

## What was Susannah's Surname?

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**M**y dead end for more than 20 years has been determining the maiden surname of Susannah LaRose, my father's 3<sup>rd</sup>-great-grandmother. I've found it frustrating because I have probably run across her family and not realised it! Why? Susannah was a Pennsylvania German and much of my mother's ancestry is comprised of Pennsylvania German families that settled in Vaughan and Markham Townships of York County.

Oral history amongst members of the LaRose family of Etobicoke Township stated that the first LaRose in Ontario was married to a Madame Rousseau, who after the death of Mr. LaRose, married a Mr. LaRush. That was the extent of my knowledge of the early LaRose family.

I turned to census data to locate the LaRush family and perhaps a name for Mrs. LaRush (formerly LaRose). In the 1851/2 Census of Etobicoke Township, Peter LaRush is listed, then age 66, born Canada, along with his wife, Susannah, then age 56, born in the United States.<sup>1</sup>

A search of early Ontario marriage records located the marriage of Peter Larushe, bachelor, to Susan Larose, widow, both of Etobicoke Twp., at St. James Anglican Church in Toronto on 21 May 1821.<sup>2</sup> Witnesses at this marriage were Hiram Prentice & Dolly Prentice.

According to census data, Susannah, was born in the United States in about 1793 and was of "Dutch" ancestry.<sup>3</sup> Her Ontario death registration ages her by about 10 years and suggests a birth year of 1784.<sup>4</sup> This same document states that she was born in Pennsylvania. Based on available information, I can say that she was born in the United States, probably Pennsylvania, and if the latter is correct, she was probably German, the Dutch coming from the common misinterpretation of Pennsylvania Deutsch.

To her marriage with Mr LaRose, Susannah had two known children – Sapphira and Daniel. The latter was born in about 1818 and resided most of his life in Etobicoke Twp. He died in West Toronto in September 1908, age 90 years, 7 months<sup>5</sup> or 92 years according to his death registration.<sup>6</sup> Daniel was married in 1842 by Rev. John Culham, Wesleyan Methodist, of Etobicoke Township, to Caroline Mills. The witnesses at this marriage were John Clock (husband of Daniel's half-sister Charlotte LaRush), and Susan LaRush.<sup>7</sup> Although not confirmed, I'm confident that Susan LaRush was Daniel's mother, as none of the LaRush children were named Susan.

Sapphira LaRose was also married by Rev. John Culham of Etobicoke. When she married Frederick Macikis, a widower of York Twp, in 1832, the witness at her marriage was

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<sup>1</sup> Peter LaRush household, 1851/2 Census, Canada West, York County, Etobicoke Twp., Div. 2, p.123, no.18; Library and Archives Canada microfilm C-11761.

<sup>2</sup> Transcript obtained from The Archivist, The Cathedral Church of St. James, Toronto (1986).

<sup>3</sup> Peter LaRush household, 1851/2 Census, Canada West, York County, Etobicoke Twp., Div. 2, p.123, no.18; Library and Archives Canada microfilm C-11761; Susannah, age 56 (b.1795/6)

Susannah LaRush household, 1861 Census, Canada West, York County, Etobicoke Twp., Div. 3, p.42, Library and Archives Canada microfilm C-1087; Susanna, age 68 (b.1793)

Anthony LaRush household, 1871 Census, Ontario, York West (044), Etobicoke Twp., Div.2, p.35, no.117, Library and Archives Canada microfilm C-9966; Susannah, age 78 (b.1793), Dutch

<sup>4</sup> Susannah LaRush, Ontario Death Registration - # 016820-78, MS 935, Reel 20 – LaRush, Susannah, age 93, died 9 Aug.1877, born Pennsylvania

<sup>5</sup> Tombstone, Daniel LaRose tombstone, Riverside Cemetery, Etobicoke Twp. - DANIEL La ROSE, died Sep. 15, 1908, aged 90 years, 7 months AT REST, transcribed by author, 1980.

<sup>6</sup> Daniel LaRose, Ontario Death Registration - # 033356-08, MS 935, Reel 140 – La Rose, Daniel, died 16 September 1908, at West Toronto, York County, age 92 years, born Etobicoke Township, retired Farmer.

<sup>7</sup> LaRose/Mills, Home District Marriage Register, RG 80-27-1, Volume 11, Book 5 -1839-48

Susannah Laroush – again likely her mother.<sup>8</sup> I’ve never been able to find this couple in any records after their 1832 marriage.

Since Daniel was born in Ontario in 1816/18, and Sapphira probably earlier, I checked the Upper Canada Land Petitions for any reference to LaRose in or around Etobicoke Township. There I found an Ellick LaRose living in York, petitioning in 1819 as a discharged mariner, a native of Montreal, who served during the War of 1812 on Lake Erie.<sup>9</sup> In other areas of the petition he was referred to as Alexander Larose. A notation states that “From the examination of the petition the Board is satisfied that he served in a Volunteer Company at Malden and reported from thence with the interpreter, Reaume, who died at Burlington.”

Alexander petitioned again in 1820, then a resident of Chinguacousy Township, Peel County – adjacent to Etobicoke Twp., York County – requesting that he be able to lease an unowned lot opposite his property on the East half of Lot 1, second concession west of the Centre Road, Chinguacousy. William Baldwin, a witness, reported that Alexander was “a sober and industrious man, he says he served in the Mariner Militia on Lake Erie under Captain Mills in the late war and I have no doubt that this was so as he says”.<sup>10</sup>

Armed with this location, I checked the land abstract for Lot 1, Concession 2, Chinguacousy Township, but Alexander seemed to have disappeared as quickly as he settled on the property. This of course worked well with the data I already had on Susannah – who in 1821 was widowed. The land abstract did reveal that in 1840 a Daniel LaRose was the owner of the property!

Further searching revealed that Daniel LaRose of the Township of Chinguacousy was allowed the east half of Lot number one in the 2nd concession, west of Hurontario Street, in Chinguacousy, as eldest son and Heir at Law of Alexander La Rose, deceased, the Original Nominee. The settlement duty is certified to have been performed and the location is liable to fees under Regulations of 6th July 1804.<sup>11</sup>

In 1844 Daniel Larose of Chinguacousy and his wife, Caroline, sold the Chinguacousy property to Richard Willis. They then appear in land records on Lot 17, Concession B, Etobicoke Township. Signatures on documents from both counties confirm it was the same Daniel LaRose in each instance.

Subsequent research, using the Malden location as a starting point, revealed that Alexander Larose was a private in the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment Essex County Militia, under Capt William Mills.<sup>12</sup> He appears (named Ellick, Alexis or Alexander) to have enlisted in July 1812 and remains on surviving pay lists until January 1813. This company was largely comprised of French Canadiens. Alexandre was present at the battles of Brownstown on 5 August 1812; Maguaga on 9 August 1812 and the capture of Fort Detroit on 16 August 1812.

I could now determine that Alexander “Ellick” LaRose, a native of Montreal, came to Ontario to fight in the War of 1812. Sometime around 1812/3 he married Susannah, a native of Pennsylvania, of German ancestry and they had two known children – Sapphira (b. c1814) and Daniel (b. c1816/8). Both children were likely born in Chinguacousy Twp., but probably after 1821 lived in Etobicoke Twp. in the household of their mother’s second husband, Peter LaRush. Susannah’s marriage to LaRose probably took place in Essex County, or somewhere between Essex and York counties, Ontario, and quite likely could have been Protestant or Roman Catholic, though family members in York County were all Protestant.

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<sup>8</sup> Macikis/LaRose, Home District Marriage Register, RG 80-27-1, Volume 10, Book 4 – 1831-40

<sup>9</sup> Petition of Ellick Larose, May 1819, Upper Canada Land Petitions - L Bundle 12, 1816-20, RG1/L3/Vol.287A

<sup>10</sup> Petition of Alexander Larose, October 1820, Upper Canada Land Petitions - L Bundle Leases, 1801-36, RG1/L3/Vol.305

<sup>11</sup> Daniel LaRose, Second Heir and Devisee Commission, RG40-5, file 2219.

<sup>12</sup> Alexander Larose, Paylists, 1<sup>st</sup> Essex Militia, RG9, IB7, Volume 32, pages 67, 79-81, with assistance from Wilfred A. Lauber (1993)

With her marriage to Pierre Larouche aka Peter LaRush, Susannah had the following children: Charlotte (1822-1902) m. John CLOCK, Thomas WESTPHAL; Charles (1824-1901) m. Jane CARNAHAN; Sarah b. 1825, m. Michael CAMPBELL – no further information; Maria (1826-1869) m. Charles MILLS, a brother of Daniel's wife, Caroline; Anthony (1830-1894) m. Agnes Clara YEAXLEE; Mary Elizabeth, b. 1831 – no further information; John (1832-1906), who's wife was named Mary Ann and James (1836-1863). In all cases I have tried to locate as much as I could on her LaRush children, hoping that I might find a record that would reveal her maiden name. Unfortunately, I've not found anything, although two of the daughters, Sarah wife of Michael Campbell and Mary Elizabeth, I have not yet been able to locate.

Peter LaRush came to Ontario under similar circumstances to Alexander LaRose and quite likely they were acquaintances, or perhaps even related, as Larose is often a nickname for Larouche. Peter was not in the same company as Alexander, but his route to Ontario and ultimately York County, must have been very similar. He died on his property, Lot 19, Concession A, in Etobicoke Twp. in 1860. His will, written in 1851, lists all his children, but does not mention the LaRose children of Susannah. The executors were his "trustworthy friends, John Mattice, Jacob Mattice and John Culham, junior, yeomen of the Township of Etobicoke."

So ... back to the drawing board. The information I found filled in a lot of gaps in the history of the early LaRose and LaRush families, but didn't get me any closer with Susannah's ancestry. I tried looking into the Mattice family, hoping the trustworthy friends were also brothers-in-law, but was not able to find a connection with Susannah. Likewise, the Prentice family of Oliver Prentice, of which Dolly & Hiram belonged, did not reveal a suitable Susannah. Other Pennsylvania German families in the Etobicoke area – Christner, Holly, Mishler and Kaacke – were all checked for my elusive Susannah – but to date, I've found nothing.

I turned back to the Rousseau theory, armed with the knowledge that Susannah was not French. Jean-Baptiste Rousseau had settled on the Humber, but no one in his family or married into his family (since oral tradition had called her Madame) was a suitable match. I then noticed on a Bargain and Sale performed by Daniel LaRose, a William ROUSE was mentioned as owning 6 acres.<sup>13</sup> To add fuel to the fire, when William Rouse married Charlotte Longisway (an anglicized version of the French Langevin), both of Etobicoke in 1839, the witness was a Sarah LaRush.<sup>14</sup> This built a connection between the LaRose, LaRush and Rouse families and helped develop my theory that maybe Susannah's maiden name was ROUSE and oral history had distorted it into the French Rousseau.

G. Elmore REAMAN in his book, *The Trail of the Black Walnut* mentions that a John ROUSE came to King Township in 1812 from Pennsylvania, but nothing further.<sup>15</sup> I have never been able to find more information on this John Rouse. Was Susannah part of this family? Was William Rouse a connection to John?

There was a Benajah Rouse and wife, Margaret Clock, of Etobicoke Township. Benajah drowned on Lake Ontario, leaving Margaret as a widow who later remarried in 1818 to George Anderson. Margaret had one known Rouse child, Benajah, born in 1809.<sup>16</sup> William, born about 1815, may have been connected to this family. The Clock and LaRush families were certainly acquainted, as Charlotte LaRush married John Clock in 1838.

At this point, my research has hit a dead end. Where did Susannah marry Alexander LaRose? She probably came to Canada with her family – were they neighbours in Etobicoke Township, or in any of the other Pennsylvania German areas of York County? Was her family living in Pennsylvania German communities in Lincoln or Waterloo county? The answer is out there somewhere. What have I missed that might hold the clue to Susannah's surname?

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<sup>13</sup> Daniel & Caroline Larose to William Robinson, 11 Mar 1852, Bargain & Sale, Lot 17, Conc. B, Etobicoke Twp

<sup>14</sup> Rouse/Longisway, Home District Marriage Register, RG 80-27-1, Volume 11, Book 5 -1839-48

<sup>15</sup> G. Elmore Reaman, *The Trail of the Black Walnut* (Toronto: McClelland & Stewart Ltd., 1957), p. 228.

<sup>16</sup> Correspondence 1999, Margaret Gordon to Steve Marshall.