

# FOREWORD

## FOR A BETTER LIFE: A HISTORY OF IKARDS

**W**hen I began writing this history in October of 1993, I wanted to know for sure the name of the first Ikard who came to the New World, and a good bit about each of the generations leading up to the 1990s. For some time from the available research done by my family members in Indiana, Texas, Oklahoma and Tennessee, it appeared that Peder Eiger II came to the Catawba County area of North Carolina in the mid 1700s, having arrived in Philadelphia several years earlier on the ship Lydia with his father Peder I. However, there is evidence that an Anthony Ichard was among Palatines in Livingstone manor on the Hudson River in New York in 1711, and that he was a volunteer among the Palatine forces that went on the Canadian Expedition. Tracking Anthony after this time became more difficult. Yet, he just may have been the father of the Peter who came to North Carolina about 1761. At the time this book goes to print, I have engaged a genealogist in Womelsdorf, Pennsylvania, to further check on Anthony. This is the first time I have sought help outside the family, but you and I would really like to know.

In the summer of 1994, I applied for a grant from the North Carolina Arts Council for a grant as an Emerging Artist and was pleasantly surprised when I did receive the award. I had requested funds for further research for the book I was writing about the Ikards.

In late November, my husband, Fred, and I drove to Albany, New York to search for information about the illusive Anthony Ichard. With a great deal of help from the professional staff of the New York State Archives and a volunteer genealogist, we spent three days of intensive work, with no success.

One day, we examined mostly church records in the Montgomery County Department of History and Archives in Fonda, New York. Fonda was the county seat for Tryon County that encompassed most of upstate New York, including the Mohawk Valley, in the 1700s, and is a treasury of colonial history in New York. All we found on Anthony was what we had found before going to

New York. On pages \_\_\_\_\_ of this book are lists of sources examined in Albany and in Fonda.

Later, we went to the Old Stone Fort in Schoharie, New York, where a number of the Palatines moved after the naval Stores operation failed in East and West Camp along the Hudson. We learned one thing of value there. Conrad Weiser, the leader of the Palatines and Captain of Queensbury Company of Volunteers for the Canadian Expedition in which Anthony Ichard served, led a group of Palatines to Schoharie. Then disillusioned with his patent, land, he led other Palatines south into Berks County in Pennsylvania and established his home in Womesdorf, west of Reading, Pennsylvania. It is possible that Anthony joined the Weiser party in moving to Berks County.

At my first opportunity, I shall go to Berks County to examine records. Still, I must not wait on any information I could gain there before completing this book. I feel that I must accept limitations and that perhaps another family member interested in Ikard history will pursue this clue in the future. If Anthony can be found and linked to Peter, I will be applauding, whether in this world or in the next one.

Peder II established himself as a prosperous planter, a strong support of colonial rebels during the Revolutionary War, an equally strong supporter of the Lutheran Church and a contributor to land acquisition for schools along the South Fork of the Catawba River. This Peder left a will that indicates that he was a man of substance who firmly set terms in his will for the care of his beloved wife Susanna so long as she lived.

Besides being a successful planter, this Peder was a fuller, one who possesses newly woven fabric to make it smooth and soft for garment making. He also was skillful in making shoes, and bequeathed his cobbler tools to his son Henry in his will.

Peder owned more than 600 acres of choice farmland when he made his will. This will is reproduced on page \_\_\_\_\_ of this book. He was the father of Philip whose son, Anthony, took his inheritance from his grandfather and went West, first to Kentucky, then Tennessee, and family on to Missouri. Along the way, he established a large and vigorous family.

However, I cannot state with certainty that Peder Eiger, senior, was the first Ikard in the New World. Two researchers among the Ikards, Mae Sherman Ricketts of Marshall, Texas, and Isabelle Ikard Pearsall of Donelson, Tennessee,

have circumstantial evidence that Anthony could have been the first of our clan to arrive.

Records show that the older Peder arriving on the ship Lydia became a merchant and remained in Pennsylvania.

Some reinforcement for tracing these early arrivals comes with names of friends and neighbors who made the same journeys, who asked Peder and his wife Susanna to be sponsors at the baptism of their infants. There are those who served in the militia with the Eigers/Ikards and were also witnesses to their wills. These individuals were Simon Haas, Rudolph Conrad, and George Bier-son.

My goal has been to finish this book by July of 1995, when the "Oklahoma" Ikards have another reunion in Franklin County, in Tennessee. With some good fortune, I have done more research to clarify nagging questions about our origins.

I am grateful for the work done by my first cousin, Carl Elwood Ikard, and for research done by more removed cousins, Isabelle Ikard Pearsall, whose meticulous documentation draws a sharp line between tradition and certainty, and the work of Edwina Ikard Boyd, of Texas, Burton Ikard and Ed and Martha Ikard, of Oklahoma.

My own research began with a request from my brother, Gerald, in the early 1960s to trace family history before the Ikards came to Tennessee. Along with the bibliography of this book is a list of libraries and archives that have been consulted. If I am to do a narrative history of the Ikards, I could not wait until all the facts were in (I am 74 years old). Instead, I began humbly to piece together a compelling story of one family's journeys and contributions to the development of the United States, with the assurance to the reader that I have attempted to distinguish between the proven and the legends.

It is my hope that Ikards of my generation will find this book informative, useful and acceptable. It is to those bitten by the bug of genealogy in future generations of the coming millennium that I depend upon to get additional facts and to clear the ambiguities of this chronicle

Long into writing this book, I realized that my critics would be contemporaries who would look with jaundiced eye at misinterpretations and mistakes. Try as I did to be sure of the details of dates, names and places, I feel sure that

every careful reader will detect errors. I regret this labor of love could not be perfect.

Late in May 1995, when I was doing the final proofreading for this book, a note arrived from Henry Jones, a noted authority on Palatine genealogy. He believes there was no Anthony Ichard. Instead, Jones believes that Anthonis Schaidt was the individual listed in the documents I examined and that his name was mis-transcribed to Anthony Ichard. With a deadline staring me in the face, I seriously consider this opinion but the book must go to press. Let future Ikard family historians be aware of this development. Isabelle Pearsall, my research mentor, has doubts about Anthony's existence but is not convinced of Henry Jones' opinion.

Mildred Ikard Bourgeois  
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