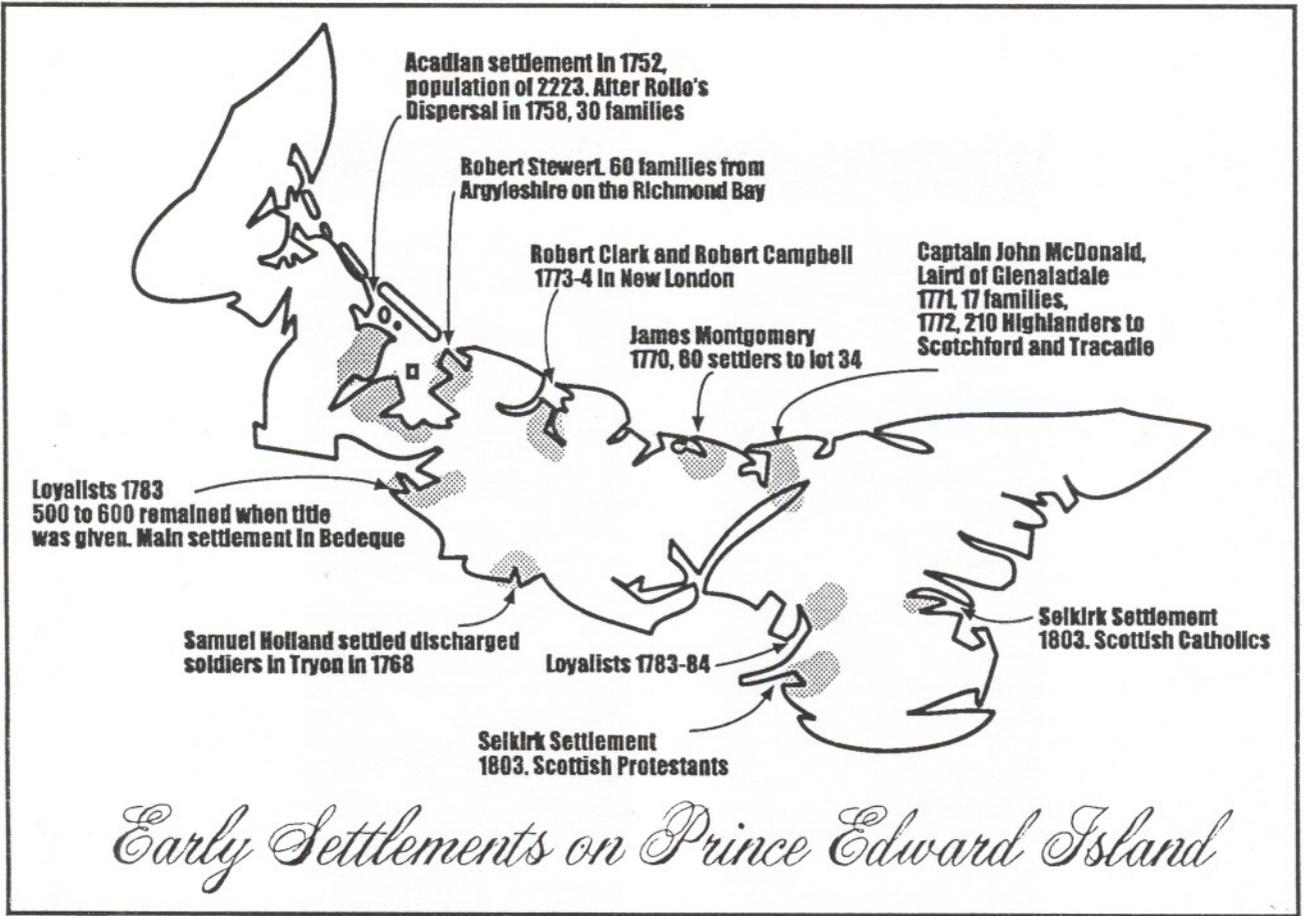


IV LOYALIST SETTLEMENT ON PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND



ÎLE ST. JEAN, ST. JOHN'S ISLAND

Until 1769 the Island of St. John was part of Nova Scotia. The first European settlers were Acadians. In 1767 the island was divided into 67 townships and granted to 17 friends of the Crown who were supposed to settle the island and pay quit rents to the government. These persons and their descendants were the notorious "absentee landlords" who took the blame for the slow development of the island and for the resultant problems which the islanders hoped Confederation with Canada would solve in 1872.

Orlo Jones states that the population of the Island at the time of its separation from Nova Scotia in 1769 was 18 English and 204 French. Cpt. Walter Patterson was the first Governor. In 1776 four companies of Provincials under the command of Major H. Hurlihy were sent from New York to defend the Is-

land. In 1779 these were the first Loyalists to petition the government for land. Their petition was denied, although five other proprietors were allowed to purchase land in 1781.

In June 1783 the proprietors agreed to give up 1/4 of their land amounting to 109,000 acres, to the government to be granted to deserving Loyalists and disbanded soldiers. In October of that year, in the mistaken belief that the British government was going to furnish passage to any Loyalists who wished to come to St. John's Island, Governor Patterson sent the following message throughout British North America:

Whereas the Proprietors of this Island have very generously given up a considerable portion of their estates to be distributed among such of the Refugees, Provincial

Loyalists of the Maritimes

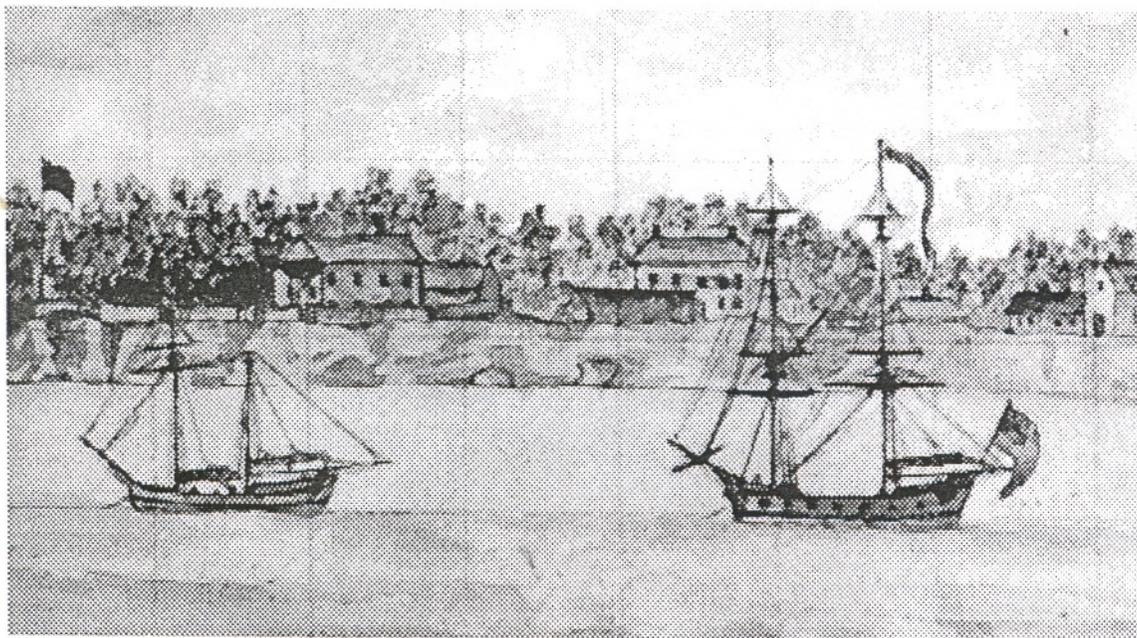
Troops or other American Emigrants, as are desirous to become its inhabitants, the lands to be granted by the Governor and Council in the same proportion and on the same terms as are offered in Nova Scotia, and to be given out of the different townships by Lot; in the fairest and most equitable manner, according to the quantity assigned for by each proprietor. ...in a few days after [the Refugees'] arrival at Charlottetown, they shall be put in possession of such lands, as they shall be entitled to, free of every expense. That they may depend upon the lands being good, neither mountainous, rocky nor swampy, contiguous to navigable harbours, many ports convenient for the fishery, and in every respect preferable to any lands unoccupied throughout His Majesty's American Dominion.

Shelburne, formerly known as Port Roseway, proved woefully inadequate to serve as a centre for settlement and therefore became a point of departure to other Maritime areas. After the terrible winter of 1783-4 six boatloads (800-1,000 civilian and military refugees) came to the Island from

Shelburne. Of these, about 600 stayed. From September of 1783 to December of 1785, 208 land grants were made to disbanded troops from the Island, as well as others who had disbanded in New York and Rhode Island. Military grants were made according to rank. Most of the disbanded troops clustered in the eastern part of the Island in areas more appropriate for fishing than farming. Although the government gave generous amounts of lumber to the Loyalists, such other items as bronze hinges were not practical.

Between June 1784 and November 1785, 153 civilian Loyalists received grants—500 acres if married and 300 acres if single. Thomas Hooper brought 12 families from New Jersey to the Bedeque Bay area and 30 civilian families from the St. John River valley settled near Summerside.

Problems for Loyalists on the Island began when the proprietors failed to honour their commitments and denied Loyalists legal title to their land, with the result that the newcomers had to become tenants or leave. Because of this, there was an outward migration from 1786 to 1795. By the time the government forced the proprietors to recognize Loyalists' titles to land in 1793, many had left.



Charlotte-Town on the Island of St. John's by C. Randle, 1778.

COLONEL EDMUND FANNING FIRST GOVERNOR OF THE ISLAND

Based on a biography in *An Island Refuge*

Edmund Fanning was born on Long Island, New York in 1737, the son of James Fanning. He graduated in law from Yale University, and went to North Carolina to practise. He held several public offices, one of which was Recorder of Deeds for Orange County. It is alleged that his abuses in this capacity were largely the cause of the revolt against Governor Tryon's administration. Fanning followed Governor Tryon to New York and became his secretary. In 1776 General Howe gave him a colonel's commission, and in 1777 he raised and commanded a corps of 460 Loyalists, named "The Associated Refugees of the King's American Regiment". In 1779 his property was confiscated, and in 1783 he was forced to flee with other Loyalists to Nova Scotia, where, on September 23, 1783 he was sworn in as a councillor.

Colonel Fanning received grants of land in several different parts of Nova Scotia. One grant of 800 acres, Fanningborough, was on Northumberland Strait and extended from the western line of the Loyalists "Remshieg Grant". It was in Nova Scotia that he married Phoebe Maria Burns, a lady much younger than himself. They had one son, who died on September 22, 1812, shortly after returning from the East Indies where he had served as a captain in the 22nd Regiment of the British Infantry, and three daughters.

In 1786, Colonel Fanning was appointed Governor of the Island of St. John, an office he held for 18 years, but he did not assume the Governorship until the summer of the next year. Although Fanning had many difficulties to contend with, including continual trouble with the proprietors over the quit rents,

he managed affairs with reasonable success. When his term of office ended in 1805, his successor found matters running with comparative smoothness. Fanning, himself, had gained the goodwill of the Island people and the approbation of the Home Government. Those who had not been favourable to him at first presented him with a most laudatory address signed by 125 of the Island's leading men. The address and his reply were published in the *Royal Herald* February 16, 1805.

In Charlotte Town, his property took up the whole block situated within Great George, Richmond, Prince, and Sydney Streets, with his mansion facing Sydney Street on the south corner. The remainder of the block was an orchard and garden. He acquired large tracts of land in the colony. Among them were lands left in trust for the founding of a school, named the Fanning School, at Malpeque. The other lands were divided among his wife and daughters, according to his will.

On July 29, 1804 the Governor received official word of his recall. He was informed that, in consideration of his long and faithful service, he would receive a pension of £500 per annum during his lifetime. He had been promoted to Major General in 1799 and to General in 1808.

General Fanning embarked for England on August 6, 1805 but returned two years later to live on the Island. He took his final departure from the Island on November 23, 1813, and died in London on February 28, 1818. His wife died in England on May 7, 1853, aged 85, at the home of her daughter, Lady Louisa Augusta Wood.



Overlooking Charlottetown harbour is Fanningbrook, home of the Lieutenant-Governor of the province. It is named after Governor Fanning.

WILLIAM SCHURMAN

William Schurman brought his family and 27 other families from New Rochelle, New York. Schurman was a prosperous merchant-farmer who owned five slaves. Of Dutch Huguenot descent, his family had lived near New Rochelle for over 100 years. He would have preferred to remain neutral when hostilities began, but, unlike his wife Jane's family, he chose to support the British because he feared mob rule and respected the British system of government. He must have been less vocal in his opposition to the Continental Congress than his brother Jacob, who spent 2 years in prison for speaking publicly against the rebels, but he was not comfortable throughout the war because of the difference of opinion with his wife's family, and presumably many of his neighbours.

In 1777, Jane died giving birth to their fourth child, Jacob. The following year William married Elizabeth Hyatt who was to bear him seven more children, the last of whom was born near Bedeque in 1796. By 1780, as prospects became bleaker, he decided to move his family to New York city, making the final decision to leave the country in 1782. He sold his property to Jane's family and left his only daughter, Mary, behind with Jane's family. They were never to see one another again.

In the spring of 1783 he used his own boat to move his wife, five sons, and two slaves, Bill and Sook (Susannah), to Port Roseway from where he proceeded to Tryon on the Island of St. John where they spent their first winter. In the spring an agent, on behalf of one of the proprietors, agreed to sell him 350 acres for £50 to be paid in 10 years. In addition to farming, he milled lumber and used his ship to transport refugees, lumber, and merchandise to his house in which he eventually operated a store.

His descendants have his ledger begun on November 20, 1784. A study of its contents by George A. Leard, printed in *The Loyalist Gazette* Spring 1983, gives insight into the items which Schurman car-

ried in the store, his other sources of income, and the cost of everyday purchases in those days.

The first account in Schurman book shows his industry:

Nov, 20, 1784.

3 days worked on for William Warren, 9s.

To making 2000 shingles, and finding 1/2 the stuff 1£ 17f 6d.

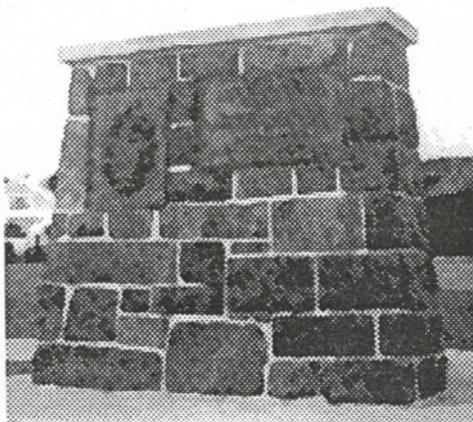
The next summer Schurman sold Captain Calbeck, pioneer lawyer and merchant of Charlotte-town, and ancestor of Central Bedeque's present day merchants, 12,000 shingles for 19£ 10f and 7,300 clapboards for more than 30£. But Schurman could

make more than shingles. On 10 November, 1787, he charged George Maybe with "making a plough, a wash tub, a keg, a wheel, and a noggin (a wooden mug)."

The main part of the accounts consists of a general range of groceries, hardware, clothing, livestock, and farm produce. Transactions were in pounds, shillings, and pence of Island currency. A shilling was worth roughly \$.20. It is on this basis that the prices from Schurman's accounts appear. Food purchases were a small item and it would appear that the most important were tea and pepper. These are in almost every account. Flour was bought from the miller, or ground in some poor way at home. Salt, so important in diet and food preservation, must have been obtained from schooners landing it for the fishermen, because it does not appear in the accounts until 1795 when it sold at \$.80 a bushel. Sugar was not charged until 1794 when it was \$.20 a pound. This was likely

West Indian brown. Maple sugar was the staple sweetener up until that time, supplemented, of course, with molasses which sold at \$.90 a gallon in 1787.

Tea, the most popular beverage of the pioneers, sold for \$.90 in the cheaper quality called Bohea, with Shoushand tea selling in 1795 at \$2.00 a pound. Coffee is not mentioned except in the first year, when it sold very reasonably for \$.30 a pound. Nut-



This memorial is at Summerside. The plaque reads:

To commemorate the Bicentennial of the United Empire Loyalists and disbanded troops who settled on the Island of St. Jean following The American Revolution.

These courageous Loyal Refugees contributed greatly to the development and growth of a tiny colony struggling for independence and prosperity.

This memorial erected by the Abegweit Branch of the United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada.

megs were \$.10 apiece, and a stick of cinnamon cost \$.20, making spices luxuries in the earliest accounts. By 1800, however, ginger and allspice were \$.60 a pound and pepper \$.70.

Schurman took butter on account from the Bedeque women and gave a shilling a pound for practically the whole time he was in business from 1784 until 1818. It was good value sometimes, yet during the war years, 1812-1814, when it took 10 to 12 pounds of butter to buy a pound of tea, it must have seemed like a starvation price. In the meat department, which was a barrel of pickle at the back of the shop, beef seldom varied in price from \$.10 a pound, with pork 2 to 4 cents dearer, and lamb and veal between \$.8 and \$.9 a pound.

Home made candles were the most common means of lighting early homes. Oil is mentioned in the accounts several times at \$.40 a gallon. This would be fish or seal oil, used in the old-fashioned lamps with a crude wick and no chimney. It gave a fair light but produced an offensive smell in the house.

Next to providing food, the pioneer problem was to keep his family in clothing and shelter. The clothing item most frequently purchased was shoe leather. Thomas Reynolds in February, 1785, charged a pair of soles for \$.40. In July he bought another pair of soles for \$.40 and then a pair of upper leathers for \$.70. Finally in September he gave up the shoe idea and bought himself a pair of moccasins on a straight last which fitted either foot comfortably.

Items of clothing are difficult to appraise. A man's suit sold for \$4.80, but a waistcoat (vest) was \$4.00. Broadcloth was the thing for men's wear. Trousers might be gray homespun as long as the "Sunday coat" was made of rich broadcloth. Such a coat would be used for 25 or 30 years, or even longer, if a man could keep his youthful figure: so it is little wonder that such cloth sold as high as \$4.00 a yard. Other luxury items for men, apart from ruffled shirts worn by very few and selling for \$1.90 each, were handkerchiefs. These were not little squares of linen for wiping the nose, but man-size items, like a small luncheon cloth 36" x 40" or larger. An outlet for male vanity in place of the modern necktie, they were worn as scarves and neckcloths in many bright patterns of silk or cotton.

The day of fancy shawls for women had not yet come, but they delighted in buying ribbons to trim or retrim their dresses and bonnets. Hair ribbon sold at \$.15 a yard, and narrow ribbons at \$.07 in 1800. While the lady of the shopping party fussed over ribbons, her husband just naturally drifted back to

the rum puncheon to see how far his dime would go on a half cup of rum. Generally there was a penny left over. Rum and Ribbons seemed to go together in the early accounts, especially in the decade beginning in 1795. It is "*two yards of ribbon, 1 gill of rum*": *one scane [sic] of silk, one gill of rum*": *one paper of pins, one gallon of rum*." Rum, distilled from molasses, was the universal beverage of North America.

William Schurman was no white-sleeved merchant. He was a worker, ready to sell his time and ability at any honourable toil. In 1795 his accounts show him charging \$.60 a day for cutting some of Bedeque's first oats, and a few days later, a dollar for building a bridge. When he went to the Legislative Assembly in Charlottetown as Bedeque's first representative in 1785, his memories of the occasion were not of the laws he had made, but of Governor Patterson's barn which he had helped erect.

Work and wages are all through his accounts. Servant girls worked for \$2.00 a month and the seamstress, Mrs. Palmer, received \$.40 for making a pair of trousers. This seamstress was charged with a rare luxury item, a bottle of lavender, costing \$.48. Schurman's harvesters were often Acadians who worked, in 1795, for \$.50 a day, and took part of their wages in handkerchiefs, blue cloth, and fiddle strings.

In the home furnishing department at Schurman's—and one wonders how big this little store really was—a set of six chairs sold for \$4.00 in 1788, and a chest for \$1.60. Cups and saucers were sold at \$.40 to \$.45 in 1798 with knives and forks \$1.60 to \$3.00 per dozen, and tin cups at \$.10 each.

Tobacco does not appear in this account book until 1791 when John Baker, Schurman's neighbour and best customer, bought a pound for \$.25. Pipes sold for a penny each, and both men and women smoked them. It is an educated guess that 50% of the Island women smoked pipes in 1800. At this time twist tobacco sold at \$.50 a pound. Snuff was doubtless used by a few, but it only appears in the account of James Graham, Bedeque's doctor, who paid \$.70 a pound for it.

Items made of iron were valuable beyond price in the early farm economy—the axe, the hoe, the scythe in the field and forest, and the crane and pot over the fireplace—were the chief items and Schurman handled them all, making a number of them himself.

Books did not figure largely on the shelves of the pioneer store. Bibles and schoolings were the chief books sold; and people who paid \$4.00 for a Bible in a day when a cow could be bought for \$16.00 certainly put a high value on the printed word. The

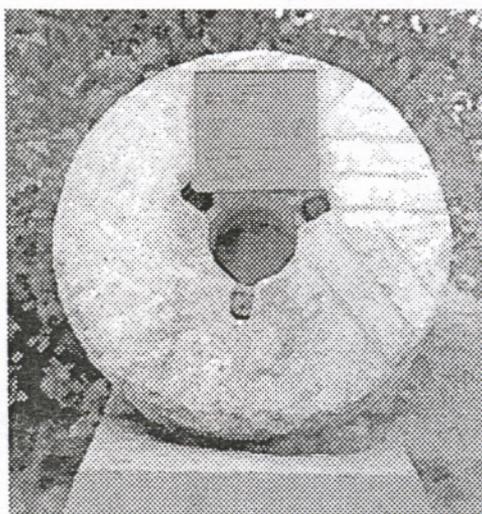
Loyalists of the Maritimes

illiteracy rate on the Island was high at this time, Fifty per cent of the women and at least twenty-five per cent of the men could not write their own names. Those who could write, spelled with carefree abandon and Schurman belonged in this class. In his account book he often spelled "Baker" in the conventional way, but just as often he spelled it "Bacor". James Allen's first name has the delightful spelling "Gams". Connor is either "Connah" or "Connows" which reveals the soft R in the storekeeper pronunciation. The best of all his innovative spellings, though, was shown when Montgomery becomes "McGommery."

Merchant Schurman was an exporter who generally owned a schooner or two, and who traded with Miramachi and other areas of Isle St. John. He shipped potatoes and oats, paying \$.30 to \$.40 for potatoes. In 1799 his schooner *Mary* sank off New

Brunswick with the loss of all hands, including his son, Benjamin, aged 19. He began building ships around the turn of the 19th century, launching the first in 1801. Schurman stayed in spite of the loss of his house and its contents in a fire in 1792. Among his belongings lost was the only copy of the agreement which would have given him clear title to his land. He continued to pay £10 each year for land which he would not own until 1806. Despite hardships, tragedy, and setbacks, he managed to buy an additional 6,500 acres near Bedeque. He continued to be actively involved in his various enterprises until his death in September, 1819. Elizabeth died in 1853 at the age of 90.

A lasting connection to William Schurman is the M.S. Schurman Co., a building firm which serves three of the Atlantic Provinces from its head office in Summerside, Prince Edward Island.



At Mill River, this monument commemorates the Linkletter family. The plaque reads:

In Memory of
George Linkletter 1737-
Martha Peck 1743-
Their sons
George Jr 1776-1860
James 1779-1856
John 1778-1865
United Empire Loyalists settled here 1784.
This stone was used in the old Linkletter Mill.

WILLIAM WRIGHT

Based on a biography in *An Island Refuge*

William Wright was a Loyalist refugee who came from Westchester County, New York, to the Island of St. John in July, 1784, with his wife, two sons, and three daughters. Although he was a Quaker, he openly supported the King when trouble began in the 1770's and was imprisoned for 12 months as a traitor. His elder son, Nathaniel joined the Loyalist militia. His wife and younger children were left at the mercy of the rebels who confiscated their belongings and property. By the end of the war the family had lost everything and were under a sentence of banishment. To make matters worse, the entire family, except for William, was ill with yellow fever and Nathaniel was not expected to recover.

William cast his lot with the "Port Roseway Associates", a group of Loyalists organized in New York. They left New York in August, 1783, and landed at Port Roseway, soon to be renamed Shelburne, located on the south coast of Nova Scotia. They stayed at Shelburne for about ten months before moving on to the Island of St. John as one of the group of families brought by William Schurman, another Westchester County Loyalist, to settle on lands reserved for them in the Bedeque area. William drew his 500 acres on lot 19 with 50 acres facing on Wilmot Creek.

Nathaniel (1765-1825), who had been so ill that he had to be carried ashore when they landed at Shelburne, made an unexpected

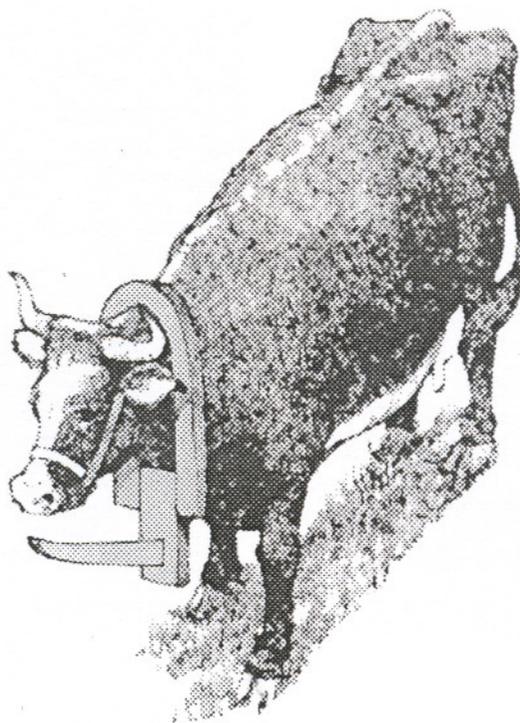
recovery and drew 300 acres in Lot 26, on the south side of the Dunk River. In 1788 he married Ann (Nancy) Lord (1770-1839). Early in the 1800's, Nathaniel and Nancy were converted to Methodism at a service which the Reverend William Grandin from Nova Scotia conducted in their log house at Tryon. They were instrumental in forming a small Methodist society at Bedeque and the first sermons were preached in their barn. When a church was built, the first resident minister and his family were lodged in the Wright home, without charge.

Before long, conditions began to improve for William Wright and his family, as they did for the other pioneers at Bedeque. The account book for William Schurman, the first merchant at Bedeque, showed that on "April 1, 1786 our William bought one cow at four pounds, a yard and a quarter of broadcloth at six shillings three pence, a "bibel" at one pound three shillings, and shipped wool to Mr.

Woren at a cost of one shilling for "frate".

In addition to farming, Nathaniel operated a saw mill, a grist mill, and a carding mill. William's other son Stephen (1768?-1841) was a prosperous farmer on 800 acres in what is now known as Middleton. Their eldest daughter had stayed behind in New York but the other three daughters who came to the Island of St. John all married Loyalists and lived near their parents.

William Wright died in February 1819 and was buried probably in the Presbyterian Cemetery.



Cows and pigs wore wooden collars called pokes, to prevent them getting through fences.