

OLD WILLIAM, our LOYALIST ANCESTOR

Researched and written by Claire Hayman Lincoln, UE, June 2008

William HAYMAN/ HYNDMAN/ HAYDMAN/ HAYNDMAN/HAYMEN/HAYMON/ HAYMOND/HEYMAN was the Patriarch of an enormous number of descendants that are spread across the North American continent. The search for family roots has been a long one. Through the examination of information found in various land and military records some clarity can be brought to the facts and light be shed on his life and his loyalty..

William HAYMAN's loyalty lay with the Crown. According to his personal papers William was born in Argyleshire, Scotland about 1757. The date of his arrival in America is unknown. However there are a few possibilities: he may have been the sailor William Hyndman on the HMS Consent to America in 1777¹; he may have been the soldier sent by the British to fight for the Crown in 1778²; he may be the young William Hayman who fought and was injured in DeLancy's 1st Battalion of Provincials in 1777 and 1778³; or his parents may have brought him over when he was a boy. He definitely was the young man in Captain William Hamilton's Light Company of the Royal North Carolina Regiment during the American Revolution. We may have little knowledge of OLD WILLIAM's background in Scotland but we know some about his life as a loyalist in the military in British America, and more about his life later in Canada. It appears that William Hayman arrived in America about 1777 possibly in New York or Philadelphia. In 1779 he became part of John Hamilton's newly organized Royal North Carolina Regiment as a private⁴ and fought for four years in many battles of the Southern Campaign of the civil strife called The American Revolution⁵.

A little history about the Royal North Carolina Regiment would not be amiss here. According to the Institute of Advanced Loyalist Studies, there were several corps and regiments in North Carolina, referred to as Provincials, such as the Royal Highland Emigrants, the Black Pioneers and the North Carolina Volunteers. Since the beginning of the war no new regiments had been formed in North Carolina. But after the disaster of the battle at Moore's Creek Bridge in North Carolina in 1776, when nearly all those fighting for the Crown were captured within 15 minutes of the start of the battle, Cornwallis became aware that the Colonials needed to bolster their armies. Moore's Creek Bridge was a battle where most of the participants [for the Crown] were Highland Scots, many of them could not speak English, and many also were without arms

¹ Parish and Probate Records of Argyll, Scotland- The Commissariot Records, and Register of Testaments , of Argyll, Scotland 1674-1800., naming William Hyndman of Campbelltown, thereafter on His Majesty's ship "Consent" 1777

² A History of Tatamagouche by Frank H. Patterson, Belleville, Ont., Mika Pub., [1973] names the early settlers on the DesBarres grant.

³ Muster Rolls 1777 and 1778 DeLancy's 1st Battalion, .

⁴ Muster Rolls 1780 and 1781 Royal North Carolina Regiment under Capt. Wm. Hamilton

⁵ Discharge Papers of William Hayman, and the Online Institute of Advanced Loyalists Studies.

[other than their swords, dirks and claymores].⁶ The story of this battle is very interesting, and almost funny if it wasn't so sad.

With this impetus, on 27th November 1777, William Tryon (who was the Colonial Governor of the Province of North Carolina 1765-1771 and the Province of New York 1771-1780), at the request of Cornwallis, wrote a letter to Sir Henry Clinton, Commander in Chief of British Forces in America. This was delivered by John Hamilton, and it stated that "the bearer Mr. (John) Hamilton late from Virginia, has proposals to make to your Excellency for raising a Body of Men for His Majesty's Service". In January 1779 Capt. Hamilton, a respected soldier under Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell arrived in Georgia about the time that the British captured Savannah. John Hamilton was then made a Major and commander of North Carolina refugees. In February of 1779 this group was joined by the Royal Volunteers of North Carolina. and organized into companies forming the Royal North Carolina Regiment⁷. John Hamilton later became a Lt. Colonel.

The men of the Royal North Carolina Regiment fought with other regiments at the Siege of Savannah (Sept 3 to Oct 18, 1779), the Siege of Charleston (Mar 29 to May 12, 1780), the Battle of Camden, SC (June 1780), Hanging Rock, SC (Aug 1 to Aug 6, 1780), and many other battles. On Aug 19 1780 Cornwallis appointed new officers in the Royal North Carolina Regiment. The Regiment was at Haw River (Feb to Apr 25, 1781), then in Hillsboro, NC with Cornwallis. In May of 1781 John Hamilton requested that his Royal North Carolina Regiment be brought back together and after a long march the Regiment reached Wilmington, NC on August 1, 1781. But Captain William Hamilton's Light Company was sent to reinforce Cornwallis' men at the Siege of Yorktown. The regiment continued fighting in South Carolina, Virginia and Florida in the Southern Campaign until the end of the war⁸. After the war, they sailed to St. Augustine, Florida where they awaited further orders. Some wonderful descriptions of the aforementioned battles can be found in letters such as the 1780 letter from Lord Charles Cornwallis to Lord George Germain. [State Records of North Carolina XV: 269-273]

Some of the known muster rolls of Captain William Hamilton's Light Company show that William HAYMON was present at Hillsborough, NC on 25 April 1781, Wilmington, NC on 24 Oct 1781, Quarter House, SC on 24 April 1782, and St. Augustine, FL 24 April 1783.

At the end of a bitter war, on the 10th May 1783, Lt. Col. John Hamilton wrote from St. Augustine, Florida to Brigadier General McArthur requesting passage for his men to a British settlement. The 451 men of his regiment [including William HAYMAN], the men of the King's Carolina Regiment, and the South Carolina Regiment were among the last of the Loyalist troops

⁶Roster of the Loyalists in the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge by Bobby Gilmer Moss, Scotia-Hibernia Press, Blacksburg, NC, [1992]

⁷ Letter from Tryon to Clinton, The On-Line Institute for Advanced Loyalist Studies

⁸ Time Line of R.N.C.Regiment, The On-Line Institute for Advanced Loyalist Studies

to leave the newly formed “United States”. They sailed to Halifax, NS in November 1783⁹. The ships DIANA and the ARGO , which were in the area at that time, and another transport ship necessary for this number of people, have been named as those carrying this regiment to Nova Scotia. They were to settle at Country Harbour. It was here that William HAYMAN found himself in the middle of winter, homeless and without funds or family, in an inhospitable land.

Now back to WILLIAM the man. We know that William HAYMAN spoke Gaelic and little or no English. He was illiterate, neither reading nor writing, and so were his children. We know this from all the early legal records for his family that are signed with His X. Mark.¹⁰ His family continued to speak some Gaelic until my great grandmother’s time in the early 20th century¹¹. As a Loyalist, William was immediately granted 100 acres of land at Country Harbour¹². Perhaps his lack of understanding is one reason he did not take up this grant or it was the unfavourable situation of the land there and the miserable winter of his arrival in that place. He moved on to settle near Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia about 1785 where he married, farmed rented land, sold trees for lumber, raised his large family with his wife Margaret Maillard, and continued through the years to plead for another grant of land¹³.

In 1791 John (Jean) Muliard (Mailllard), William Hayman, Henry Hulton; and David Longal (Langille); petitioned for a grant of land at Remsheg or River Philip, as they were paying rent.¹⁴ They may have succeeded but are not listed on the file of Remsheg [Ramsheck] settlers. The overseer for DeBarres, the “Lord Proprietor” of thousands of acres of land refused to grant land titles for many years even though it was his responsibility to do so, and he continued to collect rents.¹⁵ In the 1795 Diary of Captain John MacDonald Regarding His Inspection of the Estates of Lt. DesBarres, Tatamagouche Estates [Transcribed by Patricia Winans Orr, 265 Randall Drive, Riverview, NB, Canada] it is noted for Lot No. 12 John Maillard and Lot No 13 William Hayman, that “these are the two men already mentioned as paying 1.13.4 rent. [1 pound, 13 shillings. 4 pence]. They are newcomers [as opposed to the Montbiellards] upon wild land on a point between Frederick River and W. [Wellwood] Waugh’s about a mile below the latter. They have built tollerably good houses, and in July their grain looked as well in quantity and quality as might be expected. They hold in this instance 180 acres more or less, but the term of payment is not arrived”. It was noted in The History of Tatamagouche that they had to fell trees and sell them for lumber to meet their rent. The Diary of MacDonald with regard to the tenants

⁹ Loyalists in N. Carolina During the Revolution by Robert O. DeMond, PhD., Durham, NC, Duke University Press [1940] pg.192

¹⁰ Nova Scotia Land Grant Petitions, Nova Scotia Archives, Family History Library

¹¹ Chris Urquhart,

¹² Loyalists and Land Settlement, compiled by Marion Gilroy, under the direction of D. C. Harvey, Archivist, Published by the Board of Trustees of the Nova Scotia Archives, reprinted for Clearfield Company, Inc. by the Genealogy Publishing Company Inc., [1990, 1995]. pg 128

¹³ A History of Tatamagouche by Frank H. Patterson, Belleville, ON., Mika Pub., [1973]

¹⁴ Nova Scotia Land Records, Nova Scotia Archives

¹⁵ A History of Tatamagouche by Frank H. Patterson

of this land and their problems is fascinating reading, and gives insight into the lives of these early settlers. [Also a note here- John Maillard was Old William's father-in-law]. In 1818 William HAYMAN/HAYDMAN continued to petition for a grant of land and this petition names all of his children and their ages except for John, who was unborn at that time¹⁶.

As his descendants, so far removed from that time, we can now picture William HAYMAN fighting in many of those famous battles with his regiment in the Revolutionary War. We can feel his distress as he reaches this country Canada during a terrible winter. And we can understand why he did not take up the land where he, with most of his regiment, was granted land. He moved to the Tatamagouche area and continued to petition for land that eventually he or his children did own. When searching through Land Records I found a rental petition dated Tatamagouche, 8 May 1835, to William Campbell from Old William's son Donald that stated that the land was that "on which his father, William HAYMAN, had resided in his life, and there are no claims on it".

The Revolutionary War history is dear to my heart as a direct descendant of OLD WILLIAM. Now my family lives in North Carolina not far from Hillsborough,. We have followed the trail from there through to Wilmington, on to Charleston, SC and down to St. Augustine, Florida, and have visited many of the battlefields including that of Moore's Creek Bridge. It is amazing to think of the miles, and miles these soldiers marched and the many battles they fought for England.

Until now William has never been recognized as a Loyalist. Perhaps this is because it is often difficult to collect all the records of family, military life and arrival in Canada. That is being rectified at last and we can be proud today to call William HAYMAN a Proven United Empire Loyalist.¹⁷

¹⁶ Nova Scotia Land Records and Petitions, 1818; Nova Scotia Archives.

¹⁷ William HAYMAN was proven by Claire M. Hayman Lincoln, June 2008