

Clapman Smith son of Daniel Smith Sr. UEL

(by John Noble UE)

Daniel Smith Sr. was a farmer/publican from New Milford, Connecticut who served as a guide during the American Revolution for General Tyrone. He married Ruth Fitch in New Canaan, Connecticut 22 May 1760. The marriage and date are recorded in "Early Connecticut Marriages: Fourth Book -Stamford-New Canaan New Haven Second Church" page 23. (Copy attached). The marriage record indicates that Daniel was originally from Norwalk. Daniel's parents were Nehemiah Smith and Elizabeth Clapham from Norwalk. Daniel's wife, Ruth Fitch, was the daughter of Theophilus Fitch and Lydia Kellogg and was born in Norwalk on 1 April 1739 (copy from Kellogg genealogy and genealogical record of Norwalk attached as well as an article from the *American Genealogist*, Vol . 2, Issue 3, 1949 on Daniel Smith's ancestors by Donald Lines Jacobus and an article from the Spring 2009 issue of *Generations* entitled "Daniel Smith's Ancestors and Children" by George H. Hayward).

Daniel Smith and Ruth Fitch had several sons and daughters in Connecticut, including Clapman born in 1762, but the only one for whom there is any record is Lydia who was baptized in New Preston (near New Milford) in 1766. At least one genealogist has suggested that the missing records are due to mice eating the Norwalk records.¹ Daniel Smith Sr. arrived in Saint John with the 1783 Spring Fleet on May 11, 1783 on board the Union. Two of his sons, Daniel Jr. and Clapman Smith arrived in Saint John on board the "Two Sisters" in September 1783 (date established from Clapman's 1785 petition for land saying he had been in the province for 18 months. Also listed as passengers on the "Two Sisters" on page 419 of *The King's Loyal Americans: the Canadian Fact* by B. Wood-Holt, 1990 -copy attached). Daniel Smith Sr. is listed on page 329 of Esther Clark Wright's *The Loyalists of New Brunswick* as having been granted lot P981 in Paratown (Saint John) and settled in Burton. Daniel Smith Sr.'s original land grant (lot 981 in Saint John) was made on 27 of August 1784 by Governor John Parr of Nova Scotia as part of one document which granted lots to 1459 Loyalists in Saint John. The grant was re-registered in New Brunswick on 2 January 1785. (Copy attached)

On the 1st of October 1784, just one month after his initial grant, Daniel Smith joined with 11 other "Loyalists" who had already received land but were dissatisfied with it, to ask for land on the Oromocto River in Sudbury County. Daniel Smith is listed in the petition as a family man but no members of the family are named. (copy of petition and transcription attached). This grant was authorized on the 8th of June 1787 (copy of grant and transcription attached). In a later petition (see below) Smith said he had been settled on the Oromocto since 1785, which suggests he occupied the land before the grant was finalized. This is also supported in his February 16, 1787 petition to the Loyalist Commissioners which says he first came to Majorfield (Maugerville) and then moved to Burton (Oromocto River) by the time of his petition. His claim for losses was accepted in the amount of £497² and his 1790 grant of 787 acres very near his 1787 grant of 220 acres may well have been compensation for his claim.

On the 28th of February 1785 Orlo and Clapman Smith petitioned for land on the Oromocto “above Mr. Mersereau's and Doctor Clark” (two of the petitioners in Daniel Smith Sr.’s 1785 petition mentioned above and who were granted Lots numbers 12 and 7 respectively). Copy of Clapman’s petition and transcription attached. In the petition Orlo and Clapman indicate they have been “waiting for eighteen months for a grant of land”, which puts their arrival as September 1783. In the instructions given by Governor Carleton to the Surveyor General on March 19, 1785 in response to Clapman and Orlo’s petition, he instructed the Surveyor General to “lay out for James Scofield and five others (including the named Orlo and Clapman Smith), six Lots of two hundred acres each on the Southern Branch of Oromocto beyond lands owned by Samuel Peabody and others on such unappropriated land as shall be pointed out by Daniel Smith” (another indication that Daniel Smith Sr. was already settled on his land on the Oromocto long before it was formally granted in 1787 and that there was a link between Daniel Smith and Clapman and Orlo Smith). The grants to Orlo and Clapman were made on November 9, 1787 (copy attached along with transcription and relevant portion of Map #147 of the Land Grant Maps of Services New Brunswick. They received Lots 1 and 2 respectively on the east side of the South West Branch of the Oromocto River which are 7 lots removed from the grant to Daniel Smith Sr. of 1787 on the west side of the river). They are the only grants to Smiths in the immediate area and this is another strong support that they were indeed sons of Daniel Smith Sr.

In the 1789 petition which Daniel Smith Sr. submitted requesting 500 acres of land on the Oromocto River not far from his 1785 grant, he claims that he has “has been now four years settled on Land granted him on the Oromocto” and that “He also wishes to inform your Excellency that he has settled three of his sons on farms, each of which is now under very considerable improvements.” Daniel Sr. did not mention his sons’ names in this petition, but it can be presumed that they were indeed Orlo, Clapman and Daniel Jr. since when Daniel Smith Sr. died in June 1816 the Administration of his estate was given to Clapman Smith, Daniel Smith Jr. and Orlo Smith (copy of article in Royal Gazette and from NB Vital Statistics in Newspapers. You will note that NB Statistics transcribed Clapman’s name as “Chapman”, while it is clearly “Clapman” in the Royal Gazette. The same mistake is made on page 419 of B Holt-Wood’s *“The King’s Loyal Americans: the Canadian Fact”*).

While I have not been able to locate any documents which specifically spell out the names of Daniel Smith Sr.’s sons, I would submit that the above provides definite proof that they were.

Daniel Smith Jr. was granted land in Gage Township on the 14th of June 1784 from Halifax.³ He was 19 years old at this time according to the age given in his 1815 petition. The grant was re-registered in New Brunswick on the 20th of January 1785. Daniel Jr. received Lot 15 to be shared with Hezekiah Kierstead. Daniel Jr. sold this lot to Nathaniel Hubbard (who was a co-petitioner with Daniel Smith Sr. in his 1785 land petition) in November 1786.⁴ Daniel Smith Sr. signed the deed as a witness, perhaps because Daniel Jr. may not have been 21 at the date of sale.

The birth date for Clapman Smith was established in his 1815 land petition when he said he was 53 years old (i.e. 1762). Daniel Smith Jr. said he was 50 in the same petition. Clapman's birth date from the petition is the same birth date as is engraved on his tombstone. The date for his death, 1843 is engraved on his tombstone and is supported by the following two press clippings regarding the death of his wife Susannah in 1856. The first is from Daniel Johnson's *Vital Statistics from NB Newspapers*: Daniel F. Johnson : Volume 16 Number 350

Date July 26 1856

County Saint John

Place Saint John

Newspaper New Brunswick Courier

"d. Blissville (Sunbury Co) 15th inst., Susannah Smith widow of Clapman Smith, Esq, age 82, left 8 surviving sons and two daughters with a large number of grand and great-grandchildren. 26 July 1856 N.B.C. "

The second is from Joan Davis and Janice Seeley's *Sunbury County Happenings*, Vol. 1, p. 7 which contains the following from the Religious Intelligencer (Saint John, N.B.) of 25 Jul 1856: "Died At Blissville, Sunbury County, on the 15th inst., Mrs. Susannah, relict of the late Clapman Smith, Esq., in the 82nd year of her age, leaving 8 surviving sons and 2 daughters, with a large number of grand and great grandchildren. Mrs. Smith was born at the Bay Chaleur, to which her parents had emigrated from London. They removed to the Saint John River when she was about 4 years old. Her father was a truly pious and devoted disciple of Christ, and for many years sustained the public worship of God. When 17 years of age she was married to Mr. Smith, by whom she had 15 children; one died in infancy, another in early years, all the rest professed faith in the Savior. During the last 13 years she had been a widow, waiting for the time of her departure. During the last 2 or 3 years her faculties failed so far that at times she did not recollect her own friends, even her own children were sometimes forgotten by her, but at no time did she forget her Savior."

Daniel Smith Sr. and Clapman Smith and their families are listed back to back in the New Brunswick Genealogical Society's *"First Families of New Brunswick"* as follows: "SMITH: Daniel Smith b. probably in Litchfield County, CT, d. 26 Jun 1816, m. 22 May 1760 at Norwalk, CT, Ruth Fitch b. 1 Apr 1739 d/o Theophilus Fitch and Lydia Kellogg: they settled in Burton Parish, Sunbury County:

Children:

1) Orlo Smith b. 1761 m. Hannah Thomas:

2) Clapman Smith b. 1762, d. 1843, married Susannah Bailey b. 1775: they had ten

children:

3) Daniel Smith m. Nancy Kellogg: had issue:

4) Ruth Smith:

5) Mary Smith married George Hayward:

6) Lydia Smith married Mr. Ward.

Sources: MC1/Smith #19, 2 pages: see also MC80/2706 Sharon Knorr's *Hoyt pioneer cemetery*, pages 10-11."

"SMITH: Clapman Smith b. 1768 probably at New Milford, CT, d. 1843, s/o Daniel Smith and Ruth Fitch: father and son came to NB in 1783 as Loyalists and settled on the Oromocto River, Blissville Parish, Sunbury County: married Susannah Bailey b. 1775, d. 1856:

Children:

1) Clapman Smith Jr. b. 1794, died 1871, married Gertrude DeWitt b. 1795 d/o John DeWitt, d. 1896: first lived in Mill Settlement, Blissville Parish and then in 1836 moved to Presque Isle, ME:

2) Benjamin Smith born 1800, d. 1870, m. Amelia Clarke b. 1797, d. 1850: settled near Hoyt, Blissville Parish:

3) Daniel Smith born 1802, d. 1861, married Phoebe Hartt b. 1809, d. 1883: family settled near Blissville, NB:

4) Joseph Smith born 1803, d. 1880, m. Harriet M. Lounsbury b. 1800, died 1891: family settled near Blissville:

5) Samuel Smith born 1805, died 1861, married Abigail Balmain:

6) William Smith b. 1808, d. 1861:

7) Israel Smith b. c1809: went to West Saint John, NB:

8) Theophilus Smith b. 1810, m. Lucy Hudson:

9) Ezekiel Smith:

10) Ammon Smith:

11) James Smith born 1814, d. 1896, m. Anne - b. 1826, d. 1882:

12) Lydia Smith born 1815, died 1856, m. John Seely:

13) Thatcher Smith:

14) John Smith b. 1825, d. 1903, married Elizabeth - born 1835, d. 1913.

Sources: MC1/Smith #1, 20 pages: Daniel Smith b. 1729 at Danbury, CT, died 1815,

married Ruth Fitch, b. 1730, d. 1813: came to NB and settled in Burton, Sunbury

County: data on Joseph Smith and Harriet M. Lounsbury is found in MC1/Smith #14.”

Two of Clapman’s children, Theophilus and Lydia were named after Clapman’s mother’s parents: Theophilus Fitch and Lydia Kellogg.

At least seven of Clapman's descendants were elected to the New Brunswick Legislature: his grandson Albert Colby Smith, his great grandsons Albert Harry Colby Smith, Benjamin Franklin Smith, Robert F. Smith, Gabriel F. Smith, his great great grandsons A. Colby Smith, and Horace Bolton Smith. Another great grandson Luther B. Smith of Saint John West, contested Queens-Sunbury for the House of Commons on the Conservative side in 1911 with General McLean as his opponent, and came within a few votes of winning allegedly due to a stolen ballot box. His great grandson Benjamin Franklin Smith lost the 1911 federal election in Victoria-Carleton by 11 votes. He eventually was elected a federal Member of Parliament in 1930 and appointed a Senator in 1935. All of them claimed their Loyalist heritage.

Clapman Smith was appointed a Justice of the Peace as recorded in George H. Hayward’s article “Thomas Phillips and Phebe Bedford of Sunbury County, N.B.” on pages 30-36 of the Fall 2010 issue of *Generations*. “N.B., 3 **David Longfellow Kelly**. New Brunswick Marriages, Vol. 1, 1766-1888: David L. Kelly of the Parish of Lincoln and Rebecca Hartt of the same place were married 1 Jun 1826 by Clapman Smith, J.P., in presence of Sarah Phillips and David Hartt.”

The above facts: 1) that Daniel Smith Sr. was a family man; 2) that he claimed to have settled three of his sons on farms in his 1789 petition; 3) that the Governor in Council instructed the Surveyor General to lay out land pointed out by Daniel Smith Sr. regarding the 1785 petition of Orlo and Clapman Smith; 4) that the only grants made to other Smiths near those received by Daniel Smith Sr. are to Orlo and Clapman Smith as shown on the NB Land Grants map #147; 5) that Daniel Smith Sr. was a witness to a sale of land by Daniel Smith Jr. in 1786; 6) that Clapman Smith and Daniel Smith Jr. submitted a petition

for land in 1815 which shows that they are the same Clapman Smith who was granted land on the Oromocto and the same Daniel Smith Jr. who was granted land in Gage Township; 7) that the administration of the estate of Daniel Smith Sr. was given to Clapman, Daniel Jr. and Orlo Smith in 1816 in the Royal Gazette; 8) that Clapman is listed as a son of Daniel in *New Brunswick's First Families* leads to a clear presumption that Clapman Smith was indeed a son of Daniel Smith Sr., who was a Loyalist as established in the grants he received in 1784, 1787 and 1790 and his claim to the Loyalist Commissioners of 1787.

¹ "Daniel Smith, Loyalist or Tory" by Marcia Thomas
http://www.footnote.com/page/1964_daniel_smith_loyalist_or_tory/

² *Loyalists of the American Revolution* by Gregory Palmer, 1984 page 796

³ PANB: RS686 Land Grants; Name: Smith, Daniel Jr.; Volume: NS-A; Page: 198; Grant Number: 98; Place: Gage Township; County: Sunbury; Date: 20/01/1785; Acres: 200; Microfilm: 16302; Comments; Re-registered NS Grant of 1784/06/14. Land shared with Hezekiah Kierstead

⁴ PANB: Collection: 534.5 F18-15 Hubbard Papers