

Martin Fralick U.E. 1720 – 1810

Martin Fralick was born around the 1720s in New York Province. In the book *Loyalist Lineages* it states he was born in Wittenburg, Prussia. But we still believe his parents to be Stephan and Elizabeth Frolich who came from the State of Wurttemberg in 1709 to North America. (In his book *Like Rabbits in Ernestown*, the late Russ W. Waller mentions Stephan as Martin's father.) So it is believed that Martin was born in Rhinebeck or Hudson, New York, which was part of Livingston Manor in 1720.

Martin married Anna Maria Hagedorn, which was found in records in the St. Peter's Lutheran Church family List. Anna Maria was the daughter of Johann Peter Hagedorn and wife Anna Barbara Mentgen who were Palatines from the State of Hesse in Europe.

From the Rhinebeck tax list we find Martin paid taxes in the year Feb. 1755 to Feb. 1756. We believe Martin had a small farm between Rhinebeck and Hudson on the Hudson River. His mother joined the Rhinebeck Reform Lutheran church in 1761 after moving across the Hudson River from West Camp area to be closer to family as she grew older.

Martin and Anna Maria baptized their son Peter in 1758 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Rhinebeck and the sponsors were Anna Maria's father and mother Peter and Anna Barbara Hagedorn. The minister was Rev. John F. Ries. On April 12, 1764 Martin and Anna Maria had a child named Christoffer. This was found in the book *Genealogies of the First Settlers of Albany New York*.

In all Martin and Anna Maria had six boys and one daughter. Records in the Rhinebeck old German Lutheran Reformed Church shows that they were already married in 1756.

Their children were:

- (1) Jacob married Hannah Smith. He was born 1756 and died 1813. Buried Ebenezer Lutheran Church Cemetery at Big Creek, Fredericksburg Township in Lennox & Addington County.
- (2) Ludurg (Lewis) married Emma Jemima Morris. Born 1752 & buried in Ebenezer Lutheran Church cemetery.
- (3) Hannah married John W. Clement.
- (4) John married Lydia Gordanier. Born 1767.
- (5) Peter baptized in 1758 and married Ruth. Found St. Peter's Lutheran Church Rhinebeck
- (6) Christopher was born April 12, 1764 and married Catharine Smith,
- (7) Zachariah married Magdalena.

During the American Revolutionary War, Martin Frolog remained neutral. But he was a very good friend with Hans Walmeyer (or Captain John Walden Mayers U.E.) who was also from Palatine descent. Hans recruited Martin into the Loyal Blockhouse Brigade. This brigade was a secret band in the King's service as spies, scouts, carrier of dispatches and provided safe houses for British agents during the American Revolution.

In the book *Hans Walmeyer* by Jane Goddard it states in John Meyers notes he mentions Martin Fralick on March 10th 1782. He refers to Martin as an intimate friend and fellow agent of

Meyers upon whom trust is placed. And he is employed by him at this time to collect information and to communicate with one John Roff in Albany, who has promised to collect newspapers and every intelligence in his power.

Captain John Meyers also wrote in 1782 about Martin Fralick that in the past two years, he has proved to be Captain Meyer's most reliable contact in Albany. Despite the loss of all his worldly goods for his known pro-Loyalist leanings and a stay of three months in the infamous Albany gaol, Freleigh has otherwise managed to successfully cover his activities as a spy in their midst. Otherwise he would surely have met death by now.

On page 186 in the Han Walthimeyer book it mentions that Freleigh received secret letters regularly from Dr. Smyth at St. John's, Quebec, and from Capt. John Meyers, and these he conveys to Captain Roff in Albany and he also conveys letters from Captain Roff to New York City. Upon occasion, he conveys letters from Captain Roff and the New York City authorities all the way up to St. John's under his own expense. John Meyers considered Martin Freleigh to be one of the most skilled spies and preferred to work with him.

On May 29th 1782, Dr. Smyth writes to Captain Matthews from St. John's, Quebec concerning the plans of agents in New York province. It states "Captain Meyers has communicated to me his plan for procuring intelligence and I approve of it much and certain that through Roff, John MacDonald, George Kinnear, Mr. E, and Freleigh everything we wish can be obtained from Albany, the Mohawk River, Claverack, Fishkill, West Point, East "

It is mentioned in the minutes of meeting Commission for Conspiracies State of New York 1778 – 1781 that Martin and his son Jacob are being fined and warned to keep the peace and do their military duty.

After the war was over Martin and his family stayed in New York State for four years before applying for land in Upper Canada. How he could stay in New York State after helping the British so much is not very clear. Martin and his family came to Canada in 1792 and settled in Ernestown Township south east of Napanee.

Martin applied for seven hundred acres of land on Jan. 20th 1790. In this petition to his Excellency John Graves Simcoe, Lieutenant Governor, Commander in Chief of the Province of Upper Canada he received only Two Hundred acres. These late Loyalist were called Simcoe Loyalist because they arrived late after 1791 in response to Lieutenant Governor Simcoe's Proclamation.

After coming to Canada Martin was summoned to jury duty on April 14th, 1795 in the case The King on the prosecution of Francis Carle vs. John Ferguson on assault charges. Martin was on a twelve man jury which found Mr. Ferguson guilty of assault.

Martin re-applied in June 20, 1796, an order in council stating that he had applied for seven hundred acres, but only received two hundred acres. He was asking for the additional five hundred acres.

Then on Oct. 11th, 1797 Martin applied for a land grant for his wife in the Midland District (which would include Ernestown – Napanee area). The request was for fifty acres.

After his original grant he received the following land in Ernestown Township:

- (1) Concession 3 Lot 3 (back $\frac{3}{4}$) grant # 1804
- (2) Concession 3 Lot 4 (south $\frac{1}{2}$) grant # 1802
- (3) Concession 4 Lot 8 (north $\frac{1}{2}$) grant # 1798
- (4) Concession 5 Lot 2 (west $\frac{1}{2}$) grant # 1803
- (5) Concession 3 Lot 3 (south $\frac{1}{2}$) grant # 1803

Martin was also given land in Sidney Township on the 3rd Concession Lot 35. He also received land in Hungerford Township 5th Concession Lot 26 and 27. This land was definitely land that was given to Martin by the government of Upper Canada with pull from Captain Walden Meyers who settled in Sidney Township and received a lot of land in Hastings County.

It's funny but Martin was still in the first census of the State of New York for 1790. Martin and his sons are all listed on the census, which means he was getting a lot of pressure from the Americans to leave the country. Also the Lutheran Church records in Ernestown first mention of Martin and his family is in 1794. In the Old United Empire Loyalist list it describes Martin Freligh of Midland district and that he was employed during the revolution in the secret service. In the National Archives of Canada the Upper Canada District Loyalist Rolls is found with Martin Freliegh name and the number 3976 beside it. This was an identification number. Martin's son never made it on the United Empire Loyalist list. There is no doubt that his sons were on the British side but did not join a regiment. Martin and his wife settled in Ernestown Township in late 1792 and created a small farm.

Martin also helped start the Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Fredericksburg. Martin was an elder and one who presented a petition to the first quarter session of municipal government at Adolphustown for a licensed minister to perform marriages. The petition was written on April 24, 1796 recommending the Lutheran minister John G. Wegant as their new minister. Martin and his sons Jacob and Peter are mentioned among twenty-one people who were communicants or members of St. Ebenezer Lutheran Evangelical Church in 1796.

Martin and Ann Maria attended a lot of baptismal ceremonies for their grandchildren while attending Ebenezer Lutheran Church. Here is a list of baptismal ceremonies for which Martin and Ann Maria were sponsors:

- (a) Infant John L. Frolick baptized Jan. 23rd, 1794 parents Christopher and Catharina Frolick. The sponsors were Martin and Ann Maria Frolick.
- (b) Infant Anne Frolick baptized Oct. 28th, 1798 parents Lydia and John Frolick. The sponsors were Martin and Ann Maria Frolick.
- (c) Infant Jacob Frolick baptized Sept. 19th, 1799 son of Anna and Jacob Frolick. Sponsors were Martin and Ann Maria Frolick.
- (d) Infant Hiram Fralig baptized January 29th, 1805 son of Jemima and Ludewick Fralig.

On April 26th, 1798 Martin was again summoned to be on a jury in the case of John Hart for damages done by making a road through his improved ground. The verdict was the Township pay the sum of five pounds due to John Hart.

With all this information we know that both Martin and Ann Maria were both alive in 1805.

In January 1809 Martin made a will because of ill health. He had Jacob, Peter, and John Fralig as executors of the will. We believe he died in 1812 and both he and his wife are buried at Ebenezer Lutheran Church cemetery in North Fredericksburg Township.

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