

LOYALIST DIRECTORY: CORNELIUS THOMPSON

Surname: Thompson

Given Name: Cornelius

Rank: Lieutenant (The Loyalists of New Brunswick, by E. C. Wright, Reprinted by New Brunswick Branch, UELAC, February 2003, page 335, and Institute of Advanced Loyalist Studies – online.)

Where settled: York County, New Brunswick, Lot No. 10, Kingsclear, 700 acres with a frontage on the river St. John of 100 rods... just above Spring Hill – about 6 miles above Fredericton. He also owned St. Don's Island (53 acres) opposite, and some lots in the parish of Prince William. In Fredericton, he received Lot No. 17 on the river between Governor Carleton's farm and the Lower French Village.

Resettled in Grantham Township, Lincoln County of the Niagara district (1807), selling his New Brunswick Kingsclear estate and St. Don's island to Samuel Hart of Sheffield. (Page 115 in A Little Study in Loyalist Genealogy: Tomsons of Perthshire, by Ernest Green, F.R. Hist. Society, in Publication of Ontario Historical Society, 1936, in Special Collections, St. Catharines Library, St. Catharines, ON).

Status as Loyalist: Proven

Source: Loyalist Lineages of Canada; Toronto Branch UELC, Vol. II, Part 2, p. 1128, 1991.

The Loyalists of New Brunswick, by E. C. Wright, NB, UELAC, 2003, p. 335.

Notes: Date of first UELAC Certificate issued 1986 – Gov. Simcoe Branch.

Regiment: Brigade of New Jersey Volunteers

1776 – Ensign with Capt. Joseph Lee, 6th Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Isaac Allen.

1781 – Ensign with Lee's Coy. NJV, 3rd Battalion.

1781 – Adjutant with Lt. Col. Allen, 3rd Battalion.

1783 – Lieutenant with Lt. Col. Allen, 2nd Battalion.

(Green, Ernest, A Little Study in Loyalist Genealogy. OHS, Vol. 31, 1936, St. Catharines, Public Library, ON., The On-Line Institute of Loyalist Studies, NJV, List of Officers.)

Enlistment Date: 1776 – Ensign – Lee's Coy, NJV, 6th Battalion.

Date & Place of Birth: 9 April, 1756, Freehold, New Jersey, USA. His father, Thomas Thompson, lived in The Stone House, built by Thomas's father Cornelius (in A Little Study..., by E. Green, page 115).

Date & Place of Death: 7 August 1814, Grantham Township, Lincoln County. Death was recorded by Rev. Robert Addison. '*Mr. Cornelius Thompson (H. P. Lieut.)*' Death was preceded by misfortunes of War of 1812 in which 4 of his sons participated, '*... his sorrow was more than his weakened state could sustain...*' (A Little Study... by E. Green, page 123.)

Place of Burial: Probably laid to rest on his own property in Grantham Township in Lincoln county, as no cemetery existed at Church Niagara-on-the-Lake during war-torn times.

Wife's Name: Rebecca (her last name was penciled in on a document '*Stone House Thompsons*' as – Emmons – followed by a question mark. Monmouth County Historical Society, Freehold, New Jersey.)

Born – 3 May, 1759, Freehold, New Jersey; died 4 September, 1828, Ontario, recorded in St. Mark's, Niagara.

Children: William Thompson, born 17 June, 1786, in New Brunswick, Canada; died 18 January, 1860, in Toronto Township, Upper Canada; Married 18.? to Garden, Jane, born 1786, New Brunswick, Canada; died 22 October, 1848, in Woodstock, New Brunswick, Canada.

Augustus Thompson, born 20 March, 1788, in New Brunswick, Canada; died unknown.

Frederick Thompson, born 20 April, 1790, in New Brunswick, Canada; died 1822, in Ontario, Canada.

Amelia Thompson, 3 May, 1792, in New Brunswick, Canada; died January, 1864, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada; Married to Garrett, Alexander, born 1785 in Ireland; died 23 July 1858, in Niagara, Ontario, Canada.

Mary Thompson, born 17 December, 1793, in New Brunswick, Canada; died 18 June 1880, in Stamford Township, Ontario, Canada; Married 16 May 1820, to Garden, John Campbell, born 1784, in New Brunswick, Canada; died 15 September, 1860, in Stamford Township, Ontario, Canada.

Cornelius Oliver Thompson, born 17 February, 1797, in New Brunswick, Canada; died 4 June 1813, near Niagara, Ontario, Canada.

Sarah Thompson, born 27 January, 1800, in New Brunswick, Canada; died 19 March, 1880, in Galt, Ontario, Canada; Married (date unknown) to Ussher, Edgeworth, born 1804 in

Ireland; died (murdered) 16 November, 1838, in Willowby Township, Ontario, Canada.

Bibliography:

A short biography comes from *'A Little Study in Loyalist Genealogy:*

Tomsons of Perthshire', by Ernest Green, F.R. Hist. Society, Ontario Historical Society's Papers and Records, Vol. 31, 1936, in St. Catherine's Library, Ontario.

Cornelius Thompson was born 9 April, 1756, son of Thomas Thompson and Anne Taylor of Freehold, New Jersey. His older brother, Lewis, born in 1754, joined him in support of the Loyalist party when the American Revolution broke out in 1776. The brothers joined the brigade of the New Jersey Volunteers.

Lewis and Cornelius Thompson migrated with other Loyalists to New Brunswick in 1783 and were allotted land on the St. John River near Fredericton. Lewis lived there until 1802 and returned to Freehold with his family where he died before 1820.

Cornelius went back to New Jersey in 1785 to marry Rebecca *'who joined him in laughing at Revolutions, international boundaries and Northern winters'*. They returned to New Brunswick's St. John Valley and there raised seven children, William, Augustus, Frederick, Amelia, Mary, Cornelius Oliver, and Sarah.

As Cornelius's sons attained manhood, he decided to move his family to Upper Canada with others from his area. Conditions in New Brunswick were overpopulated and Upper Canada offered more opportunities. *'Napoleon's recent blockade of European timber to Britain sent the value of hardwood masting timber in New Brunswick Soaring and this encouraged Cornelius to sell his land while prices*

were high.' (Bradley Museum, Mississauga, PDF, page 6) The remainder of his land was sold in 1809. (Green, page 116)

'The families travelled 275 Km up the St. John River in birch-bark canoes. From here, they walked 50 Km to the nearest road at Rivière-du-Loup in Lower Canada and then by coach to York (Toronto). This journey took almost a month.' *Bradley Museum, Mississauga, PDSF, page 6)

Cornelius Thompson established in Grantham Township and petitioned for land in 1808. A grant of 1200 acres was recommended and Warrant for his patent to the land was granted in August of 1810. He lived in the Niagara area and may have had other land closer to York.

'Few Canadian families took a more active part or suffered more during the War of 1812-14 than did the Thompsons of Grantham'. (Green, page 117) All four sons of Cornelius and Rebecca reported to take the oath of allegiance. Cornelius was willing, but unable to serve in the militia due to poor health,' although he assisted in other ways for the defence. Details of the sons' participation are recorded in Green, pages 118-123. Young Oliver died and Frederick was disabled. William and Augustus were prisoners of war during which time Cornelius died on August 7, 1814. They were released from prison in 1815. Rebecca's appeal for relief was never realized. Recompense for personal family losses were also made after the War by William, Augustus and Frederick.

Augustus left the country having joined the *'Kings'*. His regiment moved often and he later remained in Greece. (See Green, page 125) Frederick received a pension in 1816 and died in 1822. William married Jane Garden, daughter of William Garden, U.E.L., Fredericton, and their sister Mary married one of his sons, John

Campbell Garden, thus linking the two U.E.L. families. Marriages of daughters, Amelia and Sarah, are recorded in Green, pages 126-127.

Green states (in 1936), *'Representative of five successive generations have borne arms in defence of Canada, and at least five young men of the Thompson blood fell in the late Great War.'* (WWI) Tables of descendants of Cornelius and Rebecca appear on pages 128-134 in Green's essay.

Proven Descendants: Governor Simcoe 1986.03.12; Governor Simcoe 1986.05.01; Governor Simcoe 1986.05.14; Governor Simcoe 1987.12.01; Governor Simcoe 1988.05.08; Governor Simcoe 1988.07.27; Governor Simcoe 1989.08.15; Governor Simcoe 1991.07.30; Vancouver 1993.08.15; Col. John Butler 2000.02.23; Col. John Butler 2006.12.04; Edmonton 2009.04.20.

Military Info: See On-Line Institute for Advanced Loyalist Studies for the History of the 6 Battalions of the New Jersey Volunteers.

Loyalist Genealogy: Refer to Certification Information, Edmonton, 2009.

Family History: See William Thompson, [Dictionary of Canadian Biography](#), On-Line.

Family Genealogy: See Biography and Certificate Info.

Other Info: