

Andrew Snyder

A REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER WHO REACHED THE AGE OF 112 YEARS

By OLIVER SNYDER SPROUT

Andrew Snyder was born in Switzerland in the year 1733. Family tradition states that he arrived on these shores during the year 1766. I. Daniel Rupp in his "Thirty Thousand Names of Immigrants," p. 368, shows the following: List 246: November 10, 1764. Ship Boston, Master Matthew Carr, from Rotterdam, last from Cowes—203 passengers; among whom was Andreas Schneider.

Arriving at Philadelphia, Snyder's passage money, amounting to \$300 in gold, was paid by George Rinne, [Rhine], and Snyder was bound over to work it out. This man Rinne owned and operated a mill near Roland's Church, Lancaster County. He was one of the Committee of Observation, the purpose of which was to seek out those persons who maintained a traffic in goods of foreign origin to the detriment of local products. Early in the Revolutionary War Snyder discovered that Rinne was selling flour to the British Army, and raised the question with Rinne as to the consequences of the discovery by local authorities of Rinne's actions. The result of the argument was that Rinne gave Snyder his freedom papers, and Snyder immediately proceeded to enlist in the Continental Army. On September 8, 1908, Mr. F. R. Diffenderffer read an interesting paper before the Lancaster County Historical Society on the subject of Tories in Lancaster County, which dealt with this man Rinne to some extent.

Snyder's further adventures are covered by his own statement, made January 25, 1831, when he filed an application for a soldier's pension, as follows: "That he had enlisted in 1776 for the war and continued in service until the end of the war," and there is a settlement record between the United States and soldier Andrew Snyder for the balance of the pay due him up to November, 1783, of \$62.80. The receipt was signed by Snyder making his mark, no doubt on account of his age. He enlisted at Germantown in Captain Culbertson's troop of cavalry and this is his statement:

"We marched from Germantown to Winchester, Va., from Winchester to Bunkerhill, returned to Pennsylvania and had a small skirmish with the enemy at Princeton, N. J., crossed the Delaware and took about one hundred Hessians prisoner. From Trenton, we marched to within eight or ten miles of New York and lay there about a month, taking up supplies intended for the British Army which was laying in New York. Joined the army on Long Island. Was in the Battle of Long Island. Was in the Battle of Germantown, being wounded in the arm by a sword at Germantown, on which account I was furloughed."

He received an honorable discharge but did not take care of it, and it was lost. He did not know that many years later it would be needed for securing a pension. Among other papers in the Pension Bureau Office is one which shows that he received a donation of two hundred acres of ground in Pennsylvania, but never took up this land. This is found in Pension Record, Andrew Snyder S-42353, Washington, D. C. After the war he returned to Switzerland for some unknown reason; some say the trip was occasioned by his seeking a wife or sweetheart; another statement says he returned to complete his trade as a shoe cobbler. He returned alone and married a girl, Magdalena Pieffer, who had worked at Rinne's place before the war. She died three or four years later. There is in existence a pair of small shoes which he made for a granddaughter, Elmira Zook, who married Rev. John V. Eckert, in whose possession the shoes were last seen.

Andrew Snyder served in the following engagements in the 2d Pennsylvania Line under John Philip Dehass, later under James Irvin, Henry Walker and Walter Stewart: Germantown, Winchester, Va., Bunker Hill, Princeton, Long Island and Trenton. See Penna. Archives, 2d Series, Vol. 10, p. 446, 1891 edition.

When he endeavored to secure a pension, it was after the effort of many years, from 1831 to the time of his death, which occurred November 14, 1845, near Intercourse, Lancaster County, Pa., that it was finally granted, January 19, 1850, dating from March 4, 1826—\$80 a year, payable twice yearly in the sum of \$40.

Andrew Snyder, who lived to the age of 112 years, had a brother, John Snyder, who died as the results of a fall from a forebay, sustained while attending a public sale near Hanover, Pa., at the age of 108 years.

PARTIAL GENEALOGICAL LINE OF ANDREW SNYDER

Andrew Snyder married (1st) in 1784 to Magdalena Pieffer. No issue.

b. Aug. 17, 1733

d. Nov. 14, 1845, Zeltenreich Cemetery, near New Holland.
married (2d) in 1789 to Barbara Metzgar.

Issue:

1 Mary Ann, m. Jan. 10, 1815 to John Wikle.

b. Mar. 19, 1792

b. Mar. 11, 1788.

d. Feb. 6, 1893

aged 100 yrs. 10 mo.

2 Catharine, m. Daniel Zook.

b. Aug. 18, 1802

d. Apr. 20, 1891

(See Ellis and Evans' History of Lancaster County, p. 921, for an account of her religious activities.)

Issue:

Elmira m. Rev. John Varns Eckert.

Issue:

- 1 Abia Zook
- 2 Hannah Rebecca
- 3 Jacob Kerns
- 4 Catharine Elizabeth
- 5 Edward Andrew
- 6 Sarah Jane m. E. E. Miles. Baltimore, Maryland.
- 7 John Ambrose
- 8 Lewis Henry
- 9 Daniel Herbert

3 John Carpenter, m. Oct. 22, 1829, to Jane Given.

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| b. Feb. 21, 1805 | b. June 30, 1810. |
| d. Apr. 3, 1894 | d. Mar. 18, 1898. |

Issue:

Adda Josephine Snyder, m.

on Aug. 12, 1877, to Emmanuel Good Sprout.

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| b. May 17, 1857 | b. Dec. 25, 1847. |
| d. Sept. 5, 1925 | d. Feb. 29, 1896. |

Issue:

Oliver Snyder Sprout, m.

on July 18, 1907, to Ivy May Pelen.

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| b. Mar. 3, 1884. | Of Lancaster, Pa. | b. Oct. 5, 1884. |
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Issue:

Oliver Snyder Sprout, Jr.

- b. Apr. 18, 1916.