

## *Descendants of Peter Evans*

### *Generation No. 1*

1. CAPTAIN PETER<sup>1</sup> EVANS was born 25 Oct 1758 in Prince William County, Virginia, and died 12 Feb 1814 in Clark County, Kentucky. He married ANNE NEWMAN in Prince William County, Virginia, daughter of JOHN NEWMAN and HANNAH POSEY. She was born 06 Apr 1755 in Prince William County, Virginia, and died 08 Jul 1836 in Clark County, Kentucky.

Notes for CAPTAIN PETER EVANS:

Peter Evans, a soldier of the Revolutionary War, you will find below the desired information as contained in his son's application for pension on file in this Bureau.

Dates of enlistment appointment was rendered	Length of Service	Rank	Officers under whom service
Feb 1, 1776	Pvt	Capt. Harvey Lee, Light???	Col. Theodore Bland
Nov 1776	July 7, 1777	Captain	of a company " " " " " " " "
Aug 11, 1779	3 months	1st Lt.	Elias Lee and Valentine Peyton, Col. Jesse Ewell
May 1, 1780	20 days	Captain	Prince William Co., Va., Mil. James Garrett Also commander a company during the entire Siege of Yorktown

Battles engaged in: Princeton, Morristown

Residence of soldier at enlistment: Prince William Co., Va.

Date of application for pension: by son Blain Posey Evans, Oct. 24, 1842. Blain was allowed.

Residence at date of application. by son, Clark Co., Ky.

Age at date of application, Blain P. Evans, was born in Prince William Co., Va., Sept. 25, 1778.

Remarks: Sol. born Oct. 25, 1758, and was mar in Prince Wm. Co., Va. Dec. 11, 1777, Ann dau of John Newman, of said \_\_ sol. died in Clark Co., Ky. Feb 12, 1814. His wife Ann was born April 6, 1755 and died in Clark Co., Ky., July 8, 1836. Their children were, Blain Posey, Catherine Amelia Augusta, Paul Jones, Silas, Peter, Richard, Becky, John.

Source: Last page of Revolutionary War Pension Document. Entire document in Evans folder.

"Siege of Yorktown:

The siege of Yorktown in 1781 was a decisive victory by a combined assault of French forces led by General Comte de Rochambeau and American forces led by General George Washington, over a British Army commanded by General Lord Cornwallis. The surrender of Cornwallis's army caused the British Government to eventually negotiate an end to the American Revolutionary War.

Background:

When General Rochambeau met George Washington in Wethersfield, Connecticut on 22 May 1781, to determine their strategy against the British, they made plans to move against New York City, which was occupied by about 10,000 men under General Sir Henry Clinton, the commander in chief in North America.

Meanwhile, word had come through to Washinton that the British under command of John Campbell of Strachur had been totally defeated in West Florida at the Battle of Pensacola on May 10th, 1781. General Lafayette in Virginia also informed Washington that Cornwallis had taken up a defensive position at Yorktown, Virginia, next to the York River. Cornwallis had been campaigning in the Southern states. He had cut a wide swath, but his army of 7,000 were forced to give up their dominion of the South and retreat to Yorktown for

supplies and reinforcement after an intense two-year campaign led by General Nathanael Greene, who winnowed down their numbers through application of the Fabian strategy. Under instructions from Clinton, Cornwallis moved the army to Yorktown in order to be removed by the Royal Navy.

On 19th July 1781, while encamped at Dobbs Ferry, New York, Washington learned of the Virginia campaign of Cornwallis and wrote that "I am of Opinion, that under these Circumstances, we ought to throw a sufficient Garrison into W. Point; leave some Continental Troops and Militia to cover the Country contiguous to New York, and transport the Remainder (both French and American) to Virginia, should the Enemy still keep a Force there.

On August 14, Washington received confirmation that French Admiral de Grasse, stationed in the West Indies, was sailing with his fleet to the Chesapeake Bay.

British intelligence was poor, but there is some evidence that the British realized the Americans and French were marching south to attack Cornwallis at Yorktown. A letter, known as the "Wethersfield Intercept", was captured by the British on its way to the Comte de Rochambeau from the French ambassador to Congress. However, this letter was in French military cipher, and by the time the British were able to understand its meaning, Washington and Rochambeau had already marched, and so its value was limited. Despite this, Sir Henry Clinton was to claim after the war that he had deciphered the letter earlier than had previously been claimed, and had been acting on the basis of its content.

#### Battle of Yorktown:

Admiral de Grasse sailed his French battle fleet of twenty-eight ships north toward Virginia. Simultaneously, on 21 August 1781, Washington began moving his army south. As they marched south, Admiral de Grasse's fleet arrived at the Chesapeake Bay. De Grasse defeated Admiral Thomas Graves's fleet in the Battle of Chesapeake, also known as the Battle of the Capes, and won control of the bay thereby sealing its entrance and stranding Cornwallis from supply by sea. The defeat in Chesapeake Bay was the only major naval defeat suffered by the Royal Navy of Great Britain in two hundred years of empire building in the 18th and 19th centuries.

In the late summer of 1781, when George Washington and Rochambeau heard of Lord Cornwallis's encampment in Yorktown they raced southward from New York to link up with the French fleet under Admiral Comte de Grasse in Chesapeake Bay. Washington arrived just in time to bottle-up the British, who were anticipating reinforcements that never came from either General Henry or the British fleet.

On September 28, 1781, Washington and Rochambeau, along with Lafayette's troops and 3,000 of de Grasse's men, arrived at Yorktown. With them was the 2nd Canadian Regiment led by brigadier General Moses Hazen. In all, there were approximately 17,000 men converging on the camp established by Cornwallis. With the arrival of these troops, the stranded British forces in Yorktown were outnumbered by a two to one margin and they were then subjected to heavy fire as work began on a siege line. Offshore, the French fleet effectively blocked aid from Cornwallis while Washington made life unbearable for the British troops with three weeks of shelling.

Cornwallis realizing the scope of his predicament, managed to send a message to Clinton in New York. Clinton promised that a relief expedition carrying 5,000 men would leave by the 5th of October. Meanwhile, the British and Franco-American forces were digging in and improving their respective earthworks. On October 11, the allies started a second siege line only 400 yards away from the British forces. Three days later, the French and Americans captured two major British redoubts, the French taking redoubt and the Americans taking redoubt 10, completing the second siege line and the close investment of the British garrison.

While the allies were enveloping his position, Cornwallis had found out that the relief force from New York was going to be late. On October 16, a British attack, intended to silence a French battery, failed. The allied batteries, from their closer second siege line, were now firing directly into the British defensive works. That night, an attempted breakout across the York River to Gloucester Point failed due to a severe storm. Cornwallis, whose army was running low on food and ammunition and still awaiting help from Clinton, offered to surrender on October 17. On 19 October, the papers were signed and he officially surrendered. About 7,000 British troops became prisoners of the American forces.

#### Conclusion:

The morning following the battle a formal surrender ceremony took place. Cornwallis refused to attend out of pure embarrassment, claiming illness. Although absent at the surrender ceremony, he observed to George Washington, "This is a great victory for you, but your brightest laurels will be writ upon the banks of the Delaware." According to legend, the British forces marched to the fife tune of "The World Turned Upside Down", though no real evidence of this exists. Cornwallis's deputy at first attempted to surrender to the French General Rochambeau, but Rochambeau's aide-de-camp, Mathieu Dumas, is reputed to have said, "Vous vous trompez, le general en chef de notre armee est a la droite." (You are mistaken, the commander-in-chief of our

army is to the right.") and then took him to Washington. The lieutenant then attempted to surrender to Washington, who refused because it was not Cornwallis himself, and indicated that the subordinate should surrender to General Benjamin Lincoln, field commander of the American forces. Cornwallis' lieutenant ceremonially offered his sword to Lincoln, which was accepted. All other British troops were required to surrender and trample their firearms in the custom of time.

The British prisoners amounted to about a quarter of all British soldiers in the U.S. It was not clear at the time that Yorktown was the climax of the war, since the British still occupied key ports such as New York City and Charleston, South Carolina. Sporadic fighting continued after the Yorktown surrender, and Washington believed the war might drag on for another year.

However, British Prime Minister Lord North resigned after receiving news of the surrender at Yorktown. His successors decided that it was no longer in Britain's best interest to continue the war, and negotiations were undertaken. The British signed the Treaty of Paris in September 1783, recognizing the United States and promising to remove all British troops from the country." Source Wikipedia, Siege of Yorktown.

Children of PETER EVANS and ANNE NEWMAN are:

- i. RICHARD<sup>2</sup> EVANS, b. 1783, Prince William County, Virginia; d. 27 Nov 1836, Clark County, Kentucky; m. SARAH PULLIAM, 29 Sep 1804, Fayette County, Kentucky; b. 1786, Spotsylvania County, Virginia; d. 1857, Clark County, Kentucky.
- ii. BELAINE POSEY EVANS, b. 25 Sep 1775, Prince William County, Virginia; d. 12 Feb 1843, Clark County, Kentucky; m. LUCY HICKMAN; b. 12 Apr 1781; d. 30 Jul 1836, Clark County, Kentucky.
- iii. PETER EVANS, b. 20 Jan 1780, Prince William County, Virginia; d. 30 Oct 1842, Clark County, Kentucky; m. POLLY BAKER, 13 Jul 1804, Clark County, Kentucky; b. Bef. 1788; d. Clark County, Kentucky.
- iv. SILAS EVANS, b. 1792, Prince William County, Virginia; d. Clark County, Kentucky; m. SALLY COMBS, 14 May 1812, Clark County, Kentucky; b. Abt. 1796, Kentucky; d. Clark County, Kentucky.
- v. JOHN EVANS, b. Abt. 1778, Prince William County, Virginia; d. Jul 1840.
- vi. PAUL JONES EVANS, b. 01 Oct 1792, Prince William County, Virginia; d. Jul 1875, Lexington, Lafayette County, Missouri; m. POLLY COMBS, 19 Dec 1816, Clark County, Kentucky; b. 17 Nov 1797, Kentucky; d. Apr 1889, Lexington, Lafayette County, Missouri.