

Palatine Family History of Adam Haines and 2009 Family Gathering

On August 15th many of the descendants of Elizabeth (Froelich) Haines/Heins (1754-1837) and Adam Haines/Heins (1749-1814) celebrated the 225th anniversary of the Adam receiving his Crown grant and the Haines/Haynes family settling in what is now St. Catharines, Ontario. Like many of Butler Ranger's families who settled in Niagara, both Elizabeth and Adam were grandchildren of German Palatine refugees --Anna Appollonia (nee Rappen) and Johan "Valentin" Froelich; and, Maria Appollonia & Urbanus Heintz (or Heinz) respectively.

Our celebration started at the Haynes Cemetery (circa 1788-1861) on the old homestead by holding a consecration ceremony officiated by the Rev. Canon Rob Fead of St. George's Anglican Church. We were honoured by the presence of our M. P., Rick Dykstra, our M.L.A. and Minister of Transportation, Jim Bradley, and our City Councillor, Heather Foss, who was acting on behalf of the Mayor. After they delivered their speeches, the plant of a tulip tree at the site. Later we held a potluck family reunion, with family members attending from as far away as Virginia, Washington, D.C. and British Columbia.



The Rev. Canon Rob Fead

While many people know of the contributions made by the Loyalists and their descendants to the settlement of Canada, fewer know that many of Loyalist refugees who settled in the Niagara Peninsula were the children and grandchildren of another mass exodus of refugees in 1709-1710.



Planting the tulip tree: (L to R) Rick Dykstra M.P., Councillor Heather Foss & Ontario Transport Minister Jim Bradley.



Behind heritage plaque: (L to R) Minister Jim Bradley, Rick Dykstra M.P. & Councillor Foss

Mass Exodus From the Palatine (Pflaz)

In 1708 Queen Anne of England sent land agents to the Palatinat (Pflaz) region of Germany advertising her willingness to accept Protestant German refugees as colonists for Ireland and her North American domains, a few hundred sailed down the Rhine to Rotterdam and thence England. The winter of 1708/09 was particularly hard, so that when word of the generous treatment of the emigrants got back to the Palatinat, the scene was set for mass exodus. In the spring some 7,000 Palatinat refugees reached Rotterdam and camped outside the city. By the summer Dutch authorities estimated a thousand were arriving each week. By July 1709 upwards of 32,000 refugees were transported from the port of Brielle to London. Camping out along the Thames in makeshift tents, several thousand died of starvation and exposure. Between Dec. 25th and 29th, 1709, approximately 3,000 Palatinat refugees were packed into 10 ships bound for New York. Though the ships didn't sail until April, the refugees weren't allowed on deck.

The Promised Land Delayed

When the last of the ships finally unload in New York City in August of 1710, an estimated 500 had died. After disembarking, the 2,500 Palatine refugees were encamped on Nutten Island (now Governor's Island) in New York harbor, since it was feared they would swamp the meager resources of New York (pop 5,000) and felt they should be quarantined to prevent the spread of measles and other plagues to the citizenry.

Interestingly not all the refugees were quarantined on Nutten's Island, since our progenitor -- my direct ancestor, who was listed as "Urbanus Haintz" on Governor Robert Hunter's ration list on August 4, 1710. (Hunter Lists #263) was married that same day to his second wife, Maira Appollonia at Hackensack, New Jersey.

While the refugees' understanding was that they were to be given forty acres and after 7 years repay the Crown for their passage, Governor Hunter was of the opinion that they should work for 7 years as indentured servants of the Crown, making tar from pitch pine for the Royal Navy. Governor Hunter entered into an agreement with the patroon, Robert Livingston, to use the Palatine refugees as colonists at vast Livingston Manor tract on the Hudson.

In September, most of the Palatine families were moved en masse up the Hudson River to West Camp and East Camp, Livingston Manor. Here they were obliged to construct their own houses and out-buildings on 40 x 50 ft lots which remained the property of Livingston, and on which they were not allowed to plant gardens to supplement their rations. In return for their meager rations of bread, beer and meat, every day the men and older children were required to travel 8-12 miles each day from the Hudson to the upland pitch pine forest where they began the labourous process of stripping the bark to encourage the sap to ooze, followed by collecting it and boiling down the sap to make tar. Neither Robert Livingston nor Governor Hunter knew so little about the making of naval tar that they failed to realise that the trees being tapped were white pine, not pitch pine.

In the spring of 1711, 300 to 400 Palatine men rebelled demanding that they receive the land

that had been promised to them by "Good Queen Anne," which they believed lay in the Schoharie Valley, in Mohawk territory conveniently beyond the Governor's control. Governor Hunter called up a military detachment from Fort Albany, who disarmed the rebellious Palatines and imposed military rule. A campaign of passive non-compliance ensued, the already abysmal production of tar becomes almost none existent.

In September 1711, losing money, Governor Hunter gave orders that the industry was to be halted and that the Palatines would receive no more subsistence supplies. They were allowed to leave Livingston Manor to seek employment where they might or otherwise shift for themselves, but were required to remain within the New York and New Jersey colonies. Moreover, if Hunter decided to renew his tar making enterprise, the Palatines were required to return to Livingston Manor to fulfill what Hunter regarded as the legal terms of their indentured service. According to one Protestant missionary, many "were obliged to eat boiled grass and leaves."

The Promised Land Realized

The Palatines' distinct ideas of free land in the British colonies obviously clashed with government plans and led to them slipping away from British control, when in 1712 many families collectively entered into their own negotiations with the Mohawk Nation for the purchase of the Schoharie Valley lands. Later that autumn, about 150 families moved to Albany and Schenectady in preparation for setting up a colony in the Schoharie valley. About 50 of these families were impatient and went ahead to the valley and set up tents within two weeks. At the same time, Governor Hunter ordered the Palatines to return because they had no legal right to live in Schoharie and they were still under contract. The Palatines, of course, paid no heed. In March 1713, the remainder of the families joined the 50 already living in Schoharie. Seven settlements began: Kruskendorf, Gerlachsdorf, Fuchsendorf (later called Fox Town), Schmidsdorf (later called Smith's Town), Brunnendorf (later known as Fountaindorf or Waterstown), Hartmansdorf, Weiserdorf and Oberweiserdorf. Since they had not taken many hand tools, farm implements or furniture from their Livingston Manor homes for fear of being charged with theft, they relied on the generosity of the Mohawks, who lent them tools and provided them with seed. Governor Hunter disparagingly called them "Blue-eyed Indians."

Some families chose to stay on the Hudson, around the older settlements, particularly Lunenburg, (now Athens) Green County.

Starting Over In Niagara

During the Revolution, Butler's Rangers drew many of its men from the descendants of the Palatine refugees who settled in the Schoharie and Mohawk Valleys, as well as from the Hudson Valley area around Lunenburg. These included the Balls, Froelich, Hainer, Haus/House, Lampman, Markle/Merkle, May, Schram, Secord/Sicard and Vollick families-- all of whom settled in the Niagara Peninsula. Indeed they formed such a large presence in Niagara that the German language and folk ways were sustained locally for decades to come. For instance, even though my 3x great-grandmother, Elizabeth (Froelich) Haines/Heins didn't die until 1837, she

never felt the need to learn English, since she could communicate quite well with her neighbours in German and Mohawk.

As Ken Haynes who was up from Virginia for the reunion eloquently said in an article that appeared in our local newspaper, The Standard: "Our family history is a convoluted one of divided loyalties, but that America's and Canada's [history] in a nutshell."

John C. Haynes