

ABRAHAM WARTMAN

by Clara Snook

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There are two stories about the beginnings of my ancestor, Abraham Wartman.

The first claims he was born in Amsterdam, Holland in 1735, a fine looking cooper by trade. He married Christiana Wessenberg, the only child of Bartholdt Wessenberg of German-Bohemian extraction. Bartholdt was chair of astronomy at a German university. They eloped to the New World in 1758 and settled on the Susquehanna River near Tunkhannock near Scranton, PA. They had five boys (one died young) and three girls. They remained loyal to the king when war broke out. They left via Niagara Falls to Kingston Township where he received land.

The second seems a more viable story. Abraham Wartman was born in Germany in 1725 and came to America with his parents, Hans Adam and Elizabeth Wartman and a sister, Mary. They sailed from Rotterdam on *The Samuel* and docked in Philadelphia on August 16, 1731. They settled in New Hanover where his father helped build a stone Lutheran church in 1767.

Prior to 1756 Abraham had married Catherine Baumann/Bowman born in 1732 from Bacharach in West Germany, Rhineland Palatinate. The family settled along the Hudson River, then along the Mohawk Valley in Herkimer County, N.Y. Children born there were Adam and Peter. They took up land along the Susquehanna River. In the 7-8 years before the war Abraham built a house and barn, and cleared 24-30 acres of land. He had a mare, colt, a horse, a yoke of oxen, two heifers, sheep, hogs, furniture and utensils.

Abraham remained loyal to Britain. His sons Adam and Peter as well as Catherine's two brothers joined the Indian Department of the Butlers Rangers. Peter became a sergeant in the Rangers. Adam married in his 20s and was killed at his house in a skirmish. Adam's wife and younger children soon left their confiscated property. Abraham received his discharge from the army in 1780.

Abraham and Catherine with sons Peter, John, Barnabas and daughters, Susannah, Jerusha and Christianna came to Canada via New York by sea in 1783 in the ship *Camel* to Sorel and by bateau to Cataraqui. Abraham's lot was #10, Concession 1 on the lake. He saw rocks projecting out of the water into the lake and wanted that land. He built a log cabin and died three years later at age 62. Their son Peter and wife Eva Grass built the stone house now standing there.