

ANCESTORS IN THE BATTLE OF ORISKANY

Aug 6 1777

John Jacob Defendorff	1747 - 1839	Sgt	1st Regt	Col Campbell	Col Cox
Henry Dievendorff	- 1777	Capt	1st Regt	Killed	shot thru lungs
Warner Dygert	1719 - 1780	Pvt	Committee of Safety	shot & scalped	
Henry John Failing	1748 - 1825	Sgt	Minuteman	Col Clyde,	Col Campbell
Jacob Folts	1713 - 1800	Lt	4th Regt	Col Bellinger	
Philip Fox	1737 - after 1813		2nd Regt		
Frederick Getman	1751 - 1812	Capt	4th Regt	POW	Col Bellinger
Dedrick Horning (father)	1731 - 1837?	Lt	1st Regt	Col Campbell	
John J Klock	1741 - 1810	Lt/Pvt	2nd Rdgt	Col Klock	
William Mereness (Marinus)	1777	Corp	1st Regt	Killed	Col Cox
Evert Van Epps	1741 - 1813	Sgt/Capt	Assoc Exempts	wounded	POW Capt
George Horning	1765 - 1843		1st Regt	Col Campbell	Fonda

What was the battle of Oriskany? Who won? See the blue pamphlet in the file titled "American Patriots at the Battle of Oriskany". This battlefield is on the west side of Utica. Briefly, in the Revolutionary war, British general Burgoyne tried to get the surrender of American Patriot colonists by sending Lt Col St Ledger with a force down from Canada to attack Ft Stanwix and gain control of the western frontier. This was part of a 3 pronged attack on Albany with 2 other Armies to cut the colonies in half and win the war. The defeat of St Ledger at Oriskany by the Tryon Co Militia prevented a union with Burgoyne's army to capture Albany. This battle was a brutal 6 hour hand to hand, tree to tree fight. One historian says there were about 160 killed, 80 wounded and 40 taken prisoner. Another source says it was more like 200 killed, 250 wounded and 200 taken prisoner (Frank Bellinger). There were 5 regiments in the Tryon Co Militia plus another group of men who were too old for active service but were called out in this emergency. There were also minute men (home guards) and scouts. Many historians say this battle was the key battle and turning point in the American Revolution. Fritz Updike in his book says scarcely a patriot home had not lost family members in this battle, after which the patriots held the field but were too shattered to continue to Ft Stanwix 5 miles beyond, and retreated back down the valley. So concerned was higher headquarters in Albany that a stronger column of veteran troops were sent up the valley to relieve the fort garrison and prevent further penetration. This force found no great numbers of the militia willing to return to the battle. Updike says Gen Herkimer had about 800 troops in all but many of the 200 on the rear guard panicked at first fire and were tracked down and killed in flight. Skeletons were found months later as far as 2 miles from the field. Of the 600 civilian militia men and boys (not soldiers), less than 400 remained on their feet after the enemy withdrew. Our ancestors who were in this militia that I have identified so far are as follows:

There were other ancestors in the Revolutionary war but were not in this battle and are listed separately. Many brothers of the above men were also in this battle. This may not be a complete list. Its all I can find in the records so far.....TWP