

**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

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

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 Cataraquei [Edwardsburgh], 1785  
Muster Roll No. 9

no	no	names	no	names
t. Will <sup>r</sup> Fraser	E37	Donald McIntoch	E63	Thomas Fras
t. Peter Drummond	E38	Dun <sup>r</sup> McAlpin	E64	Will <sup>r</sup> Fraser
t. Tho <sup>r</sup> Fraser	E39	James Froob Senr	E65	George Starl
John Bulmage	E40	James Ughry	E66	Will <sup>r</sup> Fraser
Gideon Adams	E41	James Adams	E67	Hugh McIlroy
Igh <sup>r</sup> V <sup>r</sup> Lasso	E42	John Nix	E68	Mokey More
t. Hugh Munro	E43	James Froob Junr	E69	Jesper More
Wl <sup>r</sup> Snyder	E44	John Rudderback	E70	Nich <sup>r</sup> Loucki
Will <sup>r</sup> Fraser	E45	Henry Anderson	E71	Will <sup>r</sup> McKini
Tho <sup>r</sup> Fraser	E46	John Burke	E72	Joel Adams
n Smith	E47	Thomas Goossberry	E73	Thomas Arast
r Curry	E48	Jacob Bonestile	E74	Charles Deyn
r McKnight	E49	V <sup>r</sup> Saunders Senr	E75	George Bolts
id Hunter	E50	Wl <sup>r</sup> Saunders Junr	E76	Will <sup>r</sup> Ferris
mas Fraser 1st	E51	Henry Saunders	E77	John Soralli
Liam Fraser 1st	E52	Ad <sup>r</sup> Saunders	E78	Andrew Adams
n Kilbrath	E53	John Thompson	E79	John McKiel
n McKingie	E54	Henry Jackson	E80	Will <sup>r</sup> McKiel
v <sup>r</sup> McKeal	E55	Duncan Cameron	E81	Peter Ferris
l <sup>r</sup> White	E56	Philip Bulmage	E82	Fred <sup>r</sup> Livier
y Sillick	E57	John Weycoff	E83	James Fraser
n Whitley	E58	Joseph Robertson	E84	John McIlroy
as Curry	E59	Tho <sup>r</sup> Lister	E85	Ames Bell
ham Bolton	E60	Jacob Woraly	E86	John McKenn
r <sup>r</sup> McIntoch	E61	Will <sup>r</sup> Snyder	E87	Widow Hutcl
ms Boyle	E62	Saa <sup>r</sup> 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)

To His Excellency Thomas Goreau Esquire  
Lieutenant Governor of the Province  
of Upper Canada

The Petition of Samuel Humphrey of the Township of  
Hunting Shrewsbury that your Petitioner is the Son of James  
Humphrey Son of the Township of Shrewsbury  
an a Loyalist that he has attained the Age of  
Twenty one years and upwards and has never  
Received any Land or aida 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 and the Deed when completed

and your Petitioner will ever Prof-  
itely Comell H of } Samuel Humphrey  
act them in the year

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



The Petition of Samuel Umphrey was made on the 10<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> July, 1811. It was read in Council on 7<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> of  
October in the year 1810



Notes:

\* Brian McConnell UE is the 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 13<sup>th</sup> 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/>