

Attn Mr. John Mackay  
Branch Genealogist  
New Brunswick Branch of the UELAC

Dear Mr. Mackay,

I am pleased to submit this application for a certificate related to my second Loyalist ancestor, Issachar CURRIER, who arrived in New Brunswick in late 1783 or early 1784 from Amesbury, Mass. I attach the completed application form with supporting documentation proving my links to Issachar Currier and a cheque for \$50.

This letter can be incorporated into the Loyalist Directory providing supplementary information on the Currier family and Issachar Currier, beyond that required for proof of a certificate.

The first Currier to arrive in Massachusetts was Richard Currier (b 3 May 1616 in Wiltshire, England). He is listed as one of the founders of Amesbury, Mass. on a Memorial to the First Settlers of Amesbury 1654. (Photo of plaque attached) He married Ann Turner in Amesbury in 1643. He died in Amesbury on 22 February 1687.

His son Thomas Currier was born in Salisbury, Mass. in 1646. He married Mary Osgood on 9 December 1668. He died on 27 September 1712 in Amesbury, Mass.

Thomas' son Ebenezer was born on 22 August 1690 in Amesbury, Mass. He married Judith Osborn in Salisbury, Mass on 8 December 1713. He died on 18 September 1745 in Amesbury, Mass.

His son Enoch Currier was born on 2 December 1714 in Amesbury, Mass. Enoch married Abigail Osgood on 22 December 1737 in Salisbury, Mass. He died in 1793 in Amesbury, Mass.

Their son, Issachar Currier the Loyalist was born in Amesbury, Mass on 30 September 1743. (Copy of birth record with parents' names attached). Issachar married Rebecca Morrill (daughter of Increase Morrill) in 1765 in Amesbury, Mass. Issachar Currier arrived in New Brunswick in either December 1783 or January 1784. His July 2, 1785 petition for Lot No 75 at Gagetown says he has been in the Province for about eighteen months (photocopy of petition and transcription attached). The petition indicates he was employed since his arrival in building Mr. Beckwith's ship. According to the attached article from Vital Statistics from NB Newspapers Nehemiah Beckwith was "a Loyalist who built the first sloop that ever ran in the St. John waters and who was drowned opposite the city". Another article from the same series (copy attached) says that "the first vessel constructed above the Falls was built for Benedict ARNOLD by Nehemiah BECKWITH, the great grandfather of J. Douglas HAZEN, M.P. Mr. Beckwith failed somewhat (a day or two) in his contract for the time of launching and Benedict Arnold refused to accept the vessel except at a ruinous reduction. Mr. Beckwith had to accept Arnold's terms greatly to his injury. It was a mean advantage." The Aileen M. Carroll article "The Currier Family in New Brunswick" (copy attached) says the name of the ship built for Benedict Arnold was the "Lord Sheffield" and that "when Beckwith fell behind schedule because Arnold demanded so many modifications, Arnold refused to pay and brought Beckwith close to financial ruin"

In his petition for Lot 75 at Gagetown, Issachar Currier indicates that he wants to use it to build a shipyard. Grant No 36 dated June 27, 1786 granted Issachar Lot No 75 at Gagetown consisting of 138 acres. Issachar's petition does not say he was a Loyalist, but his date of arrival is consistent with the arrival of the Loyalists. The fact that he had working for a Loyalist, Nehemiah Beckwith, since his arrival in building a ship for Benedict Arnold (also a Loyalist) would also support this assertion.

Esther Clark Wright in her book "The Loyalists of New Brunswick" lists Issachar Currier as a Loyalist on page 274 (copy attached) with the following notations "Cn" and "Bl. 2". "Cn" stands for Carleton (West Saint John)" and "Bl. 2" stands for Block 2 which is identified on page 179 of the Wright book as follows: "Block 2, Kingsclear, 2<sup>nd</sup> New Jersey Volunteers grant of 38,450 acres to Colonel Isaac Allen and others, July 14, 1784." (copy attached).

Page 181 of the same book says that "the attempt to settle the regiments by blocks was not succeeding.... Comparisons of the muster rolls of the regiments with the provision muster and the grants have shown that less than ten percent of the regiment settled on their block, even when the allotment was near St. Ann's." (copy attached).

Page 182 says "For Block 2, drawn by the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Jersey Volunteers, the 1784 grant included 143 names (seven of whom seem to have belonged to other regiments), out of a muster roll of 237 in 1783 and an embarkation roll of 154. When a re-grant of Kingsclear was obtained in 1799, only 24 of the original names were on the re-grant, although three other names may indicate sons of original grantees. It had been very easy for grantees of Block 2 to sell their lots to officials of the province who wished to have a landed estate within reach of the capital." (Copy attached).

Issachar Currier's name was not on the 1784 grant of land at Kingsclear to Colonel Isaac Allen and his associates from the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Jersey Volunteers. However, Issachar's name is on the 1799 re-grant when he received Lots 69 (320 acres) and Lot 71 (70 acres). The Land Grants database at PANB does not show his name on any petition for these two lots. Grant 355 of December 31, 1799 indicates that it consisted of "a Tract of land situate lying and being on the southwesterly side of the River Saint John, within the Parish of Kingsclear in the County of York, being part of the Tract granted under the Great Seal of Nova Scotia, to Lieut. Colonel Isaac Allen and Associates in common, and surrendered by the said Grantees in order to receive the present Grant in severalty, the said Tract which contains the above mentioned eighty nine lots." (Photocopy of original grant and transcription attached with map showing location of lots). The river end of each of Issachar Currier's lots was flooded with the building of the Macdaquac Dam in the 1960's, but there is a Currier Creek flowing through the two lots and Currier Creek Basin is on the Land Grants map showing the newly created lake. Highway 2 crosses Currier Creek Basin via a bridge or causeway.

In addition to Esther Clark Wright's book naming Issachar Currier a Loyalist he is also named as such in the NBGS "First Families of New Brunswick" as follows:

"CURRIER: Issachar Currier b. 30 Sep 1743 at Amesbury, MA, d. 1807, s/o Enoch Currier and Abigail Osgood: m. Rebecca Morrell born 27 Jan 1745 at Amesbury, d/o William Barnes Morrell and Lydia Pillsbury or Increase Morrell and Sarah Herbert: they came to NB in 1783 as Loyalists: settled at Upper Gagetown, Queens County:

Children:

- 1) John Currier b. 28 Aug 1766 Amesbury, MA, d. 17 Jun 1773 Amesbury;
- 2) David Currier born 22 Nov 1768 at Amesbury, died 1828, m. (1st) 1 Sep 1791 Fanny Bent b. 20 May 1774, d. 22 Nov 1793 at Upper Gagetown: she had one child: married (2nd) Jemima Lyons born 1776 in NY, died 1838 at Gagetown, NB, d/o Daniel Lyons: they had thirteen children;
- 3) Enoch Currier born 7 May 1776 possibly at Newburyport, MA, d. 10 Dec 1876 at Littleton, ME, m. 1 Oct 1812 Hannah Taylor b. 14 Apr 1789, died 4 Mar 1867: had four children;
- 4) Abigail Currier m. 1 Nov 1792 at Gagetown, NB, Jarius Yeoman: moved to Ontario;
- 5) Sally Currier b. c1777, d. 23 Jan 1854 Upper Gagetown, m. 29 Aug 1792 at Gagetown, Enoch Greenleaf Lunt: settled at Upper Gagetown: had seven children;
- 6) Hannah Currier m. 23 Nov 1792 Joseph Dow b. - , d. 12 Apr 1822: had five children;
- 7) Rebecca Currier m. Mr. Richardson: had two children;
- 8) Susan Currier m. Benjamin Noble of Brighton, Carleton County and had six children.

Sources:

MC1/Currier #1, #2, 12 pages: see MC80/1583 Aileen M. Carroll's

The Currier Family in New Brunswick (below) which says that Rebecca Morrell was

the d/o Increase Morrell and Sarah Herbert: see also MC80/1993 Philip J.

Currier's Currier family of U.S.A. and Canada, Vol. 1, pages 522-525

See also MC384 George Currier fonds (1850)". (Photocopy attached)

He is also named a Loyalist in Philip J. Currier's *Currier family of U.S.A. and Canada, Vol. 1*, pp. 522-525 (copy attached) and in Aileen M Carroll's *The Currier Family in New Brunswick* (copy attached). The Carroll document confuses Lot 75 at Gagetown with Issachar's two Lots at Kingsclear.

Issachar Currier's link to his daughter Susannah (born between 1786 and 1788 in Gagetown, N.B.) is contained in his Last Will and Testament which states that "I will that my daughter Susannah possess the Cow and Heifer that she now calls her own" (photocopy of LWT and transcription attached).

Susannah Currier married Benjamin Noble, son of Rev Seth Noble, on 29 March 1810. (Date contained in Boltwood genealogy p. 237 and "Pioneer Families of Carleton County: Noble," by George Hayward, 25 July 1974, copies attached). Benjamin Noble was born in Kenduskeag Plantation (now Bangor), Maine on 25 June 1787, the son of Rev Seth and Hannah (Barker) Noble. Rev Seth Noble was the first settled Protestant Minister on the Saint John River at Maugerville in 1774. He and his congregation supported the American Revolution and he was forced to flee with a price on his head to Maine in 1777. In 1790 Seth was tasked with registering a new name for Kenduskeag Plantation with the authorities in Boston (Maine was then still part of Massachusetts). The name was supposed to be Sunbury but ended up as Bangor, when Parson Noble interpreted a question as being about the name of a hymn tune he was humming, instead of the new name for the town. While he was in Boston, his wife, Hannah Barker died suddenly.

The following year Rev Seth brought his two youngest sons, Joseph and Benjamin back to Maugerville to be brought up with their Barker uncles, Joseph and Benjamin. They never saw their father again and he died in Franklinton, Ohio in 1807 where he had been granted two half sections of land for his services to the Revolution in what is now downtown Columbus, Ohio. (Lucius M. Boltwood's "History and Genealogy of the Family of Thomas Noble of Westfield, Mass" (1878) contains 10 pages about Rev Seth pp 202 to 212. The Barkers has supported the American Revolution too, but had benefitted from a pardon extended to most Maugerville residents. Jacob Barker Sr., who came to Maugerville with the original settlers in 1762, had also served with the colonial army in the Seven Years War. Other articles written about Rev Seth include "Parson Noble" by G.O. Bent in *Acadiensis*, Vol 7, No. 1, 1907 pp 46-57; "A Parson Leads Them to War" from "Backward Glances at Sunbury and Queens" by Dr. F. A. McGrand, 1968; "Pioneer Families of Carleton County: Noble" by George Hayward in *Hartland Observer* May 1974; "Pioneer Preacher – Rev Seth Noble" by George Hayward in *Generations*, Issue 51, March 1992 pp 2-8; "The Maugerville Settlement 1763-1824" by James Hannay.

Benjamin and Susannah Noble's first child was named Hannah Barker after Benjamin's mother. They also included Barker as the second name of two of their other children (Joseph Barker Noble and Enoch Barker Noble) after his mother's maiden name and his uncle who raised him, and named two of their other children Issachar Currier Noble and Rebecca Noble after Susannah's parents. Enoch Barker Noble shared his first name with Issachar's father. Susannah died on 18 December 1841 and she was buried in the Lower Brighton Cemetery, N.B. Her gravestone, which is also the gravestone for Benjamin Noble and his second wife, Christiana Bubar, inscribes her name as "Susan" and indicates that she was 56 years old. However the death notice in the *New Brunswick Courier* of January 8 says "died Brighton, Carleton Co., 18th ult., Susannah Noble w/o Benjamin Noble, age 53, left husband and nine children." (Copy attached from Vital Statistics from NB Newspapers). Since in Issachar Currier's 2 July 1785 petition he indicates he has been without his family for eighteen months, it does not appear likely that Susannah was 56 when she died, which would indicate a 1785 birthdate, but born somewhere between 1786 and 1788.

Benjamin Noble is listed in the NBGS "First Families of NB" as follows:

"**NOBLE: Benjamin Noble** b. 25 Jun 1787 at Bangor, ME, d. 12 Apr 1860, s/o **Seth Noble** and **Hannah Barker**: settled in Lower Brighton, Brighton Parish, Carleton County: m. (1<sup>st</sup>) 29 Mar 1810 **Susannah Currier** b. c1785 in NB, d. 18 Dec 1841, probably d/o **Issachar Currier** and **Rebecca Morrell**: m. (2<sup>nd</sup>) 15 Mar 1845 in Carleton County, **Christina (McMullin) Bubar** b. c1785 in NB, d. 25 Jan 1860 probably in Lower Brighton, widow of **Stephen Bubar** who d. 1836 in Maugerville, Sunbury County: she was probably the sister of **Charles McMullin** b. 1790, d. 1879 of Hartland, NB:

Children:

1) **Hannah Barker Noble** b. 30 Dec 1810 at Sheffield, NB, died after 1876 in Bridgewater, ME: m. 25 Jan 1827 in Carleton County, **John Ackerson** born 20 Oct 1800 at Sheffield, d. 18 Nov 1859 probably in Bridgewater, ME, s/o **Jacob Ackerson** and **Catherine Mills**: settled in Wakefield Parish, Carleton County until 1851 then moved to Bridgewater, ME: had twelve children:

2) **George Seth Noble** born 15 Jan 1812 probably at Sheffield, NB, d. 19 Apr 1891, m. 4 Aug 1835 in Carleton County, **Ann/Nancy McKinney** born c1812, died 18 Apr 1886, d/o **Michael** and **Christianna McKinney**: settled at Lower Brighton and had seven children:

3) **Joseph Barker Noble** born 4 Aug 1815 probably at Lower Brighton: m. 24 Oct 1836 at Fredericton, York County, **Florine McGraw** b. c1814 in NB, d/o **Amelia (Turner) McGraw**: they had seven children:

4) **Enoch Barker Noble** b. 17 Aug 1818, died after 1880 at Blaine, ME, m. 25 Jun 1840 in Carleton County, NB, **Margaret McGraw** d/o **Amelia (Turner) McGraw**: settled at Blaine, ME and had seven children:

5) **Theodore Harding Noble** born 25 Sep 1820, d. 2 Oct 1898 at Bristol, Kent Parish, Carleton County: m. (1<sup>st</sup>) 16 Mar 1848 in Carleton County, **Martha J. McGee** b. c1828, died 17 Apr 1867, d/o **George McGee** and **Rhoda Shaw** of Lower Brighton: had eight children: m. (2<sup>nd</sup>) **Cynthia Marsten** b. c1843: they had two children: settled at Lower Brighton and Woodstock, Carleton County:

6) **Rebecca Noble** b. 13 May 1823, died 1919, married 3 Apr 1852 in Carleton County, **Reuben Robinson** b. 18 Nov 1818, d. 21 Jan 1899, adopted s/o **John Duncan Dickinson** and **Sarah Thomas**: settled at Lower Brighton and had six children:

7) **Issachar Currier Noble** b. 25 Dec 1825, d. 30 Sep 1872, d. 30 Sep 1872 at Hodgdon, ME, married 18 Nov 1851 in Carleton County, **Caroline Thomas** b. c1824 in Sunbury County, d/o **Benjamin Thomas** and **Mary Hayward**: first settled at Lower Brighton and had six children, then moved to Hodgdon, ME:

8) **David Duncan Noble** b. 1 Feb 1828, m. 12 Aug 1851 in Carleton County, **Susannah McKinney** born c1829 d/o **Michael** and **Christianna McKinney**: settled in Brighton Parish and had four children:

9) **Elizabeth Ann Noble** b. 7 Aug 1831, d. in 1916, m. 25 Dec 1848 **Richard McKinney** born c1821 in NB, died 19 Jan 1887, s/o **Michael** and **Christianna McKinney**: settled at Newburg, Northampton Parish, Carleton County and had five children.

Source:

**MC2657** NBGS *Generations* Issue #51, March 1992: George H. Hayward's *Pioneer preacher - Rev. Seth Noble*, pages 2-8; Issue #52, pages 2-8; Issue #53, pages 2-6."

This Hayward document is incorrect in naming the second wife of Theodore Harding Noble as Cynthia Marsten. Her name was Cynthia Elizabeth McAlpine (see below). After Theodore Harding Noble died in 1898 she married A.J. Marsten in 1915.

Benjamin Noble and Susannah Currier and their children are also listed in the 1878 Boltwood genealogy on pages 237-238 and 315 to 318. (Copies attached). It notes that Benjamin was "a farmer and a blacksmith, a Justice of the Peace for about twenty years and postmaster for 15 years."

The following is Benjamin Noble's death notice: "d. Lower Brighton (Carleton Co.) 12th April, Benjamin NOBLE, Esq., age 73. Came to this Province from Nova Scotia where he was born 1787. His father, Seth NOBLE, a Presbyterian Minister. He lived in Sheffield (Sunbury Co.) with his uncle Joseph (Benjamin) BARKER till 1812 when he came to Lower Brighton, settled himself and brought up large family. He experienced religion in 1845 and connected himself with the C. Baptists. In July 1830, a F.C. Baptist Church, consisting of only seven members was organized in his neighborhood by Elder Stiltson when he was appointed Deacon. (see eulogy) 15 June 1860 RI." (Religious Intelligencer). (Copy attached)

The information about Benjamin Noble being born in Nova Scotia is incorrect, since his father Seth and mother Hannah were living in Maine at the time of his birth. The death notice of his older brother Joseph indicates he came from Maine, not Nova Scotia. This can perhaps be attributed to the lingering sensitivities between Loyalists and "rebels" (like his father Seth) on the Saint John River even 77 years after the American Revolution. Reference to living with Joseph Barker (his uncle) is only partly correct. He lived with his other uncle, Benjamin Barker (as shown in Benjamin Barker's will below) until his death in 1800. Benjamin Barker in his will dated March 25, 1799, proved September 25, 1800 provided that: "nephew Benjamin Noble to continue to live with my wife under guardianship of my Executor (who was his brother Joseph Barker, jr.) until of age .." (Early New Brunswick Probate Records, R.W. Hale 1989 p. 19).

Aside from the Boltwood genealogy, George Hayward's article and the entry for Benjamin Noble in First Families of New Brunswick, I have not been able to find a legal document saying that Theodore Harding Noble was the son of Benjamin. However I have found two extensive newspaper obituaries for Rev Joseph Barker Noble, who was Theodore's older brother, who died in March 1909 at the age of 93 from the Woodstock "Dispatch" 10 March 1909 page one and the Woodstock "Press" of March 8, 1909. (Copies attached). Both obituaries say that "Father- Rev Mr. Noble was the son of Benjamin Noble of Lower Brighton and grandson of Rev. Seth Noble whose forefathers came from England and settled in the United States. Seth went to Maugerville in 1774 and his descendants are numerous in New Brunswick and Maine." They also say that "H.G. Noble of Woodstock is a nephew of the deceased," and that H.G. Noble was a pallbearer at Rev Joseph's funeral.

The death notice for Theodore Harding Noble in the October 8, 1898 "Carleton Sentinel", page two, says that "Rev Joseph Noble is a brother of the deceased." (Copy attached) and therefore Theodore Harding must have been a son of Benjamin Noble and Susannah Currier.

I have attached the birth certificate for Harry Gordon (H.G.) Noble which identifies him as the son of Theodore Harding Noble and Cynthia E. McAlpine. He could not be a nephew of Rev Joseph Barker Noble unless his father was a brother of Rev Joseph and therefore also a son of Benjamin and Susannah (Currier) Noble. That is in addition to Theodore Harding's death notice saying "Rev Joseph Noble is a brother of the deceased," and by deduction therefore also a son of Benjamin Noble.

Theodore Harding Noble was born in Lower Brighton on 25 September 1820, DOB inscribed on gravestone (photo attached). His date of birth in the 1851 census is given as about 1822, in the 1861 census it is given as 1820; in the 1871 census it is given as 1822; in the 1881 census as 1821 and in the 1891 census as about 1821. He died on 2 October 1898 and his stated age was "78".

His death notices (copies attached) were published in October 1898: "Mr. T.H. Noble, an old and esteemed resident of Carleton County, died at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. A. W. Phillips, Bristol, on Sunday morning at the age of 78 years. Mr. Noble had been ill for some time but his death had been quite unexpected at the time. He was born in Lower Brighton and lived there for a number of years, afterwards moving to Woodstock where he was a well-known figure. He was an ardent member of the Reformed Baptist Church, being one of the very first in this county to accept the doctrine of that body. He leaves a widow and five daughters; Mrs. A.W. Phillips, Bristol, Mrs. John Palmer, Franklin Park, Mass; Mrs. C.H. Sweeney, Westbrook, Maine; Mrs. E. Roberston, Swansville, Maine and Mrs. Henry Birmingham of Victoria Corner; and three sons J.W. Noble, T.H. Noble of Boston, and Harry G. Noble of the firm of Noble & Tafton, Woodstock. The Dispatch October 5, 1898" The October 8, 1898 Carleton Sentinel uses exactly the same language but adds an additional sentence "Rev. Joseph Noble is a brother of the deceased".

Theodore Harding Noble married 1<sup>st</sup> Margaret McGee. She died on 17 April 1867 leaving eight children ages 18 to three months. He married 2<sup>nd</sup> Cynthia Elizabeth McAlpine in 1868. They had two children: Annie May Noble (born 1 August 1869) and Harry Gordon Noble (born 5 October 1871) (Copy of H.G. Noble's birth certificate attached). After Theodore Harding Noble's death his widow lived with her daughter in Bristol, N.B. until 1915 when she married A. J. Marsten.(copy of marriage certificate attached) She died on 20 March 1926 and is buried in the Methodist Cemetery in Woodstock with A.J. Marsten and his first wife.

Theodore Harding was a blacksmith and he had a shop in Lower Brighton until about 1871 when he moved to Grafton, N.B. His home was destroyed by fire in the second Grafton fire of 1886/87 and he then moved across the river to Woodstock. Early in life he united with the Free Christian Baptist Church in Lower Brighton. After moving to Grafton, he joined the Woodstock church and later he was made a deacon. At the organising of the Reformed Baptist church, he and his second wife were charter members.

Harry Gordon Noble married Sarah May Snow on 26 June 1901. She was a direct descendant of the first Snow to arrive in Massachusetts in 1623, Nicolas, who later married Constance Hopkins, a passenger on the Mayflower. Four generations later, Captain Jabez Snow and his family came to Granville Ferry, Nova Scotia as Planters in 1762 and two of his sons Josiah and Edward were granted land in Wakefield Parish, Carleton County, New Brunswick in 1814.

Harry and Sarah Noble had four children. The second son was Rev Ronald Harding Noble, born 27 June 1914 (birth certificate attached). He married Marian Cope Smith 28 August 1942. Their first son, John Joseph Noble was me. My middle name came from Rev Joseph Barker Noble. Rev Dr. Ronald Harding Noble was a Baptist Minister for 60 years and died in Kingston, ON on December 28, 2001.

I trust that I have provided you with all the information necessary to approve this application.

Yours truly,

John Joseph Noble, UE