres ca. 2 miles from Herman Greathouse on Potomac; adj. Col. Washington, Wm. Pursley. Surveyor: Richard Rigg. | 1765, Apr 20 – Baltimore, MD | Land: Benjamin Waygers of Baltimore County, planter, to Herman Greathouse, blacksmith of Baltimore County, part of Watson's Trust, 10 acres, lying in the Fork between the northern and western Falls of Patapsco River. |
| 1765, Sep 2 – 1766, Sep 1 Frederick, VA | Survey: Herman Greathouse, pilot; John Greathouse, chain carrier; for survey of Col. Richard Lee of Westmoreland County, VA, 110 acres adjoining his | | |

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| | own land, which was adjoining land of Herman Greathouse on the "long bottom of the Potomac". 2 Sep 1765 – 1 Sep 1766. | | |
| 1766, Sep 11 – Frederick, VA | Land: Herman Greathouse of Frederick County, VA obtained two land patents: Book N, Entry 207, 249 acres; Book N, Entry 208, 275 acres, both on Potomac River in Hampshire County, VA, adjoining Thomas Rutherford and William Bickerstaff. Surveyor: Thomas Rutherford. | 1766 – Baltimore, MD | Tax List: Herman Greathouse |
| | | 1768, May – Baltimore, MD | Petition: Son of Herman Greathouse, signed the English broadside of a petition to move the Courthouse from Joppa to Baltimore Town. |
| | | 1768 – Baltimore, MD | Tax List: Herman Greathouse |
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| | | 1769 – Baltimore, MD | Tax List: Herman Greathouse |
| | | 1770 – Baltimore, MD | Tax List: Herman Greathouse |
| | | 1771 – Baltimore, MD | Tax List: Herman Greathouse |
| 1772, Aug 10 – Hampshire, VA | Land: Herman & Mary Stull Greathouse of Hampshire County, VA, sold two tracts of land: Book N, Entry 207, 249 acres; Book N, Entry 208, 275 acres, both on Potomac River in Hampshire County, VA, adjoining Thomas Rutherford and William Bickerstaff, to Michael Cresap of Frederick County, MD. | | |
| 1773, Mar – West Augusta, VA | Land: Herman Greathouse made improvements on two [2] tracts of 400 acres each, along Harmon's Run, Yohogania County, VA in 1773. | | |
| 1776, Apr 1 - 1776, Oct 4 West Augusta, VA | Militia Service: Jesse served in Cpt. Jackman's Company, West Augusta, VA Militia as a guard at Fort Holiday's Cove in defense of Herman Greathouse & family, Ezekial Barnett & family, Cpt. Richey & family and several others for 6 months. He | | |

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| | entered service on 1 Apr 1776 and was discharged on 4 Oct 1776. | | |
| 1776, Nov 8 – Yohogania, VA | YOHOGANIA (extinct), created by Virginia from West Augusta District; YOHOGANIA (extinct), overlapped territory claimed by Pennsylvania in WESTMORELAND, WASHINGTON and FAYETTE. | | |
| | | 1778 – Baltimore, MD | Oath of Fidelity: Herman Greathouse was named on the Baltimore County, MD “Oath of Fidelity” lists. |
| 1780, Jan 22 – Yohogania, VA | Land: Herman Greathouse produced two certificates, from the Commissioners for adjusting claims for land in Monongalia, Ohio and Yohogania County, VA, for two tracts of land containing 400 acres each, along Harmon’s Run, including his settlement made in 1773. | | |
| | | 1783 – Baltimore, MD | Tax Assessment: Herman Greathouse, Watsons Trust, pt. 10 acres, BA Delaware Lower Hundred. Herman Greathouse, Harmons Valley, 10 acres, BA Delaware Lower Hundred. Herman Greathouse, name unknown, 50 acres, BA Delaware Lower Hundred. |
| | | 1783, May 26 – Baltimore, MD | Land: Herman Greathouse of Baltimore County, MD to John Elder of Baltimore County, MD. Harmons Valley, 10 acres. |
| | | 1783, Oct 30 – Frederick, MD | Land: Herman Greathouse of Baltimore County, MD, Blacksmith to Francis Snowden of Frederick County, MD, Farmer, part of Watson’s Trust, 10 acres. |
| 1783, Dec 11 – Yohogania, VA | Survey: Herman Greathouse obtained a survey based upon two certificates in right of settlement given by the commissioners for adjusting claims to unpatented lands in Monongalia, Ohio and Yohogania County, VA, for two tracts of land containing 400 acres each, for a total of 800 acres, along Harmon’s Run by survey bearing date 11 Dec 1783. | | |

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| <p>1784, Oct 30 – Yohogania, VA</p> | <p>Petition: Inhabitants residing near the Ohio River and frontiers of the States of Pennsylvania and Virginia desiring to locate lands across the Ohio River and praying for warrants to be issued signed a petition. Signers: Harmon Greathouse Sr. and Harmon Greathouse Jr.</p> | | |
| <p>1785, Oct – Ohio, VA</p> | <p>YOHOGANIA (extinct) lost all territory to OHIO (W.Va.); YOHOGANIA County eliminated.</p> | | |
| <p>1785, Oct – Ohio, VA</p> | <p>Tax Assessment: Herman Greathouse; males age 21 or over: 2.</p> | | |
| <p>1786 – Ohio, VA</p> | <p>Personal Property Tax List: Return of ?, Comm. Greathouse, Harman Sr.; white males age over 21: 2; cattle: 16; tax paid: 2 . 0 . 0.</p> | <p>1786, Jun 16 – Baltimore, MD; Philadelphia, PA</p> | <p>Land: Herman Greathouse of Baltimore County, MD to Christopher Yeakle of Philadelphia County, PA. “Whereas Henry Gratehouse late of Lancaster County Yeoman Father of the said Harman Greathouse ... Lawfully Seized ... during his life time ... a Certain Lot or Piece of Land situated in Springfield Township in the county of Montgomery (late the County of Philadelphia) ... Containing 6 acres ... Now this Indenture Witnesseth that the said Herman Gratehouse the Eldest Son of the said Deceased [Henry Gratehouse] for and in consideration of the Sum of Seven Pounds Seven Shilling and Six Pence in Gold and Silver Coin unto him in Hand well and truly paid by the said Christopher Yeakel ...”</p> |
| <p>1786, Oct 2 – Ohio, VA</p> | <p>Power of Attorney: Harmon & Mary Greathouse executed a deed, which was recorded in Ohio County, VA land records giving their power of attorney to Margaret (Stull) White, sister of Mary (Stull) Greathouse. It noted they were then residents of Ohio County, but preparing to move. This may have been executed for an inheritance at the death of the mother of the Stull sisters, or perhaps in anticipation of the eventual probate of the will of Isaac Stull, their youngest brother.</p> | | |

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| <p>1786, Nov 11 – Ohio, VA</p> | <p>Journal: John Mathews, apprentice surveyor, related in his journal on 11 Nov 1786: “Saturday, November 11th [1786] Being disappointed in my expectation of teach a school this winter, I went to Harman Greathouse, the father of my friend William. Here I found a number of the neighbors seated in a social glee around a heap of corn. The inspiring juice of rye had enlightened their imaginations, and given their tongues such an exact balance, that they moved with the greatest alacrity, while relating scenes of boxing, wrestling, hunting &c.</p> | | |
| <p>1787, Jun 13 – Ohio, VA</p> | <p>1787 - Personal Property Tax List: Return of Charles Wells, Comm. Greathouse, Harman; white males age 16-21: 1; horses: 6; cattle: 10.</p> | <p>1787, Jun 4 – Baltimore, MD</p> | <p>Land: Herman Greathouse of Baltimore County, MD right and title claim and demand of a bond giving to me by John Elder and John Towson for two hundred and fifty five Pounds in Gold or Silver bearing date 26 May 1783 and payable 26 May 1784 and action unto Lodwick Wampler. Witness my hand this 4th day of June 1787.</p> |
| <p>1788, Jul 11 – Ohio, VA</p> | <p>1788 - Personal Property Tax List: Return of Charles Wells, Comm. Greathouse, Harman; horses: 3.</p> | | |
| <p>1788, Aug 4 – Ohio, VA</p> | <p>Land: Herman & Mary Stull Greathouse sold their 800 acres, along Harmon’s Run, in Ohio County, VA in three parcels to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 195 acres including Cove Pond and part of Harmon’s Creek to their son Isaac Greathouse for L150. 2) 218 acres of land and a sawmill on Harmon’s Creek to their son Harmon Greathouse Jr. for L150. 3) 387 acres on both sides of Harmon’s Creek to their son Jonathan Greathouse for L200. <p>After these land transfers were completed, it appears that Herman & Mary Stull Greathouse either moved elsewhere or lived out the remainder of their</p> | | |

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| | lives in Ohio County, VA, perhaps at the farm of their son, John Greathouse, who resided there, until he moved to Brown County, OH in 1815. | | |
| | | 1788, Oct 19 – Frederick, MD | Communicants: |
| | | 1792, Jan 17 – Baltimore, MD | 1789 – Court: John Elder vs Herman Greathouse, Lodwick Wampler and others, in the deposition of Herman Greathouse, Francis Snowden Esq. related that “Herman Greathouse Aged about Seventy five years” who being duly sworn on the holy Evangelist of Almighty God deposeth and Saith his answer to the complaint filed by John Elder. |
| 1796, Sep 16 – Ohio, VA | Resurvey: Thomas Edgington, 935 acres along Harmon’s Creek. “Beginning at a three pronged Sycamore on the North bank of Harmans Creek a corner to Harman Greathouse deceased . | | |