

1366 Plante Drive

Ottawa, ON K1V 9G3

5 May 2016

Dr. John Mackay

Branch Genealogist

New Brunswick Branch of the UELAC

Box 484

Saint John, N.B.

E2L 3Z8

Dear Dr. Mackay,

I am pleased to submit this application for a certificate related to my fourth Loyalist ancestor, Peter JOHN, who arrived in Annapolis County, Nova Scotia on 1 November 1783 from New York and settled in Sissiboo, Nova Scotia on the 25th of March 1784. Peter John is listed on page 261 of "American Loyalist Claims" by Peter Wilson Coldham (National Genealogical Society No 45, Washington, D.C. 1980) as originating in "Ulster County, New York. Fled from there 1 August 1777 and took refuge in British lines. Was imprisoned for about two years by rebels. Memorial 25 Mar 1786 Digby, N.S. Claim: Personal property taken from self and wife: cattle, etc. Rejected (AO13/25/214-216)". A photocopy of Peter John's Memorial is attached along with my transcription of it. (Ancestry.ca has two big files of Loyalist Claims A.O. 12 and A.O. 13, which are microfilms of the original claims but they are not indexed by individual). From that he appears to have been a rather prosperous farmer with 12 cows, 40 head of cattle, 42 sheep, six horses and 400 bushels of wheat in storage and 15 acres under planting. He signed his Memorial with an 'X' indicating he was illiterate. The same information is also contained in another book by Peter Wilson Coldham "American Loyalist Migrations 1765-1799" (Genealogical Publishing Company 2000) on page 265.

Peter John and his family are listed in the "Muster Roll at Gulliver's Hole, S. Mary's Bay and Sissiboo, 1st and 6th of June 1784" which is contained on pp 131-32 of the "Supplement to the History of the County of Annapolis" by A.W. Savary, Toronto 1913 (copy attached). A transcription of that Muster Roll is already on-line in the Loyalist Directory as Appendix G to the article [James Moody and the Loyalists of Weymouth](#) by Brian McConnell. That article is already attached to Peter John as well as several other Loyalists mentioned in the article in the Loyalist Directory (copy attached). The June 1784 Muster Roll for Weymouth (then Sissiboo), is also found on page 75 of "A Geography and History of the County of Digby, Nova Scotia" by Isaiah W. Wilson 1900 (copy attached). Peter John would shortly thereafter become the father-in-law of James Cosman, Loyalist, for whom I recently received a certificate of descent. I attach the completed application form with supporting documentation proving my links to

Peter John and a cheque for \$50. From the second generation on, it is identical to the information provided in my successful application for James Cosman, with the exception of additional information not available when I submitted my application for James Cosman, most notably a baptism record for James Cosman McAlpine, son of Daniel McAlpine from the records of Trinity Anglican Church in Digby, N.S.

This letter can be incorporated into the Loyalist Directory providing what little supplementary information I have on the Peter John beyond that required for proof of a certificate. Peter John was apparently born in the Netherlands circa 1735. How and when he came to the American colonies is not known. His Memorial indicates he came from Ulster County, New York, which was originally settled by the Dutch, which may explain why he settled there. His wife was named Catherine Margaret (maiden name unknown), origins and date of birth unknown. They were married while still living in Ulster County, since the 1784 Muster Roll mentioned above indicates Peter John was accompanied by a wife and four children above the age of ten. His Memorial mentions losses suffered by his "wife & family" and that he arrived in Nova Scotia on 1st November 1783 in Annapolis County where he remained until 25th March 1784 at which time I assume he proceeded to Sissiboo. He is described in the Muster Roll as a "Loyalist" and it indicated he settled in Sissiboo. He is among a group listed as "civilians" in the same Muster Roll contained in the Wilson book which was part of several Muster Lists of Loyalists compiled by John Robinson for Digby County which are in the book. According to the Wilson book "Robinson cheered General Campbell by the assurance that those at Sissibou were "very spirited in their exertions to improve their lands, which are very good." It is "very convenient for fishing; the River being a good Harbour for any vessels employed in that business" (page 76 copy attached).

A Peter John Junior is listed on the Muster Roll for Clements taken at Annapolis 30 July 1784 by John Robinson with the notation "going to Sissiboo" (page 76 of Isaiah W. Wilson's book). One can make the reasonable presumption that Peter John Junior was a son of Peter John who was already in Sissiboo at the time Peter John Jr. indicated he was headed for Sissiboo. There are conflicting subsequent records for Peter John Jr. in Isaiah W. Wilson's book: Page 363 records the marriage of Peter John Jr. of Sissiboo to Janet Green daughter Edward Green senior of Clare on October 17, 1807. Page 364 records the burial record of Peter John jr. of Sissiboo on 24 June 1788, cause of death "hemorrhage". On the 25th January 1816 a Peter John was granted "Lot 11B containing 350 acres in the second division of farms lots at Sissiboo". This is not Peter John Sr. the Loyalist, as he died in 1807. It might be Peter John Jr., but that is not relevant to this application.

Of the four unnamed children listed on the 1784 Muster Roll, there were at least two girls, Catherine and Elizabeth and perhaps one son Charles. In the 10 Apr 1810 Estate Bond below signed by Catherine John, wife of Peter John, and James Cosman, she only mentions that she has daughters.

James Cosman married Catherine John, daughter of Peter John, sometime between their separate arrivals in Sissiboo in 1784 and the birth of their first daughter Barbara Ellen who was born around 1786. Since James Cosman is not listed on the Muster Roll for Sissiboo on 1-6 June 1784, I presume he had not yet arrived there. On leaving New York there are records indicating he first went to Saint John in 1783 and clearly did not arrive in Sissiboo until after the 1-6 June 1784 Muster Roll. However James Cosman

was witness to a document signed 30 July 1784 in Digby Township as found on page 23 of "Digby Register of Deeds, Volume 1B, 1785 - 1797 – Digby" transcribed by Wayne W. Walker 15 August 2010 as follows: "17. Page 23: Recorded 24 Sep 1785. Elezer FAIRCHILD, late of New Milford in the County of Fairfield, Connecticut, now of Conway, Annapolis County, yeoman, for £10 10/ sold to Peres GILBERT of Town of Conway, lot no. 52 with a house in Town of Conway on St. Mary's Bay, granted to me as "a Loyall Refugee", dated 30 Jul 1784; witnesses: John VEITCH, James COSMAN and Thomas GILBERT."

A 24 June 1794 record refers to James Cosman and his wife Katy. The record of that transaction found on page 52 of "Digby Register of Deeds, Volume 1A, 1790 - 1807 – Sissiboo" transcribed by Wayne W. Walker 15 August 2010 is as follows: "28. Page 52: Recorded 30 Nov 1796. James COSMAN of Sissiboo, Township of Digby, farmer, and Katy his wife, for £4, 6 schillings, sold to Jonathan MOORE, cordwainer of Sissiboo, lot no. 17 on South side of Sissiboo River, bounded: S - river, E - Jonathan MOORE, N - Capt. John TAYLOR, W - Cereno U. JONES; "50 or 60 acres", dated 24 Jun 1794."

A 16 June 1801 record mentions James Cosman and his wife Catherine. The record of that transaction is found on page 119 of "Digby Register of Deeds, Volume 1A, 1785 - 1797 – Digby": "70. Page 119: Recorded 1 Jan 1802. Indenture dated 16 Jun 1801; James CAUSMON/COSMAN of Township of Digby, and Catherine his wife, for £150 sold to John TAYLOR Esquire of Township of Digby, "½ of the mill spot or flats commonly called Cosman Cove".

The record of Barbara Ellen Cosman's marriage on 13 July 1805 to Daniel McAlpine indicates she was the daughter of James of Sissiboo (page 362 of Wilson book attached). Her attached death record on December 17, 1867 indicates she was 82 and that her parents were James and Catherine Cosman. That would mean her date of birth was around 1785/86.

Another child of James Cosman and Catherine John was Peter John Cosman, named after his grandfather. A copy of his baptism record on 4 May 1794 is attached. The will of Captain John Cosman, Loyalist, who died childless in 1832 in Sissiboo, left half his estate to his wife Susanna and the other half in equal shares to his brother James Cosman, Loyalist, and two of James' sons, John and Peter John (copy attached).

Despite having his claim for losses rejected by the Loyalist Commissioners on 17 April 1786, Peter John was granted two parcels of land in the 29 January 1801 Hatfield Grant to Digby County Loyalists. The entire document is 24 pages long (10 ½ " x 17") and lists the names of the 276 grantees twice: once by name only (pages 3 to 5) and the second time with the specific grant/grants being made (pages 5 to 21). The Hatfield Grant replaced the February 1784 Botsford Grant and added names not included in it including those of James Cosman and Peter John. Peter John is named on page five of the Hatfield Grant as a grantee and on page 20 he was granted "lots number eight and thirty in dimension T containing three hundred and ten acres". I have attached a partial transcript of the grant and a photocopy of part of the original grant. The first two and a half pages of the Hatfield Grant describe developments since the original 1784 Botsford Grant and why it had to be escheated and re-granted. The names of the grantees are also found in Appendix C to Isaiah Wilson's book pp 389-392, with Peter John's name on page 390. Peter John is also listed in "Loyalists and Land Settlement in Nova Scotia" by Marion Gilroy

(1936) on page 15 as having received 310 acres in 1801 (copy attached). A Plan of the Hatfield Grant was drawn by R. Dickie in December 1936 compiled from "Crown Land Plans, Grants and various other information". It shows Peter John's Lot 8 T as being on the south bank of the Sissiboo River measuring 146 acres (copy attached). The plan only extends up the river to Lot 24 T and does not show Peter John's other lot (30 T) which would also have been on the south side of the Sissiboo River and logically must have totaled 164 acres to make the total of 310 acres he was granted. Index Sheet No 14 of Nova Scotia Land Grants does show Lot 30 T with Peter John's name on it, but the size is partially blocked out (copy attached). (The map also shows two subsequent grants to John C. McAlpine, a gr-grandson of Peter John, who is in my line of descent). However as noted below, when Peter John sold Lot 30 T in 1805 it was listed as containing 200 acres, which would also mean that Lot 8 T would have been only 110 acres. I have noted several discrepancies between the acreages shown on the Dickie map and those stated in the Hatfield Grant.

On 13 May 1805 Peter John sold his Lot 30 T to Cereno Upham Jones. That transaction is recorded on page 185 of "Digby Register of Deeds, Volume 1A, 1790 - 1807 – Sissiboo" as follows: "120. Page 185: Recorded 5 Sep 1805. Indenture dated 13 May 1805, Peter JOHN of Sissiboo, Township of Digby, yeoman, and Catherine his wife, for £12, sold to Cereno Upham JONES of Township of Digby, yeoman, lot no. 30, division T at Sissiboo River, 200 acres." (Copy attached)

On 29 July 1805 Peter John purchased Lot 7 T, which was adjacent to his lot 8 T, from Peleg Wiswall. That transaction is recorded on page 184 of "Digby Register of Deeds, Volume 1A, 1790 - 1807 – Sissiboo" as follows: "119. Page 184: Recorded 4 Sep 1805. Indenture dated 29 Jul 1805, Peleg WISWALL of Digby, Esquire, and Mary his wife, for £28 sold to Peter JOHN of Sissiboo, yeoman, lot no. 7, letter T, originally granted to James WILMOT, 100 acres." (Copy attached). Those two lots are in the inventory of his estate in March 1807.

Peter John's death on 14 Feb 1807 "from "old age" is recorded on page 368 of the Wilson book (copy attached) and also on the attached photocopy of an original record from Trinity Anglican Church in Digby, N.S.

I have obtained from the Admiral Digby Museum in Digby, N.S. an abstract of Estate Folio J3 (1807) which reads "LA (Letters of Administration) for the estate of **Peter John** of the Township of Digby granted 10 April 1807 to Catherine JOHN" (copy attached). From that I discovered that a microfilm of original probate documents can be found on Family Search, including Estate Folio J3, which I was able to find, with the kind assistance of Wayne W. Walker, under Estate files, 1804-1898, no I1-I5. Files J 1-15 are on this "I" file and not as listed under "J" on Family Search:

<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L9ZY-PYNC?mode=g&wc=SN1P-2NR%3A1411409702%2C1412879595%3Fcc%3D2134302&cc=2134302> (Copy attached)

Estate Folio J 3 contains a photocopy of a 10th April 1807 probate bond for £ 600 signed by Catherine John and James Cosman concerning the estate of the late Peter John, including an 11 March 1807 inventory of his estate. The bond identifies Catherine John as the Administratrix of the estate (copy of document and transcription attached). The last sentence in the inventory says "the above articles are

the property of my daughters although not delivered in the lifetime of my husband". The document does not specifically say that Catherine Margaret John's daughter Catherine was married to James Cosman, but the fact that James Cosman was a co-signer of a £ 600 bond establishes a strong link and interest between the John family and James Cosman and that he had an interest in the estate of Peter John.

Peter John's wife Catherine Margaret John, Charles John (a son?) and James Cosman are named in a 10 February 1817 record as selling their shares of the Marsh at the Head of St Mary's Bay to Augustine Guiddery for five shillings each, and proportionate expense of getting the Grant, their respective portions of the Marsh at Head of St. Mary's Bay. The Marsh at Head of St. Mary's Bay was granted January 3rd, 1817, under following conditions – "the entire tract was to be divided into four hundred and eighty-five equal parts-ten of these parts were conveyed to the Rector, Church Wardens, and Vestrymen of Trinity Church, Digby, and to their successors in trust, to be used for benefit of that Parish; and the remaining four hundred and seventy-five shares to so many residents of the ancient Township of Digby, for their individual use and benefit." (Page 137 of the Wilson book copy attached).

Peter John was the father of Catherine John, who married Loyalist James Cosman in Sissiboo around 1785. Catherine John is listed as the wife of James Cosman in "First Families of New Brunswick" under the listing for their son James Cosman.

"COSMAN: James Cosman born 14 Jun 1791 at Sissiboo, Digby County, NS, died 5 Dec 1855, s/o **James Cosman** of Newburgh, NY and **Catherine Johns**, m. 28 Apr 1814 **Elizabeth Ann Golding** b. 10 Sep 1796 in Wickham Parish, Queens County, d. 10 Oct 1886, d/o **John Thomas Golding** and **Ruth Shalor**: they settled at Gorham's Creek in Kingston Parish, Kings County:

Children:

1) **James Thomas Cosman** b. 23 Jun 1815, d. 5 Apr 1857 or d. 15 Apr 1867, married 31 Mar 1841 in Kingston Parish, **Mary Ann Gorham** b. 31 May 1823 at Gorham's Bluff, Kings County, died 6 Nov 1903, d/o **George** and **Sarah Gorham**: they settled at Head of Millstream in Studholm Parish, Kings County and had seven children:

2) **Peter Lawson Cosman** b. 30 Dec 1816, died 22 Mar 1908, m. (1st) 13 Nov 1845 in Springfield Parish, Kings County, **Emily Guion** b. c1828 at Midland, Springfield Parish, d. 28 Dec 1861: had five children: m. (2nd) 15 Feb 1863 in Kings County, **Eliza Jane McIntyre** b. c1817 in Sussex, NB, died Jan 1898, d/o **George** and **Ure McIntyre**: settled at Midland, NB:

3) **Barbara Ann Cosman** b. 30 Jan 1818, d. 4 Mar 1871, married 10 Jan 1839 **Charles Samuel Gorham** born 1816 at Kingston, NB, s/o **George** and **Sarah Gorham**: settled at Head of Millstream and had ten children:

4) **John Nelson Cosman** b. 7 Dec 1820, died 20 Feb 1868, m. 20 Mar 1845 in Kingston Parish, **Lydia Ann Scheck** born 4 Nov 1826, d. Mar 1884: settled at Head of Millstream and had fourteen children:

5) **Sarah Elizabeth Cosman** b. 7 Nov 1822, d. 8 Dec 1885, m. 6 Feb 1840 in Kingston Parish, **Gilead Guion** b. - , d. 1845: they had four children:

6) **William Charles Cosman** born 7 Jun 1825, d. 2 Mar 1906, m. 8 May 1851 **Emley/Emily Colwell** born c1829 at Kingston, NB: first settled in Saint John then went to Vancouver, BC after 1861: they had eleven children:

7) **Frances Golding Cosman** born 30 Aug 1827, d. 18 Feb 1870, married 12 Aug 1851 in Kingston Parish, **Andrew Warren Erb** born 1829 in Kingston Parish, died 15 Mar 1892: settled in Kingston Parish and had four children:

8) **Shalor Cosman** b. 31 Jul 1829, died 16 Mar 1910, married 17 Mar 1857 in Kingston Parish, **Mary Ann Spragg** b. 5 May 1839 in Studholm Parish, died 1913, d/o **David Spragg** and **Jane Crawford**: settled in Kingston Parish: had eleven children:

9) **Mary Lawson Cosman** b. 17 Sep 1831, d. 18 Feb 1899, m. 10 Jun 1851 in Springfield Parish, **George Price** b. c1831: had eight children:

10) **Elijah Cosman** born 4 Sep 1833, d. 26 Oct 1906, m. (1st) 20 Nov 1856 at Woodstock, Carleton County, **Prudence A. Green** b. c1838, died before 1859, d/o **Jonathan Green**: had one child: m. (2nd) 25 Sep 1862 **Elizabeth Gillespie** and had two children: possible married (3rd) 13 Feb 1879 **Julia Price**: settled at Jacksontown in Wakefield Parish, Carleton County:

11) **George W. Cosman** b. 1 Nov 1835, d. 6 Mar 1913, m. 9 Mar 1864 **Julia Letitia Sherwood** b. Nov 1847 at Springfield, NB, d. Mar 1903, d/o **William Sherwood** and **Eliza Crawford**: settled at Midland, NB: had three children: (one source says he married 30 Mar 1870 **Hannah McLeod**):

12) **Elisha Cosman** b. 18 Sep 1838, died 27 Feb 1925, married 3 Nov 1859 **Diadama O. Sharp** born Dec 1834, died Jul 1920: settled in Midland, Kings County and at Saint John: had four children:

13) **Jacob Cosman** born 13 Feb 1841, died 22 Aug 1890 at Kingston, NB, m. 7 Oct 1862 in Kingston Parish, **Margaret M. Spragg** b. 13 Feb 1840 in Saint John, d. 12 Jun 1903 in Saint John, d/o **David Spragg** and **Jane Crawford**: settled at Kingston and Saint John and had eight children.

Sources: [MC1/Cosman #1,3](#), 15 pages: see also [MC80/2365](#) Kaye C. Nath's *The Clines of the Passamaquoddy*, pg 188: see [MC80/2560](#) Donald Cosman's *Cosman: the descendants of Johannes Kausman*: James Cosman (born 1791) had a sister **Sarah Elizabeth Cosman** bp. 29 Jul 1804 at Sissiboo, NS, died 23 Jul 1842, who came to NB and m. on 21 Feb 1826 in Greenwich Parish, Kings County, **Carmel Secord** b. 10 May 1803, d. 26 Oct 1892, s/o **William Secord** and **Ruth Hunt**: they settled in Greenwich and had nine children: widow Sarah Elizabeth (Cosman) Guion married (2nd) 8 May 1854 **Obadiah Starkey**.

I have not been able to locate a death or burial record for Catherine Margaret John, but she outlived her husband by at least ten years since her above reported land transaction took place in 1817.

The Admiral Digby Museum in Digby, Nova Scotia has a handwritten sheet of information about Catherine John in its Surname Binder which was taken from the "John's Family Bible" whose whereabouts is unknown. That information indicates she was the daughter of Peter John and Catherine Margaret John, that she was born about 1770 and was buried on 8 June 1830 age 60 and that she married "Capt. James Cosman". It also lists the names and dates of baptism of Catherine John and James Cosman's children as follows:

- "1. Jacob married Alride. Bap Sissiboo 2 June 1798
2. Rachel married John Alride & had daughter who married Bill Barr
3. Barbara bap Sissiboo 13 Aug 1786
4. John bap Sissiboo 28 Aug 1788
5. James bap Sissiboo 10 Jul 1791
6. Peter John bap Sissiboo 4 May 1794
7. Charles Oliver bap Sissiboo 24 Aug 1806
8. Sarah Elizabeth chr. 29 Jul 1804
- ? 9. Edgar" (copy attached).

The children's names and dates of baptism from that Bible are confirmed in records on Family Search's "Canada Births and Baptisms, 1661-1959" with respect to Barbara Cosman, John Cosman, James Cosman, Peter John Cosman, Charles Oliver Cosman and Sarah Elizabeth Cosman. There is no Edgar Cosman on those records, but there is a record that Rachel Cosman was married to John Alride. (Copies attached).

In searching records for Peter John I have come across the following information compiled by Kate Cosman Nath and Richard E. Cosman (both deceased) and have been able to verify four of the facts stated therein in documents mentioned above: 1) the existence of the April 1807 bond with William Winniett, Judge of the Court of Wills and Probates mentioned above, to which is attached the 11 March 1807 estate inventory which says 2) Peter John was Catherine John's husband and that they had daughters; 3) Land records in 1794 and 1801 indicates James Cosman's wife's name was "Catherine" or "Katy" (a nickname for Catherine also mentioned in the following information); and 4) the February 1817 sale by Catherine (Margaret) John of her Marsh lot at the Head of St Mary's Bay. I have not been able to find records confirming the other information, but I believe it is consistent and compliments what I have been able to confirm.

"Name: Catherine JOHN

Sex: F

Birth: ABT 1765

Death: ABT 1830

Note: Catherine was buried there (St Peter's Anglican Church, Weymouth, N.S.) 8 June, 1830, at age 65. This would mean she had been born in 1765 and not 1770. This information was given by Kaye Cosman Nath.

1799- Catherine was mentioned in a land transfer along with James Cosman.

1807 (March) - Catherine (Margaret) John states that she was the wife of the late Peter John (and they had daughters). (Note by JJN: This information is contained in the inventory of the estate of Peter John dated 11 March 1807 which is attached to the 10 April 1807 bond).

1807 (April) - Catherine (Margaret) John and James Cosman entered into an agreement with William Winniett after the death of her father (Note by JJN: it was her husband) Peter John.

1817 (Feb) - Catherine Margaret John, James Cosman and Charles John sold their lots to Augustine Guiddery (lots situated at the Head of St. Mary's Bay).

1834 (Sept) - Elizabeth John pays James Cosman owing from the estate of Peter John, that which should have gone to his late wife Catherine Cosman. The wife of James Cosman was Catherine John. Catherine (John) Cosman was the daughter of Peter and Catherine Margaret John.

Elizabeth John was either a sister or sister-in-law of Katie Cosman. Katie possibly had a brother named Charles.

Information supplied by: Kaye Cosman Nath

Kaye's Sources: Digby Museum and also Provincial Archives of Nova Scotia

Work Compiled by:

Richard E. Cosman

SSF, HQ&SIGS, SPTP

CFB Petawawa, P, ON

K8H 2X3"

The date of birth of Catherine John in the above information is thought to have been 1765 while the DOB from the John Family Bible is 1770. I believe the 1765 date is more likely to be correct in that she would have been 20 years old at the time of her marriage rather than only 15 had she been born in 1770.

The date of James Cosman's death is not known but he was still alive in April 1832 when he was named a beneficiary of the will of his brother John along with two of James' sons. He also appears to have been alive in September 1834 when Elizabeth John purportedly paid to him that which was due to his

deceased wife (Catherine) from the estate of her father Peter John. A copy of John Cosman's will is attached, but I do not have any original documentation on the payment to James Cosman in September 1834, other than the fact that it is one of several facts listed in information prepared by Kate Cosman Nath and Richard E. Cosman (both deceased) found on both Ancestry.ca and Family Search. All of the other facts in that information have documents to support their accuracy, which leads me to conclude it is probably accurate as well.

Taken with the fact established on the death record of Barbara Ellen (Cosman) McAlpine that her parents were James and Catherine Cosman and the record from First Families of New Brunswick about James Cosman and Catherine John (s) being married, that at least two land records refer to James Cosman's wife as Catherine or "Katy", and that they named one of their sons Peter John, I have prepared the attached Genealogical Proof Argument that Catherine John was the wife of James Cosman Loyalist and that her father was Peter John Loyalist.

The rest of the descent line from James Cosman and Catherine John is identical to the one which I submitted in September 2015 for a certificate for James Cosman which was issued on January 24, 2016, and which is posted on the Loyalist Directory under James Cosman. There is some new information arising from documents mentioned above and the discovery of a baptism record for John Cosman McAlpine, naming his father as Daniel McAlpine. The latter document makes the Genealogical Proof Argument about John Cosman McAlpine being the son of Daniel McAlpine and Barbara Cosman redundant; however I have included both as proofs for that generation.

Yours truly,

John Joseph Noble UE