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## Chapter 4

# The Loyalists

### Loyalist History

*Loyalists are on both sides of my family. The Crabb Family and other relatives on my mother's side lost property and money because they were Loyalists, as did my father's Great Great Grandfather, Joshua Austin.*—Louise Austin Smith

Loyalists were colonists who remained loyal to the British crown during the American Revolutionary War. These Loyalists, (estimates from 3 to 20 per cent of the White male population), thought that the American Rebels,

who called themselves Patriots, were traitors.

The Patriots/Rebels, of course, thought of the Loyalists/Tories as traitors against fellow colonists, that cooperated with the oppressive British government.

In 1774–75, most colonials hoped for reconciliation with the British government. But the “Declaration of Independence” document created a major division between the supporters of the King and those who wanted independence from the British government.

Harsh laws were enacted against the Loyalists who were perceived as dangerous to the liberties of America. The Revolutionaries made threats against the Loyalists, took some of their estates, and attacked them.

Many Loyalists lived in New York, Pennsylvania, S.Carolina and Georgia. Before the war started, a large number of Loyalist families took refuge in New York City and Long Island, or British held lands.

Loyalists had an estimated 30–35,000 men, which was about 50 military units.

## Possible Loyalist Relatives

The John Crabb Family and their relatives, the Sharp, Giggey, Wallace, and Bassett families, were Loyalist refugees who sailed to St. John.

### Ogdens

Several Loyalist Ogdens went to New Brunswick and settled. John Ogden, settled at Sackville in Westmorland County, New Brunswick. John was enumerated in 1786, in the *Account of the Settlers, Improvements and Stock on Colonel Spray's Land on the River St. John*: John Ogden—6.66 acres improved; 1 dwelling house, 1 outhouse, 4 neat cattle.

Robert Ogden, a Loyalist soldier of the Revolution, settled

in Kings County. In 1841, his widow, Mary, drew a pension.

Lt. Benjamin Ogden belonged to the Prince of Wales American Volunteers. His widow married Timothy Wetmore and died in Charlotte County, New Brunswick.

### Bassett

Private Elijah Basset served in Lyman's Company. He appears on the August 1777 Muster Roll. Elijah Bassett died in August 1777.

### Sharp and Wallace

Private John Sharpe and Private David Wallace served in Bowen's Company. Wallace transferred from Lyman's Company April 1778.

### Giggey/Giggie

John Giggey Served in the Loyal American Regiment, Maj. Thomas Barclay's company.

### The Prince of Wales American Volunteers

The regiment, assembled in 1776, consisted of ten companies. It was modeled after a standard British infantry regiment, with one company of grenadiers and one company of light infantry.

At the end of the war, the Prince of Wales American Volunteers left New York for the Saint John River, on the ships *Montagu* and *Elizabeth*. They disbanded in October 1783. ❀

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When the Revolutionary War ended, an estimated 70,000 Loyalists, or three per cent of the population, left the thirteen colonies. Among these were farmers, artisans, and shopkeepers.

Upper Canada (Ontario) and New Brunswick (created from Nova Scotia) were founded as places of refuge for the refugees, sometimes called, United Empire Loyalists. Loyalists started to arrive in Saint John on May 18, 1783. Some 35,000 refugees moved to Canada; about 25,000 of them to modern-day New Brunswick.

### Loyalists in New Brunswick

The Loyalists lived in tents while their homes were being built, which resulted in much illness, especially among children. By the end of the first year, there were 276 buildings new buildings. Unfortunately a fire destroyed them and they had to be rebuilt.

Most of early homes and businesses were located in the south end of the peninsula, then known as Parrtown, in honour of the Governor of Nova Scotia. The settlement on the opposite side of the harbour was called Carleton, after the commander-in-chief of the Loyalists, Sir Guy Carleton.

Many who came the first year were farmers or soldiers by profession and were granted land along the fertile Kennebecasis and St. John Rivers. After the first winter most of them had moved out of the settlements of Carleton and Parrtown. Those who stayed in the communities at the mouth of the St. John River were mainly merchants, tradesmen, and professionals.

Over two hundred years later, some of the descendants of Loyalists still make claim to their ancestors' property in the United States. ❀

## Loyalists: Plaque and Memorial

### Memorial of New York Loyalists

Benjamin Rand found a Loyalist memorial (another name for petition) in the Nova Scotia archives. Mr. Rand presumed it was written in 1782. The memorial was addressed:

"To his Excellency Sir Guy Carleton, Knight of the most honorable Order of Bath, General and Commander in Chief, &c., &c.,"

### Summary of the Petition

The petitioners had lost personal property in the new United States due to their loyalty to the crown. They lost hope of their land being restored, so they moved to Nova Scotia, thinking all subjects of the Crown would be equally treated.

The peace treaty gave their seized properties to the Americans and those attempting to grab the best land. The petitioners were alarmed that 55 persons had asked for preferential treatment for the land grants, and that most of these people had obtained repeated favors of Government that were not related to their sufferings or the importance of their services.

The petitioners were quite concerned that if the Grants were carried into effect, they and their families would have to accept barren or remote lands or become tenants to the privileged few.

The petitioners therefore asked the Crown to either give them equal treatment with the former applicants, or for delay in locating the Grants, until they (the petitioners) could take up such small portions as may be allotted to them.

John Crabb was a signee of this Memorial petition. ❀

### Founding of New Brunswick/ La Fondation du Nouveau-Brunswick (Plaque)

The Plaque reads:

*The increase of population consequent upon the large influx of Loyalists in 1783 and 1784 convinced the British Government of the desirability of creating the Province of New Brunswick. This was done on 16 August 1784. Brigadier General Thomas Carleton, who had provided invaluable service in transplanting the United Empire Loyalists, was chosen as the province's first Governor. He arrived at Saint John on 21 November, 1784, and on the following day held his first council and proclaimed Civil Government.* ❀

