

Jean Conrad Heinmann (D 1815) of Boucherville, Chambly, Quebec, Canada:

The Case for the Belief that He Was a Hessian Soldier

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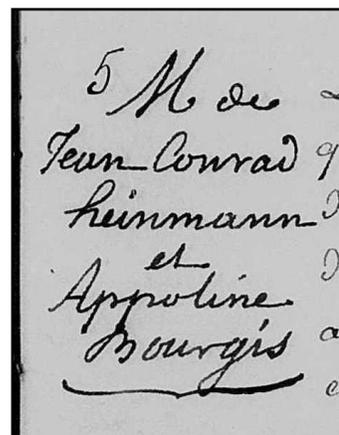


Two Hessian soldiers, artist unknown
(18th Century, PD)

On the 12th of February in 1787, Jean Conrad Heinmann married a twenty-three year old French-Canadian widow named Appoline Bourgis in Longueuil.¹ This was a French settlement located on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River directly across from Montreal. According to his marriage record, Jean was the son of “André Heinmann and Marie Grai.”² No doubt his original name was Johannes; Jean is the French version of Johannes. His place of origin is not given; however, he is described as “Allemand de Nation” (German). This couple had five children, all sons.³ The two oldest children were born in Longueuil and the last three, in the nearby village of Boucherville.⁴ Jean worked as a journalier (day laborer)⁵; there is no indication that the couple had anything but the most humble of means. Appoline died in Boucherville on May 6, 1813, at the age of forty-nine.⁶ Jean Conrad Heinmann died there two years later, on July 12, 1815.⁷

Jean’s marriage to Appoline Bourgis in 1787 is the first time his name appears in any records. Between 1787 and 1819, Jean appears in a total of eleven parish church records, all located in Longueuil and Boucherville: his marriage and death records, the baptism records of five children, the marriage record of three of his sons, the death record of one son. No land transactions or other civil records have been discovered.

So little is known about this man. Who was he? To date, he has not been traced back to a specific area in Germany, or to the United States, or to any other part of Canada. How did this German come to be in the province of Quebec in 1787? Was he a Hessian Soldier?



Notation in the margin of the church record, Longueuil, 1787

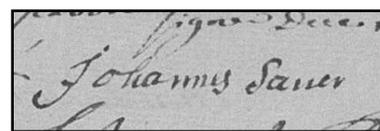
Approximately 30,000 German soldiers were contracted by King George III and the British government as auxiliary troops of the British in the American Revolution. They came from the German Principalities of Hesse-Cassel, Brunswick, Anspach-Bayreuth, Hessen-Hanau, and Anhalt-Zerbst, as well as from other parts of Germany, including Bavaria. These German soldiers were called Hessians because the largest group came from Hesse-Cassel. Most of the Hessians returned home after the war ended in 1783; however, some 5,000 of these German soldiers chose to stay in America, including approximately 2,500 who settled in Canada. Many of the Hessians in Quebec married French-Canadian women; they were absorbed into the French culture, their German roots soon forgotten.⁸

Unfortunately, Jean (or Johannes) Conrad Heinmann does not appear on any lists of Hessian soldiers. Michael Christiansen, a twentieth-century descendant of Jean, compiled a well-documented family history and noted that there is no record of the name of Johannes Conrad Heinmann on any muster lists or recruiting records of Brunswick troops.⁹ Johannes Helmut Merz and Dominique Ritchot, two individuals who have conducted extensive research on the Hessians who settled in Canada and have published books on the topic, were also unable to find this Jean (Johannes) Conrad Heinmann on any list of Hessian soldiers.^{10 11}

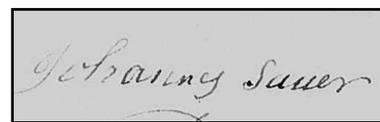
So why the belief that he was a Hessian Soldier?

Family lore: In his research, family historian Michael Christiansen quotes the family notes of Mabel Gilman Fox (1895-1967), daughter of Nelson O. Gilman and g-g-granddaughter of Jean Heinmann (through his son Alexis): "About 1780 O'Gilman *came to Quebec Canada in the British Army* (italics mine). About 1790 he married and had 3 sons. One was Eliexa who married in 1818 and had 6 children."¹² Regarding the accuracy of this statement: After 1811, the Heinmann family surname often appears in church and census records as Ogleman or Hogleman. Jean-Conrad Heinmann actually had five sons, but only three survived to adulthood and married. One of them was Alexis who married in 1819. Alexis, in turn, had nine children, including at least two who died as infants.

The witness at his wedding: A Johannes Sauer signed as one of the witnesses to the marriage of Jean Conrad Heinmann. According to the researchers Dominique Ritchot and Johannes Helmut Merz, Johannes Sauer is listed as a soldier with the Brunswick Troops, Prinz Friedrich Regiment, Praetorius Company.¹³ Johannes Sauer was married to Marie Charlotte Lirette on August 30, 1784 in Charlesbourg, on the outskirts of Quebec City. According to his marriage record, Johannes was from the parish of Bamburg, located in Upper Franconia which is in the heart of Northern Bavaria. Johannes' signature on the marriage record of Jean Heinmann matches the one on his own marriage record. He and his French-Canadian wife settled in Charlesbourg and began their family. Charlesbourg is some distance from Longueuil. For Johannes Sauer to appear as a witness at the wedding of Jean Heinmann suggests that they were good friends and most likely served in the same regiment. Might they have come from the same region of Germany?



Signature on the marriage record of Johannes Sauer in Charlesbourg, 1784.



Signature on the marriage record of Jean Conrad Heinmann, 1787

Eighteenth-Century German Immigrants to Canada: Prior to the start of the American Revolution, very few Germans had settled in Canada. Most Germans living in the thirteen

colonies in the mid-eighteenth century sided with the colonists in the War of Independence. There were, however, Germans who supported Britain in the conflict or who opposed war in general. The largest group of people in the latter category were some of the Mennonites of Pennsylvania. They moved to the area that is now southwest Ontario, settling around Berlin, Ontario. During and after the American War of Independence, the British Loyalists (those loyal to Great Britain in the American Revolution) who fled to Canada settled in communities segregated by ethnicity and religion. A list of these settlements is found on the Wikipedia website *United Empire Loyalist*. Jean Conrad Heinmann and Apolline Bourgis settled and raised their family in Longueuil and Boucherville; neither community is on this list. For this reason, it is unlikely that Jean was a British Loyalist who had previously settled in what became the United States. On the other hand, it is known that a group of German soldiers from the Brunswick regiment who remained in Canada settled southwest of Montreal: just where Jean Heinmann settled.

Religion: In general, the American colonies did not welcome Roman Catholics. While there were Germans among the British Loyalists who fled to Canada, they were much more likely to be Protestant. German Protestants married in Protestant Churches that had been established in Quebec and in Montreal. The fact that Jean Conrad was married and buried in a Catholic Church further suggests that he did not come to Canada as a British Loyalist from the American colonies, but rather as a Hessian soldier, brought across the Atlantic to fight alongside the British. Johannes Sauer, Jean Conrad's friend, was from the Bavarian region of Germany. That area is strongly Roman Catholic; soldiers from that region might well have been Catholic.

Conclusion: While no definitive proof of his service has been discovered, the above is offered as strong circumstantial evidence to support the conclusion that Jean Conrad Heinmann was, in all likelihood, one of the Hessians who fought in the British army and remained in Quebec after the American Revolution.

The Family of Jean Conrad Heinmann and Appoline Bourgis

In the records of Jean and his sons, the name is spelled variously as *Heinman, Honnemann, Honman, Anéman, Auglemene, Augleman, Agninal, Anglemene, Ogleman, O'Gleman, Hogleman, Hogelman, and Ogilman*.¹⁴ In at least one record, Jean Conrad Heinmann is identified simply as "*Allemand*" (the German). German names were often difficult for the French to pronounce and to spell correctly. Hence, the many different spellings and name changes. Fortunately, the mother's name of Appoline Bourgis (or something close) is clearly recognizable in all of the documents. The family names as they appeared in the various documents are included here to assist the family researcher in finding the original documents. These are available as digital images on FamilySearch.org in the collection of un-indexed *Quebec, Catholic Parish Records, 1621-1979* for the parishes of Sainte-Antoine-de-Longueuil (Longueuil) and Sainte-Famille-de Boucherville (Boucherville.)

1. Nicolas:

Birth: January 18, 1788 in Longueuil, Chambly, Quebec
Marriage: February 21, 1814 in Boucherville, Chambly, Quebec
Spouse: Catherine Favreau

Notes for Nicolas:

On his baptism record, Nicolas' name is recorded as "Heinman." His parents are listed as "Jean Conrad Heinman and Appoline Bourgis." On his marriage record, Nicolas' name is given as Anéman. His parents are listed as Jean Anéman and the deceased Apolline Bourgy. Also on the marriage record is Pierre Bourdon, listed as a friend of François Anéman, the groom's brother. This latter fact is mentioned because it serves to confirm family relationships. Pierre Bourdon is listed as a witness at the burial of Nicolas' father "Jean Anneman" in 1815.

Nicolas and his family appear on the census records of 1825, 1851 and 1861 at Boucherville, Chambly, Quebec.¹⁵

On the baptism record of Louise Favreau, dated March 30, 1811, Nicolas serves as godfather to his niece. His surname is listed as Ogleman. This is crossed out and Anneman is written in the margin. Family researcher, Michael Christiansen, observes that this is the first instance found of the name Ogleman in the Boucherville registers.

According to church and census records, Nicolas was a farmer (fermier or cultivateur). He and Catherine were the parents of ten children: Catherine, Nicolas, Michel, Marie Louise, Joseph, Julie, Esther, Catherine, Pierre Avila, Marie Adeline. All children were born in Boucherville, Chambly, Quebec, between 1815 and 1830 and are listed in the Boucherville Parish Registers.¹⁶

2. Joseph

Birth: February 27, 1791 in Longueuil, Chambly, Quebec

Notes for Joseph:

Only a baptism record exists for Joseph. According to this record, Joseph "Honnemann," the son of "Jean Honnemann and Apolline Bourgis," was born and baptized on February 27, 1791 in Longueuil. It is assumed that he died sometime in childhood.

3. François

Birth: July 06, 1793 in Boucherville, Chambly, Quebec
Marriage: August 07, 1815 in Boucherville, Chambly, Quebec
Spouse: Ovide Lafranchise

Notes for François:

François is listed as François Allemand, son of Jean Allemand and Pauline Bourgis, on his baptism record in 1793. On the marriage record of François "Aneman," his parents, "Jean Aneman and Appoline Bourgi," are both listed as deceased. Nicolas and Alexis are listed as brothers of François on this marriage record.

François and his family appear on the census records of 1825, 1851 and 1861 for Boucherville.¹⁷ In the 1825 census, his name is listed as Augleman. In the census records of 1851 and 1861, his name is given as Ogleman. In the Canadian census of 1851, there were 19 individuals listed with the surname of Ogleman. All resided in Boucherville or in nearby settlements.¹⁸

François and Ovide had six children, all born in Boucherville: Julie, unnamed infant who died at birth, Emilie, François, Julie, François.¹⁹

4. Alexis

Birth: December 8, 1795 in Boucherville, Chambly, Quebec
Marriage: August 3, 1819 in Boucherville, Chambly, Quebec
Spouse: Félicité Sabourin

Notes for Alexis:

On his baptism record, Alexis was listed as "Alexis Agninal," son of "J. Baptiste Agninal and Pauline Bourgie." On his marriage record, he is listed as "Alexis Ogleman," son of the deceased "Jean Ogleman and Appoline Bourgie." On this record, his occupation is listed as "cultivateur."

Alexis and Félicité had 9 children, all born in Boucherville, Chambly, Quebec between 1820 & 1835: Nicolas, Félicité, Antoine, Thomas, Aurelie, Leon, Henriette, Marie Onesime, and Marie Elisee.²⁰ Alexis "Augleman" and his family are found in the census of 1825 for Boucherville (as are his brothers Nicolas and François).

Alexis would be the only child of Jean Conrad Heinmann to emigrate from Canada to the United States. At some point between 1835 and 1845, Alexis moved his family to Plattsburgh, New York. It is very possible that Alexis was a participant or sympathizer in the 1837 Papineau Rebellion in Canada. This Papineau Rebellion, led by Louis Joseph Papineau and William Lyon Mackenzie, was a short-lived attempt made in 1837 to sever the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, Canada from English rule. At the time, Papineau was an influential leader in the French Canadian Party and the Speaker of the House in the Canadian Legislature. The efforts of Papineau towards independence failed; declared a rebel, he fled to the United States. Many of his followers sought safety in the United States as well. Rebels in the Papineau Rebellion were later granted amnesty; however, a good number had put down roots in New York and chose to stay. Many of the first parishioners of St. Peter's Catholic Church in Plattsburgh were veterans of the Papineau Rebellion.²¹

Alexis started using the name Bourgerie or Bourgie, his mother's surname, in Plattsburgh, New York, and his descendants who remained in the Plattsburgh area also used that name. Alexis "Bourgie," his wife, Félicité Sabourin, and four of his children (Aurelie, Félicité, Thomas, and Henriette- all using the surname Bourgie) are listed in the 1857 census records for St. Peter's Catholic Church in Plattsburgh.²² Antoine "Bourgerie", another child of Alexis, is listed in the 1860 U.S. Census as a resident of Plattsburgh, along with his wife, Emily and 7 children.

5. Jean-Baptiste

Birth: April 14, 1802 in Boucherville, Chambly, Quebec
Death: March 03, 1803 in Boucherville, Chambly, Quebec

Notes on Jean-Baptiste:

Jean Baptiste died before he was a year old. On his baptism record in the Boucherville Registres, Jean Baptiste is listed as "Baptiste Anéman." His parents are listed as "Joseph Anéman and

Pauline Bourgi." On his death record "Jean-Baptiste Anémanne" is listed as the child of Jean Anémanne and Apolline Bourgie.

¹ Apolline Bourgit was born on August 29, 1763 in Boucherville. Her parents listed as Joseph Bourgit and Euphrasie Cicot.

² On their marriage record, Appoline is listed as the widow of Thomas Xavier.

³ Baptism, burial, and marriage records from Boucherville and Longueuil in the province of Quebec, Canada are found in the Quebec, Catholic Parish Records, 1621-1979. This is a collection of un-indexed records available at FamilySearch.org. The images of the actual records have been digitized and may be downloaded.

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⁵ "Jean Anémanne" is listed as a "journalier" (day laborer) on the death record of his youngest son, Jean-Baptiste, in 1811. Jean's occupation as "journalier" is also given in his wife's burial record in 1814.

⁶ Apolline "Bourgy" is listed as the wife of Baptiste Animan, "journalier" (day laborer) on her burial record. Baptiste was the Christian name of a son, not her husband. Her son "Nicolas Bourgy," witnessed the burial.

⁷ Jean's name is given as "Anneman" in his burial record. His age is said to be "about 95." The given age is likely an error: It would have meant that he was 67 when he married Apolline Bourgis in 1887.

⁸ American Revolution.org; Merz, Johannes Helmut.

⁹ Christiansen, Michael. "Descendants of Jean Conrad Ogleman," a report published privately in February 16, 2004.

¹⁰ Dominique Ritchot is the author of "German Troops and their settlement in Canada 1776-1783." Longueuil, Historical and Genealogical Ed. Pepin (Drouin Institute) 2011. Dominique did identify a Johann Conrad Hamann of Hess-Hanan, Prinz Friedrich from Switzerland who married Marie-Marguerite Desmarais and had 7 children between 1778 and 1788. According to the baptism records of his children, this Hamman lived in several communities: Trois-Rivières, La Prairie, St-Philippe, and Boucherville. Source: Rootsweb Quebec-Hessians Message Board, Subject: Johann Conrad HEINEMANN postings dated Sun, 16 Nov 2003 and Fri, 28 Nov 2003.

¹¹ Susanne Gibfried Marciniak, another descendant of Jean Conrad Heinmann, shared with me her research and communications with Michael Christiansen, Johann Helmut Merz, and Dominique Ritchot.

¹² Christiansen, Michael. "Descendants of Jean Conrad Ogleman," a report published privately in February 16, 2004.

¹³ Rootsweb Quebec-Hessians Message Board, Subject: Johann Conrad HEINEMANN postings by Dominique Ritchot dated Sun, 16 Nov 2003 and Fri, 28 Nov 2003.

¹⁴ The first time the name Hogleman appears in the parish records of Boucherville is in 1811. The baptism record of Louise Favreau from Boucherville, dated March 30, 1811, lists Nicolas Hogelman as godfather. The name is crossed out and the name Anéman is written in the margin.

¹⁵ Canadian Census records downloaded from Ancestry.com in 2013.

¹⁶ Christiansen, Michael. "Descendants of Jean Conrad Ogleman," a report published privately in February 16, 2004. Christiansen cites the parish records of Boucherville. These records are now available in the collection of Quebec, Catholic Parish Records, 1621-1979, available at FamilySearch.org.

¹⁷ Canadian Census records, downloaded from Ancestry.com in 2013.

¹⁸ The indexed Canadian Census of 1851 is available at FamilySearch.org.

¹⁹ Christiansen, Michael. "Descendants of Jean Conrad Ogleman," a report published privately in February 16, 2004. Christiansen cites the parish records of Boucherville. These records are now available in the collection of Quebec, Catholic Parish Records, 1621-1979, available at FamilySearch.org.

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²¹ Hogue, Roswell, DDS. *Centennial 1853 - 1953: St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Plattsburgh, N.Y.*, 1953, p. 9-10, 18.

²² Botten, Elizabeth, comp. and ed. *St. Peter's Church Census Records, Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York 1857-1859-1860*. New York: Northern New York American-Canadian Genealogical Society, 1996. (A copy of the book is in the Plattsburgh Public Library.)