

Alexander Campbell - by Lois Davis O'Hara

The first authentic records of the Campbells of Adolphustown show that Alexander obtained lot 28 in the town of Argyle, east of Fort Edward in NY Province in 1766. It is noted he owned 350 acres in this area. It is stated he was a descendant of an old family in Loch Linnhe in Argyll, Scotland, his father being Duncan Campbell of the family of Duntroon, known as "the gentleman" who came to America in the autumn of 1739, with his wife Ann Lenox. They had 3 sons; James, **Alexander** and Archibald. Their daughter, Catherine "Caty" became the wife of Duncan McArthur. The Duncan Campbell family settled originally in East Greenwich from whence the two older sons joined Gen. Burgoyne as officers in Col. John Peters Queens Loyal Rangers. The third son, Archibald remained with his father and having married Flora McNeill, settled on the home farm and remained in Argyle, NY.

As there were two Alexander Campbells, both officers, it is difficult to ascertain which one is referenced when trying to plot their activity in the American Revolution.

The name of Alexander Campbell appears as a Captain in the ill-fated Queen's Loyal Rangers, commanded by Lt. Col. John Peters, which lost so heavily at the Battle of Bennington on August 16, 1777. Alexander survived the battle but left the Regiment on September 3, 1777. The next record shows Alexander Campbell with a son over 10 years of age, in Montreal in 1779 and that he drew subsistence as a Refugee Loyalist. In the next year, Alexander Campbell is shown as being at Pointe au Fer at the lower, or northern end of Lake Champlain. In the early spring of 1781, he is most likely in Vercheres. At the end of 1781, The King's Loyal Americans and The Queen's Loyal Rangers amalgamated to become the "Loyal Rangers". Edward Jessup was named major-commandant. The Loyal Rangers spent time on fatigue or garrison duty, guarding border access points and assisting refugees who arrived in search of protection. The Loyal Rangers did a lot of work for the Engineering Department and gained experience in the art of survival in the wilderness. Governor Haldimand ordered some of Jessup's best woodsmen to escort a party of British troops into the woods to instruct them in frontier living skills.1

The early 1783 list of Loyal Rangers (taken from Haldimand Papers: B167, p 398) lists Alexander Campbell as Lieut. former NY farmer with military service for 6½ years signed by Edward Jessup, Major Commandant, Loyal Rangers. It states he had one son and two daughters born before 1770. He had two daughters born between 1770 and 1776, plus two daughters born after 1776

In 1784, Alexander traveled with Major Peter VanAlstyne to Adolphustown, (Lenox County) where he settled on Lot 19 on the 4th Concession. As a Lieut, he was granted 850 acres. His only son, Archibald, born 1768, was considered a loyalist in his own right.

Alexander Campbell died April 1811 at age 82. He is buried at Conger Cemetery (White Chapel) Prince Edward County as he had been living with his daughter prior to his death, This daughter; Elizabeth married Col. Hildebrand Valleau who lived in Prince Edward County. The other daughters married successful husbands as well. Alexander's wife is mentioned in his will, but her name is not provided.

1. King's Men: the Soldier Founders of Ontario by Mary Beacock Fryer © 1980