

# HISTORIC RED HOOK

**John I. Stickle**

1774 - 1871

**Hannah Fraleigh**

1776 - 1850

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Cemetery, Red Hook

*Marble tablet with shield and drapery with tassels at the corner of the middle access road and parking lot road.*

“The old cemetery in Red Hook village in which lies the dust of so many of the aged, contains no lifeless form that will be longer remembered than that of the late venerable John I. Stickle.”

John was born in Red Hook under English rule in 1774. His parents, Johannes Stickle and Elisabeth Böhm (who are also buried in this cemetery) baptized him as “Johannes” in the predecessor of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, the German Reformed Church. His father served in the Revolutionary War and his grandfather Stephan Stickle arrived in this country with the Palatine immigration of 1710.

<p><b>THE LATE MR. JOHN I. STICKLE.</b></p> <p>The town of Red Hook has recently lost one of its oldest and worthiest citizens—one whose name is as familiar to this community as that of the town itself, in which he spent a life of nearly a hundred years.</p> <p>Mr. Stickle's age was protected far beyond the ordinary term of human life. Of nearly twenty-seven hundred names on one of the baptismal records of the now St. Paul's Lutheran, but formerly German Reformed Church, of this village—covering as that record does the period from 1780 to 1802—his was one of the very few that represent living persons in this present year of grace 1871. The record itself reads thus :</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No.</th> <th>Name.</th> <th>Parents.</th> <th>Sponsors.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>711</td> <td>Johannes</td> <td>Johannes Stikkel Elizabeth Böhm</td> <td>Johannes Keraler Susanna Stikkel</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>He was born February 20, 1774. He was therefore at his birth, a subject of King George III of England. Before the United States appeared in the galaxy of nations, or the old colonists had any well defined ideas of a union between them</p>	No.	Name.	Parents.	Sponsors.	711	Johannes	Johannes Stikkel Elizabeth Böhm	Johannes Keraler Susanna Stikkel	<p>was resounding with bitter denunciations of England's tyranny towards the colonists, and the contest between them was rapidly culminating towards open hostilities. From Massachusetts to Georgia those old settlers were excitedly discussing the exploits of the pseudo-Indian tea-party in Boston harbor. The year 1774 contributed a memorable page of the wonderful history of our country.</p> <p>Mr. Stickle was an infant of six months when the FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS assembled in Carpenter's Hall, Philadelphia. He was a babe of about fourteen months when the first blood was shed at Concord, N. H., in the great REVOLUTION a prattling child of about two years and a half, at the time of the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDANCE, and nearly four years old when the heroes of Washington's army were leaving their bloody foot-prints in the snow on the way from Whitermarsh to Valley Forge. He was between nine and ten years of age when England gave up her struggle with the rebellious colonies and the American army was disbanded and Washington returned his sword to Congress. He was a boy of thirteen years when Washington was inaugurated as the first President of the United States.</p>	<p>of the United States, a man above twenty-two years when he issued his farewell address and nearly twenty-six when Washington died.</p> <p>He lived under the administrations of nineteen Presidents—from Gen. Washington's to Gen. Grant's—and from the United States increase to the number of thirty-seven. Through the long years of the first war for independence, the period of the second war against Great Britain, through the Florida and Mexican wars, and down through the great sectional war by which the union of the States was almost destroyed, Mr. Stickle's life was protracted to the last month of this present year of grace 1871.</p> <p>It is interesting thus to trace an individual life that has been running parallel with that of our great government itself from the time of its very birth. Though not directly a participant in the great struggle of the old Colonists for self-government, yet having lived “in the days that tried men's souls,” he was to us as a link connecting us to them. And now that he is gone—since the link is broken—we feel as if those days had receded from us farther than ever, and that to</p>
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*Stickle obituary, Red Hook Journal, 22 Dec 1871. Part 1.*

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John married Hannah Fraleigh, daughter of Petrus Fraleigh and Elizabeth Feller (also of Palatine descent), before 1795. After she died in 1850, John filed his will in Dutchess County, leaving his personal and real estate to his son Peter I. Stickle, and \$25 each to three sons-in-law, daughter Hannah's husband Zachariah D. Feller, Elizabeth's husband Philip Allendorf, and Catherine's husband Peter D. Feller (all of whom are also buried in this cemetery).

keep their memory fresh and green, just such memorials as this, of our late venerable friend, will not be unwelcome to the rising generation. Mr. Stickle's was, in the main, a cheerful, happy life. His strictly temperate—indeed christian habits—combined with a naturally strong, vigorous constitution, fully account for his long life. His was the reward promised in the scriptures to such as observe the dictates of reason and religion in their manner of life. "Through this thing ye shall prolong your days." "My son," said Solomon, "forget not my laws; but let thy heart keep my commandments; for length of days and long life and peace, shall they add to thee." The old promise made to Abram on the single condition of his observance of religious duty, was verified also in Mr. Stickle's case, "And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age." He leaves a large number of descendants to revere his name and profit by his example. Having outlived two children, three grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren, yet his death most deeply affected two surviving children, themselves far advanced in life, twenty-one grand-	children, twenty-nine great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren. The old cemetery in Red Hook village in which lies the dust of so many of the aged, contains no lifeless form that will be longer remembered than that of the late venerable John I. Stickle. W. H. L.
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*Stickle obituary, Red Hook Journal, 22 Dec 1871. Part 2*

When the 1870 census was taken the newspaper reported that of the 4,380 inhabitants of the Town of Red Hook, John I. Stickle was the second oldest (right behind Peter Henry, 98). John died at 97 years, 9 months, and 12 days in 1871, "protected far beyond the ordinary term of human life", outliving his wife, three children, three grandchildren, and twelve great grandchildren. However, he was survived by one child, twenty-one grandchildren, twenty-nine great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren!

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