

JAMES HUMPHREY
Loyalist soldier in Jessup's Rangers

By Brian McConnell UE *

There is a picture which hangs in a prominent location in our home of my great grandmother, Ellenor "Nellie" Ann Augusta Umphrey (1869 - 1931).(1) She passed on stories of loyalist ancestors to her daughter who then retold my mother. I recall hearing from a young age how they came to Canada during the American Revolution, having remained loyal to the Crown.



Ellenor "Nellie" Ann Augusta Umphrey

The first loyalist ancestor was James Humphrey who appears in the Muster Roll of Jessup's Rangers as a Private in 1781.(2) The records also indicate he was from New York State and 5' 9" tall. Jessup's Rangers was a Loyalist corps raised by Edward Jessup, who had been a Justice of the Peace in Albany, New York, and his brother Ebenezer, when the American Revolution began.

Roll of Jessup's Rangers; 1 May 1781

Ebenezer Jessup, Esq.	Edward Jessup	Jonathan Jones, Esq.
Christian Wehr	Captains:	Joseph Jessup
William Lawson	David Jones	Henry Simons
	Guybert Sharp	
	James O'Neal	
William Snyder	Ensigns:	Christian Hover
John Dusenburgh	Thomas Mann	John Mann, Quarter Master
John Bryant, Chaplain		Solomon Jones, Surgeon's Mate
Peter Carrigan	Sergeants:	Martin Kelly
John Simons	William Ballister	George Rouse
Benny Wibby	Francis Scott	Colin McKenzie
Conradt Roseman	Corporals:	James Wilsey
Conradt Petterson	Henry Finkle	John Smith
George Charters	John German	John Hillikar
Adam Huffnagle	Drummers:	John McKenzie
John Huffnagle, fifer	Jacob German, fifer	
Abram Crowson	Privates:	John Libb
Joseph Goodwilley	John Mills (or Wills)	John Pork
Peter Hagerson	Paul Carrigan	John Scott
Niman Scott	Lewis Hagerman	John Allen
Jacob Hess	John Schurtz	John Michel
Hermanus See	Peter Daily	
Valentine Herman	John See	Jobst Huffman
James Humphrye	Henry Anderson	Jacob Bonsale (sp?)
Samuel Dunham	Alexander McNeal	Robert Simpson
Freelove Butler	Moses Hunter	Peter Carpenter
Robert Whitman	Nicholas Hoffman	Abram Riffingberger
Baltens Simons	William Soles	Peter Yoelshine
Abram Brown	Philip Bonsteel	James See
Martinus Stover	Jonas Amey	Nicholas Amey
John Dixon	Silas Hamlin	Simeon Sherman
Samuel Buck	David Logan	David Hoffman
Archibald Nicholson	David Scott Jr.	Ebenezer King
Lewis Hicks	Henry Cole	Hugh Cameron
Gilbert Stone	Israel Tomkins	Edmund Frost
John Esselstine	Abram Tinkey	James Stone
Armstrong Williams	Roswell Ray	Henry Hoglin
Abram Scott	Richard Williams	Joshua Partillo
John Partillo	Dennis Smith	Joseph Cook
John Williams	Jasper Moore	Jacob Gordnier
John Brisbane	Caleb Clawson	Daniel Rose
Mathias Rose	Ralph Miller	Timothy Soles
John Schout (sp?)	Joseph Griffin	Andrew Miller
Martin Dikeman	Adam Earhart	Christian Abrams
William Snyder Jr.	Henry Embrick	Abram Conklin
Abram Snyder	Thomas Shover	William Moffat
Richard Harris	Peter Snyder	Edward Jessup Jr.
Hobst Huffnagle	Peter Smeer	James McNeal
John Hand	James Davis	Thomas Lovelace Jr.
Tice Coons	Daniel Dunham	Edward Elvisbone
Christopher German	John Ekenbrack	John German Jr.
John Sliss (sp?)	Jared Tyler	James Chambers
Jacob Diamond	Milo Webster	Alexander Nicholson
Peter Stever (sp?)	Ishmael Dodner	Abram Barber
Henry Clark	Jonathan Phillips	John Shipley
		Henry Rose

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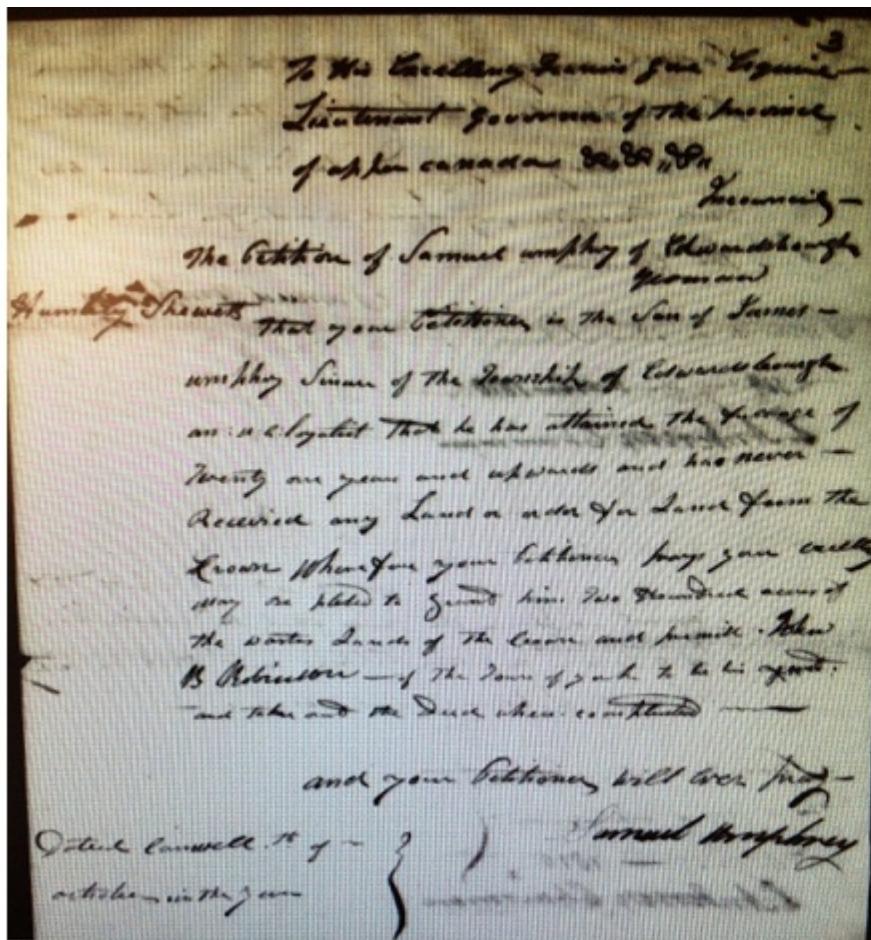
Edward Jessup and his men fought in the General Burgoyne campaign of 1777 and later went north to Canada. The men of Jessup's Rangers were given land by Governor Frederick Haldimand, mainly along the Upper St. Lawrence River and founded the town of Prescott.

James Humphrey settled in Township No. 6, Edwardsburgh.(3)

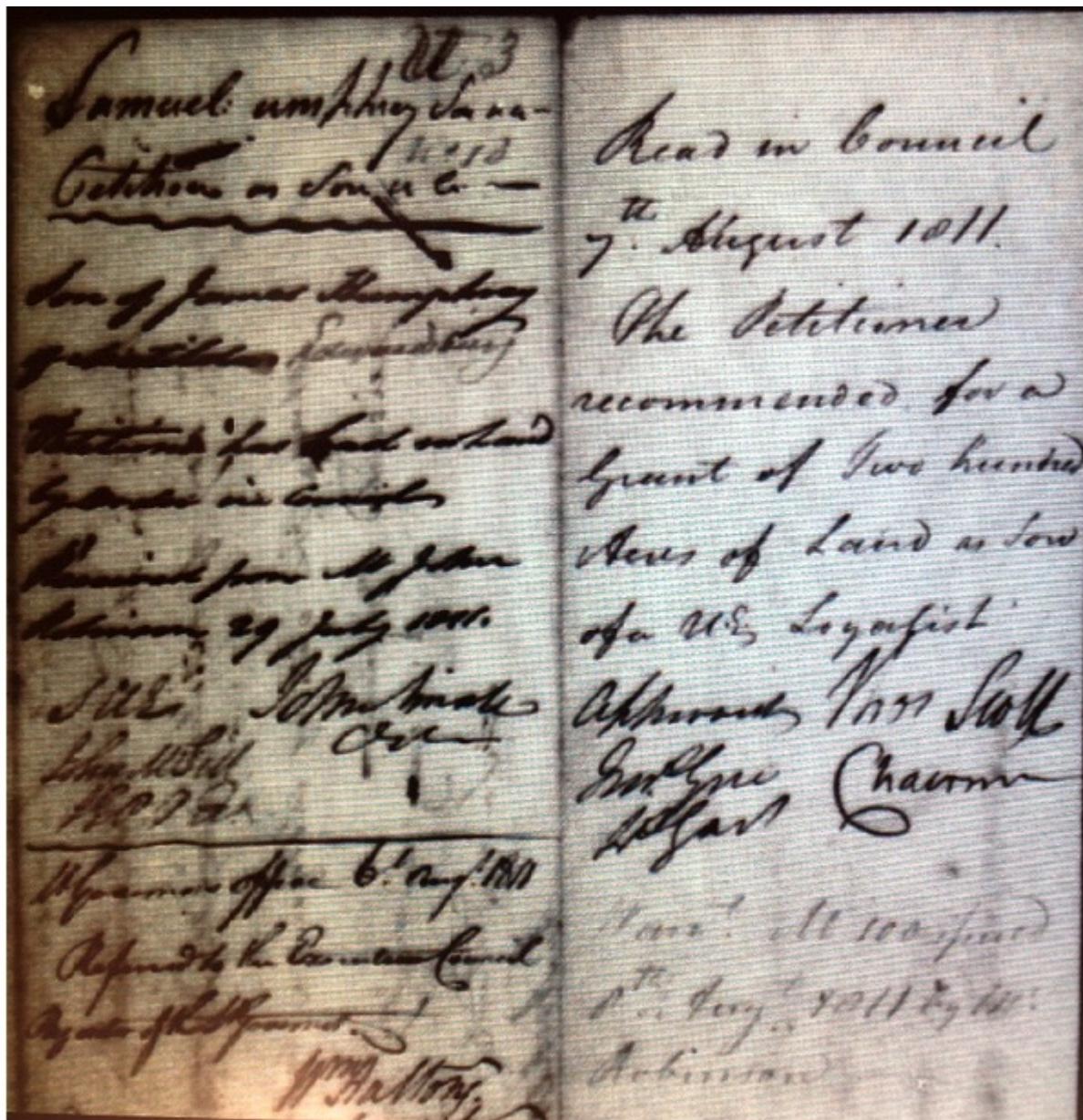
1785 LOCATION LIST			
Settlers at Township No. 6 below Cataraqui [Edwardsburgh], 1785 Muster Roll No. 9			
no	name	no	name
t. WILL ⁸ Fraser	E37 Donald McIntosh	E63 Thomas Frazer	
t. Peter Drummond	E38 Dun ⁷ McAlpin	E64 WILL ⁸ Fraser	
t. Tho ⁸ Fraser	E39 James Frood Senr	E65 George Stein	
John Bulmage	E40 James Umphy	E66 WILL ⁸ Fraser	
Gideon Adams	E41 James Adams	E67 Hugh Bellino	
ign V ⁸ Lessson	E42 John Nix	E68 Rostry More	
t. Hugh Munro	E43 James Frood Junr	E69 Jasper More	
VL ⁸ Snyder	E44 John Rudderback	E70 Nich ⁸ Loucks	
WILL ⁸ Fraser	E45 Henry Anderson	E71 WILL ⁸ McKinley	
Tho ⁸ Fraser	E46 John Burke	E72 Joel Adams	
s Smith	E47 Thomas Goosberry	E73 Thomas Arast	
* Curry	E48 Jacob Bonestile	E74 Charles Day	
* McNight	E49 V ⁸ Saunders Senr	E75 George Bolts	
ld Hunter	E50 VL ⁸ Saunders Junr	E76 WILL ⁸ Ferris	
Mrs Fraser lat	E51 Henry Saunders	E77 John Sorelli	
Liam Fraser lat	E52 Al ⁸ Saunders	E78 Andrew Adams	
n Killbreath	E53 John Thompson	E79 John McViel	
n McKinzie	E54 Henry Jackson	E80 WILL ⁸ McViel	
n McNeal	E55 Duncan Cameron	E81 Peter Ferris	
t White	E56 Philip Bulmage	E82 Fred ⁸ Liverier	
r Sillick	E57 John Weycoff	E83 James Fraser	
n Whitley	E58 Joseph Robertson	E84 John McIlroy	
ss Curry	E59 Tho ⁸ Lister	E85 Ames Bell	
ham Bolton	E60 Jacob Morley	E86 John McNamee	
/ McIntosh	E61 WILL ⁸ Snyder	E87 Widow Mutto	
Mrs Boydie	E62 See White		

In addition to Township No. 6 , Edwardsburgh, the men of Jessup's Rangers were given lands in Township No. 7, Augusta, and part of No. 8, Elizabethtown, all on the St. Lawrence River, as well as No. 2, Ernestown, west of Kingston. Edward Jessup himself, took up his own land grant of 1,200 acres in Augusta Township, across the St. Lawrence River from Ogdensburg, New York. He was also made a Justice of the Peace, and appointed Judge of the Court of Common Pleas and Lieutenant-Colonel of the Edwardsburgh, Augusta, and Elizabethtown militia. The present day town of Prescott, named after Governor Robert Prescott, was laid out by Jessup and his son in 1810. (4)

The family of James Humphrey included two sons, James and Samuel.(5). Samuel applied in 1810 for a grant of two hundred acres of land as the son of a Loyalist and his Petition was accepted. His older brother James applied in 1801. Both petitions refer to their father James Humphrey, Loyalist soldier.(6)



Portion of Land Petition by Samuel, son of James Humphrey (1810)



Acceptance of Petition of Loyalist Land Petition from James Humphrey's son, Samuel

The Petition of Samuel Umphrey was made on the 10th day of October, 1810.(See Appendix A) It was addressed to His Excellency Francis Gore, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Upper Canada. In it Samuel Humphrey stated that he was of Edwardsburgh and son of James Umphrey of the Township of Edwardsburgh, a U.E. (United Empire) Loyalist, and that he had attained the age of 21 years and upwards and had never received any land or order for land from the Crown. Therefore he requested a grant of 200 hundred acres of the lands of the Crown and that John B. Robinson, of the Town of York be his agent and take out the Deed when completed.

The Petition of Samuel Humphrey also certified that on the 10th day of October, 1810 he had taken the oath of allegiance. It was certified by S. Anderson Commings.

It is shown on the Petition that it was received by the government on 29th July, 1811. It was read in Council on 7th August, 1811. The decision made and noted is that "The Petitioner recommended for a grant of 200 hundred acres of land as son of a U.E., Loyalist."

Many Petitions for land by Loyalists were handwritten as was the one of Samuel Umphrey and signed by the Petitioner. There were many from children of soldiers. It was also common for them to identify the Petitioner by name and current residence. There was a description of service to the Crown or reason for claiming Loyalist status. In the case of a son of a Loyalist, as with that of Samuel Umphrey, it is stated he has reached the age of 21, being the age of majority. The Petition was certified by a local magistrate, Justice of the Peace or prominent citizen.(7)

At the time of the Loyalists settlement in Canada, all settlers were entitled to free grants of land in that they paid nothing for the land. However, administrative fees were necessary to cover survey, deed, and administrative costs. Loyalists and Military Claimants were authorized "half fees" with actual payment coming from government revenues. In this way they were privileged as a Loyalist, child of Loyalist, or Military Claimant. Before the year 1800, the letters UE, referring to United Empire, were being used for Loyalists and the letters MC, as in Military Claimant, for persons whose entitlement came from military service referring to veterans of Loyalist corps, of British and German (mercenary) regiments, of the Provincial Marine, and of the Royal Navy. Any rank above private soldier in a Loyalist regiment could have received land grants initialled as MC, in addition to or instead of a UE grant. As appeared from the Muster Roll of Jessup's Rangers, James Humphrey, was a private. He was referred to in the Petition of his son Samuel as a UE.

As was the case with the men of Jessup's Rangers, they were intentionally given land near their former officers and collectively. In the case of future defense needs they would be available as a large group of experienced soldiers. In this way the men of Jessup's Corp were allotted lands in No. 6, Edwardsburg Township.

One hundred years after the settlement of the Loyalists they were remembered in the following words from the poem “The Hungry Year”(8) by William Kirby:

*The war was over, seven red years of blood
Had scourged the land from mountain top to sea;
So long it took to rend the mighty frame
Of England’s empire in the western world;
Rebellion won at last, and they who loved
The cause that had lost, and kept their faith
To England’s Crown and scorned an alien name,
Passed into exile, leaving all behind
Except their honour, and the conscious pride
Of duty done to country and king.*

APPENDIX A

(Page 1 of Upper Canada Land Petition of Samuel Umphrey)

To His Excellency Francis Gore Esquire
Lieutenant Governor of the Province
of Upper Canada

In Council

The Petition of Samuel Umphrey of Edwardsburgh,
Yeoman

Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner is the son of James
Umphrey Senior of the Township of Edwardsburgh
An: U.E. loyalist. That he has attained the full age of
Twenty one years and upward and has never
Received any Land or order for Land from the
Crown Wherefore your Petitioner prays your excellency
may be pleased to grant him Two hundred acres of
the waste lands of the Crown and permit John
B. Robinson of the Town of York to be his agent
and take out the Deed when completed
and your Petitioner will every pray

Samuel Umphrey

Dated
Cornwall 10th of
October in the year 1810

Notes:

* Brian McConnell UE is the 5th great grandson of Loyalist soldier James Humphrey. He received a UE Certificate from the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada in recognition of his Loyalist roots. To contact him please email brianm564@gmail.com

(1) The first Loyalist ancestor, James Humphrey had his name spelled with an 'H', however, his sons names appeared in Loyalist land petitions that included their father without the letter. Also, the name appeared spelled as Humphrye in 1781 Muster Roll of Jessup's Rangers.

(2) See Haldimand Papers, Library and Archives Canada. Also see U.E.L. List.

(3) "Jessup's Rangers as a factor in Loyalist Settlement" by E. Rae Stuart, M.A., published by the Ontario Department of Public Records and Archives, 1961. Also see 'Return of Disbanded Troops and Loyalists settled in Township No. 6 (Edwardsburgh). Mustered this 13th day of October, 1784,(Canadian Archives, series B. 168, p. 90).

(4) Edward Jessup, Volume V (1801-1820), Dictionary of Canadian Biography

(5)"The Loyalists in Ontario, the sons and daughters of the American Loyalists of Upper Canada", Genealogical Publishing Company, 1994 reprint of 1973 edition, p.160.

(6) See Upper Canada Land Petitions (1763-1865), Library and Archives Canada

(7) "United Empire Loyalists, A Guide to Tracing Loyalist Ancestors in Upper Canada" by Brenda Dougall Merriman, published by Global Heritage Press, 2006

(8) See "The centennial of the settlement of Upper Canada by the United Empire Loyalist, 1784-1884, the celebrations at Adolphstown, Toronto, and Niagara, with an appendix containing copy of the U.E. List preserved in the Crown Lands Department at Toronto." For further information about Loyalist history see website of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada at:
<http://www.uelac.org/>