HUGH PUDSEY: Loyalist to Kings County, Nova Scotia

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This past year a Nova Scotia Branch member who is a descendant of Hugh Pudsey introduced me to this interesting family. Mr. Pudsey is well documented as being born in England, marrying in Horton Township, and settling on a farm in Greenwich and later Wolfville in Kings County. He grew fruit he imported from England. Less is known about his service that "Intitled [him] to the favours intended in His Majesty's proclamation to men of their description".

One of the only two men of Captain Robert DOVE's company listed on his two Petitions for land in Nova Scotia is **Hugh PUDSEY**. (see previous story on the Loyalists of Kings County, NS). Marion Gilroy'swell-known book, 1937, *Loyalists and Land Settlement in Nova Scotia* does not capture him. In Arthur Wentworth Hamilton EATON's valuable book, *The History of Kings County,* 1910, Salem, MA Press, the author skips any mention of Pudsey being a Loyalist. In a sketch of families he simply quotes the book, *North American Family Histories 1500-2000,* page 249, 'descendants of Moses Cleveland' which states Roxalena CLEAVELAND married Hugh PUDSEY, an Englishman who settled in Horton, naming their five children. The Benjamin Cleaveland/Cleveland family were Planters to Horton from Windham, Connecticut in 1760. Roxalena was about 3 years old at that time.

More personal details are in this profile, too, describing Hugh as "intellectual and scientific, and had a choice library". He eventually owned a farm in Greenwich, Kings County and later, Wolfville, Kings County, NS where he was an orchardist and farmer. Of him, EATON adds on page 195 that he "imported from England grape vines and other fruit scions rare in the province." Neither publication mentions anything about him being a Loyalist. Hugh PUDSEY's Loyalist land grant of 500 acres at Apple River, Parrsboro Township remained in his family well after his death in 1825.

Roxalena/Rocelena's (various phonetic spellings) birth in 1757 is recorded in both Connecticut (Barbour Collection, pg. 88) and in the Horton Township book. Hugh PUDSEY and Roxalena CLEVELAND married in Horton Township in 1777. He was 25 years old by this time and Roxcelana 20 years. There is no surviving record. We will likely never know how and when they met, or exactly when Hugh came to Nova Scotia initially, but they had five children, all said to have been born in Horton beginning in 1779 – Elizabeth, Hugh Jr, Henry, Olive, Eunice – with descendants still residing there. Since he married and had children in Horton before 1783 he is assumed to have been living or visiting in Nova Scotia by 1777. His wife's family had already been living in NS for many years.

As a young man and with a British accent, Hugh would have been particularly vulnerable to easy recognition during the American Revolution with any excursions to the 'more Southern

provinces' mentioned in their 1783 petition for a land grant at Parrsboro. What lies shrouded in mystery still today, is that the only known specific records for his service to the British are 1777 to 1783 where there are a few surviving paylists and a final discharge in the British navy "Careening Yard" in Halifax. The paylists and final discharge are all at Halifax, and each one states his occupation as *Joiner*.

He arrived at Halifax, Nova Scotia in the late fall of 1783 by ship from New York, reportedly with Company 2, with Captain Robert Dove's Militia, other Loyalists, and at least one other petitioner – Joseph ELDERKIN also a grantee. Previously discussed Captain Robert DOVE was a Loyalist attainted in Pennsylvania as early as 1775, a leather cutter who joined the British. He went to sea as Shipmaster of the ship *Charming Jenny* transporting cargo such as tobacco. Where he met Hugh PUDSEY and Joseph ELDERKIN has not been determined. Why the two left NS, if they were living there before that, or the service they gave other than the Halifax shipyard records has not been found. Neither name appears on the 1770 census of Horton and of the three, only Joseph Elderkin (Horton 1791) and Robert Dove (Halifax 1793) are in the 1791 and 1793 Nova Scotia census. From the records we conclude Hugh PUDSEY was not accessible to enumeration in Nova Scotia at census times. He was a grantee in Apple River, Parrsboro, Nova Scotia initially, and not in Horton until well after 1783, perhaps after 1791, since they tried to farm in Apple River "upwards of eight years" [c.1791].

There are a several records for Hugh PUDSEY where he was on the payroll of the British Navy as a carpenter prior to 1783. His consistent occupation on the pay lists and his discharge document in Halifax, Nova Scotia is "Joiner" or "H.Carpenter/Joiner". This is a far different occupation than the published books later described. Was he compelled to go on voyages because he was working at the shipyard and they needed his skills? On Ancestry, the final discharge record is under general heading '*Locations or Vessels Gibraltar, Halifax and Martinique with index (1775-1815*)'. This extra information is not included on the Library and Archives Canada image. The term of service is "Oct 1782-Apr 1784".

Going from there into a remote wilderness homesteading with a wife and small children must have been an extremely difficult transition. Early settlers depended on having large families, especially sons, to help with the farm. Clearing this wilderness that he received was difficult, and they could not make a living on their land as the children were too small to help. This was the reason he gives for going back to Halifax, probably to work in the shipyard where he was until 1784.

It is only 3.5 miles across the Minas Basin to Horton from Apple River, and the more fertile Annapolis Valley land there as well as family ties likely motivated his further orchard farming interest. By 1791 he had moved his family there as he was granted a cattle mark in Horton

Township. This was a type of registered specific ear clipping for branding granted to each farmer to identify their cattle, as they sometimes grazed them in common pastures.

In conclusion, although published books and genealogies ignore his Loyalist service during the American Revolution, the 1783 and 1796 petition of Captain Robert DOVE and these two men who had "abandoned their interest in the more southern provinces" states clearly that they came on a vessel recommended by Sir Guy Carleton, and assessed themselves to be entitled to the Loyalist favours “intended in His Majesty's proclamation”.