

Individual Report for Ephraim Betts

Individual Summary: **Ephraim Betts¹⁻⁵**
Bef. 1777 - Bef. 1847



Sex: Male⁴

Father:

Mother:

Individual Facts:

Birth: Bef. 1777 in Province of Connecticut, British America; Exact birthdate unknown; 1777 is year his name appears on muster roll for DeLancey's Regiment during American Revolution^{4, 6-7}

Military Service: Aug 1777 in British America; Served in 3rd Battalion of Loyalist Provincials commanded by Brigadier General DeLancey³⁻⁴

Military Service: 1783 ; Discharged from service as Sergeant in the 2nd Battalion of DeLancey's Regiment during the American Revolution^{4-5, 7-9}

Occupation: 1783 in Fredericton, York, New Brunswick, Canada; Tanner, Cordwainer & York County Jailer^{5, 10-11}

Residence: May 1783 in Fredericton, York, New Brunswick, Canada^{1, 4-5, 10, 12-13}

Civil: 25 Oct 1786 in New Brunswick, Canada; Certification of order for payment and receipt for payment to Ephraim Betts for sundries furnished for the use of the Works carrying on in the district of the St. John River¹⁴

Residence: 24 Mar 1788 in Fredericton, York, New Brunswick, Canada; Grantee from Ackerman Grant^{2, 12, 15}

Freemasonry: 22 Aug 1792 in Fredericton, York, New Brunswick, Canada; Solomon's Lodge #26 (now #6)¹⁶

Residence: 1795 in Betts Settlement, Northumberland, New Brunswick, Canada; founding of settlement^{4-5, 12, 17-19}

Occupation: Bet. 1797–1819 in Betts Settlement, Northumberland, New Brunswick, Canada; Overseer of the Fisheries (1797), Commissioner of Roads (1800), Overseer of the Poor (1805) & Justice of the Peace (1806)^{4-5, 20-25}

Military Service: 1798 in Betts Settlement, Northumberland, New Brunswick, Canada; Lieutenant, Northumberland County Militia⁵

Legal: 10 Mar 1800 in New Brunswick, Canada; Assessed court fees to be shared with one Robert Reid²⁶

Military Service: 1809 in Betts Settlement, Northumberland, New Brunswick, Canada; Captain of 1st Battalion of Northumberland County Militia^{5, 20, 27}

Residence: 20 Jun 1809 in Betts Settlement, Northumberland, New Brunswick, Canada; Formal registration of settlement with government^{4, 12, 20, 28-30}

Military Service: 1813 in Betts Settlement, Northumberland, New Brunswick, Canada; Retired as Major of 1st Battalion of Northumberland County Militia⁵

Death: Bef. 1847 in Betts Settlement, Northumberland, New Brunswick, Canada⁴⁻⁶

Shared Facts: **Sarah Wheeler**

Marriage: Abt. 1783⁴⁻⁶

Children: Ephraim Wheeler Betts
David Betts
William Betts
Sarah Betts
Levi Betts
Benjamin Betts
Hill Betts
Nelson Betts

Notes:

Person Notes: [no notes]

Sources:

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Sources:

- 1 Genealogical Research Library, Ontario, Canada, Canadian Genealogy Index, 1600s-1900s (Online publication - Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005.Original data - Compiled from various family history sources. See source information provided with each entry.Original data: Compiled from various family history sources. See source inf), Ancestry.com, <http://www.Ancestry.com>, Residence date: Residence place: Canada.
- 2 Lillian M. Beckwith Maxwell, *An Outline of The History of Central New Brunswick to The Time of Confederation*:
- 3 National Archives of Canada, "Muster Roll of Captain Mile's Company in the 3rd Battalion of Provincials commanded by Brigadier General DeLancey", database.
- 4 William R. MacKinnon, *Over The Portage: Early History of the Upper Miramichi*
- 5 Willis D Hamilton, *Dictionary of Miramichi Biography*: (Saint John, New Brunswick: Willis D. Hamilton, 1997), p. 36. BETTS, EPHRAIM, tanner and currier, militia officer and JP. Ephraim Betts was a sergeant in the 2nd Battalion of DeLancey's Regiment in the Revolutionary War, and in 1783 settled in Fredericton, where he was a tanner and cordwainer, as well as the York County jailer for a time. In 1795 he and five other men petitioned for land between the Nashwaak Portage and Cain's River, at the location which came to be known as Betts Settlement. He moved his family there at that time and is considered to have been the first inhabitant.
In 1798 Betts, who had been an ensign in the York County Regiment of militia, was designated lieutenant in a company made up of men residing in the upper district of the Southwest Miramichi. In 1809 he was promoted to captain in the 1st Battalion of Northumberland County militia, and he was a major when he retired in 1813. Meanwhile, in 1805, he was appointed a justice of the peace, and he proved dutiful in attending the sessions at Newcastle. An early overseer of the poor, he was experiencing serious financial difficulties of his own in 1816. His date of death has not been discovered.

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- 6 Robert F. Fellows, *First Families - Surname "B"* (New Brunswick, New Brunswick Genealogical Society, Inc., c. 2014), New Brunswick Genealogical Society, Inc., P. O. Box 3235, Station B Fredericton, NB, Canada E3A 5G9, Surname "B" pdf. BETTS: Ephraim Betts probably born in Connecticut, died before 1847, m. Sarah Wheeler d/o Zalmon Wheeler of Fairfield County, CT: family came to NB in 1783 as Loyalists: first settled in Fredericton, York County, then moved to Bettsburg, Ludlow Parish, Northumberland County by 1795: Children are listed in an estimated order: 1) possibly, Ephraim Wheeler Betts b. - , d. before Nov 1817, married 1801 Rachel Munro d/o Evan Munro of Maugerville: had four children: 2) Jared Betts b. c1786 m. 1834 Ann Clouston and had issue: 3) David Betts born 1789, died 9 May 1872 at Derby, NB: m. and had at least eight children: 4) William Betts b. 1793, d. Sep 1817: 5) Benjamin Betts b. 1798: 6) Azor Betts: 7) Samuel Betts b. 1801: 8) Nelson Betts b. 1807: One source lists additional children: 9) King Betts: 10) Sarah Betts m. Mr. Bartlett: 11) Hill Betts b. 1806, d. 1892 in ME: 12) Levi Betts. Sources: MC1/Forbes #2, 6 pages: Ephraim Betts was brother of Jared Betts: see MC80/1027 William R. MacKinnon Jr.'s *Over the portage: early history of the Upper Miramichi* (revised), pg. 77, and the index: see also MC80/2184 W.D. Hamilton's *Dictionary of Miramichi Biography* BETTS: Jared and Mrs. Betts came to NB in 1783 as Loyalists: first settled in Fredericton, York County, then at Derby, Ludlow Parish, Northumberland County: Children: 1) Jared Betts Jr. born 1785 at Fredericton, died 26 Jan 1867 at Derby, NB, m. 1834 Ann Clouston of Nelson Parish, a native of Scotland, born c1817: settled in Nelson Parish and had issue: 2) David Betts born 1789: 3) Sarah Betts b. 1791: 4) William Betts b. 1794: 5) Azor Betts b. 1796, m. Sarah - born c1815 and settled in Blissfield Parish: 6) Benjamin Betts b. 1798: 7) Samuel Betts born 1800, d. 1880, m. 1822 at Doaktown, NB, Jennie Lyons born 1806 in NB: settled in Blissfield Parish: 8) Mary Betts b. 1803: 9) Nelson Betts born 1806. Sources: MC1/Forbes #2, 6 pages: Jared was the brother of Ephraim Betts: see MC80/2184 W.D. Hamilton's *Dictionary of Miramichi Biography* which states that Jared Betts (born 1785) was the son of Ephraim Betts: see also 1851 census returns for Nelson and Blissfield parishes. <http://www.nbgs.ca/firstfamilies.html>.
- 7 Warren C. B. Robbins, *Betts Family History 1634-1958* (Salem, Massachusetts, USA, Higginson Book Company (Reprint), 1959, original), pages 12-13, 21 & 121. Jared Betts, sergeant Pr. of Wales Am. Rgt., and his brother Ephraim Betts, sergeant 2nd Batt. DeLancy's, arrived at the present Fredericton in the Fall of 1783. [...] Ephraim Betts, born in Danbury, Conn., descended directly from the first Sir Thomas Betts, who came from England to Connecticut in 1634. Jared was a brother to Ephraim, born in Connecticut, but as the earliest records were burned by the Indians, we have no records as to dates or who they married. At the beginning of the Revolution, they joined the English Navy in New York and served until the end. They were discharged in the city of St. John, N.B. [...] Jared Betts, the brother of Ephraim, was a militia captain, serving for many years. [...] Jared Betts, 2nd Battalion Northumberland Militia was gazetted Major, 2nd March 1847. Jared Betts, Lieut. Col. 2nd Northumberland Militia reported in 1862 that he had enrolled : Class B (single and widowers, no children) 698; Class C (married and widowers with children) 431; Sedentary (45 to 60 years) 230; and Jared Betts was allowed to retire with rank, 5 January 1864. His rank was Colonel. It is safe to assume that he was given a step in rank upon retirement because his given rank until that date was merely Lieutenant Colonel, 2nd Northumberland. [...] Jared Betts Captain 2nd Nord Militia 22 Aug 1813 (Almanacks 1831, 1832, 1834, 1835- (No Militia Lists in Almanacks 1836) (No Militia Lists in Almanacks 1837) Mackenzie Rebellion Jared Betts Captain 2nd Nord Militia 22 Aug 1822 (Almanacks 1838, 39, 40, 41, 42 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51).
- 8 Esther Clark Wright, *The Loyalists of New Brunswick* (1955; Reprint, New Brunswick, Canada: United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada - New Brunswick Branch, 2003); p. 260. Betts, Ephraim.....Sgt. 2 DeL.....F'ton

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- 9 Lillian M. Beckwith Maxwell, *An Outline of The History of Central New Brunswick to The Time of Confederation*:
- 10 Unknown, "Time Line of the Village of Doaktown", 10 February 2013. May 1783 - The first ships carrying approximately 7,000 United Empire Loyalists arrive in Parrtown (Saint John) from American ports. Ephraim Betts, a sergeant in the 2nd Battalion of DeLancy's Regiment in the Revolutionary War, settles in Fredericton where he finds employment as a tanner and cordwainer as well as the York County jailer.
- 11 William R. MacKinnon, *Over The Portage: Early History of the Upper Miramichi*
- 12 Warren C. B. Robbins, *Betts Family History 1634-1958* (Salem, Massachusetts, USA, Higginson Book Company (Reprint), 1959, original), pages 42, 120-121. Ephraim, 10/6/1791, York pasture lots 78, 16, 17 Fredericton [...] 7/3/1788, 4 town lots York Lots 131 to 134 Fredericton [...] 20/6/1809, Northld Lot 52 Blackville s side sw Miramichi [...] 20/6/1809, Northld Share of lot 53 Blissfield & Ludlow sw side Miramichi [...] 20/6/1809, Northld Share of lot 50 Blissfield & Ludlow sw side Miramichi [...] 20/6/1809, Northld Lot 45 s side sw Miramichi, Blissfield [...] 27 July 1787 Ephraim Betts memorial lots 132 and 134 FOR THE TAN YARD [...] 27 July 1787 Ephraim Betts memorial lots 131 and 133. Praying to have their properties confirmed to them by a grant. [...] According to our records, in 1785 Ephraim Betts, who had been a sergeant in the Second Battalion of De Lancy's Regiment, applied for land in Maugerville, near St. John, N.B. This petition is not on file, but should in the Prinvial Archives, at Fredericton. [...] MEMORIAL 12th September 1787 EPHRAIM BETTS asks four Lots [#127-130] adjoining those he now occupies in Fredericton 2nd Nov. 1787-Complied with (The Dept. of Lands and Mines tells us that this memorial was not complied with). These lots went to another memorialist.
- 13 Warren C. B. Robbins, *Betts Family History 1634-1958* (Salem, Massachusetts, USA, Higginson Book Company (Reprint), 1959, original), page 12. Jared Betts, sergeant Pr. of Wales Am. Rgt., and his brother Ephraham Betts, sergeant 2nd Batt. DeLancy's, arrived at the present Fredericton in the Fall of 1783. [...] Ephraham Betts, born in Danbury, Conn., descended directly from the first Sir Thomas Betts, who came from England to Connecticut in 1634. Jared was a brother to Ephraham, born in Connecticut, but as the earliest records were burned by the Indians, we have no records as to dates or who they married. At the beginning of the Revolution, they joined the English Navy in New York and served until the end. They were discharged in the city of St. John, N.B. and lived in St. John for some years, where they owned several large pieces of property. After some years they sold about all of the lands and buildings, and moved up the St. John River to Fredericton, N.B., about 100 miles. The records show they built on the same street two of the first log cabins built in the town. Those were the days when the English government was giving grants of land to encourage the settling of this wild part of New Brunswick. After some years they sold their lands and buildings and moved across the St. John River, and up the Merrimachee River, to a settlement called Ludlow, N.B. Ephraham had charge of granting the land to settlers. After Ephraham died Ephraham's first son King, took over the land granting from his father.
- 14 "The Winslow Papers", University of New Brunswick, *The Winslow Papers*
- 15 William Godsoe MacFarlane, *Fredericton History: Two Centuries of Romance, War, Privation and Struggle* (1893; Reprint, Woodstock, New Brunswick: Non-Entity Press, 1981); p. 32. It was not until March 24, 1788, that a grant of the townplot was made. The town was laid out in 27 blocks, each containing 18 lots. The grantees were:
[...] Ephriam Betts, Jarad Betts [...]
On March 7th of the same year a grant was made to Isaac Hidden and 67 others of 592 acres of the reserve lying above and below the town. The grants were as follows:

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- 16 Sheppard, Osborne, "The Grand Lodge of New Brunswick", 10 February 2013. THE history of Freemasonry in New Brunswick may be said to have commenced the 7th of November, 1783, when Jared Betts wrote from St. Ann's, N. S., now Fredericton, the capital of New Brunswick, to Joseph Peters, Secretary of the Master's Lodge, No. 211, Halifax, to know if he could proceed under a warrant which he held, granted by Dermott, who is described as the Grand Master of Ireland. The authority to this warrant was denied and a dispensation was actually issued from the two warranted lodges, Nos. 155 and 211, then existing at Halifax. On August 22, 1792, a warrant was granted by the Provincial Grand Lodge at Halifax to Ephraim Betts and others, at St. Ann's, for Solomon's Lodges, No. 22 - now No. 6 - registry of New Brunswick. New Brunswick was made a separate Province in 1784, and the first lodge instituted there September 7, 1784, was Hiram Lodge. The second lodge instituted was St. George Lodge, Maugerville, 1788. The third lodge, New Brunswick, was instituted at Fredericton in 1789. http://www.phoenixmasonry.org/the_builder_1924_september.htm.
- 17 Unknown, "Time Line of the Village of Doaktown", 10 February 2013. Ephraim Betts and five other men petition for and receive land between the Nashwaak Portage and the Etienne or Cain's River at the location that came to be known as Betts Settlement. He moves his family there and is considered to have been the area's first inhabitant. <http://www.doaktown.com/our-heritage/time-line>.
- 18 Melanie Aube, "The pre-European settlement forest composition of the Miramichi River watershed, New Brunswick, as reconstructed using witness trees from original land surveys. (Report)". *Canadian Journal of Forest Research*
- 19 William R. MacKinnon, *Over The Portage: Early History of the Upper Miramichi* (Fredericton, New Brunswick: New Ireland Press, 1984), pp. 2-3 & 32 & 35. Ephraim Betts, a Connecticut Loyalist who had initially fixed roots in the Fredericton town plat where he served as jailer, is credited with being the first settler on the upper Miramichi. His settlement dates from 1795. As early as June of that year, Betts and five others had petitioned for allotments "on a tract of vacant land on the River Miramichi between the Portage leading from the Nashwaak and a tract reserved above the Etienne (Cains) River". The reasons for his decision to remove to the Miramichi are not clear, but within a few years several families followed him into the area. Indeed, a prospective inhabitant in 1799 described the district as Betts' new settlement. Another petitioner, in asking for lands adjacent to those occupied by Wheeler Betts, wrote in July 1799 that a Surveyor was to "lay out lands there this summer." [...] The annual flooding in Fredericton and the "inconvenience arising from the overflowing of different cellars in the Town" combined with a complicated series of mortgages on his York County properties contributed to Ephraim Betts' move to new land on the unexplored upper Miramichi and his eventual supervision of the 1809 grant. [...]
- 20 Unknown, "Time Line of the Village of Doaktown", 10 February 2013. Ephraim Betts formally registers his settlement, the first allocation of land on the Upper Southwest Miramichi River. At this time there are 60 families living in the "upper settlement area" of what was still known as the Parish of Newcastle. All of these families are under the leadership of Mr. Betts, who later became Overseer of the Poor, Overseer of the Fisheries, Commissioner of Roads, and Justice of the Peace. Also in 1809, Betts is promoted to the rank of captain in the 1st Battalion of Northumberland County militia. A sword said to have belonged to Ephraim Betts is on display at the Atlantic Salmon Museum. <http://www.doaktown.com/our-heritage/time-line>.
- 21 Bernard Kiernan, *An Almanack for the Year of Our Lord 1812:*
- 22 Bernard Kiernan, *An Almanack for the Year of Our Lord 1813:*
- 23 Bernard Kiernan, *An Almanack for the Year of Our Lord 1819:*
- 24 Bernard Kiernan, *An Almanack for the Year of Our Lord 1818:*
- 25 William R. MacKinnon, *Over The Portage: Early History of the Upper Miramichi* (Fredericton,

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Sources:

New Brunswick: New Ireland Press, 1984), p. 49. Most important of all was the Magistrate, of Justice of the Peace. W. A. Spray, in his study of early Northumberland County, concluded that:

"...men who became magistrates seem to have moved up through the county offices until they became justices of the peace. Usually they were first fishery overseers; overseers of roads or fence viewers; then they were assessors and overseers of highways; finally many became overseers of the poor, positions reserved for justices of the peace or very prominent men in the districts. After 1800, few men became magistrates without having held two or three of these positions."

26 "The Winslow Papers", University of New Brunswick, *The Winslow Papers*

27 Bernard Kiernan, *An Almanack for the Year of Our Lord 1812*: (Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada: Jacob S. Mott, 1812), p. 38. Northumberland County Militia
1st Battalion
Captains

28 Warren C. B. Robbins, *Betts Family History 1634-1958* (Salem, Massachusetts, USA, Higginson Book Company (Reprint), 1959, original), page 23, quoted from "Doaktown Review", No. 17, 23 March 1902. At this time all the country from Boistown to Indian town (a new Quarryville) was called "Ludlow Parish" and was granted to 70 old soldiers. Ephraim Betts, the grandfather of James and Nelson Betts, held in trust this grant, he being the captain of the company. This grant was given in 1809, just a hundred years ago.

29 William R. MacKinnon, *Over The Portage: Early History of the Upper Miramichi*

30 William R. MacKinnon, *Over The Portage: Early History of the Upper Miramichi*