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Aaron Sussell

Ardis Sussell

Family of Jurien/George Waldemeier and Margaretha Bardin, parents of John Walden Meyers

The trail that led me to my ancestors in the Bay of Quinte area began with my maternal grandfather, who was orphaned at age thirteen. He often told me that his maternal grandparents were born in Canada--the grandfather of Scotch origin and the grandmother of Dutch. He knew nothing more, and "Canada" covers a large area!

The trail led me first to the Hudson River Valley in New York, then to Hastings Co., Ontario, Canada, and John Walden Meyers, the Loyalist spy. After many years of searching, an hour and twenty minutes at the Archives in Toronto gave me the clue that proved the relationship--a quit-claim deed in the land registry office at Chatham, Kent Co., Ontario. It also proved the link to Peter Van Alstyne, another Loyalist, who settled at Adolphus-town. Peter's daughter, Alida, had married John's son, George. The "Dutch" grandmother proved to be part Dutch and part German. Their daughter, Alida/Ella, had married George Westfall, and it was their estate that was being settled in Kent Co., Ontario.

John Walden Meyers was born 24 February and baptised 24 March 1745, as Johannes Waldemeier at St. Paul's (Zion's) Lutheran Church of Red Hook, Dutchess Co., New York. Some references give a different baptismal date, and say he was baptised at the Dutch Reformed Church at Albany, New York, but there is no such record in the church records at Albany. Other references say he was born in Prussia, but I doubt that. Perhaps his parents were from Prussia, but I suspect they were Palatines, as they lived in a community of Palatines. John grew up in a German community, where church services and records were in German, and where the whole community probably spoke German, which would account for the strong German accent that family tradition remembers.

His parents were Jurien/George Waldemeier and Margaretha Bard. (Baptismal records for her children have given her name as Pardin/Rardin/Bardin--not very legible, but a German researcher feels the name is Bard, a fairly common German name. The "-in" on the end of a name signifies "female".) I believe George had sisters, and perhaps a brother, in the area also, but much more research is needed to prove these, so I will not name them here.

George and Margaretha had five sons and three daughters. John was the oldest, and is the only one whose family will be traced in this volume, except for the oldest son of his sister, Elizabeth, who joined his uncle in the Hastings Co., area and settled in Ameliasburgh, Prince Edward Co., Ontario. The children were:

- Johannes/Hans Waldemeier (He became John Walden Meyers.)
- Elizabeth Waldemeier bapt. 8 April 1747 at Rhinebeck St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Dutchess Co., NY
- Johan George Waldemeier, Jr. bapt. 11 June 1749 at Rhinebeck St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Dutchess Co., NY
- Catherine Waldemeier bapt. 26 July 1752 at Rhinebeck St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Dutchess Co., NY
- Jacob Waldemeier bapt. 21 July 1754 at Rhinebeck Reformed Church, Dutchess Co., NY
- Barbara Waldemeier b. ca. 1755-6. (I have found no bapt. rec. for her, but she is mentioned as a daughter in her father's will.)
- Michael Waldemeier b. ca. 1757-8. (I have found no bapt. rec. for him, but he is mentioned as a son in his father's will.)
- David Waldemeier b. 29 December 1762; bapt. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Wurtemberg, Dutchess Co., NY

On 3 May 1755 George became a naturalized citizen. Under English law at the time, a person couldn't hold land if he was an alien, so naturalization was made possible by a special act of parliament.

At the first Federal Census in 1790, George was living in Washington Town, Dutchess Co., NY. At the time of his death he owned land in Little Nine Partners, Dutchess Co., NY.

His will was dated 11 April 1796. He died 25 July 1796 and is buried a few feet from the wall of the church in the churchyard of Rhinebeck St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Wurtemberg in Dutchess Co., NY. This church had been organized by a group of Palatines in 1760, in time for George and Margaretha's last child to be baptised there.

The will, proved 10 September 1796, is rather long, but I will include it here, as it names his children and what each is to receive.

"In the name of God Amen I George Waltemyer of the Town of Washington in Dutchess County State of New York being in a low state of health but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be to God for the same, do make and ordain this my last will and testament, that is to say, First of all, I give and recommand my soul into the hands of Almighty God who give it me, and my body to the earth to be buried in a decent manner and as touching that worldly estate, wherewith it has pleased God to bless me with I give, devise and dispose of the same in the following manner First I give unto my beloved wife the sum of one hundred pounds to be paid unto her at four different payments the sum of twenty five pounds one year after my decease and so on yearly the like sum of twenty five pounds till the whole is paid to her, her heirs and assigns forever I also give my said wife the west upper room in my now dwelling house, and the celler kitchen and ? teen bushels of good winter wheat, four bushels of Indian corn, one hundred weight of good (corn?) fed pork one hundred weight of good beef, Twenty pounds of flax, eight pounds of sheep (wool?), four barrels of good syder, four barrels of good winter apples and sufficient fire wood ready cut at the door and two milk cows which my son David shall find good-keeping winter and summer. And also that my son David shall pay the above articles to my said wife yearly and every year excepting the one hundred pounds which is to be paid by my executors. I also give to my said wife the choice of two bedsteads beds and all the (fur?)niture thereunto belonging.

I also give unto my son Johannis the sum of two hundred and forty pounds to be paid by my executors hereafter named within one year and a half after my decease to him his heirs and assigns forever I also give to my son George all the land he has now in possession of mine eastward from his house the breath (sic) of the field at the east end westerly to the south side of my madow (sic) where an old barrack stands to the south west corner of said madow thence a due North line to Nathan Cases land to him his heirs and assigns for ever he the said George paying therefore to my executors the sum of fifty pounds I also give unto my son Jacob the sum of one hundred and sixty pounds to be paid unto him by my executors within one and a half year after my decease I also give unto my son Micall all the lands and buildings with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging now in his possession in the upper or little nine partners to him his heirs and assigns forever/ he paying therefore to my executors the sum of fifty pounds, I also give to my David my old homestead farm with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging to him his heirs and assigns for ever, he paying therefore unto my executors the sum of four hundred pounds current lawful money of the State of New York—that is to say the sum of one hundred pounds one year after my decease and the like sum of one hundred pounds

two years after my decease, and the sum of two hundred pounds after the decease of my said wife my old homestead from which I have given to my son David is all the land I own in the great or lower nine partners that which is not willed to my son George it is also my will that my son David shall have a free passage to the South part of the lands I have willed to my son George, I also give to my daughter Elizabeth Garritt the sum of two hundred and fifty pounds to be paid unto her by my executors two years after my decease, her heirs and assigns forever also. I also give unto my daughter Catharine Teel the sum of two hundred and forty five pounds to her her heirs and assigns for ever to be paid by my executors two years after my decease, I also give unto my daughter Barbara Coonley the sum of one hundred and twenty pounds her heirs and assigns for ever to be paid by my executors within two years after my decease. I also will and ordain that my executors shall pay unto the Trustees of the Lutheran Church in the Wittenburg the sum of ten pounds, for the promoting of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in that place It is also my will that my son George shall have my great German Bible his heirs and assigns for ever also Lastly I give all the residue and remainder of my estate of kind so ever it may be after my executors are satisfied and paid for their trouble to be equally divided amongst all my children to each of them an equal share and share alike their heirs and assigns for ever. I likewise make and ordain my good friend William Cash and my son George Waltmyer executors of this my last will and testament In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this eleventh day of Aprill in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety six (Name signed in German script)

Witnesses were Nathaniel Chees(man?), Everardus Bogardus, and Philip Bogardus.

(I have tried to copy it just as it was written-a few misspelled words and few punctuation marks.)