

Part VI: Generation Five

Myrtie's Great Great Grandparents

John CRABB and Elizabeth BASSETT
John GIGGEY
Joseph SHARP and Hannah OGDEN



*From New York City, New York, to St. John, New Brunswick, Canada, is 602 miles. It would take about 9 hours and 30 minutes by car today. John and Elizabeth Crabb and their five children sailed there on the ship *Cyrus*.*

Chapter 1

John Crabb and Elizabeth Bassett

John Crabb, Myrtie's Great Great Grandpa, was born in 1741, in Dutchess County, New York. Eight years later, Myrtie's Great Great Grandma, Elizabeth Bassett, the daughter of Arnold and Elizabeth Bassett, was also born in Dutchess County, New York.

Mr. and Mrs. John Crabb

John Crabb married Elizabeth Bassett about 1765. In the fall of 1766, John and Elizabeth's first child, Stephen, was born. The following July, their son William was born.

John Jr. was born in 1770, daughter Elizabeth Crabb was born in the fall of 1771, and Mary, also called Polly, was born in July 1773. Two years later, in February, Nancy was born and Priscilla was born in November of 1777.

Those were the days of the American Revolution and John and his family remained loyal to the King of England. The book, *The Loyalists of New Brunswick*, lists John Crabb as 2nd Lieutenant No. 29.

There is a record of a John Crabbtree (I don't know if this is my relative John Crabb), farmer and Tory, in Tryon County, New York. Tryon John Crabbtree was in the King's Royal Regiment of New York and later filed for his losses, estimating them at 98.12 New York currency.

Another daughter, Charity, was born to John and Elizabeth in October 1779. That same year, for their own protection, John and his family, abandoned their estate in Dutchess County, New York, for an unknown location.

It seems that sometime before 1782, their son William had died, as John and Elizabeth named their son born in July of 1782, William, also.

Four of the Crabb's nine children born in New York: Nancy, Priscilla, and both sons named William, died sometime before the family left for New York City.

In 1783, John with his very sick family, Elizabeth and five children, boarded the British transport ship, *Grand Duchess of Russia*, for New York City, and arrived July 13, 1783.

On arriving, John sent a petition to Guy Carleton, the British Commander-in-chief who was in charge of protecting Loyalists that stayed in the new country, or emigrated to what would become New Brunswick.

John's petition to Carleton said that *his wife and five children had been sick when they embarked and their disorder was still increasing, and that he was despairing of their recovery. He said that he had been reduced to poverty and his family must unavoidably suffer unless some*

assistance was given. He stated that he was much persecuted by the rebels and obliged to abandon his estate in Dutchess County about 4 years past to avoid their further persecution.

John's story was checked out as true and the family left the ship and went ashore where they stayed until they recovered.

On August 21, 1783, John, 42, Elizabeth, 34, Stephen, 17, John Jr., 13, Elizabeth, 12, Polly, 10, and Charity, almost 4, boarded the ship, *Cyrus*. It was September 6, 1783, before they went to sea. By September 14, 1783, they were on the St. John River.

What a terrible time of year to arrive in 'Nova Scotia.' The surviving accounts of other Loyalists tell of living through that first winter in tents with boards beneath them to keep from sleeping on the frozen ground. Many of course were ill and many died."—Duane Crabbtree, great great great grandson



The route by car from New York City, New York, US, to St. John, New Brunswick, Canada.

John Crabb and Guy Carleton



St. John, New Brunswick, Canada.

John Crabb and Sir Guy Carleton's Papers

by Marion Crabbe Hopkins

My brother was in Ottawa and found this in the papers of Sir Guy Carleton and obtained a copy. The writing is a bit hard to read as it is written so fancy-like.

There is little I can add to this except for one item. John Crabb and Elizabeth Bassett left for Canada on the Grand Empress Of Russia. When they reached New York, John sent a petition to Sir Guy Carleton saying that his wife and 5 children had been sick when they embarked and their disorder still increasing, and that he was despairing of their recovery. He said that he had been reduced to poverty and his family must unavoidably suffer unless some assistance was given. He stated that he was much persecuted by the rebels and obliged to abandon his estate in Dutchess County about 4 years past to avoid their further persecution. He wrote that on July 13, 1783. He was checked and was found to be telling the truth, so they left the Grand Dutchess of Russia and went ashore and stayed there until they recovered. They then picked up transportation on the Cyrus in September of 1783.

My father told me years ago that the family name used to be Crabtree and that the family on coming to Canada dropped the tree and added another *b*.

Note: Marion Crabbe Hopkins is related to John and Elizabeth Crabb, through John Crabb Jr., and his son, Elias Crabb.

Marion eventually adopted the belief that the name was originally Crabb. However, I tend to think her father was right. The following is why I (Cal) think so:

King's Royal Regiment of New York Losses:

An Estimate of the Losses real and Personal sustain'd by Captn. John McDonell's Compy. 1st Batn. King's Royal Regt. of N. York since the commencement of the War, thro' their Loyalty to the King & Government:

Men's Names Occupation Co. N.Y\$
John CRABTREE Farmer Tryon 98.12.

There also are Crabtrees who followed more or less the same path to New York, but I think they arrived after the Revolution. That is why the Tryon County, New York John Crabtree puzzled me so.

—Cal Bivens ☘

Guy Carleton

Carleton was the Governor of Quebec before the events of the Revolutionary War. He helped pass the Quebec Act that guaranteed Quebec's freedom of religion and French civil code, which infuriated many in the southern colonies.

In February 1782, after the Yorktown campaign had ended the American Revolution, Carleton replaced Sir Henry Clinton as commander-in-chief of the British forces. Carleton's task was to suspend hostilities, withdraw the forces from the New York and Vermont frontiers, and protect the Loyalists; both those who were emigrating to Canada and those who were attempting to reestablish themselves in their old homes.

Knowing that those citizens who still wanted to be loyal to the British Crown would need a place to live, Carleton looked to the unsettled land in Nova Scotia. Many Loyalists were interested and decided that they would try to build a British colony at this new location.

Sir Guy was the man that Great Great Great Grandpa John Crabb petitioned for help. ☘



Sir Guy Carleton.

