

Biographical Notes on Loyalist Benjamin Stymiest II

By

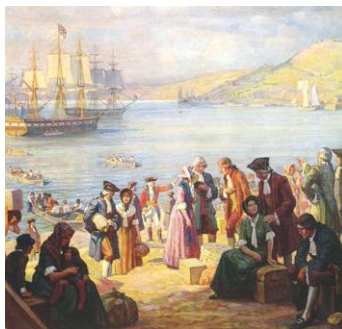
Carl Stymiest UE

Some notes are excerpts from "Down By the Old Millstream-A Stymiest Chronicle"

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Loyalist Benjamin Stymiest II (Sr.) (1731-1823), his son, Benjamin Stymiest III (Jr.) (1765-1863) and Benjamin II's brother, Jasper Stymest (1751-1826) were three Stymiest ancestors who swore Allegiance to the Crown and were evacuees; the first to come to Canada from Staten Island, New York after the American Revolution. Benjamin Sr. was the great grandson of the North American Progenitor, Casparus Stymiest II (Steynmets) and Jannetje Gerritsen Van Wagenen who immigrated to New Amsterdam (now New York) in 1631 from Holland.

Benjamin Stymiest II and Jasper Stymest were Loyalists' brothers and sons of Benjamin Stymiest I (1696-1760) and Sarah Emmans (1706-1753). The early notations of Eldon J. Stymiest, Tabusintac, NB does not specifically indicate whether Benjamin II and Jasper came to Canada together; however it is now been proven that they both arrived on the Loyalist British ship, the "*John & Jane*" in Parrtown, Nova Scotia (now Saint John, NB) during the arrival of the Fall Fleet on November 6, 1783. (CS)(AC)



Loyalist Landing, Saint John, New Brunswick 1783- by Adam Sherriff Scott-

Both Benjamin Stymiest II and Jasper Stymest were born in the Thirteen Colonies. In two earlier American records, there are discrepancies as to the actual birth place; however, later research has ascertained the births as being recorded in Bergen, Bergen Co., New Jersey. Several sources indicate Benjamin and Jasper as being born in Gravesend on Long Island. In my research, I have found that Benjamin and Jasper moved to Gravesend, Long Island before the American Revolution. (CS)

It was here that Benjamin II built his sawmills and grist mills after acquiring land; only to have it confiscated by the "rebels" during the American Revolution. Benjamin and his wife Abigail were fortunate to escape with their five children after the pillaging of their property and moved quickly to Staten Island, a British stronghold. Jasper, his brother with wife Milcah and family also journey with Benjamin and family.

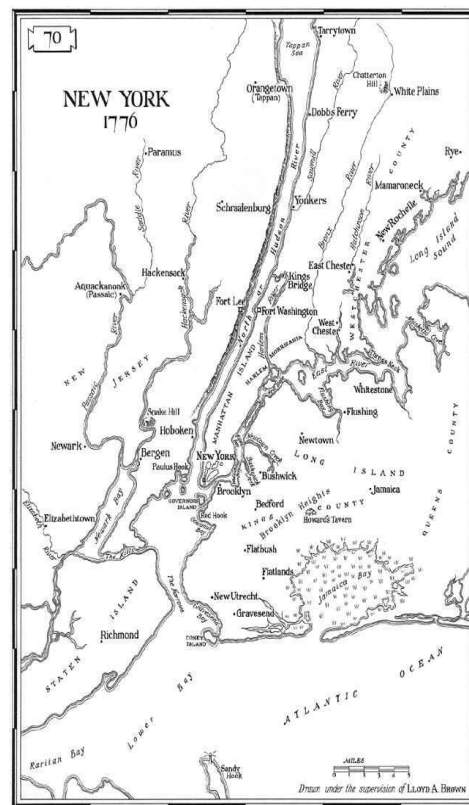
In the Will of Joris Stimets, dated July 12, 1772, George wills to his brother Benjamin, age 15; as well as his younger brother Jasper Stimets; this would then make Benjamin born about 1731-1757. (CS)

Source:

New York City Wills: 1771-1776", New York Archives, New York, NY, p. 325.

Other sources contradict this indicating that Benjamin II was born in Ahasymus (near Bergen, NJ) as documentation makes reference to the ownership of property belonging to his father. These sources speculate that Benjamin II moved to Gravesend later on in his life. From there Benjamin II moved to Hempstead in the central part of Long Island and Jasper moved to Peekskill on the Hudson River in New York. (CS)

When the Revolutionary War began in America, Benjamin II remaining loyal to the British Crown was forced to flee to the safe haven of Staten Island. Staten Island, at the time, was a British stronghold, but when New York was evacuated by the British in 1783, Benjamin II came to St. John, New Brunswick with his wife, Abigail Fardon (aka Fordon) and family. They left New York on September 16, 1783. (CS)



Benjamin, Sr & Jr Stymiest, and Jasper Styimest leave Gravesend & Hampstead for Staten Island.

Since the family surname was of Dutch origin, the name is spelled many different ways in the early New Brunswick records as well as the records in the United States and The Netherlands. One explanation for the surname discrepancy is the fact that when early census lists were prepared, the spelling was written at the discretion of the census taker. Quite often they were spelled phonetically. It is believed, however that Benjamin II adopted the surname spelling of "Stymiest."

Benjamin II left Parrtown, Nova Scotia (now Saint John, NB) almost immediately after arriving in New Brunswick. He decided to move further north and to settle on the "Davidson Tract" on the Miramichi River. Records state that "he had a wife and five children, all of whom were above the age of ten, and that he was beginning to make a settlement." (CS)

The book entitled "LOOKING BACK" contains a chapter on the early settlers in Bay du Vin, New Brunswick which makes the following reference to Benjamin Stymiest:

"After the Loyalist had reached the Fundy Shores, they were allotted grants of land in New Brunswick's wilderness. Among these people was the Stymiest family. As the title of the land grant William Davidson received was in dispute, Benjamin Stymiest and his family moved to Bay du Vin where he petitioned and was granted land on the east side of the mouth of the Bay du Vin River in 1784".

Source:

"Looking Back, A History of Bay du Vin, New Brunswick", Walco Print & Litho Ltd., Chatham, N.B., 1978, p.15.

Author's Note:

The date of "1784" quoted in the book, "Looking Back..." is questionable as to the record of this particular land grant. This date most probably refers to the time when Benjamin and his family lived at the "Davidson Tract" before going to Escuminac and Bay du Vin, NB. (CS)

There is one reference of a Land Grant to Benjamin Steimmest, dated October 01, 1784 in the PANB as being located as #3, Parish of Waterborough, Queens Co., NB. This land grant in Queens County was relinquished by Benjamin to his brother Jasper Stymest when he left Parr Town (St. John) for the Miramichi area. (CS)

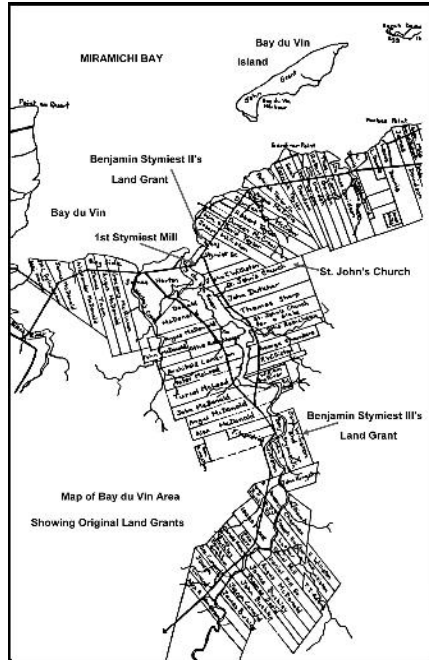
Records show that Benjamin Christoffel Stymiest II first land grant was a lot containing 86 acres. The actual PANB petition was granted to George Rogers and twenty-seven others, of which Benjamin was one. The lot was located in the Escuminac Meadows which he had settled in the late 1700's after leaving the "Davidson Tract". (CS)

A Petition, dated August 13, 1785 sheds further light onto the Land Grants to Benjamin Stymiest II:

"Benamin Steimeist, Farmer, native of Gravesend on Long Island near New York, and was settled at Hampstead at the commencement of the late Rebellion, fled to Statten Island, and when New York was evacuated came to this province. He has been about twelve months in the County of Northumberland,

Miramichi, and is beginning to make a settlement at a place called Bettvin in Miramichi Bay. Has a wife and five children unmarried, all above the age of ten years."

Benjamin Stymiest II received land grant, Lot No. 2 (August 13, 1785) at the Mouth of the Bay du Vin River (SEE: Map of Grant; Part V; also APPENDIX XI) where he eventually built (1787) and operated the first Stymiest Sawmill. (Also SEE: APPENDIX III and VI)



Original Land Grants-Bay du Vin, New Brunswick- Benjamin Stymiest II & III

Benjamin Steimeist II and his son, Benjamin Stymiest II applied with a group of others for land on Fox Island to use for "Hay." The Petition is dated, circa November, 1803.



Photo 2 Gravesite of Jasper Stymest-Loyalist Cemetery, Saint John, New Brunswick

Author's Note:

In the PANB Index of Land Grants, there are two references to this "Fox Island Petition"; namely "Stymist, Benjamin, Jr. and Stymist, Benjamin, Sr. Parish of Hardwick, County of Northumberland, dated Sept. 17, 1816; located in Vol. 2, No. 827. (SEE: APPENDIX III (D))

Source:

"The Petition of Benjamin Steimeist: August 13, 1785", Northumberland County Petitions, From Original Land Memorials in Crown Lands Office, Department of Lands and Mines Fredericton, New Brunswick. [Copied from originals by Dr. Louise Manny.]

Several records reported that Benjamin II died "about 1817-1823-1825", however, in one report we have Benjamin II's death recorded as 1817. In Eldon Stymiest's Notes, the date of his death is given as 1823 and this author is inclined to agree. (CS)

The following reference states, "to the Estate of Benjamin Stymiest, Sr., Glannlagh (Glenelg, North. Co.)" naming "Executor, Benjamin Stymiest, Jr. (Benjamin Stymiest III), Alnwick, 12 September, 1817".

Source:

"Vital Statistics From New Brunswick (Canada) Newspapers", Vol. 2: 1816-1823; (Ref. #295), dated 30 December, 1817; New Brunswick Royal Gazette.

Author's Note:

It is possible that the date of 1817 refers to the appointment of Benjamin III as Executor, and that this refers to the date of registration and not the date of death. It is believed that Benjamin II and his wife are buried in the Old English (Anglican) Church [St. John's The Evangelist] Cemetery at Bay du Vin, New Brunswick although the graves are unmarked. (CS)



**Photo 1 Cemetery Gravesite of Benjamin Stymiest II-Old Saint John the Evangelist Cemetery-
Bay du Vin, New Brunswick**

The name "Stymest" is listed as a Loyalist name in Esther Clark Wright's book " The Loyalists of New Brunswick". Benjamin Stymest II is also listed in the same book as "arriving from Long Island, New York and settlement being made in the Miramichi area".

Source:

"The Loyalists of New Brunswick", Esther Clark Wright, pp. 158, 333.

Benjamin Stymiest III and his wife, Charlotte Mary Hierlihy are buried in the Old Stymiest Cemetery, Tabusintac, Northumberland County, New Brunswick and the stone is suitably marked as a "UE" Loyalist.



Photo: Courtesy of Gerry Fleming

STYMIEST CEMETERY LOCATION:

Stymiest Rd
Tabusintac
Alnwick Parish
Northumberland County , New Brunswick, Canada

Register of those buried in the Old Stymiest Cemetery, Tabusintac, New Brunswick

HARDING

Hazen S. 1907-1978
his wife Lillian M. Olsen 1913-1980
foot marker Hazen S. Harding Private North Shore [NB] Reg't
13 Feb 1978 aged 70 yrs

HARDING

W. L. Stewart 1929-
Eleanor B. Strang 1932-1993
Wed. Jan 19, 1952
Their children
Baby Boy 1952-1952

HARDING

Donald J. Sergeant C.A.S.F. 11 July 1979 age 65

HARDING

William C. 1915-2001
Hazel I. Whyte 1917-1978

HARDING

John J. 1884-1977
wife Maria P. Price 1891-1976
son Franklin 1909-1936

HARDING

Harry and Ray 1919 infant twin sons of William & Sarah

BLANCHARD

Stephen 1834-1903

WEEKS

Wooden Cross
Phoebe Price Weeks 1823-18??
Wife of Jesse Weeks

PRICE

Permelia Hierlihy Price 1837-1875
wife of Henry Price

PRICE

Franklin J. 1870-1962
wife Isabella J. Harding 1871-1951
AT REST

PRICE

J. Wesley 1904-
Isabella J. 1902-1966

PRICE

In loving memory of Roy Elmer Price born Apr.2,1926 died July 22,1969 beloved son of Wesley and Isabella Price

PICARD

P. Vincent 1924-1975
wife Doris P. Price 1927-

PRICE

Richard J. 1896-1985
wife Christina E. Harding 1900-1979
their daughter Ruth 1933-1934

PRICE

Robert K. Aug.31,1914-Jan.2,1933
his wife Gwendolyn A. Palmer Sept.6,1915-2002

PRICE

In memory of Joseph R. Price born 1875 died 1949
his wife Isabella J. Buchanan born 1877-died 1962

PRICE

Hugh Murray 1821-1998
Husband of Kathleen Sheppard Strang
Son of Joseph and Isabella Price

PRICE

Two infant children of Murray and Kathleen Price

PRICE

William F. 1915-
his wife Edith Burns 1913-1998

PRICE

In memory of Jacob Price died Nov.16,1910 aged 46 yrs.
Richard J. Price son of Jacob and Jane Price died Feb.5,1908 aged 19 yrs

PRICE

Amanda S. Stymiest beloved wife of John M. Price born June 9,1888 died July 17,1918

PRICE

Richard died Sept.2,1917 aged 85 yrs and
his wife Annie Belle died Jan.3,1884 aged 47 yrs.

PRICE

Darlene Ellen 1971

PRICE

In memory of William Price died 1862 aged 70 yrs
Phoebe Price died 1881 aged 81 yrs.

PRICE

Jacob S. 1841-1939
his wife Maria Hierlihy 1841-1885
AT REST

TAYLOR

Frank H. 1891-1973
his wife Harriet J. Price 1900-
EVER REMEMBERED EVER LOVED

TAYLOR

Walter John [1922-June 17,1998]
his wife Joann M. Legere 1931-

FLAT STONE

PHILIP ROBERTSON

STRANG

[front] In memory of Ephram A. Died Mar.26,1912 aged 24 yrs.
Rosalia died Oct.20,1881 aged 2 yrs. & 2 mo.
Son and daughter of Gordon and Mary A. Strang
GONE BUT NOT FOREVER. THERE WILL BE A
GLORIOUS DAWN ON THE RESURECTION MORN.
[right side] Gordon T. Girvan died July 13,1908
[left side] Gordon T. Strang died Nov.15,1916 aged 65 yrs

STRANG

Arnold 1889-1977

STRANG

Mary Elvina Apr.29,1900
Patsy Lee 1954-1955

STRANG

Jacob R. 1875-1961
his wife Jane Anne Stymiest 1878-1954
Their children Gordon T. 1902-1920
Ross M. 1904-1927

Arthur W. 1918-1944 Killed in action France
Donald 1920-1920

STRANG

Arthur 1918-1944 Killed in action June 6 D-Day
LAY DOWN YOUR LIFE FOR A FRIEND

STRANG

John S. Dec.5,1904-Nov.3,1990
his wife Alice P. Harding Dec.29,1909-Dec.26,1989

STRANG

Charles J. 1954-1982
his wife Judy L. Mills 1958-
TO LIVE IN THE HEARTS OF THOSE WE LOVE IS NOT TO DIE

STRANG

Joseph R. May 27,1909-Oct.29,1983
his wife Annie L. MacLean Oct.16,1920-

STYMIEST

[front] James died Sept.22,1897 aged 85 yrs.
Margaret Urquhart his wife died Oct.12,1895 aged 81 yrs.
[side] John Stranach died Jan.19,1911 aged 63 yrs.
Mary Stymiest his wife died Jan.27,1911 aged 66 yrs.

STYMIEST

Children of James and Margaret Stymiest
Lewis was drowned May 24,1842 aged 3 yrs
Benjamin died July 31,1856 aged 3 yrs
stone erected by A.W.Andres, Dorchester, NB

STYMIEST

Infant children of Alexander and Maria Stymiest
daughter 1898
son 1899
Annie M.A. 1900

STYMIEST

In the midst of life we are in death
Esther beloved wife of W.W. Stymiest died June 21,1862 aged 41 yrs
Also their daughter Kezia died Dec.31,1864 aged 5 yrs & 3 mos
Momument by K.Beck, Summerside,PEI

STYMIEST

John Thomas 1890-1973

STYMIEST

Benjamin III 1776-1862

his wife Charlotte M. Hierlihy 1795-1865

UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS

STYMIEST

W. G. Foy 1914-1993

his wife Elizabeth E. Nowlan 1919-

STYMIEST

Margaret E. Dickson wife of John B. Stymiest born Nov.18,1857 died Feb.2,1921

IN THE MIDST OF LIFE WE ARE IN DEATH

John B. Stymiest 1861-1955

[side] Their baby aged 5 weeks

STYMIEST

James William 1896-1961

his wife Ruth Munroe 1904-1982

STYMIEST

Herman G. 1929-1993

his wife Audrey E.A.MacKnight 1935-

EVER REMEMBERED, EVER LOVED

STYMIEST

John Alfred May 19,1911-Oct.12,1992 son of Alfred Stymiest and Mildred England

STYMIEST

Alfred 1884-1956

his wife Mildred A. England 1885-1930

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

MACLEAN

J.T.Andrew 1915-1989 [note he served in Air Force in WW I]

his wife Effie Stymiest 1915-1941

MACLEAN

FLAT STONE

Thomas A. Jr. 1938-1938]

STEWART

WHITE WOODEN CROSS

Adam Stewart

Abby Stewart

CARTY

Debbie Adams Carty 1954-1996

daughter of Sydney and Jean Adams

DICKISON

WHITE WOODEN CROSS

Joseph Dickison 86 born 1851 died 1937

Edith Dickison 71 born 1877 died 1948

Elizabeth Stewart Dickison

GRAVE ON STYMIEST ROAD SURROUNDED BY A WHITE PICKET FENCE 1 mile from cemetery

ERECTED BY T. F. SHERRARD OF NEWCASTLE

FOWLER

Charles M. Fowler died Dec.30,1863 age 62 years

SOURCE:

Cemetery Transcript by Elsie MacLeod October 2002



Loyalist Grave Site-Benjamin Stymiest III