

JOHN WEES, UE
by Jim Long

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John, the son of James was born in 1742 in the British colony of New York Province. By 1769 he was living in Albany County, New York. On July 11, 1769, he married Mary Rees (Maritje Reisch) in the Albany First Dutch Reform Church. Their first five children were baptized at this church in Albany:

1. Susanna born January 10, 1770 to parents Hannes Wiesch & Marjnitje Riesch. Sponsor Jacob & Elisabeth Van Woert
2. David born August 23, 1771 to parents Hannes Wiesch & Marjnitje Riesch Sponsor Johs & Elisabeth Fryer
3. Johannes born September 15, 1773 to parents Hannea Wiesch & Maria Riesch. Sponsor Guy Young & Dinkje Winne
4. Helena 1776 to parents Hannes Wiesch & Marytje. Sponsor Edward Davis & Lally Bell
5. Petrus born February 22, 1778 to parents Johs Wiesch & Maria Rees. Sponsor John & Maria Think

Other children from the book *Loyalist Lineage* are Ann Jerany, William, Elizabeth and Mary. It was noted that John was a tenant farmer west of Pownall (now in Vermont).

John Wiesch and his wife were members of the Albany Dutch Reform Church whose Dominie (Minister) was a warm supporter of the American cause for independence. During the war, he offered daily prayers for safety and victory. He often ministered directly to the troops. This did not stop John from joining the "Jessup Loyal Rangers" in 1780. He served in the 10th Company under Captain Thomas Fraser. John was forty years old and stood 5 foot 8 inches tall. His origin was America.

John was in Lachine, Quebec with his wife and six children by 1782. In 1783 the first registered deeds of Ernestown Township show John Wees granted part of lot 1 and all of lot 8, concession 5. In the 1784 Provisioning List of disbanded troops we find John Wiest with his wife, two boys over 10 years old, two boys under 10 years old, two girls over 10 years old, and one girl under 10 years old. Total in family was nine receiving a ration of 7 ½ per day. The Weese family had two acres cleared. His Regiment Lieut. Henry Simmons from Jessup's Loyal Ranger signed this provisioning List.

On a Muster roll of Loyalists in 1785 at Township No. 2 above Cataraqui (Ernestown) we found John Wiest as number #569 on the muster roll.

In 1786 the Provisioning List at the Second Township above Cataraqui (Ernestown) showed John Wiest and his wife with two sons over 10 years and two sons under 10 years. It also shows two daughters over 10 years and two daughters under ten years for a total of 10 people. A total of eight full rations were given out. Signed by Lt. Henry Simmons and certified by Neil McLean, Department Inspector of Loyalists.

In 1795 Lt. Gov. Simcoe, first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, had local justices of the peace to make up rolls of U.E. settlers in Upper Canada. We find in Ernestown Township #3174 to #3176 John Wist and his sons David and John Jr.

In the records of the Court of Quarter sessions held at Adolphustown, January 24, 1797, the following jurors were excused from serving in the future on account of their age. The men were John Cook, John Wees, and Ruloff Ostrum.

On May 24th, 1815, John Wees made his last will and testament as his health started to fail. In his will it states "John Wees of Ernestown County of Addington in the Province of Upper Canada a yeoman and being sick and weak in body but perfect in mind and memory". In the will John gave his son David Wees lot number eleven in the seventh concession of Ernestown Township containing two hundred acres of land.

John Wees died in early 1816 and Mary Rees Wees was still living after 1816. It is believed that John and his wife, Mary are buried on their farm Lot 1 Concession 5 in Ernestown Township, Lennox and Addington county.