

Part II

**John and Elizabeth... and Mary Baldwin
(1754-1820)**

Chapter 1 Hunterdon County

Few records have been found to document the first twenty years of John Quick's life. We must follow him as best we can in the records of his father. We have seen in Chapter 6 of Part I that his father was probably married around 1754, so it is natural to suppose he was born in that year or the year afterwards—on his father's farm in the Great Swamp of Kingwood Township.¹ We have no record of his father's marriage so we cannot prove the name of his mother, though circumstantial evidence does point to her being Sarah Crishan. He most likely spent his childhood on the farm and some of his youth on or near the farm of his uncle Johnston in Greenwich Township in Warren County, since his father did live there, at least briefly.

We shall see in this second part of the book that John Quick would live a long, hard life—a life of danger, adventure and mischance. He was young at a time when a lot of young men—many his relatives and friends—were traveling west for land. He could hardly have been older than about twenty-four when in 1778 he left New Jersey and traveled west through Pennsylvania to Virginia (now West Virginia). It was probably in Virginia where he was married to his wife Elizabeth, though exactly when and where we have no records. For about ten years he would try to make a living in West Virginia, but the land was just not to his liking. Abandoning the attempt he would sell his land and lead his wife and family of seven children down the Ohio River to Kentucky. Eight months later the family would be captured by Indians. He and his family would live with the Indians for five years, finally making their way to Detroit. In 1795 the family would cross the Detroit River to settle in Upper Canada, in a region inhabited by refugees from the revolution. John Quick would be over forty before he could enjoy any kind of a settled home.

But making a home and a farm in Upper Canada around the turning of the 19th century, required hard work and struggle. The land, a hardwood virgin forest, was still the property of the British Crown, only lately purchased from the Indians. To gain legal title to the improvements he made upon this land, he would petition the colonial government and battle the competing claims made upon it by his Tory neighbors. Of course, he was required to pledge his allegiance to Great Britain, as did most of the other immigrants from the new United States. In 1812, when the armies of his former country made war upon Upper Canada, he would encourage his sons and stepsons to fight with the local militia to defend their property. He would die on his farm at the age of sixty-six, the founder of a large family.

We have seen in Part I how the early generations of the Quick family in America were of Dutch ethnicity. How long members of the family actually spoke Dutch, at least in the home, and followed Dutch customs, are questions we may never be able to answer. Threads of evidence point to John being the last of our ancestors to have a passable command of Dutch (or German, as in those days the Dutch and German languages had a similar vocabulary). His grandfather Tunis shared many of the traits of the Germans of the Amwell Valley. His mother, Sarah Crishan, whose first husband was Dutch, was in all likelihood of Dutch ancestry. His brother-in-law Elijah

1 In spite of much circumstantial evidence connecting Cornelius, the father, and John, the son, I have found only one document that puts the two in the same place and time. It is an IOU dating from 1772 (figure 3 of Chapter 5). On 10 February 1772, a Joseph Smith borrowed £2.10 from Cornelius Quick and a John Quick wrote out the IOU for Smith and signed the paper as a witness. A comparison of this signature with known examples of his handwriting on Canadian documents shows them to be made by one and the same person. It would appear that the debt was never repaid, as the paper remained in Cornelius's personal effects until his death 25 years later. The reference to the will package is given in footnote 12 of Chapter 6 in Part I.

Rittenhouse was of German parentage. And he would later have close relations in Canada with people of German origin. In 1880 an old resident of Amwell Township recalled the following of the Dutch in the Ringoes area of Hunterdon County, which description probably applies to our family who inhabited the Great Swamp a century earlier:

For about sixty years the people spoke the Dutch language; it was used in preaching and in the family. The records were kept in Dutch, counting was done in the Dutch fashion, brides were 'given away' in the manner of the old country, and the marriage service read and spoken in the mother-tongue. The people who tilled the soil by the side of the Neshanic were honest, economical, generous and brave. They would put a lump of sugar in their mouth and suck it while they drank their tea, thus economizing their sweets, yet, at the appearance of the stranger guest, their table would fairly groan with the good cheer of hospitality. ... We would have seen the men arrayed in homespun suits—coats reaching to their knees and breeches down to their boot-tops, big enough for two men, and coats thickly set with little brass buttons. The women would have appeared in enormous straw hats not unlike the 'sun-downs' of the present day, and petticoats reaching half-way below the knees... If we had seen these people at home on New Year's day, we would have beheld the ancestral board, upon which smoking dishes were displayed, flanking the indispensable goose well stuffed with onions. As the cider sparkled and foamed, and the apple jack began to work, the past was held up as a mirror: the sire would tell his adventures in crossing the ocean, and stories of his first intercourse with the Indians.²

John would surely have possessed a few of these qualities. Thrift, honesty and enterprise were certainly among them. He was not a voluble man, but in fact was somewhat laconic. (That is to say, he talked little about his past.) He was probably cautious and reticent with strangers and a little superstitious like most Dutch-Americans of the day. He was certainly attentive to the safety of his family. He differed from his dandy of a father in those characteristics that made him adaptable to an isolated, frontier life. Whereas his father owned no land of his own except for a brief period near the end of his life, John struggled to acquire his own farm wherever he went and to patent it properly and legally. Though his father was not an especially brave man John possessed the quiet, cool courage that earned him the respect of the Indians. His family's survival of five years with the Shawnee is proof of that.

John Quick was served well by his childhood in the Great Swamp, for the training in hard work and endurance sustained him throughout his life. The soil in the swamp was wet and poor and covered for the most part in water-deadened trees. His father, like other men in that part of the county, worked mostly at the cutting of wood for the making of charcoal, a job that was long and brutally hard. Logs were pulled from the bush by ox team, cut into manageable lengths and loaded onto a wagon. It was hard work for little return. No wonder his father enjoyed dancing as a break from such a hard life.

By the time John was born, life on the frontier of Hunterdon County had improved from the days of his grandfather Tunis, but some things went on as before. Farmers worked the land with oxen, planted corn and wheat in the cleared ground, and let their cattle and hogs roam freely for mast in the woods. Although the products of the saw- and grist-mills which now operated on the many creeks in the county had made life easier, in making building material and stone-ground flour available to the average settler, most farming was still carried on at subsistence level. The farmwife, often barefoot, in linsey petticoat and "bedgown", made hog-and-hominy in the same old way, as had her grandmother. At most times of the year breakfast and dinner would consist of johnnycake and cornpone. In summer the farmwife would vary this otherwise monotonous "sup-on" fare with pumpkins, squashes, beans and potatoes she harvested from her "truck patch".

In spite of a childhood spent in isolated places, John Quick received a better than average education. His father saw to that. He learned to cipher and to read and to write in a clear and

2 Traditions of Our Ancestors, as quoted in Snell, 301.

distinctive hand. In Greenwich Township he learned the craft of blacksmithing, no doubt in the forges there that supported the growing iron industry, a trade that would later prove useful to him in his life in the west.

The American Revolution, which broke out when John Quick was in his early twenties, had little effect upon him—at least while he still lived in the east. The year 1772, when he was twenty-two, saw George Washington with his army fleeing across the Jerseys with Cornwallis and his Hessian army in hot pursuit. The records indicate that numerous cousins fought with the patriot forces with bravery and distinction³ while others remained faithful to the king and suffered for their loyalty (see *Loyalists in the Extended Quick Family*). Some remained neutral as best as they could. John, along with his father, was probably then living in Greenwich Township in Warren County, a somewhat isolated place, and seems to have avoided the conflict as far as we have been able to discover.⁴

At the height of the revolution, in about 1778 or early 1779, John decided to go west for that great attraction, land. He had very few prospects of owning a farm in the Jerseys. At the time his father seemed content to work the old Quimby place that was owned by his new stepmother, Elizabeth Quimby. This farm, located in the western part of Amwell Township, would go to the Quimby boys upon Elizabeth's death. Land prices were high. Continental Currency had plunged in value as a result of the war making outright purchase of an existing farm out of reach of the average youth. Men talked of opportunities in the far west. Hundreds of young Jerseymen, Marylanders, and eastern Pennsylvanians had already walked the many hundreds of miles to take up cheap land beyond the Alleghenies. He was no doubt influenced in that direction too by Moses Holliday, his new stepbrother. Moses had gone west for the first time ten years earlier, and had returned with many stories to tell of the fabulous lands beyond the mountains.⁵ From all indications Moses was an influence on the entire extended family.

In 1778 "The West" meant for most men the land just beyond the Allegheny Mountains, what we now call the middle west. This area encompassed the plains of western Pennsylvania, the hills of the panhandle of West Virginia, and Kentucky. The land further west than Kentucky was still unknown to most citizens of the thirteen colonies. The land to the north of the great bend in the Ohio River, and what is now the State of Ohio and northwestwards towards Canada, was accepted (for the moment) as Indian Country. The existence of the West had been known to a few

3 ACQ lists many patriots among the clan of Somerset County, New Jersey.

4 A number of men named John Quick served with patriot forces during the revolution. ACQ has dealt with many of them. I could find no connection between anyone of them and our John Quick. For the record, Samuel Quimby, John's stepbrother, served with the patriots. I will sketch his record for those who may wish to pursue it to find some connection with our subject. According to his widow a Samuel Quimby was a private in the 1st Regiment, Sussex County militia under Captains McCullough and Winter, serving monthly tours from Oct. 1776 to 1777. He had prior and subsequent service in Pa. and was at the battle of Long Island, New York, on 27 August 1776. Born in 1756, he died in Mercer County, Pennsylvania, 9 September 1842. Wid. 3454 in Rev. War Index, Pierson-Richardson, on LDS568721.

5 In 1767 and 1768 the name Moses Holliday appears on a list of customers of William Colvin, a merchant who ran a trading post near Brownsville, Redstone Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. *The Searcher*, 6, #1 (1969). He is also listed as a single freeman in Rostraver Township, Bedford County, Pennsylvania, in 1772. (Rostraver Township was that part of what is now Fayette County, which is west or northwest of the line from the mouth of Redstone Creek to the mouth of Jacob's Creek.) J. Veech, *The Manongahela of Old* (Pittsburgh, 1892), 205. During the Revolutionary War he served for 176 days in the army of Virginia under Maj. (John?) Connally and Capt. (George?) Aston garrisoning Fort Dunmore (Pittsburgh). List of Revolutionary Soldiers of Virginia, 222 (page 57 of records cited in Virginia State Library). It is supposed he died in Pendleton County, Kentucky in 1810. Brown deposition in Elizabeth Holliday's application for pension as a widow of a Revolutionary War veteran, Archives R5136 (Gallatin County Kentucky 1844). (I am indebted to Mrs. A.J. O'Connor, Seal Beach, California, for some of this information.)

easterners since about 1724, when the first white traders from Pennsylvania and Maryland crossed the mountains in the wake of the Delaware and Shawnee migration from the upper Delaware Valley. As it happened, the Shawnee took root in southern Ohio, the Wyandot in the north, and the Miami in the west. They were all under the overlordship of the Iroquois. Until the 1750s British presence in the region took the form of a few solitary traders.

Loyalists in the Extended Quick Family

At least four members of the extended family fought with the British in New Jersey and New York: Benjamin, Elijah, Ephrom, Solomon and, possibly, William.

Benjamin and Ephrom Quick Benjamin Quick, aged 29, and Ephrom Quick (possibly brothers) were listed as privates with Butler's Rangers at Fort Niagara on 30 November 1783—Benjamin in Capt. Bernard Frey's Company and Ephrom in Capt. Lewis Genevay's Company.⁶ In 1797 Benjamin was living in Stamford Township, Lincoln County, Ontario, near Newark (now Niagara-on-the-Lake). As a UEL he was granted 300 acres in Burford Township, Brant County, in March 1797; but in April of that year he sold his land.⁷ ACQ has tentatively identified Benjamin as E253 from the Minnissink area of New York.

Solomon Quick Solomon Quick first entered Ontario via Fort Niagara in 1778.⁸ He was a private in Capt. Peter Tinbroek's Company of Rangers from 1 August to 24 October 1778.⁹ In 1783 he had a wife and one child.¹⁰ He was first granted land near Newark in 1794. Both he and his wife Franey or Fanney (nee Stevans "widow of Sarj. Staats of Col. Butler's Rangers, who died after the peace" and daughter of John Stevans) were later granted more lands in Oxford County.¹¹ ACQ has tentatively identified Solomon as D51 from the Kingston area of New York.

Elijah Quick Elijah Quick is the most documented of the loyalists. He enlisted first in January 1777 in Sussex County, New Jersey, as a private in Capt. Lyon's Company of the 4th Regiment of the New Jersey Continental Line. But in April 1777 he deserted and in August of that year enlisted in the 5th Battalion, New Jersey Volunteers, a loyalist group. In this and the 1st Battalions he served more or less steadily until February 1782.¹² What happened to him after the war is not known.

William Quack A William Quack (probably Quick) was a private in Capt. Caldwell's Company of Rangers between 25 December 1777, and 24 October 1778.¹³

Thomas, William and Abraham Quick In October 1777, a Thomas, Wilhelmus (William) and an Abraham Quick of Hurley Town (near Kingston, New York) were sufficiently disaffected with the state "to attempt to go on board the enemy's fleet".¹⁴

John Quick Charles Henley, John Quick and 3 others "acted as Militiamen in the Battle at Kemps Landing against Lord Dunmore after which they were forced into his service by Col: Elligood and bore arms at the Great Bridge".¹⁵

6 Census of Niagara 1783, transcribed in Ontario Register, 1. Originals in the British Museum. Also PAC, Haldimand Papers, MG21, B-105, 360.

7 PAO, Crown Lands Letters Received, RG1, A-I-6, 2.

8 PAO, UCLP "Q" Bundle 3, No. 2, 422.

9 PAC, Haldimand Papers, MG21, B-105, 51.

10 *The Old United Empire Loyalist List* (Baltimore, 1969).

11 PAO, Index to Land Patents.

12 BAHT, various loyalist Mss. and PAC, RG8, I (C Series), 1860 (1777-8), 5, 7, 18, 23; 1851 (1778), 25, 26, 34; 1852 (1779-80), 16, 27, 30, 41, 53, 65, 76, 83, 97; 1854 (1781), 73, 81, 96; 1853 (1782), 5.

13 PAC, Haldimand Papers, MG21, B-105, 65.

14 *The Public Papers of George Clinton* (W.H. Crawford Co., NY and Albany, 1899), 2, 466, 472 and 476.

15 Record of the Fourth Virginia Convention, 15 January 1776 in *Revolutionary Virginia The Road to Independence*, 5, (R. L. Scribner, B. Tarter comp. & eds., U. Press of Va., 1979), 406.

In the 1750s French-Canadians were still active in the region. The French attempted to block the English from crossing the mountains so as to enable them to maintain their own trade connections with the Indians of the Ohio Valley. In 1754 they built Fort Duquesne, named after the governor general of Canada, at the present site of Pittsburgh and in 1755 they defeated a British army under General Braddock a few miles south of the forks of the great river. (There a junior officer named George Washington and his men were forced to surrender.) Until 1758 they even occupied western Pennsylvania to a limited extent. But in 1756 Britain declared war on France, and thus began what is known as the French and Indian War. The war ended in 1763 with the British in control of all of Canada, as well as the land west of the mountains, at least in theory.

Legal settlement of the land was delayed however for about a decade until certain agreements could be effected with the Indians living there. At the first Treaty of Fort Stanwix in November 1768 the Penn family acquired from the Six Nation Indians all of southwestern and much of northern and middle Pennsylvania for the sum of ten thousand pounds. (At the time Britain pledged that the Ohio River would forever be the boundary of the frontier.) In 1769 a land office was opened in Philadelphia for the purpose of selling the land in the new purchase. Tracts were limited to 300 acres at a cost of fifteen pounds.

A few Jerseymen and Pennsylvanians bought land from the proprietors, but the bulk of the settlers who poured into the region came from the eastern parts of Virginia and Maryland over the old Braddock road. Virginians and Marylanders expected to obtain titles from Virginia to the land they would eventually occupy even though the land might lay within the bounds claimed by Pennsylvania. In contrast to Pennsylvania, Virginia offered her settlers a thousand acres or more at a few cents an acre. Veterans of the French and Indian War also expected to apply their land bounties in that region. This action of Virginia would lead to a boundary dispute with Pennsylvania. Before the formation of a strong central government the states tended to behave like sovereign powers.

Any kind of large-scale migration of people is a charge to the imagination, but it would be a mistake to think the whole of our extended family migrated together. There seems to have been at least two waves, followed a few years later by others. John Quick almost certainly traveled in the first group, consisting probably of Moses Holliday and wife, his nephews Court and David Johnson and their wives (one of whom was his sister), his brother-in-law Elijah Rittenhouse and wife (who was also his sister), and his relations John and Joseph Hall.¹⁶ They may have started their journey from either of two places: Philadelphia or a spot on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River opposite Riegelsville, New Jersey. Some of the family remained behind, for the time being. This would have included John's father and stepmother and at least one of his sisters, Elizabeth.

The journey of three hundred miles from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh has been the stuff of historical novels. Immigrants carried all that they owned on a wagon if lucky otherwise on the back of a packhorse. The wagon, pulled by oxen, moved forward at a laborious and never-ending

16 I will attempt to show in the following chapter from will, land and militia records, that all these people who were related in one way or another, settled in the area southwest of Pittsburgh at about the same time. Court and David Johnson were John Quick's first cousins (the sons of aunt Sarah Quick). The Halls were kin of his stepmother, Elizabeth Quimby. Elijah Rittenhouse was John Quick's brother-in-law, having married his sister Sarah Quick in 1775 or 1776. ACQ, 82-83. It is natural to suppose, therefore, that rather than travel to the same area independently, they traveled together. As further evidence, a note by E. R. Beebe in John S. Voorhis, *The Old and New Manongahela* (Pittsburgh, 1893), reprinted by Gen. Pub. Co. (1974) states "Ephraim (Quimby) Jr., came west with his uncle, Joseph Hall, and family while a lad... Ephraim and Samuel Quimby were the only sons of Ephraim Quimby, Sr., and Elizabeth Hall Halliday, who emigrated to Washington County and are the progenitors of the name in this vicinity (Warren, Ohio)". The names Joseph and Stephen Hall occur frequently in the estate papers of John Quick's father, Cornelius. The reference is given in footnote 12 of Chapter 6 in Part I.

pace. The men, women and children walked. The wagon or a packhorse might carry the infant of the family, cradled carefully, along with the detritus of family life: family papers, pewter dishes, spoons, wooden bowls, trenchers and noggins, knives and forks, and the ubiquitous iron pots. A blacksmith would carry iron strips for the blacksmithing and bags of rock salt that were known to be rarities in the west. When night came they would stop and make a campfire to eat and talk about what lay ahead of them. Sleep came easily.

The trail from Philadelphia across the Pennsylvania piedmont to Shippensburg in Cumberland County was easy going, for by 1778 the road carried wagon traffic. But the track beyond Shippensburg was too narrow and precipitous for vehicles. Winding lazily across North Mountain to Bedford through a gap in Sidelong and Rays Hill, it followed roughly the road cut by General Forbes in 1758. Four miles beyond Bedford the track joined the Raystown path of the old Indian traders and led to a point ten miles east of present day Ligonier—the route of modern U.S. 30. The journey from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh took a full three weeks. The difference from the east was like entering a magical land full of unknown and marvelous wonders.