

THE FAMILY OF WILLIAM ARMSTRONG AND ELIZABETH SUSANNAH SWAYZE

William Armstrong was born 13 February 1751 in Johnsonburg, Warren, New Jersey, the son of Nathan Armstrong and Euphemia Wright. He married 1) Lucy Everitt, then 2) Elizabeth Susannah Swayze in about 1774 in New Jersey. William was a soldier in the Revolutionary War.



Johnsonburg

Elizabeth was born 1759 in Warren, New Jersey, the daughter of Barnabas Swayze and Margaret Hannah Honeywell.

William and Elizabeth had the following children:

1. *Mary, born about 1778; married John Casper Roy; died 1 June 1831.
2. Sarah, born about 1779 of Stillwater, New Jersey; died 1819.
3. Lydia, born 3 March 1780 in Warren County, New Jersey; married Abraham Shafer; died 24 March 1817 in Stillwater, New Jersey.
4. Euphemia, born 1781; married John T. Bray; died 21 April 1851 in Washington, Warren, New Jersey.

From a history of the Armstrongs: "William served as collector and constable of Hardwick township, and in 1805 he was elected to the legislature. He was a very careful businessman. He lived first on the Ridge, and it was on the land obtained from him in 1785 that the Yellow Frame Church was finally built. He later moved to Johnsonburg, where he purchased a tract of land, here he started farming and opened the first store ever in that village. William also served as a minuteman in the Revolutionary War, he also fought against the uprising of the Indians." (*Genealogical Descendants of Nathan Armstrong by William C. Armstrong*)

4. William Armstrong served during the revolutionary war as ensign in Captain Clifford's company of Sussex militia, marching on several expeditions against the Indians and fighting at the battle of Springfield. He had a large farm, and he owned and conducted a store and a grist-mill at Johnsonburg. He married Elizabeth Swazy in 1779, and had four daughters: Lydia, the wife of Abraham Shafer Jr.; Euphemia, the wife of John T. Bray; Mary, the wife of John C. Roy; and Sarah, the wife of Ephraim Green Jr. William died in 1842, at the age of ninety.

In his obituary: "William Armstrong, Esq. died at his residence in Johnsonburg in this county, on the 18th at the advanced age of 91 years. He was born in the township of Hardwick where he has always resided. In the days of the Revolution he served his country two or three tours in the militia, and was at the battles of Springfield and Short Hills, in this state, where he fought side by side with many noble Jersey Blues who have longed ceased to exist, and whose bones lie mouldering under the clods of the valley. He has served his country in peace and at war, has experienced in its prosperity and in adversity, beheld it bleeding at every pore, saw it gasping for liberty and rushed to the rescue. William had 4 daughters." (*Obituary from the Belvidere Apollo Newspaper*)

SOURCES: www.new.familysearch.org; Obituary from the Belvidere Apollo Newspaper; Genealogical Descendants of Nathan Armstrong by William C. Armstrong; Genealogical and Historical History of the State of New Jersey.

THE FAMILY OF NATHAN ARMSTRONG AND EUPHEMIA WRIGHT

Nathan Armstrong was born in about 1717 in Ireland. He married Euphemia Wright in about 1741 in New Jersey.

Euphemia Wright was born in 1724 of Warren County, New Jersey, the daughter of John Wright and Orcha Harmanus, both of Ireland.

Nathan and Euphemia had the following children:

1. Elizabeth
2. John
3. George, born 20 August 1749 in Frelinghuysen township.
4. *William, born 13 February 1751 in Johnsonburg, Warren, New Jersey; married Elizabeth Swayze.
5. Mary
6. Hannah
7. Sarah

The *Genealogical and Historical History of the State of New Jersey* describes Nathan: "Nathan Armstrong, the New Jersey pioneer, was born about 1717, near Londonderry in the province of Ulster, Ireland. He was a linen weaver by trade, a Scotch-Irishman by race, and a Protestant by religious faith. He came to America about 1740. After living a few years in central New Jersey, he went to the northwestern frontier and settled in Warren county, then a part of Sussex, where he met and loved and married a maiden by the name of Euphemia Wright. He bought a tract of five hundred and eighty-one acres of uncleared land, built a log cabin thereon and became a farmer, and continued thereafter to enjoy the blessings of health and home and the rewards of industry and thrift.

The defeat of the English army under Braddock near Pittsburg in 1755 caused a panic; and well it might, for the Indians in their exultation began to murder the settlers everywhere, some of the savages even coming eastward and crossing into New Jersey. Nathan Armstrong and his neighbors erected a stockade around a log house at Marksboro and took their wives and children there for safety. His sons, George and John, were at that time only six years of age, but when they were old men, they used to tell how

their father took them to the barn-yard and showed them a pot of money he had buried under the barrack and told them if he were killed and they escaped they should remember where the money was; then they all went to the fort where the children remained until the danger was over.

Nathan Armstrong was interested in local affairs and held several offices in old Hardwick. He was a member of the board of justices and freeholders of Sussex county for three years, 1759-61; and he was one of the original incorporators of Christ Episcopal Church at Newton, being named as such in the charter granted to that church by the provincial government of New Jersey on August 14, 1774.

The Armstrong homestead is at Johnsonburg in the township of Frelinghuysen; it is crossed by the Lackawanna railroad, and is fourteen miles east of the Delaware Water Gap. Nathan moved into his new home with his wife and infant daughter during the third week of May, 1748. At that time Warren county was really a western frontier.

Nathan died of small-pox which he contracted while delivering produce at the American camp in Morristown. He was buried in a private graveyard, as the custom in colonial times, but his tombstone may still be seen at the Yellow Frame cemetery, ornament at the top with the face and extended wings of a cherub carved in outline, and bearing this inscription below: "Here lies the body of Nathan Armstrong who departed this Life Aug't 11th, Anno Domini 1777, aged about sixty years." His will, which is dated August 5, 1777, is record in the office of the secretary of state at Trenton; after making ample provision for his wife, he gave a sum of money to each of his daughters and a farm to each of his sons.

Euphemia, Nathan's wife, was born in 1724, and died in 1811, at the age of eighty-seven. The Rev. Caspar Shaffer, in his Memoirs, speaks of her thus: "My grandmother Armstrong was a lady of superior mental endowments. She excelled in conversational power. I well recollect in my childhood and youth with what a glowing interest and fixed attention I sat and listened to her when she was relating to my mother anecdotes and reminiscences of earlier life. Her piety, calm, consistent, and unobtrusiveness, shone in all her daily walk and conversation." Nathan and Euphemia Armstrong had seven children, namely: Elizabeth, George and John, William, Mary, Hannah and Sarah." (*Genealogical and Historical History of the State of New Jersey*)

SOURCES: www.new.familysearch.org; Genealogical and Historical History of the State of New Jersey.