

Isaac Delamater

6/3/1694 - 4/20/1775

Capt. Isaac Delamater (also spelled de la Mater), was born in 1694 to Jacobus Delamater and Gertrude Martens Van Esselsteyn.

He married his cousin, Rebecca Delamater, on 10/20/1717. She was the daughter of Isaac Delamater and Cornelia (Everts) Delamater. Rebecca was baptized on 11/25/1696. They initially settled on a farm in Marbletown, New York.

About 1745 Isaac and Rebecca moved to "the Oblong" in Dutchess County, New York. This is an area forming an oblong strip between New York and Connecticut, now part of New York State. It was adjacent to a large tract of land known as the "Nine Partners Patent," or simply as "Nine Partners". A town grew up near them named Amenia, New York. Here Isaac became wealthy, and he and Rebecca had fourteen children.

Isaac was a captain in the colonial militia and he fought in Canada in the French and Indian War. He was generally referred to as "Capt. Isaac de laMater."

He was also a Justice Of The Peace in Amenia, New York. A story is told that a man accused his poor neighbor of killing deer out of season (by law, the neighbor gets half the fine). Capt. Isaac followed the law to the letter. Since the man was too poor and couldn't pay the fine, the alternative penalty was twenty lashes. So, Capt. Isaac awarded half the lashes to the poor man and the other half to his neighbor! Tradition is that after this he was not troubled with complaints from neighbors. It is also said that in important cases he consulted his wife who sat at his side in court.

Another interesting note is that Isaac owned slaves. A bill of sale from Peter Pratt of Sharon, Connecticut, to "Messrs. Isaac de la Matter and Benjamin Hollister, both of Dutchess County, New York, for "my negro wench called by the name of Pegg", for 200 pounds. This was recorded on 5/25/1748 in the Sharon Town Records. According to Newton Reed in his history of Amenia, "The German settlers and the Delamaters had their slaves, who were treated with exemplary kindness, and instructed by them in the facts and duties of religion." Slavery was not only a part of the Old South.

Rebecca died in 1760 and on 21 Oct 1764, Isaac married Catherine Winegar. When Isaac died on 20 Apr 1775, he was buried in the family cemetery on his farm.