

Peter Stover Biography

Peter Stover was born in 1758 in New Jersey, most probably in Monmouth County. He enlisted with the 5th Battalion of the New Jersey Volunteers on the 1st of October 1777. Amalgamation of the battalions later placed him in the 1st Battalion where he served until 1783. The Regiment saw duty in New Jersey, Long Island, Staten Island, Virginia and South Carolina. The New Jersey Volunteers was the largest of the Loyalist Provincial regiments in the colonies during the war. At its peak the Regiment mustered six battalions (about 5,000 soldiers, many of whom came from Monmouth County). He fought as a member of the Battalion's Light Company. At the end of the war, in September 1783, he boarded the "Duke of Richmond" and sailed with members of his regiment to St John's Harbour, Nova Scotia. The new Province of New Brunswick would be formed 2 years later. His regiment was disbanded on the 10th of October 1783. In New Brunswick, the officers, soldiers and their families received free grants of land for their service, as well as provisions for the next three years. Laws passed by the new state governments, New Jersey included, had precluded their returning home.

Peter Stover applied for and was granted land in Sussex Parish, Kings County, New Brunswick where he farmed for about 30 years. In his late 50s he moved to Shediac, New Brunswick where he farmed and ran an inn. Peter married a local girl named Mathilla in 1784 and together they had 7 children. Mathilla passed away about 1810. He remarried a woman named Cynthia and together they had 3 more children. Many of his children married and settled and had families and farmed in Sussex. There are still descendants of Peter Stover there. Peter joined and served in the militia in New Brunswick in the War of 1812. After the war some of his children moved to Upper Canada, most of them settling and farming in Kent and Elgin Counties.

One of his daughters, Elizabeth, married Joseph Hall. One of their daughters, Hannah, married Robert Walters of St John's Isle (Prince Edward Island) and also moved to Kent County. When he was 76, Peter moved again. He followed his children and grandchildren to Upper Canada where he passed away in April 1836 in Raleigh Township, Kent County.