

**Will the Real Johannes Georg Eichel Please Stand Up!
On the Mystery of Two Ancestral Candidates**

**Jeff Oicles
San Diego, California
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Preface

This note has mainly been written to explore the background of the progenitor who brought the name Eichel to North America during the Revolutionary War. Some concluding speculation is also provided regarding Nova Scotian longevity. In researching this paper, the author is humbled by the copious good works that explore and document ancestries relating to the Hessians and Nova Scotia. The questions raised herein will probably never be answered, but the intent here is to offer up this brief note to as many as possible in the hope that it might distill out a few tidbits of new information on this fascinating story. To go beyond this submission with any credibility would be presumptuous in the light of previous efforts without really getting into the scholarship and visiting the various archives for access to documents not readily available on the Internet. And it wouldn't hurt to be fluent in German, as well. This author has regrettably added very little if anything to the historical record, but the process has been educational personally and great fun as well.

Introduction

The family name Oickle and its many variants came to North America through a Hessian mercenary fighting for Britain's George III in the American Revolutionary War. This progenitor has been studied by a number of amateur researchers and two candidates, both originally named Johnannes Georg Eichel, have emerged. Which of these two is the true ancestor remains to be determined and is the subject of this note. One must also consider that the records are distorted and there was only one J.G. Eichel. The writer also provides some conjecture regarding the desertion process that brought Pvt. Eichel to Nova Scotia in 1783, three months before the Treaty of Paris officially ended the war.

Eichel the Younger

He is the more likely to emerge in the literature as he is the candidate listed in the German HETRINA archives¹ according to master researcher John Merz. He was born in 1764 or 1765 in Wölferbütt, Thuringia. If he is the true ancestor, he was 66 when he died in 1830.

Eichel the Elder

He was born in 1755 in Wolfenbüttel in the territory of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel, now part of Lower Saxony. He was reportedly 75 years old when he died in 1830. This option has been identified through several amateur researchers.^{2,3}

Pressed Recruitment

Family lore indicates that Eichel was forcibly conscripted into service. In 1776 such conscription took place as the duchies in what is now Germany scrambled to meet the British request for 12,500 recruits from Hesse-Kassel, by far the greatest contributor of manpower. This took place in both the Wölferbütt area⁴ and in Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel.

During the war a total of 29,867 soldiers were sent to North America from what is now Germany. The majority came over in 1776. The following table gives the breakdown between the two most probable territories to have pressed Eichel into service.⁵

Year	Duchy	Brunswick	Hesse-Kassel
1776		4300	12805
1777		224	403
1778		475	---
1779		286	993
1780		266	915
1781		---	915
1782		172	961
Totals		5723	16992

Recruitment policies in the later years were likely not as aggressive as during 1776. There is evidence that later recruitments focused more on undesirables than on any ordinary candidate in order to rid the local areas of troublemakers. Consequently, the troops brought over in 1776 tended to be of higher quality than the later ones.⁶

One can conclude that it is most probable that Eichel was conscripted in 1776, although this is far from certainty. By the numbers, it is also most likely that he was recruited by Hesse-Kassel although if it were Eichel the Elder it would be expected that Brunswick would have recruited him. But no Eichel is listed in HETRINA as coming from Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel.⁷

So Which One Is It?

The mists of time have swallowed up any definitive answer. But, from the evidence available, it is argued by this author that HETRINA made an understandable mistake and Eichel the Elder is the most likely candidate. If the Younger was picked up in 1776, he would have only been 12 years old. The recruitment could have taken place in 1779, when 15-year-olds were fair game. But why alienate the locals by stealing their teenagers when there were sufficient undesirables to fill their quotas? Furthermore, Wölferbütt is a small village with only 400 people today and it was probably smaller in 1776. It is difficult to imagine that the Hesse-Kassel recruiters would descend upon such a town, particularly after the recruiting melee of 1776. Firstly, there would not have been many viable candidates, and secondly, the town would have been on the lookout for these highly visible soldiers and every male would have headed for the hills.

The fact that Eichel does not appear in [7] could be attributed to a HETRINA error, or perhaps Eichel the Elder was traveling through Hesse-Kassel when he was picked up. The latter is what happened with the author Johann Seume.⁶ The report that Eichel was born in Neckarau, Mannheim, Baden, Germany² poses the possibility that he was traveling for a family or other visit when he was conscripted.

Besides the age factor, there appears to be only sparse descriptions of the man that might shed some light on the issue. One of the best citations is from the Canon Harris papers:⁸

“He was a native of Germany and a soldier in the British Army. After the American Revolutionary War (he was) in North West and then moved to Maitland. He was married in 1784 in Lunenburg to Mary Elizabeth Bouteiller, born 1763, died 1863 age 99 yrs. 10 mos. 20 days. In later years he longed to see his old home in Germany. He was a good old man to his grandchildren. He owned Lot #28 N.W. which he sold to his son John for 50 pounds in 1810. John Jr. sold #29 N.W. in 1818 for 203 pounds.”

Perhaps the most probable way out of this dilemma is to unearth previously unreported oral or written evidence of Eichel’s age when he died in 1830.

War Record

There are only the tiniest smatterings available of Johnannes Eichel’s war record. After all, he was only a private in a very large military organization. Furthermore, the small Jaeger Korps regiments to which he belonged were typically attached to larger outfits and often reassigned. It is enticing to speculate on his whereabouts between the British defeat at Yorktown in October 1781 and his desertion in June of 1783. There was an unsettled period between Yorktown and the signing of the Treaty of Paris in September, 1783 where British and Hessian soldiers were either secure in occupied areas such as New York or in a number of prison camps. There was no fighting. All parties involved knew the war was over. Treaties between the British and the various Germanic duchies involved theoretically prevented the straightforward release of the Hessian mercenaries, but a variety of unofficial schemes were in place to do just that. POWs could buy themselves free, volunteer to join the American army, or be sold into servitude for three years.⁹ The prison camps for Hessians were all in areas heavily populated with ethnic Germans and there was often a great deal of empathy for the mercenaries despite the American propaganda campaign led by Thomas Jefferson during the war.¹⁰ In Eichel’s case he elected to go north along with thousands of other aided “desertions.”

It is noted that a Johannes Schwalm Historical Association citation cites Eichel as a POW.¹¹ If a seasoned soldier such as Eichel had been captured by rebellious colonials, he would likely be embarrassed by this and not eager to talk about it after the war. This reluctance might have extended to his military experiences in general. In any case, it appears that we have absolutely nothing in written or oral records that originated from the man himself regarding his life prior to Nova Scotia. Of course literacy was not common until mandatory primary education arrived in Nova Scotia in the 1840’s.

Nova Scotian Longevity

A few years ago there was an interesting magazine article on longevity in Nova Scotia; particularly in Lunenburg and Yarmouth.¹² While the average age is relatively low due to hazardous occupations such as fishing and logging, the percentage of centenarians is remarkably high. This author would like to throw out the challenge of reviewing the Eichel genealogy¹³ to seek high life spans. Elizabeth Boulteiller’s 100-year age may be a marker deserving further

investigation. The Eichel/Boulteiller lines were so prolific that they could have easily impacted today's genetic makeup of the region.

References

¹ There are six HETRINA volumes published by the Archives in Marburg, Hessen, Germany. Full title is HEssische TRuppen Im Amerikanischen Unabhaengigkeitskrieg (Hetrina)

² [http://www.flora.org/nancy/lunenburg/genealogy/4/p/8/John_\(Johann_George\)_EICKL.html](http://www.flora.org/nancy/lunenburg/genealogy/4/p/8/John_(Johann_George)_EICKL.html)

³ <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~whynacht/b86.html>

⁴ <http://www.voelkershausen.de/English/EnglHist.html>

⁵ Edward J. Lowell, *The Hessians and Other German Auxiliaries of Great Britain in the Revolutionary War*, Harper Brothers, New York, 1884, Appendix D

⁶ibid, pp 38

⁷ Claus Reuter, *Brunswick Troops in North America, 1776-1783*, Heritage Books, 2007

⁸ Rev. E.A. Harris, Canon Harris' Notes, on microfilm in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia (P.A.N.S.). Exact citation unknown.

⁹ Historical Society of Berks County, PA, "Historical Review of Berks County," Fall 2001.

<http://www.berkshistory.org/articles/hessian.html>

¹⁰ <http://www.explorepahistory.com/hmarker.php?markerId=574>

¹¹ <http://pages.prodigy.net/halschwalm/jshacomb.html>

¹² Mary Duenwald, "Puzzle of the Century," Smithsonian Magazine, January 2003

¹³ Harry Bishop Oikle, "Eichel Genealogy," self-published note, August 1993, revised 1995. Note: A copy of the Eichel genealogy is in the Public Archives of N.S., Manuscript Division, 6016 University Avenue, Halifax, N.S. B3H 1W4, in the office of the Southshore Genealogical Society, Box 901, Lunenburg, N.S. B0J 2C0 and in the office of the Shelburne County Genealogical Society, Box 248, Shelburne, N.S. B0T 1W0.)

Appendix A

Dave Conrad's Compilation of Eichel References*

Personal Data Files of German Military Men in Compiled by Johannes Helmut Merz, Researcher. The following is printed with the permission of Johann Helmut Merz from his publication "The Hessians of Nova Scotia."

S#134,1940:

Eichel, Johannes, born 1764/65?, Woelferbuett X-6221, (new Postal code 36404 Wolferbutt/Thuringen, 0 km south of Vacha), Private, 4.Comp., Kassel Chasseur Corps, left the military June 1783 at New York, no other military information found in this or any other military sources. S#134,1964-67 shows one Eichler, Johannes serving with the Kassel-Regt.v.Seitz, born 1753/54, in Ansbach, but is reported as having died in 1782. (Possibly in Halifax, while stationed there?)

S#336: Johann Georg Eichel, Private in Jager (Chasseur) Regiment, born appr.1755, settled in Lunenburg County, N.S., died 1830.

Lf Johannes Eichel can be identified with Johann Georg Eichel who was in Lunenburg, N.S., by 1784, we know the following: He was buried 13.Sep.1830 at age 75 (10 years older than S#134 says) TMP

A Hesse-Kassel Chasseur Johannes Eichel, who deserted from his unit in New

York in June 1783 (shortly before they went back home), settled in Lunenburg County, N.S. He was born 1764/65? At 36404 Woelferbuett.

From Terrence M. Punch: If Johannes Eichel can be identified with Johann

Georg Eichel who was in Lunenburg, N.S., by 1784, we know the following:

He was buried 13.Sep.1830 at age 75 (10 years older than S#134 says). He

Married 29.Aug.1784 at Anglican, Lunenburg to Mary Elizabeth, daughter of

John Nicholas Boutellier. There were 13 children.

From John Mertz: When New York was evacuated in the fall of 1783, tens of

Thousands of Loyalists, British and German soldiers went to Nova Scotia

Where they had been promised free land. Johannes Eickel must have been one

Of them.

Birthday: ca. 1755

Birthplace: Neckarau, Mannheim, Baden, Germany

Mother: Eva Catharine Ziemer

Father: Johann Andreas Eichel (Eigel)

Sex: male

Dave Conrad info:

D. 13 September 1830 at Lunenburg, Lunenburg Co., Nova Scotia

*Provided via e-mail on 2/4/09

A Hesse-Kassel Chasseur Johannes Eichel, who deserted from his unit[^]in New York in June 1783 (shortly before they went back home),[^]settled in Lunenburg County, N.S. He was born 1764/65? At 36404 Woelferbuett.

1792 Poll Tax: John Eigel, Northwest Range, Lunenburg.

1795 Poll Tax: John Eigel, weaver, Lunenburg Township.

Later Dave Conrad info (from a correspondant to him):

Until then, I do have a Johann (John) Eichel, born about 1753 in Neckarau, Mannheim, Baden, Germany . He served as a British soldier and was discharged in Halifax after the American Revolution. He married Mary Elizabeth Boudaillar. His parents are Johann Andreas Eichel (Eigel) and Eva Catharine Ziemer.

My sources are Cannon Harris Notes MG4 and IGI index.

Still more info from an Internet correspondant:

John Oickle born 1764- a native of Germany and a soldier in the British Army.

After the American Revolution he was in North West and then in Maitland. It's

Said in later years he longed to see Germany again. He was good to his

Grandchildren. He owned lot 28 in North West that he sold to son John in 1810

For 50 lbs. John sold #29 in North West in 1818 for 203 pounds. (note: I

Can't explain why John would have bought #28 and sold #29).

He came from Wolfensbuttl in the province of Saxony. In July 1783 was in

Military hospital in Halifax and was "found absent." Other records show a

Deserter from Heinrich's Company of Hessian Chasseurs. He was listed as 19

Years old. It is speculated he went to Lunenburg because of the German

Population. He had land in Mahone Bay/Maitland area where he raised family.

From e-mail list:

Until then, I do have a Johann (John) Eichel, born about 1753 in Neckarau, Mannheim, Baden, Germany . He served as a British soldier and was discharged in Halifax after the American Revolution. He married Mary Elizabeth Boudaillar. His parents are Johann Andreas Eichel (Eigel) and Eva Catharine Ziemer.

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can't explain why John would have bought #28 and sold #29).

Appendix B Internet-Based References

[http://www.flora.org/nancy/lunenburg/genealogy/4/p/8/John_\(Johann_George\)_EICKL.html](http://www.flora.org/nancy/lunenburg/genealogy/4/p/8/John_(Johann_George)_EICKL.html)
On relative Johnann George Eickle. Lots of speculation on Johannes Eichel.

Eichel, Johannes	Hesse-Cassel; Woelfenbuett; Private; Jaeger Co. 4; HETRINA Vol IV; POW reclassified as deserter at Halifax, June 16, 1783.
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From <http://pages.prodigy.net/halschwalm/jshacomb.html>

<http://parkdale.ednet.ns.ca/Research%20Centre.html>

Research center near Lunenburg; Johannes Oicles listed as available research material.

Parkdale - Maplewood Community Museum

RR # 1 Barss Corner

3005 Barss Corner Rd., Maplewood,

Lunenburg County, NS

B0R 1A0

<http://www.downhome.top-ereviews.com/hessians.html>

Good early genealogy

<http://library.fandm.edu/archives/mscoll/jshacoll.html>

Reference archive in Pa—see Box 21 Folder 8

6 Jean Nicholas4 BOUTILIER (Jean George3, Guillaume2, Nicholas1),
bapt. 22 Oct. 1731 at Etobicoke, d. 16 Dec 1799 in Lunenburg Co., bur. 17 Dec
1799 in Lunenburg Co. He m. 3 May 1757 at St. John's, Lunenburg, Anna
Judith METIN.

Children:

i. Jean George BOUTILIER, d. May 1758 in Lunenburg Co., bur. 10 May
1758 from St. John's, Lunenburg.

ii. Catherine BOUTILIER, b. 26 June 1761 in Lunenburg Co., m. 28 Sept
1783 at the Dutch Reformed Church, Lunenburg, Conrad WESTHAVER.

16 iii. Marie Elizabeth BOUTILIER

iv. Jean George BOUTILIER, d. at St. Margarets Bay, m. 30 Dec 1787 at St.
John's, Lunenburg, Anna Barbara CLATTENBURG.

17 v. George Frederick BOUTILIER

vi. Peter BOUTILIER

vii. Jean Jacques BOUTILIER, b. 14 Feb 1772 in Lunenburg Co., m. 7 April
1798 at St. Paul's, Halifax, Mary Elizabeth DAUPHINEE.

viii. John Christopher BOUTILIER, b. 20 Jan 1774 in Lunenburg Co., d. 1839
at French Village, m. 4 May 1799 at St. Paul's, Halifax, Mary Catherine
BOUTILIER, b. 16 Nov 1781 in Lunenburg Co., d. July 1845 at French
Village, daughter of John Frederick BOUTILIER and Anna KNICKLE.

ix. Elizabeth BOUTILIER, b. 21 June 1776 in Lunenburg Co.
x. James BOUTILIER, b. 29 July 1779 in Lunenburg Co., d. 15 April 1875 in Black Point, m. 4 April 1802 at St. Paul's, Halifax, Mary ANDREWS.
xi. Ann Catherine BOUTILIER, b. 27 June 1782 in Lunenburg Co. m. 20 March 1803 at St. Paul's, Halifax, John Frederick GRONO.
xii. George BOUTILIER, b. 10 June 1785 in Lunenburg Co.
xiii. John C. BOUTILIER, b. 17 March 1788 in Lunenburg Co., m. in 1812, Anna Barbara BOUTILIER, b. 22 Feb 1788 in Lunenburg Co., daughter of Jean George BOUTILIER and Catherine Elizabeth L'EAU.

From <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canns/lunenburg/boutilier.txt>

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~whynacht/b86.html>

More genealogy.

Johan George EICHEL was born in 1755 in Germany. He died on SEP 13, 1830 in Lunenburg, Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia.

Spouse: [Maria Elizabeth BOUTILIER](#). Johan George EICHEL and Maria Elizabeth BOUTILIER were married on AUG 29, 1784. Children were: [Johannes EICHEL](#), [George Frederick EICHEL](#), [Mary Elizabeth EICHEL](#), [Johan Nicholas EICHEL](#), [James Frederick OICKLE](#), [Johan Peter EICHEL](#), [Mary Catherine EICHEL](#), [George EICHEL](#).

http://www.flora.org/nancy/lunenburg/genealogy/8/4/a/Marie_Elizabeth_BOUTELLIER.html
Boutellier genealogy.

<http://www.seawhy.com/namevara.html>

Great treatise on name spelling variants & why.

<http://dsconrad.com/genealogy/>

Wonderful genealogy Web site. Includes picture of George Eichel.

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/LUNEN-LINKS/1997-12/0881516552>

Dave Conrad thread conjecturing as to the parentage of Johannes Georg Eichel.

<http://freepages.military.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bonsteinandgilpin/hnar.htm>

The military side of things. Shows J.G. Eichel on a deserters' list.

<http://hubpages.com/hub/Battle-of-Yorktown-1781>

On the war and the defeat of Cornwallis.

http://www.emmitsburg.net/archive_list/articles/history/rev_war/camp_security.htm

On Camp Security in York, PA, where Cornwallis' defeated soldiers were sent after Yorktown.

<http://www.voelkershausen.de/English/EnglHist.html>

1756/63 The 7 year war.

Our area was not directly effected by this war, but the absence of the landowners had its negative affect on villagers that were dependent on them, as well as the castle and neglected gardens. French troops occupied the city of Vacha 5 km north of Völkershausen and

confiscated whatever they needed.

1771/72 *Bad weather conditions and poor harvests caused many people to go hungry.*

1776 *Between February and May, the landgrave of Hessen assembled several regiments of soldiers in our area, men were picked up off the street never to see their homeland again. They were then hired out to England and shipped to America to fight for the British. The poet Gottlieb Seume was picked up while he took a stroll across the Werra bridge.*

Nice history bit. Volkershausen is about a mile from Wolferbutt.

http://books.google.com/books?id=f0yIkJJU2tEC&pg=PA295&lpg=PA295&dq=hochfuerstlich+hessische+feld-jaeger+corps&source=web&ots=jlQdkjaBMO&sig=igzWV-sX8rpLsVHbKLB-sXpczUU&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=4&ct=result

Hint that Johnannes Eichel, 4th Company Hesse-Kassel Field-Jaeger Corps (Hochfuerstlich Hessische Feld-Jaiger Corps) may have been transported to America on the 23rd of July, 1777.

<http://home.ica.net/~claus/hessen.htm>

Details on the contract between Germany and Great Britain to hire the Hessian mercenaries.

http://www.hessen-militaer.de/mizi_englisch/jaeger.htm

Overview of the Hessians.

<http://listsearches.rootsweb.com/th/read/AMREV-HESSIANS/2004-06/1088030731>

E-mail thread as to where the mercenaries were assigned and the difficulties in determining this.

http://www.suite101.com/external_link.cfm?elink=http://www.jsha.org/

Deserter list. Shoes JGE as POW in Halifax hospital deserting 6/16/1783. Private Jaeger Company 4. HETRINA Vol. IV. Woelfenbuett.

<http://www.srcalifornia.com/uniforms/p47.htm>

Uniforms & Jaeger Corps comments.

<http://www.americanrevolution.org/hessians/hessapp.html>

Hessian soldier statistics (from Lowell's book)

HESSE-CASSEL sent in 1776.....12,805

" " " December, 1777.....403

" " " March, 1779.....993

" " " May, 1780.....915

" " " April, 1781.....915

" " " April, 1782.....961

Total.....6,992

Returned in the autumn of 1783

and the spring of 1784.....	10,492
Did not return.....	6,500

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yorktown_order_of_battle

Reveals presence of Hesse-Cassel Jaeger Company at Yorktown

http://books.google.com/books?id=2VkJAAQAAJ&pg=PA277&lpg=PA277&dq=hesse-cassel+yorktown&source=web&ots=rWvnU85oxw&sig=fhATqMQ0DVjmXY1xRCAWit_j43o&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=6&ct=result#PPA293,M1

Book, *The Hessians* by Edward J. Lowell. And here's the link to the book itself:

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/6920041/edwardlowellthehessianstxt>

<http://www.jaegerkorps.org/reference/Translation%20of%20a%20treaty%20between%20his%20Majesty%20and%20the%20Landgrave%20of%20Hesse%20Cassel1776.doc>

Translated treaty between George III and Hesse-Cassel for mercenaries.

http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=X2vvS698p4C&pg=PA47&lpg=PA47&dq=hesse+cassel+jagers&source=web&ots=EXgdU2_5tU&sig=0MDPHkZ187JRUQt6uscHpAveb5I&hl=en#PPA47,M1

See page 47 for discussion of Hesse-Cassel Field Jaeger Corps—mainly on uniforms.

<http://globalgenealogy.com/globalgazette/gazrr/gazrr28.htm>

Notes on Hessian sources.

<http://pages.prodigy.net/halschwalm/resumes/jshadx07.html>

The 1783 Visit to the Hessian Yorktown Captives, compiled by Henry J. Retzer. Journals, letters and documents describing transfer of supplies and money to prisoners in Pennsylvania and Maryland and the return trip to New York. Itemized lists of goods detained in Chester County by local residents who attacked the wagon train.

<http://pages.prodigy.net/halschwalm/resumes/jshadx03.html>

A Captor's Conundrum: The Management of German Prisoners after Yorktown, A Maryland Perspective, by P. Kirby Gull.

<http://pages.prodigy.net/halschwalm/resumes/jshadx87.html>

Journal of the Feld Jaeger Corps, Part 1, by Bruce E. Burgoyne. 23 June 1777 - 1779

<http://pages.prodigy.net/halschwalm/resumes/jshadx88.html>

Journal of the Feld Jaeger Corps, Part 2, by Bruce E. Burgoyne.

<http://www.seawhy.com/gernorth.html>

Lunenburg site referencing the Saxony JGE. "Hesse or Brunswick?"

<http://www.gutenberg.org/dirs/etext05/7grm410.txt>

Rambling history of Germany—might be useful

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-909.004-e.html>
Canadian Genealogy Centre site.

http://www.perry-miniatures.com/aw_art2.html
Snippet from “German Troops in the Saratoga Campaign”

Light companies – there were NO integral light companies in ANY German line infantry units in Canada in 1777; nor was the Light Battalion von Barner (whose primary role was to provide musket-and-bayonet support for the jaeger company) formed from such troops. However, after Saratoga, the loss of all of the Brunswick light troops may have led the remnants left in Canada to follow the Hesse Cassel forces in creating ad hoc “chasseur” companies by drafting men temporarily from the line regiments (this is possibly what the plate of the Riedesel Regiment “light infantryman” in Mollo/McGregor is depicting).

<http://home.ica.net/~claus/myth.htm>
Canadian Loyalist point of view regarding the American Revolution.

<http://freepages.military.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bonsteinandgilpin/hpnah.htm>
Perhaps the most probable course of action from Yorktown to desertion in Halifax.

The final blow to the British came at Yorktown, Virginia, when General Cornwallis had to surrender his army of British and Germans to General Washington and his French allies on 19 October 1781. Taken prisoner were appr. 270 soldiers of the Hesse Kassel Regt. von Bose, over 900 soldiers of the Ansbach Bayreuth Regiments, 425 soldiers of the Hesse Kassel Regt. Erbprinz, and about 68 Hesse Kassel Jaegers. The prisoners were marched to Frederick, MD, and to Winchester, VA. Whatever was left in May of 1783 was ordered to march to New York for release, but many took advantage of this last chance and deserted in order to remain in the United States of America.

http://www.biographi.ca/009004-119.01-e.php?id_nbr=2908
Notes on the Halifax Naval Hospital.

The naval hospital at Halifax was in a bad state when Hamond arrived, and he soon “found it absolutely necessary to prepare for building an Hospital in the Spring.” Tenders were called for in December 1781, and the new facility, which cost almost £8,000 and could accommodate 200 patients, was ready by the end of 1782. Its first physician was the Rhode Island loyalist John Halliburton.

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/AMREV-HESSIANS/2002-04/1019514445>
Here is a deserter that went AWOL in June, 1783

> a document that my grandfather had, it was signed Joseph Adrien FELX dit Decasse.

I don't know "dit" but, from what little I have copied of HETRINA(again see List Archives for explanation), vol.3: index shows a FELIS. Sorry I hadn't

copied. Same vol., FENECS/FENIX, Alexander, GR, MNG1, deserted 6/1783. From, vol.2: FLECK, Andreas, FU, DIT3, code 01 (appointed) (no sign of desertion), 0/1783 (last entry in records). Vol.3, FEUX, Joesph, GE, RAL5, code 16 (sep. in Amer.).

http://books.google.com/books?id=GejQdlQrD-kC&pg=PA135&lpg=PA135&dq=hinrich+hessian+chasseurs&source=web&ots=21jj0KFW0G&sig=gUOS89S_3FIknN0eO1_EAbGKn8E&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=5&ct=resul#PPA137,M1

The Hessians, book by Rodney Atwood.

Preview this book **The Hessians** By Rodney Atwood



awarded *Pour la vertu militaire*.¹¹⁹ Ninety-six of the French attackers were killed and wounded, the prisoners numbered seventy-three.¹²⁰

On 17 October Cornwallis asked for terms, and two days later his troops, British, Loyalist, and German, marched into captivity. It must have been mortifying for Major O'Reilly, who had routed the raw Americans at New York five years before, to surrender his regiment. Baron von Closen, a Palatine serving in the German Zweibrucken Regiment in Rochambeau's corps, described the captured Germans: '[The Ansbach Regiments] were very handsome and very neatly dressed, better even than the Hessians. The Hessian Regiment of Bose was not comparable in appearance to the last two, but it served throughout this war with the greatest distinction, and during the entire siege not a man deserted from it, whereas we received many Ansbach deserters and two English nationals.'¹²¹

There were 365 prisoners from Bose's regiment including 11 taken on 14 October, 41 wounded and 89 sick. Seventeen men had been killed during the siege. The Regiment Erbprinz suffered even more severely, losing 22 killed, 62 wounded, and 482 prisoners.¹²²

¹¹⁶ Baurmeister, *Journals*, p. 475.

¹¹⁷ StaMarburg 12.11 1 Ba 7, fols. 185 and 193.

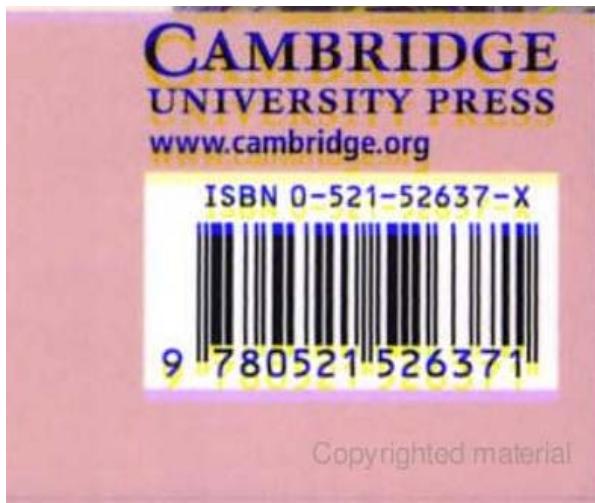
¹¹⁸ Ibid., fol. 189.

¹¹⁹ Ibid., 4h.412. nr. 4, fol. 166, Col. Hachenberg's report, n.d.; 4h.411. nr. 2, fol. 224, Cornwallis to Knyphausen, 8 Dec. 1781.

¹²⁰ Samuel Abbott Greene, *My Campaigns in America: a Journal kept by Count William de Deux-Ponts 1780-81* (Boston, 1868), pp. 147 and 148 n. 76.

¹²¹ Acomb, *Baron von Closen's Journal*, pp. 153-4. In her introduction the editor estimates the Germans and Swiss in the French corps as one third of total strength.

¹²² StaMarburg 12.11 1 Ba 7, fols. 219-220; 4h.411. nr. 2, fols. 206-8.



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Until then, I do have a Johann (John) Eichel, born about 1753 in

>>Neckarau

>>Neckarau,
>>Mannheim, Baden, Germany . He served as a British soldier and was
discharged

>>in Halifax after the American Revolution. He married Mary Elizabeth

>>in Halifax
>>Boutailler

>>His parents are Johann Andreas Eichel (Eigel) and Eva Catharine Ziemer

My

>>sources are Cannon Harris Notes MG4 and IGI index. I have a cousin

>Joyce

>>in Nova Scotia who is also doing research on the family.

>>

<http://listsearches.rootsweb.com/th/read/NOVA-SCOTIA/1999-01/0917463381>

Old note from John Merz on Eichel's parentage.

<http://www.nps.gov/york/historyculture/german-auxiliary-units-at-yorktown.htm>

Notes that there were only 77 jaegers at Yorktown, under Cpt. Ewald.

<http://freepages.military.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bonsteinandgilpin/jhm.htm>

http://www.quinte-kin.com/publications_01.htm

On John Merz

<http://www.dlar.org/Bibliographies/2006Hessians.doc>

Bibliography of books and articles about Hessian POWs.

<http://ahecwebdds.carlisle.army.mil/awapps/pdfopener?smd=1&md=1&did=95103>

Another bibliography on Hessians in America.

http://www.yorkblog.com/universal/2008/07/how_many_revolutionary_war_pri.html

On Camp Security, York PA

<http://www.exploreaphistory.com/hmarker.php?markerId=574>

On Hessian POWs near Reading, PA. Comments on the sympathy of the ethnic German locals for the Hessian POWs.

<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=9C05E4D71130E633A25753C1A9679D94689FD7CF>

1889 New York Times article on Hessian POWs at Reading, PA.

<http://www.berkshistory.org/articles/hessian.html>

Hessian POWs in Reading, PA. Illuminating article as to how the POWs were treated.

http://www.yorktownsquare.com/2007/03/peeking_into_pas_attic.php

More on Camp Security, York.

<http://www.hmdb.org/Marker.asp?Marker=2739>

On the Hessian Barracks at Fredericksburg, MD.

http://lmurphy15.tripod.com/WC06/WC06_303.htm

Nice genealogy hit on JGE. Here he is Eichel the Elder.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nslssgs/newsmai7.htm>
Eulogy of Canon Harris

<http://www.seawhy.com/vict57.html>
1757 victualling list, very confusing. Eichel is on it.