

A Case for the Reinstatement of Jehoiada BOYCE

“Actions speak louder than Words.”

This statement, a proverb found in many languages, including ancient Greek, was first worded in precisely this way in English in Colonial Currency (1736).

Jehoiada Boyce arrived at Elizabethtown, Leeds County, Ontario, Canada in 1784¹ and died on 15 Sep 1835,² in his 77th year. Over a 50 year period, his name appeared in numerous records, and always in close company with the Loyalist community. More than 150 years after his death, his name is still recognized, and his contribution to the development of Elizabethtown appears to be significant:

The Loyalist Gazette, Spring, 2001:

“The Elizabethtown Methodist Chapel: **The Loyalists** of Elizabethtown Township were visited by itinerant 'saddlebag preachers' from 1790 on. In 1810 the Methodists erected the first Church here (Lot 28 Concession 3) on land donated by **Jehoiada Boyce.**”

Loyalist Trails" 2006-29 July 16, 2006:

“He [Francis Asbury, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in 1811] visited several **loyalist families** including those of Samuel Heck (son of Paul), David Brackenridge, John Dulmage, **Jehoiada Boyce**, Ben Mallory, Joel Stone, Elias Dulmage with whom he stayed in Kingston, and Catherine Detlor.”

The “Lot 28 Concession 3” mentioned in *The Loyalist Gazette* (above) is confirmed as the land of Jehoiada Boyce in several documents, including a petition dated 20 Feb 1808,³ wherein Jehoiada “made oath that his name was entered on Certificate given by John Collins⁴ Commissioner for the Distribution of land and for the East half of Lot 28 in the 3rd concession in Elizabethtown and said certificate above mentioned was sent to York [in 1785]”.

That Jehoiada Boyce was a Loyalist was never questioned by his contemporaries. However, he was suspended from the Old UEL List, and his Loyalist status came under question, (along with many others) as a result of the Dorchester Resolution.

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Jehoiada responded by preparing his petition for reinstatement on 16 Jan 1807,⁵ wherein he swore the following:

¹ *The Christian Guardian, 16 Dec. 1835*

² *The Brockville Recorder Oct. 09, 1835*

³ National Archives of Canada Land Petitions, RG1-L3, petition B-88

⁴ Deputy Surveyor-General John Collins was dispatched by Governor Haldimand to lay out townships for loyalist settlers in 1783.

⁵ National Archives of Canada Land Petitions, RG1-L3, petition B-47

“That your petitioner is a native of America and ever continued a Loyal and faithful subject to his Majesty King George on account of which he suffered much in that late Contest with America. That he aided and assisted [*assisted*] victuated [*i.e. fed*] and supplied or supported [**several illegible words**] when on **Secret Service**. Whereby he Humbly *Contends* he joined the Royal Standard.”

He collected his proof in the form of sworn statements from Nicholas Mosher, Weston Allen, and Dr. Peter Howard, (son of Matthew Howard) and delivered his petition to the Council himself on 11 Feb 1807. The statement of Nicholas Mosher, UEL, and former corporal of the King's Loyal Americans, is particularly moving:

Statement of Nicholas Mosher:

Upper Canada -County of Durham

District of Newcastle - 7th February 1807

This day personally came before me Elias Smith, esquire, one of his Majesty's Justice of the Peace for the district of aforesaid, **Nicholas Mosier** of the place aforesaid and being sworn on the Holy Evangelist saith that he was in his majesty's service in the late American war and was sent on **Secret Service** into the states of America when he was aided and assisted by **Jehoida Boyce**, now of Elizabeth Town province aforesaid and by him, the said Boyce, was afforded every assistance that was in his power as a True Loyalist, and in particular refrained his comforts to guide him on his Tour through the woods to Canada and verily believes him to have been a True subject through the Whole War aforesaid to his Majesty King George.

Elias Smith, JP

None-the-less, the council answered his petition on the same day writing:

Read in Council Feb'y 11th 1807

There being no ~~sufficient~~ [*the word "sufficient" is stricken out*] proof that the Petitioner has joined the Royal Standard and before the Committee it cannot recommend the prayer of the Petitioner.

Based upon this ruling, and a similar ruling in the case of Weston Allen, it appears that the council was skeptical of men who served as part of the Secret Service (see the [Case for reinstatement](#) of Weston Allen, Directory of Loyalists, claiming Secret Service activity). Or it was merely expedient to deny service that was covert in nature and unofficial by design (see On-Line Institute for Advanced Loyalist Studies Spies & Intelligence, <http://www.royalprovincial.com/military/spies/spies.htm>). The consequence of being refused Loyalist status was the denial of 200 acres of free land promised to the sons and daughters of Loyalists when they became 21 years old.

Many were expunged from the Old UEL List, (determined not to be Loyalists, as defined in the Dorchester Resolution). Yet, all adults who had received free land before Nov 1789 were allowed to retain it. Therefore, many did not petition for reinstatement, and others left Canada. However, Jehoiada was resolute. If “**Actions speak louder than Words,**” then he demonstrated his loyalty by facing the council and confidently presenting his case. The unfavorable ruling denied Jehoiada's minor children, and those

who were born after 1789 the legacy of free land. Yet, he remained in Canada for the rest of his life, revealing again that “**Actions speak louder than Words**” with long term loyalty.

Further, it is troubling to see the inaccurate a note that appears next to Jehoiada’s (misspelled) name in the Old UEL List. It reads as follows:

“de Boyce, Jehdda. Elizabethtown. Was a soldier in the Continental service. Not U.E.O.E.”

Jehoiada did not serve with the Continentals. However, it is clear that his **Secret Service** activities included time within the Albany County Militia,⁶ where he is listed in the 14th regiment along with **Matthew Howard**, UEL (ensign of King's Loyal Americans). And his supporter, **Nicholas Mosher**, UEL (corporal of the King's Loyal Americans) is listed in the 16th regiment along with Jehoiada’s brother. Also, Mosher is a son-in-law to **Weston Allen**. Records indicate that Jehoiada knew these men before the war, as Allen is listed in the 1779 Schaghticooke Tax List⁷ along with **Joseph Boyce**, (father of Jehoiada) and **Rice Honeywell** (a son-in-law to Allen). In addition, Howard, Mosher, Allen and Boyce lived at Beekman, Dutchess Co.⁸ before moving to Albany Co., NY, indicating that these families knew each other over a long period of time. Howard and Mosher were officers with the King's Loyal Americans, and although they are listed in the Albany County Militias they (like Jehoiada Boyce) were clearly not American patriots.

Jehoiada Boyce entered Elizabethtown in 1784, with a wife, and a one year old child. He remained there for the rest of his life, contributed to the community throughout his lifetime, and fathered a total of 12 children. Several of his children married into the Loyalist families Booth, Howard and Wiltse. The War of 1812 Paylist Rolls reveal that the sons of Jehoiada remained loyal during that conflict. However after the death of Jehoiada, some of his children migrated to the United States where their descendants became noteworthy pioneers of the west. None received free land in Canada.

Although we can not change injustices of the distant past, or edit ancient documents for accuracy, it is possible to acknowledge and disclose all of the facts in order to embrace a more complete history. Therefore, I submit this writing and ask that it be added to the Directory of Loyalists on behalf of Jehoiada Boyce.

Hopeful that all eyes are open and that “**Actions speak louder than Words**” now, as always,

Mrs. Carrie C. Mackenzie
3rd great-granddaughter of Jehoiada Boyce

⁶ *New York In The Revolution as Colony and State*, by James A. Roberts, Comptroller Compiled by Frederic G. Mather, Second Edition 1898

⁷ *Lansing Papers*, Call Number KT 13324, GY Lansing Papers Box 1, at the New York State Library in Albany

⁸ *Settlers of the Beekman Patent*, by Frank J. Doherty.