



Iowa Society DAR

PATRIOT STORIES

Peter Ankeny, Pennsylvania, A002826

Peter Ankeny was born 6 Mar 1751 at Hager's Choice, Maryland and died 23 Dec 1804 in Somerset, Pennsylvania. Peter's father was Dewalt Ankeny who came to the country on the ship Neptune when he was eighteen.

Peter was Captain of 5th Company, 3rd Batt. Bedford Co. Militia in 1781 and was in actual service on the frontier. Peter and his wife crossed the Alleghenies on the Forbes Road about 1773 and settled in the back country of PA.

It is interesting to note that Peter Ankeny's settlement west of the ridge of the Alleghenies was illegal in 1773. In the year 1763 the British Crown issued an order, the Proclamation of 1763, which forbade all white settlement west of the Alleghenies. This law is seen by some historians as one of the primary causes of the American Revolution.

Peter Ankeny was an early settler and landowner in what is now known as Somerset, Pennsylvania. Peter married Rosina Bonnet and they had many children. Their youngest child, Joseph, was born in 1802, just two years before Peter died. Peter donated land for a burial ground in Somerset and he and Rosina are interred there. It is known as Ankeny Square.

Peter's son, Joseph Ankeny, grew up in Somerset, moved to Ohio and then to Iowa. Joseph's son (Peter's grandson) John Fletcher Ankeny purchased and platted the land now known as Ankeny, Iowa.

The Captain Peter Ankeny Chapter, NSDAR, is named after this patriot and is in Tulsa, OK.

Source:

- PA ARCH, 5th Ser, Vol 5 pp 88 & 94
- McCarty, Shirley A. and Halpin, Barbara A. Editors; *Some Ancestors of Active Members Iowa Society Daughters of the American Revolution 2006-2008*, page 4.



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