

Press Release – *Jacob's Land...*

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Headline: *Jacob's Land: Revolutionary War Soldiers, Schemers, Scoundrels and the Settling of New York's Frontier* is Charles Yaple's newest book. Many years in the making, it is a carefully researched and factual account about life on New York's frontier before, during, and after the American Revolutionary War. Following the experiences of a German immigrant family, an Indian Leader (Joseph Brant), and George Washington's Surveyor General (Simeon DeWitt), it brings the hardships, dangers, ironies, and politics of the revolution up close and personal for the reader. Striking parallels with today's terrorist attacks, people (Indians and whites alike) on New York's frontier (1776-83) could never be certain when neighbors were plotting to raid, murder and burn. However, there is considerably more to the story than war episodes. It is about conquest and division of Iroquois Nation lands and creation of places like Ithaca that provided the agricultural and forest resources enabling New York to become the "Empire" State and the USA a nation where common people enjoy lifestyles unheard of in the annals of history. *Jacob's Land...* also warns about our dwindling connection to the land and how that undermines the pursuit of happiness.

Book Endorsements:

In *Jacob's Land...* Charles H. Yaple provides more than an exploration in genealogy. He offers a sweeping history of the settlement of the New York and Pennsylvania frontier beginning in the Revolutionary Era. Meticulously researched, Yaple's study of his own family's history is grounded in the archives of British colonial administrators, government records of the Early Republic, and economic and legal documents that chart the struggle to acquire land and the hard work of making it profitable. It is a well-told history with archival treasures in the endnotes! – *Michael J. McGandy, Senior Editor, Cornell University Press.*

Charles Yaples' book, *Jacob's Land: Revolutionary War Soldiers, Schemers, Scoundrels, and the Settling of New York's Frontier*, [2017] proves that family stories exist within the context of the local and national experience. In this densely researched book, Yaple uses his family history to discuss westward migration within New York, land development around Cayuga Lake, and how the state used the land newly opened by the Revolutionary War. He writes of marriage, family connections, schemers, scoundrels and of the consequences that flow from decisions, some carefully made, others more casually considered. At the heart of this book is family and its place on the land. – *Carol Kammen, Tompkins County Historian. Author: Zen and the Art of Local History (2016). On Doing Local History (2003).*

Jacob's Land... not only re-kindled my enthusiasm for learning more of my own family's story, it also made me want to visit places where Jacob Yaple's story occurred. Which in a larger sense is author Charles Yaple's point, affirmed eloquently in his epilogue. Reduced to its essentials, Jacob Yaple's story is about the importance of having a sense of place. In the Epilogue Yaple quotes Wendell Berry: "If you don't know where you are, you don't know who you are." The passion and joy with which Charles Yaple pursued and illuminated the story of his ancestor has clearly led to a much stronger sense of place, of

rootedness in the New York State landscape where Jacob lived, and where Charles has homesteaded for more than 40 years. Sharing Jacob Yapple's story clearly honors the Yapple family; but *Jacob's Land...* is about far more than that. Charles Yapple clearly hopes that in the telling of his own family's story, and how that story helps him lay claim to that special New York landscape as uniquely his, so too in the reading of *Jacob's Land...* we might also become more motivated to learn about our own stories, and build our own sense of place. Land then becomes more than a commodity. It becomes a sustaining, living part of who we are, as a family, community, culture, and as a nation. – *Bruce Matthews, Executive Director, North Country Trail Association*

In this thoroughly researched and enjoyable book, Charles Yapple tells the story of the American Revolution and the settling of Pennsylvania and New York State through the eyes of his ancestors. However this is not just about his ancestors, for they act as proxies for all those many settlers and soldiers whose actions and thoughts are lost to the centuries. Many of us know the names and dates of our ancestors who contributed to this transformational period in the birth of the United States, and now through *Jacob's Land ...* their likely thoughts and experiences come alive. – *Larry Klotz, Ph.D. State University of New York Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus.*

About the Author:

Charles Yapple is a sixth generation grandson of Jacob Yapple. Raised near Ithaca, NY, Charles and his family live on and operate a 133 acre tree farm.

Dr. Yapple is Professor Emeritus of Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies at State University of New York College at Cortland where, after forty-one years, he continues to teach environmental and outdoor education courses. Dr. Yapple is also Director of the Coalition for Education in the Outdoors and was for many years the editor of *Taproot: a journal of outdoor education*. Charles was also the co-founder, first Board president and long-time director of the Lime Hollow Center for Environment & Culture in Cortland, New York. It has been his great pleasure to help people see, understand, and love the land.

Charles' other book, *Foxy Brown: A Story of an Adirondack Outlaw, Hermit and Guide as He Might Have Told It* (2011) has received excellent reviews and continues to sell well.

Availability of the Book:

Recently released, *Jacob's Land...* is available at amazon.com and local bookstores such as Buffalo Street Books and Tompkins History Center (Ithaca) and Riverow Books (Owego).