

Lt. JOHN ADAM HEILMAN, JR.

There are few families that do not have one or more among their members who stand out above the rest, who may attract the attention of the community. Such a person was Lt. JOHN ADAM HEILMAN Jr. born 2 August 1745, a patriot during the American Revolutionary War (19 April 1775 thru 3 September 1783.)

His father, John Adam Heilman, at the age of 23, left his native town of Zuzenhausen, Baden, Germany, 30 April 1738, and immigrated to America. He arrived at Philadelphia, 9 September 1738, aboard the ship-- Snow Two Sisters. He sailed from Rotterdam, last from Cowes, England and eventually settled in Lebanon Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Here he secured 366 acres of land consisting partly of rich meadows, and partly of fertile upland, for which he paid the sum of 66 shillings.

Patriot John Adam Heilman Jr. served in the War of Independence, and on 28 August 1775. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. He served as a Company Lt. of an infantry unit assigned to the Second Company, Second Battalion of the Lancaster County Militia, organized for the protection of the Province of Pennsylvania.

On 26 August 1776, Lt. Heilman took part and fought in the battle of Long Islands and also, the battle and capture of Fort Washington. In addition to these battles, he fought around New York in the autumn of 1776 and early part of 1777. Of these services, General George Washington spoke in terms of highest praise, saying, "These battles have been one of the most important and desperately fought battles of the entire war."

Upon returning home and settling down as a husband, father and farmer, he and his wife, Catherine (Schmidt) eventually had a total of ten children - five boys and five girls. In 1793 he built and operated a saw mill and also a paper mill. Later on, one of his sons, John Adam III, took over the operations. The Heilman paper mill produced a good quality of paper, and supplied the State Department at Harrisburg with its produce and also many newspapers and other publishers.

Patriot John Adam Heilman Jr. died 4 October 1827 in Heilman Dale, Lebanon County, PA at the age of 82, and was buried in the Hill Lutheran/Reformed Church Cemetery (founded in 1745.)

On 19 May 1910, the Lebanon Chapter of the Daughters of the American

Revolution (DAR) placed a bronze burial marker to the memory of John Adam Heilman Jr., with suitable ceremonies in the presence of a large assemblage of people.

