

Rewalt: Bi-Centennial Patriot

by Thelma Burton Bootes
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Did you know there are many descendants of a Revolutionary soldier who took part in the battles of Bunker Hill, White Plains, Trenton and was near Yorktown at Cornwallis surrender?

Some of the descendants of Capt. John Rewalt, (1755-1822) living in Yates county are the William Aspell family of Milo Center, Catherine Aspell Spencer and her sister, Mary Sumner, the Philip Ogden family, and descendants of the Depew, Legg, Owens and Hollowell families.

Capt. John Rewalt was born in Pennsylvania May 15, 1755 and died in Yates county Feb. 16, 1822, buried in Lakeview cemetery. He married in Lebanon, Pa., Ann McMahon Mar. 19, 1778, also buried in same cemetery. On the tombstones evidently erected by the family is the inscription: GENERAL JOHN RAWALT, Died Feb. 16, 1821 in the 66th. year of His age. On the U.S. Gov't Bronze marker is the inscription: JOHN S. RAWALT, PENNSYLVANIA, Capt. 1 BN Lancaster Co. Mil., Revolutionary War, May 15, 1755-Feb. 16, 1822. This marker placed by the American Legion of Yates county. His wife ANN, inscription is: Ann, wife of John

Rewalt, Died Feb. 28, 1848, Aged 89 y'rs & 11 m's. Also buried on the same lot are their children: Peter Rawalt (1800-1838), Benjamin (1793-1827) and George (1785-1810).

Capt. John Rewalt enlisted at Lebanon, Pa. in 1775 and served in Col. Thompson's Battalion of Riflemen arched to Boston and took part in the battle of Bunker Hill. He also served as a Deputy Wagon master general under Quartermaster General Robert Patton. His children were: John Jr. born in 1780 in Cumberland Co., Pa. died in 1886, married Elizabeth Yocum, (1778-1862) daughter of Jonas Yocum who came with a group of settlers from Northumberland co., Pa., George Rawalt, (1786-1810); Mary Rawalt, (1789-1875) married Jesse Alford, and second Melatiah Lawrence 1814 and their daughter married D.A. Ogden; Elizabeth Rawalt, (1791-1868) married Emory Legg who died in 1855; Benjamin Rawalt, (1793-1827) married Julia Owen, daughter of Terry Owen, of Milo Center, they had four children, she married Luther Spooner, and had one son Allen Spooner; Hannah Rawalt married Samuel Depew, Samuel a probable descendant of Nicholas DePuis (dePuy) who died in 1691, a French Huguenot who came to America in 1652/62 and settled at New Amsterdam. Descendants of Nicholas

DePuis are eligible for the Huguenot society; Peter Rawalt married Ann Hollowell and their daughter Mary J. married John C. Clark of Milo, Eleanor Clark married Henry A. Ansley, son of William Ansley who lived in Potter in the 1860's. They had three children namely Albert, Ellen and William Ansley.

After Peter Rawalt died, Ann married John Havens of Bradford, and they had a son, George Havens.

The British evacuated Boston in March 1776, and then Gen. Washington ordered five regiments to march to New York including Pa. and Va. riflemen. The Declaration of Independence was issued July 4, 1776, and John served six months in 1776 as sergeant, and Oct. 17, 1776, he was a first lieut. Rewalt was in Northumberland Co., Pa. in 1790. He was living in the town of Benton in 1810 with his wife and five boys and two girls. In 1818 Capt. Rawalt went to Geneva, to file his Revolutionary claim, taking all the necessary papers, discharge and commission papers. They were delivered to Aaron Remer to forward to proper authorities, but he lost the papers. In December 1820/21 he made a statement and turned his papers he had left to Mr. Phelps, surrogate of Ontario county, who later moved to Illinois without any action taken. As he died in 1821/22 his family were never able to recover the papers. His widow Ann McMahon received a pension of \$480 per annum in 1839, she lived near the families of her daughters, Mary Alford Lawrence, Elizabeth Legg and Hannah Depew.

The only personal belonging of John Rewalt known to have been preserved is a Colt Revolver, No. 110,783, made in 1678, which was given to John Jr., then Jonas, and then to Benjamin Rawalt, who passed it to his son Charles T. Rawalt of Colorado, and then to his grandson, Vern Parks, Rawalt, Jr. of Chadron, Neb.

Here we have the story of a soldier who saw service during Boston, White Plains, Long Island, and Yorktown. Castle Dains, also a soldier and pensioner who was a mechanic assigned to repair the wagons, affirmed that he saw John Rawalt at White Plains, serving as a wagonmaster and that army crossed over into New Jersey. Probably, Castle Dains and John had many interesting talks after the war as they both lived in the town of Milo.

Bibliography: Desc. of Capt. John Rawalt by Margurite Rawalt, Arlington, Va., historian, Hist. of Yates Co. Ny by S. C. Cleveland Vol. 1, pp 696, 700, 737, 733, 745. Gu-Ya-No-Ga chapter DAR records, Dar Patriot Index, Records of Mrs. Catherine Aspell Spencer.

Meade Joins Board of Taylor Wine Co.

Joseph F. Meade Jr., president of Mercury Aircraft Inc. of Hammondsport, has been elected a member of the Board of Directors of The Taylor Wine Company, Inc.

Meade, 54, is also president of Mercury Minnesota Inc. of Faribault, Minn. and chairman of the board of the

Atlas Metal Industries of Miami, Fla.

He has been active in community organizations in the Hammondsport and Bath areas. He is president of the board of the Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital in Bath and serves on the Boards of Directors of the Bath National Bank, the Glenn Curtiss Air Museum in Hammondsport and the Bath and Hammondsport Railroad Company. He is past president of the Hammondsport Rotary Club and was formerly a director of the Davenport Home for Orphan Girls in Bath and the Reginald Wood Memorial to Scouting in Hammondsport.

He is a graduate of Hammondsport High School, Alfred University and the U.S. Navy Flight Engineer School. He earned the Silver Star while serving with the U.S. Navy in the Pacific during World War II. Meade is Past Chapter Chairman and founding member of the Young Presidents Organization, New York Empire Chapter.

He and his wife, Helen, have three children, Marcia, Joseph III and David.

Carnival Glass Convention Slated

The American Carnival Glass Association will hold its 11th annual convention at the Holiday Inn, Ithaca, on July 29, 30 and 31. The Colors in Carnival Glass Club of Western New York State is the local sponsoring club.

A panel of experts will be available to inform and assist the new and small carnival glass collectors, also, the advanced collector. There will be a free service to verify and estimate the value of pieces brought to the convention. And, an exhibit of antique carnival glass will be on public display.