

ISAAC HORNING, LOYALIST

Peter's oldest sons, Abraham, and Isaac, were young men as the hostilities between British and colonists exploded into rebellion and neighbour was pitted against neighbour. Like their father, Abraham and Isaac chose to remain loyal to the British Crown and fled to Upper Canada.

Family tradition as recorded in *Wentworth Bygones* held that Isaac and Abraham left Pennsylvania first, loaded with provisions from the family farm. When Peter and the rest of the family later arrived at their destination in Hamilton Bay area, they searched for the boys and recognized their "cabin in the woods" by the flowers growing around the homes from seeds that had been collected "back home" from the family garden by their mother.

Ontario Archives records the petition of Isaac Horning #22, 6 May 1796, received May 7, that recommends his right to lands "if his allegations are true". It was received July 12, given "Warrant No. 600 on 7 October 1796" and entered in Land Book, Page 85.

"By his Majesty's instructions to General Haldimand dated 15th July, 1783. Every loyalist settling in this new country was entitled to 50 acres of which his family shall consist and his own allowance. This order continued in force until after 1790."(Ontario Archives 21d)

Thereafter, the land allowance for every loyalist settler and family member was extended to 200 acres each. According to *Ancaster's Heritage*, produced by Ancaster Township Historical Society, 1970: "The allocation of the Crown Lands in Upper Canada was entrusted to Land Boards, one for each of the four districts Hesse (later Western), Mecklenburg (Midland), Lunenburg (Eastern), and Nassau (later Niagara)...By the time the overworked Land Board got around to granting land in Ancaster Township (1793), their instructions regarding the size of the grants were: ...To a United Empire Loyalist, 200 acres (except that one from Butler's Rangers would be given 300 acres); to each son upon reaching adulthood, 200 acres (daughters later received similar grants); family lands of 50 acres for each child under age..." (p. 7)

"The actual settlement of Ancaster Township may be divided into seven phases:

1. The squatters who penetrated in 1789 beyond Barton Township which had been surveyed in 1788...
- 3 (a) Settlers east of Fiddler's Green Road where lands were given principally to Loyalist settlers from New York and Pennsylvania..." (p.6)

Ancaster's Heritage further states the regulations put into place by the Crown to determine who might receive land as a Loyalist: "A United Empire Loyalist, according to a proclamation dated April 6, 1796, had to be a man who had joined the Royal Standard in America before the treaty of separation in the year 1783. A second proclamation dated Dec. 15, 1798, limited Loyalist grants to those who had actually been resident in Upper Canada on or before July 28, 1798. A third proclamation dated October 31, 1806, stated

that the claimants must have been resident in the British Colonies in America before the breaking out of the American War. (p. 8)

“Most of Ancaster’s first settlers were United Empire Loyalists, who had remained loyal to their king during the American Revolution, and had suffered because of this....By Jay’s Treaty of 1784, they were to have been compensated by the victorious rebels, but this was never done. The British government made partial recompense in 1788, and later by paying about \$30,000,000 to 2,560 persons in settlement of \$47,000,000 in claims. ...In order to mark these people with distinction, the King ordained that they and all of their descendants forever shall be called United Empire Loyalists, and be entitled to affix the initials U.E. after their names. A complete list of all members of the fifty-two loyal regiments is kept in the Public Archives in London, England, and the Dept. of Public Archives at Ottawa has a record of all persons who received land grants as Loyalists.” (p.8)

Land in Canada was not at first given to Loyalists. “Their families fled to British forts such as those at Michilimackinac, Detroit, and Niagara....As the war drew to a close, the military authorities in Fort Niagara began to send some of the refugees across the Niagara River into Canada to grow food for themselves and the garrison....On May 9, 1781, the British bought a four mile wide strip of land along the Canadian side of the Niagara River from the Chippewa and Mississauga Indians who then occupied it.

During the summer of 1784, there was a rush of refugees and disbanded soldiers into Canada to choose land from the newly purchased Niagara Peninsula, and to squat there until they could be confirmed in the ownership of their chosen locations. This rush continued through 1785, 1786, and 1787, but it was not until 1788 that the surveyors completed their survey of eight townships along Lake Ontario’s shore from the Niagara River to Burlington Beach, the eighth township being named Barton. By the time this survey was finished, most of the choicest lands had been squatted on by the refugees, and the squatters began to spill over into the lands beyond the eighth township....Twenty-two, or more, families squatted in 1789 on lands near the Barton Township Line, above the mountain.” (p. 11)

“The earliest known written record of any settler penetrating as far as Ancaster to squat on land here is found in a petition dated 1793, in which twenty-two men, often called James Wilson and Associates, stated, ‘that having made the settlements on which they live adjoining the west line of Township 8 (Barton), near the (Governor’s) road lately laid out from the head of Lake Ontario to the River La Tranche (Thames) that they were encouraged by the Land Board and the Acting Surveyor **to settle upon those lands four years before they were surveyed** which proves now to be reserved lands. Your petitioners pray that the same be confirmed to them.’” (p.12) These men included Isaac and Abraham Horning and Conrad Filman, husband of their sister Catharine.

“Since Ancaster Township was not surveyed until 1793, and since they stated that they had settled there four years before the survey, this indicates that these twenty-two men squatted on their Ancaster lands in 1789.” (p.13)

Some of the information in *Ancaster's Heritage* regarding Isaac is inaccurate and has since been corrected in family records. However, the book lists him as the seventh petitioner from the group for Loyalist lands. He squatted on Lot 49, Concession 3 (49/3) and was given the Crown Patent for it. This 200 acre farm is the site of present day Redeemer College. Isaac's son, Peter (1793-1873) helped found Copetown, and his son, John (1822-1902), had a tin shop in Jerseyville and was a traveling tinker until he was killed at a railway crossing at the age of eighty, according to the test.

Another of the group James Wilson and Associates was Isaac's brother, Abraham, the nineteenth petitioner. He settled in Barton on Lots 7 and 8 in Concession 7 in 1787 (as also, presumably, did his brother Isaac). In 1789 he had chosen Lot 55/2 in Ancaster Township and later received the Crown Patent for it. The test notes he lived most of his life, and died, in Barton Township.

Isaac's brother-in-law, Conrad Filman, was the fourth petitioner who came originally from New Jersey and received the Crown Patent for Lot 51/2 and Lot 31/5. He and his wife, Catharine Horning, are both buried in Barton Union Cemetery.

A quick look at the brothers and sisters-in-law of Isaac will acquaint the reader with Loyalist neighbours in the Barton and Ancaster Township farmlands. Filman, Jones, Crips, Depew, Hess, Gage, and Land are all familiar names in any documentation of Loyalist settlers in the area of "Head of the Lake".