

Nova Scotia Branch

United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

Loyalist Tidings

Fall 2023
Volume 5

President's Message

The Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, issued the following statement this year on Remembrance Day:

"On November 11 of every year, we wear our red poppies and observe two minutes of silence to honour the brave members in uniform who risked everything to defend the values that we hold dear. We pay tribute to the women and men Veterans. When Canadians have fought during times of war and conflict, they've done so in defence of values like freedom, democracy, and the rule of law.."

Included among those Canadians were many descendants of United Empire Loyalists who also remembered the part played by their ancestors. I would like to direct everyone's attention to an online resource of videos which displays historic sites of United Empire Loyalists that I began several years ago. It now includes over 100 short videos.

To access the videos for free on YouTube go to **<https://www.youtube.com/@bmccconnellue/playlists>**

Once you are there, under Playlists, you can view the following ones:

1. United Empire Loyalist Sites with 46 videos;
2. United Empire Loyalist Cemeteries & Gravestones with 40 videos;
3. United Empire Loyalist Events & Symbols with 20 videos.

I hope you find something that interests you and encourages your interest in the heritage of the United Empire Loyalists,

Brian McConnell, UE President, NS Branch

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Brian McConnell , UE ...

@bmcconnellue



United Empire : Loyalist Cemeteries &...

Public · Playlist

← Brian McConnell , UE 🇨🇦



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United Empire Loyalist Sites

Public · Playlist
Updated yesterday



Editor's Message

Welcome all to the Fall 2023 edition of Loyalist Tidings.

I would like to thank everyone for their support with this issue as I received several items to place in the newsletter and all submissions are welcomed.

The Holidays are fast approaching and I wish to take this moment to wish everyone Happy Holidays!

All the Best in 2024!

Submitted by Linda Jobe UE

Spring Nova Scotia Branch Meeting

On Saturday, Oct 21st, the Fall meeting of the NS Branch of the UELAC took place via Zoom.

We thank all of those who took the time to join us.

NOVA SCOTIA BRANCH EXECUTIVE

Brian McConnell UE, President

David Decker UE, Vice-President & Membership Chair

Linda Jobe UE, Secretary & Newsletter Editor

Jill Mattinson UE, Treasurer

Margaret Nickerson-Dorey UE, Genealogist

Linda Jobe UE, Assistant Genealogist

Marian Munroe, Director

Loyalist David White (1771-1872)

By Bruce White UE

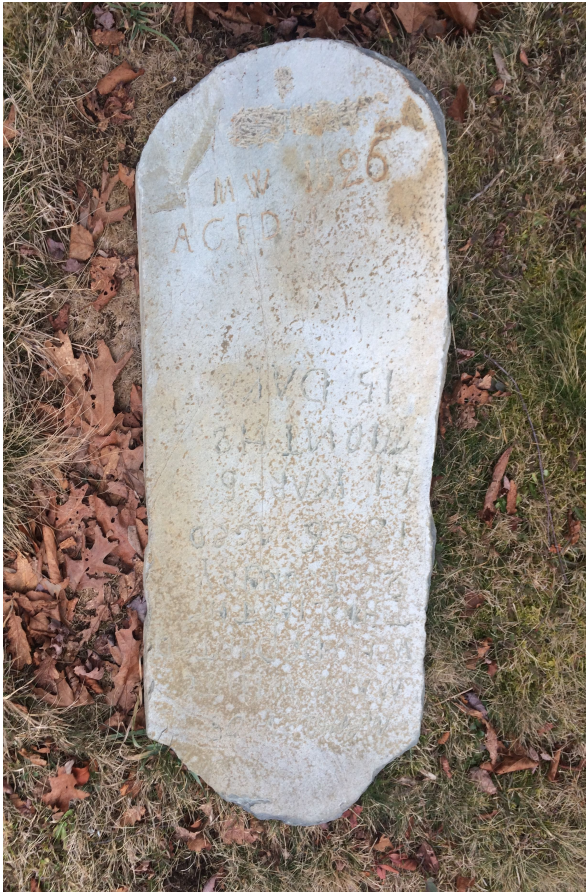
The two main drivers of emigration have always been opportunity and war, and war forced **Loyalist David White (Sr.)**, born in Scotland, to leave Albany, NY. According to an entry in Volume I of American Loyalist Claims (1980) my 3rd great-grandfather refused to “take rebel oath” and his prosperous farm was plundered twice. With no other options he and his family were conveyed on HMS Clinton to Port Roseway (later Shelburne) in Nova Scotia at the end of 1783. He submitted a claim in 1842 to the Lt.-Governor regarding damage to his woodland from the construction of a public road and included biographical details.

David Junior married **Mary Hurlburt**, whose rustic gravestone I located in the Tusket Cemetery, and their son **William** (of Bill White Road in Tusket) married **Zilpha Anne Hurlburt**. Their son **James Foster** is my grandfather, and he emigrated to Massachusetts in the early 1900s along with many other Nova Scotians to seek more employment opportunities, just as David Senior had when he emigrated from Scotland to New York in the 1700s.

My comfortable life would not be possible without the hardships and sacrifices experienced by my ancestors the past two and a half centuries. I had the privilege of being able to travel to both Prince Edward Island to explore my mother’s Wood and Gay family roots and to Nova Scotia.

Thanks to Linda Jobe’s amazing research efforts and to Peter Crowell at Argyle Township Court House and Archives in Tusket I was able to learn more about my paternal ancestors and gain an appreciation for their part in Nova Scotia history.

Below are two photos of Mary's headstone from different perspectives.



JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME

THE TRUE STORY OF ISRAEL AND SARAH (HARRIS) HARDING, UEL

*"The unknown soldier is
unknown only to us
To those who loved him
his name is
Brother
Son
Daddy
He is not forgotten"*

When one looks for and finds the path of their life back to a Loyalist or any other ancestor in their family tree, we at first are more concerned with those oh-so-important documents that "prove" by vital statistics who they were, and that they surely are who we come from. Bone of our bones, we say. After a while, though, we begin to ask ourselves, "Is that all there is?" So the journey to the sum of all the parts of who we are begins.

Before the internet evolved, obtaining documents was painstaking and often required travel and money for hiring researchers. About all of the early information passed to me through the family was referenced to George S. Brown's book ca.1900, *Yarmouth Genealogies*. For the Harding surname it begins, "**Col. Israel Harding came to Horton (NS) from New London, Connecticut a few years after the expulsion of the Acadians...**" There was the first documentation error that caused so much perplexity researching this family. 'Col' may have been a nickname, and 'Col' and 'Capt' is seen in a few old American publications, or possibly it was a title lost to time in their chaotic Revolutionary life, but extensive research turned up no designation of Colonel in any primary documents. He might conceivably have been known to his contemporaries as Captain since from his own words he owned a boat or two which he used until they were confiscated.

Israel Harding was non-military during the Revolution years. He said he worked with a Capt Nehemiah Hayden. Could he have been in a militia or auxiliary unit? His military designation of Lieutenant was earned in New London, CT. during the French and Indian uprising. **Israel** enlisted as a young soldier in His Majesties Service in 1755, Capt. Stephen Hosmer's Company out of New Salem, CT. Capt. Hosmer and a number of soldiers under his command served as a garrison at Pantusick, 30 miles north from Canaan, CT. until 08 September 1755. In the summer of 1756 he became a Lieutenant in the Fourth Company under Capt. John Slapp. His final assignment was *Lieutenant* with the Third Regiment, also under Capt. Slapp, from July to December, 1756. Several men of this company were captured by Indians, and at least one was carried to Canada and kept captive 18 months. (*Connecticut Historical Society records*). Soon after discharge **Israel** is newly married and off with his bride to pioneer in the new colony called Nova Scotia.

Sarah Harris was born 18 December 1739 the oldest child to **Lebbeus and Alice (Ransom) Harris** of New London, Connecticut. **Alice (Ransom) Harris** died and **Lebbeus Harris** married second **Eliphal Noyes**. **Sarah** must have admired her for she named her first daughter **Eliphal**. **Israel Harding and Sarah Harris** were married in 1759 in New London County, CT. Together with their family and friends and all they needed to start a pioneer home they soon left and sailed to Horton in Kings County, Nova Scotia with the New England Planters. In 1760 they were grantees there.¹

Israel and Sarah settled as farmers on their grant in the town plot in Lower Horton. Israel was a member of the committee chosen to mark the boundary of Horton and Cornwallis Townships, "*beginning at a tree marked H...*", signed 27 March 1765. Less well

known is the fact that a little over a decade after coming to Nova Scotia for some obscure reason, **Israel and Sarah** left and took their children back to Connecticut to start a new life in their homeland. A few short years later they perhaps had some regrets as they were caught in the ambiguity and for them, terror and heartache, of the American Revolution.

Israel and Sarah had in total seven children, five that were born before they left Nova Scotia - two sons, **Rev. Harris (married Mehetible Harrington of Liverpool, NS)** and **Israel Jr. (married Rachel Fowler of White Plains, New York)**; and five daughters **Eliphal (married 1st, Benjamin Lee of Digby; 2nd, William Allison)**; **Sabra (married Charles Dewolf of Horton, died young)**; **Alice (married M.P.P. Joseph Allison Jr. of Horton)**; **Mary (married Benjamin III Peck of Horton)**; and **Sarah (married Joseph Starratt of Cornwallis Township, lived and are buried in Chipman's Corner)**. The last two children were born after the family departed Horton around 1771 to return to New London, CT., the youngest was born 1780. The children all married into local families and initially settled in Nova Scotia, but **Mary and Benjamin Peck** later removed to Johnston, Licking, Ohio, USA.

It is not clear why they returned to Connecticut, but by 1771 **Israel** was buying and selling land in at least Colchester County, CT. and in 1774, **Israel** appears to have come to Horton to settle their affairs, as in a lengthy complex deed **Israel** then sold their grant land in Kings County, NS to two Nesbitt men from Windsor, NS, witnessed by Sarah's sister-in-law's parents. This deed is telling of their early distress and supports his later claims of Rebel harassment. He says, ***"To all People unto whom these Presents shall come Greeting. Know ye that I, Israel Harding, late of Labanon in the County of Windham now of Saybrook in the County of New London in the Colony of Connecticut, Yeoman..."*** Another deed shows he bought and sold a certain same parcel of land all in the same year. Norwich and Windham counties inland were where suspected Tories were detained. To the interested, read the excellent and colourful book, *The History of New London Connecticut*, by Francis M. Caulkins (1895), particularly pp. 503-4,[†] which explains the historical events of 1777 and why a Tory in New London, CT or any other Colony, would fear for his life.

For instance, he would not have been able to get provisions for the family such as were promised to the families of the Continental soldiers. If citizens "unnecessarily expend any gunpowder at game or otherwise" they were to be fined "20 shillings ...for every musket charge" and were generally restricted.² These happenings were often not recorded, but were voted on and enforced by the Committee of Correspondence. The author goes on to explain what the various Continental "Committees" were about. Further, the very meeting house where the Rebels had planning meetings was in the neighbourhood of the old Harding farm.

Caught in the cross currents of Rebel and Tory family members, those years must have been a very difficult time for **Israel and Sarah**. While **Israel** saw no reason to reject the British rule and saw the Tories as those, in his own words, *"whose greatest crime if it may be deemed so has been love for their King and affection for the Parent Country"*³.

Of the five known sons of **Stephen**, born in 1733 **Israel** was the youngest, and the only one who continued to support the British side. It is clear the family who came to Nova Scotia united were deeply divided later both geographically and politically. His oldest

[†] https://archive.org/stream/bub_gb_HglPz4OPYNoC#page/n523/mode/2up

brother, **Capt. John Harding** removed to the frontier of Kentucky. It is said he dropped the 'g' from his name and the Hardin line there is well known; Capt. Stephen II removed with his family to the infamous Jenkins Fort in Wyoming Valley frontier. **Abraham** settled in PA, also a frontier then, and is the ancestor of US President Warren G. Harding, and **Thomas** seems to have stayed quiet or neutral in Colchester. Many years before, Israel's father, Captain **Stephen Harding Sr.** had purchased a 400 acre farm in Waterford, CT between 1729 and 1736 and retiring from sea life, moved his young family from Providence, RI. This is said to have "remained the center of the Harding family for many years."⁴

In July 1778 the Battle of Wyoming occurred and Israel's brother, **Stephen Harding's** two innocent sons **Benjamin and Stukely** were brutally killed by Indians near Fort Jenkins while working in the corn fields, sparking the Wyoming massacre. The Wyoming incident left much bitterness toward the British. It is clear the war events divided this family politically and geographically forever. By about 1781 **Israel** had fled to New York with a permit from the Governor at the request of his **brother Thomas**. Later he was joined by **Sarah** and their seven children. They lived in a Rebel's house assigned to them by General Robertson.⁵

In September the same year the town of New London was attacked by General Arnold who by now had defected to the British, and the consequence was that the town was burned.⁶ In Colchester 1783, an advertisement for the sale of over 288 acres of "*that very valuable land known as the Harding farm*" appeared in the *Connecticut Gazette*. It was not in the ownership of a Harding anymore. **Israel** stated he had his own homestead in Saybrook, CT confiscated and later sold for \$800 dollars. No record was found. Saybrook is closer to the coast than Waterford where the old Harding farm was located, and more suited to the activities he participated in with his boat to assist the British troops and navy in Gardiner's Bay.

Israel assisted the British Fleet and Army by supplying them with fresh provisions & delivering messages.

According to a letter written to Sir Guy Carleton by **Israel** from New York in June 1783, and later his application to the British Commissioners for Compensation in 1786, **Israel** supported the British during the American Revolution and their life became difficult. Basically, he was a civilian spy and supplier. His depositions in his Loyalist compensation claim state he worked with his oldest son, **Harris** and a Capt. Nehemiah Hayden who states he met him in 1777 when Israel was imprisoned in New England. No court, committee, or confiscation records have been located. His brother, **Thomas** was more sympathetic to **Israel's** situation. After years of harassment, being dragged before courts and committees, imprisoned in 1777, and no doubt his nephews' death the following year, made **Israel's** situation unbearable. By about 1781, **Israel** had to leave **Sarah** and their seven children, one an infant, and flee to Long Island to the British for protection. Later she joined him, but even while there living in a Rebel home assigned by General Robertson, a rebel party (whom they knew) found them and one midnight again broke the door down, insulting and frightening the family, and robbed **Israel**.

His job during the revolution was to observe the French Fleet and rebels at Rhode Island or elsewhere and pass dispatches as requested. In **Israel's** own words, "*at the hazard of his life he often assisted in supplying the British Fleet and Army with fresh provisions and other supplies for which services and for being averse to the measures carrying on in America*

against His Majesty's government, he became obnoxious to the Americans, was apprehended, imprisoned, harassed, dragged from place to place by files of armed men and Constables, leaving a wife and seven children behind with no way to support them but by what money I had, which with defending myself before courts and committees and other expenses arising therefrom, amounted to a sum of five hundred and twenty dollars; also two boats which were taken from me I made use of in carrying sheep and cattle from Connecticut to the Fleet and Army. That after your memorialist escaped to Long Island he had a house assigned him by Government from which house he was taken by Capt. Elijah Smith and a party of men, and robbed of goods, wearing apparel, and other effects to the amount of one hundred and twenty eight dollars; that your Memorialist by his attachment to His Majesty was dispossessed of a house and land in the Town of Saybrook in Connecticut which was afterward sold for eight hundred dollars...."

They had escaped to Long Island, New York some two years before sailing back to Nova Scotia.

In 1783 when **Israel** knew they had to leave New York he tried to get a small vessel for his own use to bring the family to Nova Scotia "by the East", but instead found it necessary to spend £40 for their passage on the *Symmetry*, and altogether this left him nothing to take care of the family's needs. After the peace, while he was in the city to get promised support and arrange to get out of New York, Mr. Gillson the Rebel home owner, came to his house and the waiting **Sarah** and children were robbed "*of cash and moveables ... claimed for rent owed*" worth about £75. Recently a copy of a letter was obtained from the Carleton Papers, Harriett Irving Library, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, dated 5 June 1783 and written by **Israel Harding**, now aged fifty years old, from on board the British Transport *Symmetry* in Sag Harbor, Long Island, New York waiting to sail for River St. John in Nova Scotia (Saint John, NB). It is a Petition to "*His Excellency, Sir Guy Carleton, Chief of all His Majesty's Forces in North America*" outlining their dire circumstances. His family was all together on board *Symmetry*, but "*in a sickly condition and distressed situation*". He states they have been living on Long Island "*close to two years*" at the invitation of Admiral Arbuthnot, staying in a house assigned by General Robertson. He prays for relief from his very great suffering. \$100.00 was awarded his petition by Mr. I.A. Coffin on the order of the Commander in Chief, Sir Guy Carleton.

According to the petition, the *Symmetry* was to sail 9 June 1783 for River St. John, Nova Scotia (now New Brunswick). **Israel** never intended to go to River St John. Though he was awarded a 200 acre grant in Queens County, NB it took little time once they arrived there for him to find transportation across the Bay of Fundy, once again going straight to the same Horton Landing where they had arrived 23 years before in 1760. They had come full circle. One can only imagine the surprise and joy of Major and Mrs. Lebbeus Harris, who had remained in Nova Scotia when the Hardings' returned to Connecticut, when his daughter and family arrived all together after surviving who knows how many years of separation and lack of communication. Many stories were shared around the warm home fires that winter!

In December 1783 **Israel** applied for and in January 1784 he received a 950 acre land grant somewhere between Horton and New Minas running between the Cornwallis and Gaspereau Rivers "next to Col Foster's Farm, so-called". This remained their family's central home during the remainder of his life. In 1786 he attempted to claim compensation for his

losses as a Loyalist before the Royal Commission in Halifax, but he was too late and did not have any documents to show for his losses. He had only four letters of deposition, but it was insufficient. His claim was rejected. **Israel** frequently “lamented” his losses and having his claim rejected.

Lieutenant Israel Harding was deceased by 18 July 1794 when his wife, **Sarah**, and children were awarded Probate Administration of his estate in Horton, Nova Scotia. The 950 acre farm was listed in the Inventory. His resting place is unknown, but he may have been buried with extended family and others in the Lower Horton old Planter cemetery, which became overgrown. There was no headstone when it was transcribed in the 1960’s (Kings County Archive, Kentville).

In my search for their burial place, to my surprise we discovered **Sarah** later moved to Digby County, Nova Scotia to live with her daughter, **Eliphal (Lee) Allison**. After a remarkable life journey, there in a peaceful rural setting she attained the good old age of 96 years. She died 26 March 1836 at the home of her daughter, **Eliphal**. Dying in 1851, **Eliphal** herself out lived two husbands and lived to the age of 86 years. **Mrs. Sarah Harris Harding** is buried with her family on the side of the hill, in the old part of the beautiful, pastoral Hillgrove United Baptist Cemetery. Her stone has not survived. At least part of this cemetery was bequeathed by **Israel and Sarah’s grandson, William Henry Lee**, Barrister at Law. In his will in 1860, five acres were bequeathed to the Baptist meeting forever, being “... the small piece of land on the side of the hill so called, for a burial ground”. It is still in use today.

HARDING, ISRAEL: - 6.7.1784 - *Lived Queens county, N.B., before moving to N.S; A farmer from CT., arrived at aint John, NB with Civilian Company 4 on board the 'Symmetry'. Family on board listed as one man & woman, 6 children above 10 years, one child below 10 years and one servant. Family on arrival was one man & woman, 5 children 10 and above and 1 child under 10. Granted 200 A., lot 8 on Saint John River, Wickham Parish, Queens County, N.B., 6.7.1784** -(Vol. I, # 5) *(Source lost, possibly Esther Clark Wright.)

AMERICAN LOYALIST CLAIMS, 1980, by Peter Wilson Coldham, pg. 215-16 (Quote): **ISRAEL HARDING**, Saybrook, CT during war was driven from place to place because of loyalty, detained from his business, and had two boats (used to supply British) taken from him by rebels. In 1777, was imprisoned in N.E.; after being held under guard in several places, had to leave family and settle in Long Island. While there rejoined by family, served government by carrying cattle and provisions. While on L.I. with wife and 7 children was robbed by raiding party headed by Capt. Elijah Smith. Was also responsible on L.I. for receiving and forwarding despatches; worked with Capt. Nehemiah Hayden, formerly of Saybrook, and now of Chester, N.S., and Harris Harding, formerly of Saybrook and now of Cornwallis, N.S. Memorials: by claimant 20 Apr 1786 Horton; by Alice Harding 8 Mar 1786, Horton; Claim: House and land in Saybrook. Evidences: Deposition 8 Mar 1786 Cornwallis by Harris Harding [son] that he knew claimant. Deposition 28 Mar 1786, Chester by [Capt] Nehemiah Hayden, that he has known claimant since 1777. Deposition 10 Apr 1786 Horton by Sabra Dewolf [daughter] that she was at claimant's house on L.I. Sept 1781 when Capt. Elijah Smith of Haddam, CT broke down his doors at midnight, threatened family, and plundered house. Rejected. (AO13/25/262-270) [He had no documents to prove losses; could not go back or they were destroyed]

REFERENCES

¹ Acadia University Library, Planter Studies Center, Wolfville, Nova Scotia:

<http://libguides.acadiau.ca/content.php?pid=4546&sid=27980> (Acadia University Library)

² History of New London Connecticut from the first survey of the Coast in 1612 to 1860; (1895), pg. 503, Francis M. Caulkins. (Online) https://archive.org/stream/bub_gb_HglPz4OPYNoC#page/n523/mode/1up

³ *Petition of Israel Harding*, British Headquarters Papers, Document #7894 - pgs. (1) & (2); (AKA Carleton Papers), Harriett Irving Library, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada: dated 1783/06/05: Personal collection.

⁴ Harding, Wilbur Judd, *The Hardings in America: a genealogical register of the descendants of John Harding, of England, born A.D. 1567*. Keystone, Iowa: Harding Print Co. (1925).

⁵ Ibid. See Reference #3.

⁶ Ibid. See Reference #2.

Author: Carol Harding UE,

as published Feb 22, 2015 in *Loyalist Trails* which can be viewed at <https://www.uelac.org/Loyalist-Info/extras/Harding-Israel/Harding-Israel-Journey-of-a-Lifetime-by-Carol-Harding.pdf>



Jesse Keen Loyalist

By Ray Baltzer UE

Many years ago, as I looked at that name at the top of an extensive genealogy outline of the Keen family of Nova Scotia, it simply said “**Descendants of Jesse Keene**”. It stated that he was born in 1756 and died in 1831. It showed his marriage to **Margaret Henley (1759-1831)** and listed a **Lydia Sibley** as a later marriage. It listed a son, **Benjamin (1787-1865)**, and daughter **Ann Martha (1804-1863)** born to **Margaret and Jesse**. That was it. No mention of him being a loyalist. Who was **Jesse Keen**?

The unraveling of at least part of the mystery began approximately 7 years ago when my cousin in Charleston, South Carolina, contacted me. She was writing a book of stories and history of the Keen family. She asked me if I would write a story about a lobster boil that she remembered from her youth when she and her family were visiting my family in Middleton, NS. I told her I would try and that turned into a five part story about lobster fishing with my dad and more, leading up to the remembered boil. From that point on I have been hooked on writing about my family particularly the Keens on my mother's side. As that project continued and blossomed, we both turned to another mutual cousin, Genevieve, from Digby, who had done a great deal of genealogy work around the family over the years. From her we learned that **Jesse** was indeed a loyalist and had come to Digby in 1783 with the Loyalist settlers from the American Colonies at the end of the American Revolution. She had a copy of a muster roll for Cayford's Company, 1st Battalion, New Jersey Volunteers, which indicated that **Jesse** had enlisted as a private in this loyalist regiment, in April, 1777, and was stationed on Staten Is. by Dec. 21st. It described him as 5'9", age 21, from Cumberland County, N. J.

I then began to read extensively on the history of the 1st Battalion, N.J.V. and it seems he might very well have participated in the Defense of Staten Is., Jan. 14-15, 1780, The Battle of Connecticut Farms, June 7, 1780 and the Battle of Springfield, June 23, 1780. By Sept 6, 1780, **Jesse** is listed on the Muster roll of Nealon's Company, 1st Battalion, N.J.V., as **Sargent Jesse (sic) Keen**, age 24. It seems logical that he must have performed well to have received a promotion shortly after three major engagements.

Genevieve also had evidence that **Jesse** had married **Margaret Henley** on Feb. 16, 1781 in the Moravian church in Richmond, Staten Island, NY, eight months after the 1st Battalion's last major battle of the war. The couple remained on Staten Is. for two more years. **Jesse** would most likely have been involved in the Asher Fitzgerald raid on the fortifications at Richmond in August of 1781, which was quickly repulsed. It was the last significant action of the New Jersey Volunteers. The 1st Battalion left Staten Is. for good in the early summer of 1782 for Pauli's Hook, N.J. In October of 1782, the N.J.V. were moved to NYC, then Brooklyn and finally Newtown, Long Island.

In June of 1783, Lt. Col. DeLancey led a contingent of officers and men to Digby, Nova Scotia.

Among those settlers were **Jesse and Margaret Keen**.

Jesse is listed in the Muster Roll of Loyalists at Digby, May 29, 1784. He is also identified as one of the important builders among the early settlers and a builder of the first Anglican Church in Digby. In 1793, **Jesse**, (and later his son, **Benjamin**), enlisted in the Digby Battalion of the Nova Scotia Militia and in 1812, **Jesse** became Captain of Militia and served through the War of 1812. Sadly, his wife of 31 years, **Margaret**, passed away April 8, 1812 and **Jesse** died in 1831 at the age of 74.

So I have learned a lot about **Jesse Keen**: Son of **Jonas and Mary**, carpenter, soldier, husband, father and loyalist. In 2020 I began the process of proving my relationship to **Jesse** as his great, great grandson. That was granted on the 28th of July, 2021 and **Jesse** is now listed officially as a Loyalist by UELAC. However, the story is not yet complete. What is **Jesse's** lineage? My mother and generally all the Digby Keens believed he was of Scottish descent. Recent research though may lead us in a different direction. Another cousin in the US, who has done a great deal of genealogy work has uncovered another strong possibility.

The Platts-Keen Family Bible records **Jonas Keen**, Jesse's father as born August 31, 1728 and Married **Mary Hall**, May 9, 1756. They had a son, **Jesse**, born January 25, 1757. That **Jesse** is the proven ancestor of the Digby branch of the Keen family. There was a Scottish settlement in Cumberland Co., New Jersey prior to the American Revolution and It was logical to assume that **Jesse** was descended from them. The Descendants of **Joran Kyn**, Swedish settler of New Sweden along the Delaware River from 1638, however, indicates a different possibility. Over the following two generations after **Joran**, the Swedish name, "**Kyn**", morphed into "**Keen**". The grandson of Joran, **Erick Keen**, had a son born, according to that genealogical record, "between 1725-1726 and died after 1765". Could this be the same **Jonas** as the one listed in the Platts-Keen bible, despite the discrepancy in birthdate? There is an obvious lack of precision as to that in the **Joran Kyn** genealogy and a continuation of certain given names, such as **Jonas** (7), **Benjamin**, (2), is also a possible clue.

Whatever the lineage, Scottish or Swedish, **Jesse** has become a hero to me as a man who fought for his beliefs, struggled through adversity with his wife, **Margaret**, raised two fine children and was the progenitor of a long line of Nova Scotian Keens.

Jesse Keen, as it turns out is more than just a name on a long list of Digby Loyalists in Calnack's History of Annapolis supplement by Judge A.W. Savary, 1913.



Margaret is buried at the Trinity Anglican Church cemetery, Digby. Benjamin and Ann are buried at St. Paul's cemetery, Marshalltown, and Jonas is buried there as well.

The Monument to the 84th Regiment, 2nd Battalion

By Brian McConnell, UE

There is a unique loyalist monument located in Hants County, Nova Scotia which I visited in September, 2023. It is the only monument in Canada built by descendants as a tribute to a Regiment that served with the British during the American Revolution. It is located in the Saint Thomas Anglican Church Cemetery on the Georgefield Road.



Saint Thomas Cemetery with Monument at front

The monument was completed in 1995 by Peter Ashley and Winston MacPhee. Both are descendants of members of the 84th Regiment, 2nd Battalion that served during the American Revolution. They were also members of the 84th of Foot Second Battalion Regimental Association. The Association was registered under the Societies Act of Nova Scotia on October 16, 1986. Its' by-laws describe it as a volunteer non – profit and self – funded organization dedicated to the research, preservation and authentic re-creation of a military regiment, camp and community as it existed during the period of the American Revolutionary War (1775 – 1783). Members of the Association are living history reenactors.

The monument has a plaque on it which reads:

A MEMORIAL
TO THE 2ND BATTALION
84TH REGIMENT THE ROYAL
HIGHLAND EMIGRANTS. WHO
SETTLED DOUGLAS TOWN-
SHIP IN 1784 AND SO BEGAN
TO BUILD THIS COMMUNITY,
THIS CHURCH AND TO ADD
THEIR PRESENCE TO THE
HISTORY OF EAST HANTS
October 1, 1995



Monument to 84th Regiment, 2nd Battalion

To view a video on YouTube that I prepared during my visit to the monument see:

https://youtu.be/pv_0p-v1Gwo?si=-_w7VcYuxdhYt1D9

The 84th Regiment, originally known as the Royal Highland Emigrants, was the first Highland Regiment to be raised outside of Scotland. It was formed during the summer and fall of 1775 as a Provincial Corps for service against the Rebels in America. It consisted of two battalions. The 1st battalion was based in Quebec and the 2nd battalion in Nova Scotia. In 1778 they became part of the British Establishment as the 84th Regiment. The 1st battalion saw action in the defense of Quebec. The 2nd was raised in the Maritimes, New York and the Carolinas. It took part in the relief of Fort Cumberland and saw garrison duty at Halifax, Sydney, Shelburne, Fort Sackville, Fort Howe, Fort Anne, and Fort Edward. A detachment also served in Newfoundland, as well as Antigua and five companies were part of the Southern Campaign. Following the end of the American Revolution the 2nd battalion was disbanded at Fort Edward in Windsor, Nova Scotia on October 10, 1783. The Township of Douglas in Hants County was provided for their settlement.

During the last week of October, 2023 I contacted Peter Ashley, historian and retired teacher. He indicated: "The monument as I recall was completed on the date inscribed but the idea and planning began in the Spring of 1995. The stones for the monument were collected by Winston MacPhee and

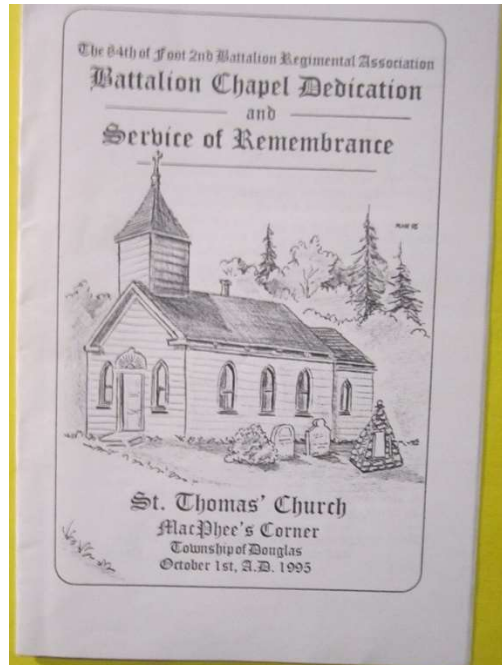
myself from an old rock fence remains on property once granted to one of Winston's ancestors who was in the 84th.... He and I built the cairn that summer and after he had ordered the monument tablet. " Peter Ashley further recalled that "It was built on that particular site for two reasons: It was where our battalion chapel was located. Two, the place name MacPhee's Corner and fact it was on the Georgefield Road. Macphee because of Winston's 84th ancestry and Georgefield was named after the son of my 84th ancestor, George Miller. The small cemetery contains a number of descendants."

In the book "Rawdon and Douglas: Two Loyalist Townships in Nova Scotia" authored by John Victor Duncanson in 1989 he describes how veterans of the 84th Regiment were settled in the area. He notes how the officers of the 84th were mainly Gaelic speakers from the Scottish Highlands. The uniform of members was full highland garb with Black Watch Tartan and sporrans of racoon skin.



Photo above taken at Sasine Ceremony held with Mayor of East Hants at Memorial. Appearing in photo left to right: Reverend Richard Walsh, Sgt. Major Bill Nelson, Drummer Colin Nickerson, Mayor Lloyd Matheson, Private Peter Ashley, Private Mark Weatherby, Private Winston MacPhee, Private Peter Hyslop, Private Kerry DeLorey.

The Sasine Ceremony was held during the Summer of 1995. Saint Thomas Church had been dedicated as a chapel for the 84th Regiment, 2nd Battalion Regimental Association earlier that year. A service of Remembrance was then held to all the former soldiers who had settled Douglas Township. The service was officiated by Reverend Richard E. Walsh, the Chaplain of the 84th Regiment, 2nd Battalion.



Appearing in photo above left to right: Captain Ross McInnis, Private Pater Ashley, Reverend John D. Leddicote, Reverend Richard E. Walsh, Private Wilfred Crowe (Photo Credit: Kerry DeLorey)



Peter Ashley standing beside Monument taken about 2011 (Photo Credit: Marjorie Ashley)

Genealogy Corner

Welcome to Genealogy Corner!

Last newsletter we spoke about the steps we take in the process of filling out an application for a Loyalist Certificate. I mentioned the use of resources which we use in this process to help the applicant obtain the required proofs for each generation.

Below are listed some of our typical resources:

- a) **Nova Scotia Historical Vital Statistics:** this online resource contains Births, Marriages and Deaths for the province. Privacy legislation may limit what we can view but this site is valuable to us. **NS Land Papers 1765-1800** is also used to provide details of settlement, you can search by name and is a good source of proof of settlement.
- b) **Familysearch.org:** this online resource requires a login and contains large amounts of information (wills, deeds, birth, baptism, marriage, death records) and original copies can be seen as images.
- c) **Library and Archives of Canada:** this online resource can be searched by name and copies can be ordered for a small price.
- d) **Township Books:** some Township Books, Community Sketches and various Genealogy books can be very useful in obtaining family information or lineage. **Acadia University** has some online resources, provincial libraries have copies of various community sketches and family lineage books which have been published.
- e) **Archive.org:** this online resource requires a login and contains an abundance of books. I often use this site to read through such books as American Loyalist Claims (Peter Wilson Coldham), various books by Esther Clark Wright and Loyalists and Land Settlement in Nova Scotia (Marion Gilroy).
- f) **Ancestry.ca:** this online resource is a pay for use site. Contains an abundance of information and original copies can sometimes be viewed.
- g) **Census Canada:** the country's census are available online from 1851-1931. They were basically taken at 10yr intervals and can provide good family information.
- h) **Family Bibles:** this resource can provide great information as to births, baptisms, marriage and deaths. Photos of these pages are acceptable.

We wish to remind all applicants that even if the process seems daunting at first gives us a chance to see what we can do for you. No payment is required till we feel that all proofs are assembled and the application is complete.

Linda Hood Jobe UE
linda_job@hotmail.com

Margaret Nickerson-Dorey UE
margaretdorey.ue@yahoo.com



Volunteers Needed!

Do you enjoy history and want to make a connection with your Loyalist past? Do you enjoy meeting new people with similar interests, then join us as we are always looking for new volunteers.

To find out more about how you can become involved as a volunteer with the Nova Scotia Branch

*Please email me at:
brianm564@gmail.com*

We want your stories!

If you have an interesting United Empire Loyalist story to share, please send it in! No matter how great or small, if you found an interesting discovery in your family heritage with a Loyalist connection, we want to hear about it!

Email:

novascotia@uelac.org

Attention Members:

Are we missing something!

What content would you like to see?

What could we do better to interest you in participating in-person or online?

Let us know!

novascotia@uelac.org

