

RANCIER-RANSIER FAMILY

by Jean Rancier Carson, UE

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Andres Rantzir, presumably born in Germany in 1731, was married to Agnes (Nenny, Nenjie, Anna) whose maiden surname, birth and death dates are unknown. The baptism records of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Schoharie, provide data for most of their eleven children. Sons George, Johannes (John), Joseph and Wilhelm (William) were involved in the War of Independence along with their father, Andres.

During 1760-1767, Andres Rantzir served with the American Army in Stephen Schuyler's and Starerbergh's Companies, and Dutchess County Militia. Turning Loyalist, he served as 'Andrew Ransier' in 6th Battalion of New Jersey Volunteers and Queen's American Rangers from 1777 until 1783. His U.E.L. grant was Lot 160, Niagara, and Lot 2 of Concession 5 of the first map of Clinton Township, Niagara District. Andres' date of death was 1789, and his grave is unlocated.

Andres' oldest son, George, born in 1752, married Elisabeth Coon in 1776 in Schoharie, N.Y. He joined the British forces, leading to confiscation of his N.Y State property. His daughter Rebecca told of harsh treatment by the rebels. During 1778-1783 George served with both Butler's and George Dames's Companies of Rangers at Niagara. George's U.E.L. land grant was Lots 5 and 6, Concession 5, Clinton Township, Niagara District. In 1804 he was listed as a Captain in the Second Lincoln Regiment. George died after 1804, probably in Grimsby, Ont.

Andres' second son, Johannes (John), born on May 19, 1755, fought in the American Army for the war's duration. From 1777 until 1783 he was with Col. Gose Van Schaick's 6th Company, First N.Y. Regiment and Baron Steuben's Guard, serving at many locations. John married Eva Dietz in 1784 at Schoharie, later moving to Rensselaerville, N. Y. He received 600 acres of military Bounty Land at Pompey, N.Y. and owned land elsewhere in N.Y. About 1811 he joined family in Canada, and in 1819 applied for land at Grantham, Ont. as the son of U.E.L. Andrew (Andres). Due to his U.S. war record, he received a U.S. pension until 1839, presumed date of death.

Records for Joseph, born in 1761, fourth son of Andres, indicate his service in George Dame's Company, Corps of Rangers at Niagara, 30 November 1783. Aged 22, he was identified as younger brother of George Ransier. Joseph's birth date was unrecorded at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Schoharie, but the above records indicate a 1761 birthdate. No records of land applications for Joseph have been found. There are no records of a marriage, but two children are presumed for him. Some believe that he may have settled in Kingston, Ont., as these children made their homes in and close to Kingston.

The author's great-great-grandfather, Wilhelm (William) Ransier, born on July 23, 1759, third son of Andres, served in the American Army from Oct. 1776 until Aug. 1777 in Col. Gose Van Schaick's 6th Company (a.k.a. Capt. Andrew Frinck's Company) along with older brother, Johannes (John). Unlike John, Wilhelm (William), deserted and joined Sir John Johnson's King's

Royal Regiment of New York after making his way north to Montreal. It is considered likely that his service was spent working on fortifications at Montreal and/or nearby posts.

William's 1784 U.E.L. land grant was in Township No. 1, 4th concession, in the Cataraqui area of Kingston. On June 6, 1793, William married widow Elizabeth Babcock McFarlane. After 1797 William was granted Lot 17, Conc. 3, Kingston Township and Lots 15 and 16, Conc. 4. His wife Elizabeth Babcock McFarlane Ransier was granted 200 acres on November 17, 1797 as daughter of U.E.L. Benjamin Babcock of Orange County, who died a soldier in His Majesty's service.

William owned other land, including Lot 20, Conc. 1, Storrington, and property held jointly with Jno Stuart, Micah Purdy, and Samuel Babcock. William, his wife and three children were shown in Portland Township, in the first census of Frontenac County in 1819. William died in 1834 at age 74 at Loughborough. His burial place has not been ascertained. William and Elizabeth had six children who lived in the Kingston area, most of whom applied for U.E.L. land grants.

Their fifth child, George Ransier, born in 1805, was the author's great-grandfather. His wife, Jane Milligan, was born in 1798 in County Armagh, Ireland. George petitioned for land in 1826. The 1851 census records George as farming on Lot 7, Concession 9, Storrington Township, Frontenac. The 1871 census shows him as owner of 100 acres at Lot 19, Concession 11. Jane died on January 14, 1867, and George died on September 30, 1871. Both are both buried in Sand Hill Cemetery, Battersea, Ontario.

This article is based on research by many family historians including Esther Rancier, Ronald Rancier, Shireen and Norman Rancier U.E., Hanlan Hutcheson, Lawrence Snell U.E. and Jean Rancier Carson U.E. Bibliographies exist.