

## **Information about Thomas Shreve**

Contributed by Dorothy Meyerhof.

Thomas was born 2 January 1755, probably in New York. (Ref: Richmond B. Shreve, *A History of the Shreve Family in Nova Scotia and the United States*, (1976), MG 100, Vol. 0729, #7, p. 1, Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management, microfilm 9808.)

Thomas Shreve was a student studying for the Anglican ministry at King's College (now Columbia University) in New York City when the Revolutionary war broke out. He was one of the last students to graduate from King's College.

During the War he served as Assistant Barracks Master in NY. He married during the war to Catherine Ashfield with whom he had 3 children. The eldest, Mary, died before the end of the war.

When the war ended he applied for land in Parrsboro, NS. The residents there requested he be ordained a Missionary for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. He went to England in 1786 to complete his training, was ordained Priest on 3 June 1787 and returned to Nova Scotia where he began his ministry in September 1787. His life in Parrsboro must have been exceptionally difficult. Not only did he have a far-flung parish which he had to reach on horse-back, foot and by snow-shoe, but his parishioners contributed nothing to his support.

Catherine, his first wife died. He remarried to Abigail Gallop, to whose father he had petitioned for land. Thomas and Abigail had nine children.

To support his growing family Thomas was Clerk of the Town, of the Post Office, and Registrar of Deeds.

Finally, in 1803 Charles Inglis, Bishop of Nova Scotia, encouraged him to move to the Parish of Lunenburg where he continued to serve until his death in 1816.

(Ref: Thomas Shreve and Antill Gallop, Nova Scotia Land Petitions 1769-1799, Memorial (Thomas Shreve alone), Warrants to Survey, Surveyor's Report and Certificate, Draft Grant, RG 20, Series A, NSARM microfilm 15688.)

## **Military Information**

Thomas enlisted on 3 September 1776 (Ref: Richmond B. Shreve, *A History of the Shreve Family in Nova Scotia and the United States*, (1976), MG 100, Vol. 0729, #7, p. 1, Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management, microfilm 9808.) and served in Lieutenant, Delancey's Brigade and Prince of Wales American Volunteers. (Ref: Murtie June Clark, *Loyalists in the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War, Volume III, Official Rolls of Loyalists Recruited from the Middle Atlantic Colonies, with Lists of Refugees from Other Colonies*, (Genealogical Publishing Co. Inc., Baltimore, 1981, ISBN 0-8063-0952-0), pp. 38 - 40, 57, 352 and 364., Memorial, Lt. Thomas Shreve, Prince of Wales Regiment. NSARM microfilm 15688.)

Thomas Shreve enlisted with the 2nd Battalion, Delancey's Brigade as an Ensign. He attained the rank of Captain in Delancey's Brigade (Ref. 1: Ward Chipman Papers, Regimental Papers, 1778 - 1785, DeLancey's Brigade, 1st - 3rd Battalion, MG 23, D1,

series I, vol. 28, part 2, p. 664, Library and Archives Canada, microfilm C-9819. Ref. 2 :W. O. Raymond, *Loyalists in Arms*, in Collections of the New Brunswick Historical Society, No. 5, (The Sun Printing Company, Limited, Saint John, N. B., 1904), p. 246.) However, at the end of the war he was a Lieutenant with the Prince of Wales American Volunteers. His duties during the war seem to have primarily been as Assistant Barracks Master in New York. There is no confirmation that he went with the 2nd Battalion, Delancey's Brigade to the Southern Campaign. (Ref: Murtie June Clark, *Loyalists in the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War*, pp. 38 - 40, 57, 352 and 364.) He was discharged in Halifax in 1784 where he was also Assistant Barracks Master. (Ref: R. B. Shreve, *A History of the Shreve Family*, p. 5.)