

EMICH/EIGHMEY/AMEY FAMILY

by Sidney Eighmey

This story first appeared in *Cataraqui Loyalist Town Crier* 25(3):8 (May 2006).

My 6x-great-grandfather, Johan Nicholas Emich (later - Emigh, Eighmey, and in Canada - Amey) was born in Pfalz, Bavaria (then a part of the Palatinate) c 1686. In 1709 he emigrated to America with the first group of Palatines to arrive. They settled in the lower Hudson Valley, Province of New York in what are now the counties of Dutchess and Ulster. Johan chose the Beekman Tract in Dutchess county as his homestead. Shortly after arriving, he married Anna Katrina Mueller and in due time they produced a large family (the norm in those days) - six boys and several girls. The boys were John (Johannes), Philip, Lorentz, Johan Nicholas II, Hans Jury, and Hendrik. John (Johannes), Philip, and Hans Jury are the ones of primary interest here.

John became the father of Nicholas and Jonas Amey (they Anglicized the name) who later joined Major Edward Jessups' Loyal Rangers, serving as scouts and guides for British General John Burgoyne during the Revolution. After the War they settled in Ernestown, Ontario.

Philip, my 5x-great-grandfather, had sons Philip II (my 4x-great-grandfather), plus four other boys including Daniel. Daniel joined Captain Gideon's New York Company of Militia, fought with the Continental Army and was wounded in a battle at Buecker Hill, near New York City.

Hans Jury became a Captain in the Dutchess County Militia (he was in his forties then). When hostilities began, Captain Hans was ordered (by the Continental Congress) to bring his Company into the fray - he refused as he had little enthusiasm for the "cause" and was replaced (service was voluntary back then so no court martial). Nevertheless, Hans was awarded land by the U.S. Government after the War for service in the Militia.

So there you have my ancestors. Old Johan Nicholas produced two grandsons that believed and fought for the Loyalist cause, one that fought with the Continental Army and a son that refused to order his militia to battle. Loyalists, Revolutionist, Rebel.