

The name PEAY was originally Puis or DePuis, or DuPui. They came from an honored old Huguenot family of the French nobility and occupied a high position in Colonial history.

Some thought that the DePuis were of Dutch ancestry from the fact that they were among early immigrants to New Netherlands (New York) where the Huguenots from France arrived in small numbers, but exercised an overshadowing influence. From "Colonial Men and Times", page 40, we learn, "In list of immigrants to New Netherlands October 1662, in the ship Pemberton Church, Nicholas DePui, from Artois, France, and his wife and three children."

Again in "Patents granted Dutch Government in New York from 1630 to 1664" in one to Nicholas DePuis for a plantation on Staten Island, dated March 19, 1663. (Ibid) The will of Nicholas DePuis of New York is dated October 13, 1685 (Ibid) "Nicholas and Catherine (Renaud) DuPie came from Artois France 1662, and settled on the site of the Produce Exchange in New York City" (Ibid).

"Benjamin DuPue Jr., great grandson of Nicholas was born at Esopas, now Kingston, N. Y., June 1729. Moved to lower Mount Bethel, Northampton County, Pa., 1765 and there died Sept. 26, 1811." (All the above is quoted from History of Wayne, Pike and Monroe Counties, Pa., Page 410.)

The following is quoted from Colonial M.S.S. by John Broadhead, Vol. 3, P. 75: "Nicholas DuPuis swore allegiance Oct. 21, 1664." In Society of Colonial Wars, p. 341: "Nicholas DuPay 1882 - 1745 in Capt. Nottingham's Company of Militia at Mabletown, in Col. Jacob Rutson's Ulster Regiment 1715. Anyone who is a linial descendant in male or female line from above ancestor may be elected to the Society of Colonial Wars." (Colonial Men and Times 1907-1911, p. 411) Nicholas DuPuy 1697. In Capt. Cornelious Steenwreekes Company 1673. Enrolled for service against the English (Ibid p. 341)

Will of Nicholas DuPuis proved Sept. 5, 1691 and letters of adam. granted to his widow, Catalina, (Dutch form of Catherine) DuPuis, (N. Y. Hist. Society Collection, Vol. 1, p. 191). "Will of Nicholas DuPuis (Dutch converted to "French" on page 410. "I, Nicholas DuPuis, residing in the city of New York, wife Catalyn, and children: Jan, Moses, Susannah, and Nicholas, roved July 14, 1691 (Colonial Men and Times, p. 412).

"History of Wayne, Pike and Monroe Counties, Pa. p. 1049, "It is generally admitted that Nicholas DuPie was the first permanent resident of Smithfield and of the Pennsylvania portion of the Minisink: That he located herein 1725, purchased a large body of land from the natives the second year after, and repurchased a portion of the same land from William Allen in 1733. Nicholas DuPui, son of Samuel was a man of considerable means and ability. Count Zinzendorf, the eminent founder of the Moravian Church in America, visited him in 1742. The Count says: "We found at the venerable DuPuis great hospitality, and plenty of the necessaries of life". "Nicholas DuPuis, Sr. was a member of the Council of Safety, which met Dec. 24, 1774 at Easton to consider the threatening relations of the Mother Country" etc. "All this locality was

called Smithfield". (Here is your proof of Revolutionary service if you will connect up with Nicholas DuPuis of Pa. as you can certainly do. The Pa. History and Gen. Magazine will supply abundant additional evidence I am sure. I have studied it much but was looking up other lines and did not notice the Peays. It is clear that this is where they came from". Signed - C. R. Lamar

More date from C. R. Lamar -

Nicholas Dupui born about 1705, was a son of Samuel DuPui who located on the New Jersey side of Delaware River in 1677 above Delaware Water Gap. Later he purchased a large tract of land from the Indians on the Pa. side on which the village of Shawnee stood and where the fort had stood, and graves of pioneers around the church. He married about 1727, settled above Easton on the Delaware about 1725. He bought these lands from Indians where Shanner, Monroe Co. now stands. It was 100 miles from New York and the same from Philadelphia.

Nicholas DuPui was a Magistrate in 1747, and erected the first grist mill in 1743. He was commander of the fort and commissary.

Nicholas DuPui was a Huguenot and fled from France to Holland. Three brothers: Nicholas, Ephraim, and Abraham came to America. Name was originally written DuPui. Judge David A. Dupau of N. J. descended from Abraham DuPui. Nicholas DuPui, Jr. and Benjamin DuPui were members of the Committee of Safety and Officers in Continental Service during Revolution. (P. 414 Col. Men & Times).

Description of the City of LePuy in France and picture of tower (Ibid P. 418).

"The late President of the French Republic, Monsieur DuPuy, is descended from this ancient and noble house" (Ibid p. 375), also Cardinal Gerard DuPuy (Ibid P. 376).

"The family of DuPuy in France, Va. and Ky. belong to this stock (P. 375)