

## **COLONEL JOHN CRYSLER, JR.**

Canadian Military Officer and Business Entrepreneur

Colonel John Crysler Jr. was born and raised in Schoharie, New York, a distant cousin to Walter Percy Chrysler of Chrysler Motors. His father, Philip, fought in the Revolutionary War on the side of the British. John and his brother Geronimus, being too young to enlist, joined their father as drummers with the Butler's Rangers. Following the war, they were granted several hundred acres of land on the north side of the St. Lawrence River in Williamsburgh Township, Upper Canada.

John built a general store, grist mills and lumber mills and acquired large tracts of land. In short, he was a farmer, a merchant, a magistrate, a school trustee, a colonel in the militia, and a representative of his country to Parliament. He was awarded by the government a "Mark of Honour", the appellation United Empire Loyalist (UEL), given to families that had been loyal to the Crown. Their descendants are distinguished by UE (Unity of Empire) being added to their names. This would be similar to the American designation DAR for Daughters of the American Revolution.

John was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada in 1804, and appointed Justice of the Peace in 1806. He had kept his ties with the British military and when the War of 1812 broke out, he was immediately commissioned into the Canadian Militia. It was during this war that he became most known in Canada. On November 11, 1813 a fierce and decisive battle was fought on the fields of his farm, which proved to be one of the most important battles of the war and virtually ended America's attempt to conquer Canada. Books have since been written about this "Battle of Crysler's Farm."

In the 1950s John Crysler's property was submerged when the St. Lawrence Seaway was built, and the Government of Canada, recognising the importance of the site, moved the buildings and the monument erected on the site to a nearby location, calling it Upper Canada Village.

*Submitted by Lorraine Sherren, U.E., a 5th-great-niece of Col. John Crysler.*