

KAST-McGINNIS-McLEOD-BLACKLOCK-EVANS

by Catherine Evans

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Johanne Jorg Kast, born 1679 in the Palatinate, sailed with his wife Anna and their four children from Amsterdam in 1705. That winter they spent outside London in tents, waiting for passage to New York under the emigration scheme planned by Queen Anne of England.

In the New York Colony, these Palatinate refugees cut spruce for the ships of the British Navy. At the end of one year, they had repaid their fare. They were interested in farming and were granted 1100 acres of land at German Flats (Herkimer), New York. There, their daughter, Sarah, was born in 1713.

Sarah married a fur trader, Timothy McGinnis, who owned 26,000 acres of land near the Canada Creeks, which he is purported to have bought from the Indians. He was killed at the battle of Lake George in 1755 during the French Indian Wars. Sarah, her son George, and daughter moved to Oswego, Albany, Carlton Island, Montreal, Cataraqui, then Amherst Island. Since they had lived near the Six Nation Reserve, Sarah had learned the Mohawk dialect. She acted as an interpreter for the British against the Americans during the Revolution (see "A Tale of Loyalist Heroism" by H.C. Burleigh, *Ontario History*, XIII No.2:91-99, 1950). Her son George was a Lieutenant in the Indian Affairs Department. He was granted 200 acres of land on Amherst Island. When each of his children reached the age of 21, they too received 200 acres of land.

One of George's children, Catherine (b. 1795) married George McLeod (1798-1874) and they settled in Portsmouth. Their son, Alexander, married Frances Vosburgh (also of U.E. descent). They had a daughter, Catherine (Blacklock) (1860-1940) who was my grandmother.