

The Story of  
Samuel Tidd/Teed  
A United Empire Loyalist

Not much is known of Samuel from his birth to the 1770's as he grew up in the area of Fishkill, New York, but he may have apprenticed as a blacksmith. The knowledge of his occupation comes in the form of his "Claim for Compensation" to his "Majesty's Justices of the Peace" in Nova Scotia after the war, in which Samuel was forced to leave behind his farming and household equipment and a set of blacksmith's tools during the Revolutionary War.

When the "Declaration of Independence" was introduced on the 4th of July 1776, all citizens were obligated to sign a document to pledge allegiance to the new "United States of America". Samuel took his oath on the 26th day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six. "Signed Samuel Teed"

Although Samuel was born in the colonies, his allegiance still remained with England and the King. As conditions around his family home worsened, Samuel was obligated to leave his belongings on the 21st of March 1777, and traveled down the road along the Hudson River to Long Island, where many other Loyalists were heading for the protection with the Kings lines at New York City.

Eastern New York was a hotbed of activity, and the Town of Fishkill, in Dutchess County was the Rebels front line. The British army occupied New York City and controlled the Hudson River as far north to almost West Point. Twenty miles was all that was separating these two lines!

Samuel fled to Long Island with his family; they were, his wife Elizabeth and five children, Elizabeth, Thomas, Samuel Jr., Mary and David. They may have all been born in Dutchess County, New York. The road that Samuel's family used was so heavily traveled by Loyalists and Rebels that "General George Washington" called it the "Revolutionary Road".

When Samuel and his family reached the safety behind the British lines they resided near the Town of Oyster Bay on the north side of Long Island. As the family settled in their tents, there was a bulletin handed out to Samuel and all Loyalist men to join the Royalists.

The bulletin had this to say:

***ALL GENTLEMEN VOLUNTEERS,***

Who are willing to serve his Majesty in the  
**LOYAL AMERICAN REGIMENT**

**COMMANDED BY**

***Col. BEVERLEY ROBINSON,***

For **TWO YEARS**, or during the Rebel-  
lion, shall upon their being mustered and ap-  
proved of by the Inspector-General, receive

***Twenty-five Dollars Bounty.***

Whatever Persons are willing to embrace the  
present Opportunity offered or approving their  
Loyalty, let them repair to the Quarters of the  
Regiment, at Harlem Heights, or to the  
Bull's Head Tavern, at New-York, where an  
Officer will attend to receive and entertain them.

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All Gentlemen Volunteers  
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It is not known which place Samuel did enlist his services, but he joined “Col. Beverley Robinson’s” “Loyal American Regiment” at Harlem Heights and Samuel was on the Muster Roll in late November 1777. The Loyal American Regiment was raised primarily from Loyalists in Westchester and lower Dutchess County, where Col. Beverley Robinson had his homestead south of Fishkill. Samuel may have been a tenant on Beverley Robinson’s homestead, as was the case for many people who lived in Dutchess County.

Samuel’s regiment was garrisoned at Kingsbridge, New York in 1777 and in October of that year they took part in the Hudson Highlands Expedition under “Lt. Genl. Sir Henry Clinton”. They received great credit in helping to storm Forts Clinton and Montgomery. The regiment continued garrison duty on the lines at Kingsbridge or on Long Island until the spring of 1779 when they took part in yet another expedition up the Hudson River, this time heading for the posts of Verplank and Stony Point. In July of 1779 Stony Point was stormed and the corps lost 60 men of all ranks as well as prisoners. These posts were evacuated in October of 1779 and Samuel along with 200-250 men returned again to the lines of Kingsbridge.

In April of 1780, Samuel and 50 men of the corps assisted in a surprise attack on the Pennsylvania Line in New Jersey. The regiment remained in garrison until December of 1780 when it was ordered to embark for Virginia under the command of newly appointed “Brigadier General Benedict Arnold”. The regiment suffered very severely throughout January of 1781 and thereafter, until they returned to New York in early June of that year.

During that time period while Samuel was with Benedict Arnold, a party of men went on an excursion to Westover, Virginia and settled for the night; Samuel and a fellow soldier were put on sentry duty. In the morning Arnold and his party left, but Samuel and the other man were accidentally left behind. When they found out what had happened, it was too late to rejoin the group as the rebels were between them and their party. They believed the best means to get back was to deliver themselves up as deserters. The Rebels took them to the Governor of Virginia, and believing in their story the Governor gave them passes to return to the state of New York. They arrived in Dutchess County in February where they worked for two landowners until April. It was here that they happened to meet with a man by the name of John Warden, who informed Samuel that a party was going down to New York City, He directed them where to find a cave where they can all leave together. Samuel made it to the cave safely, but a couple of nights later on the 19th of April 1781 they were taken once more as prisoners.

This time it did not look too good for Samuel Tidd and another soldier Solomon Baker. They were both put in jail on April 27th or 28th of that year and were “indicted for spying and did lurk secretly in Pawling’s Precinct in Dutchess County, and being lately from within the Enemies lines”. The trial was held on the 17th of May 1781 for Solomon Baker, but somehow Samuel had escaped his captors before the trial date and made his way back to his regiment in Flushing, Long Island where he was mustered on the 18th of June 1781.

The matter of Tory spies was taken very seriously and several local men were caught, tried, convicted and sentenced to death because of this activity. Solomon Baker was condemned to death but seems to have survived and later belonged to the militia in the 1790's.

The Loyal American Regiment's last major battle took place in September of 1781 when they were once again requested by Benedict Arnold to be a part of his New London, Connecticut expedition where they experienced fierce resistance.

The regiment returned to Long Island where they remained in garrison until embarking for Nova Scotia in September of 1783.

Samuel and his family first lived at Sissaboo in the Digby area. Then on the 1st of October 1788 he purchased land from John Caldwell in Tiverton, Nova Scotia, and the Tidd family owned this land for 24 years.

Samuel registered a claim on the 9th day of February 1786 for compensation of the estimated value of his estate left behind. Unfortunately the date for registering had long passed and Samuel's claim was denied.

Sometime between 1790 and 1801 Samuel was out on a boat in the "Bay of Fundy" and a storm whipped up and everyone on board drowned. After Samuel's death the family put in for a land grant and in 1801 "The Hatfield Grant" gave the Heirs to Samuel Tidd 550 Acres in Digby Neck where the "Town of Tiddville" was named in his honour. Samuel's wife remarried to a Martin Blackford and was widowed again in 1812. She later died about 1820. His son Thomas also drowned in the Bay. Samuel's other children Samuel Jr., David and Mary stayed in Nova Scotia. Samuel's 5th child Elizabeth married John Archibald Jr. (son of John Archibald Sr., Loyalist) and moved to the Township of Vaughan, in the County of York, in the Home District, of the Province of Upper Canada, where they purchased Lot #25 Concession #4 on the 19th of July 1811.

The end.

John Rudzik UE

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