

bravery displayed on the field. One of his sons, Francis, was the first man to enter the fort at Detroit after Gen. Hull's surrender. He was wounded seven times during the war, and was later member of Parliament for the county."—(Dominion Atlas, 1881.)

John Wendel Weigele, the progenitor of the Wigle family of Essex county, was born in Germany in the year 1753. His parents dying when he was quite young, left him in the care of some neighbors, who were so severe with him that, being a boy of spirit, he decided to run away. The sea, at that time had great fascination for boys, so we are not surprised to find that he made his way to the coast. Finding a vessel about to sail for America, he decided to hide on her until she had sailed. He would then go to the captain and offer to work. He does not say how he was received, but we note that when the vessel arrived in America, he was apprenticed to a weaver for a term of seven years, for which, in all probability, the captain was well paid.

We next hear of him in the town of Little York, Penn., where in 1776 he married Juliana Romerin. Here they remained for ten years, he following the occupation of a weaver.

While a resident there, he was accused of being a Tory and, although never taking sides with either party, he was always under suspicion, which made it very uncomfortable for him. It is said that on one occasion he was sought by the Revolutionists, and being closely pursued, he hid beneath the floor of his house. After carefully searching the premises, the officers, as a last precaution, poked their swords through the cracks in the floor, but, fortunately for him, they did not reach the place where he was concealed. This, he often remarked, was the most exciting experience of his life.

In 1786, hearing of the offers of free land in the Canadian Northwest and also on account of the persecution of the Loyalists, he, with several others, set out for the land office at Detroit. The journey was made on foot, driving their cattle and carrying their household goods on pack horses.

He remained in the neighborhood of Detroit until 1792, when he received a grant of Lot No. 9, Second Township, North Side River La Tranche. In 1793 he exchanged this lot with George Sichelstel for Lot No. 6, East New Settlement. Here he made his home, which he developed into one of the best farms in the county. He died in 1824 and is buried in Gosfield.

The family consisted of eleven children, five sons and six daughters, some of whom were born in the States.

Philip Fox and Catherine Lamer, of Baden County, Germany, were married in 1772. In the following June they sailed from Liverpool for America, where they arrived after a voyage of fourteen weeks, at the city of Baltimore. Here they remained four years. Then they moved to the State of Pennsylvania, where they lived until 1786, when, in company with John Wendel Weigele, they emigrated to Canada. They lived for a short time on Grosse Isle, then on Col. Elliott's estate below Amherstburg.

In 1791 they moved to Petite Cote, where they remained until 1794, when he exchanged his lots with Augustus Wurzbach for Lot No. 7, New Settlement.

In 1791 he secured for himself and son Jonas the original grant for Lots 8 and 9, East New Settlement, which with Lot 7 made a splendid farm of six hundred acres.

Their family consisted of ten children, eight sons and two daughters, several of whom were born in the States. He died in the year 1815 and