

Descendants of David Dulmage UE

My wife's family has long believed that they are descended from Loyalist stock, and a genealogy showing the line had been prepared in the 1940's. However, no one had ever "proven" the line. I decided to take up the challenge.

The genealogy identified two Loyalist ancestors, David Dulmage and Solomon Huff. Solomon, it subsequently turned out, had likely arrived too late to qualify as a Loyalist (although his name appears on various Loyalist lists). The focus of my research was therefore on my wife's ancestors David Dulmage and his son Jacob.

A number of secondary sources such as *Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte* (1905) and excerpts from the *Napanee Beaver* (1902) refer to the Dulmages and provide some colourful, but unverifiable, background. However, these sources are not reliable enough to prove a Loyalist connection.

The Burleigh collection at Queen's University includes both attributed and unattributed facts – the attributed ones coming mainly from the Haldimand Papers.

In addition, various researchers have looked in to the Irish Palatine background of the Dulmages.

I rely on these sources for David Dulmage's background prior to his arrival in Canada, although some facts, such as his birth in Limerick, Ireland, are recorded in the Dulmage family bible referred to below.

David, although of German descent, was born in Limerick, Ireland in 1746, one of the Irish Palatines. His parents had taken up a British offer of transport to Ireland to avoid religious turmoil in the German Palatine (near Heidelberg).

In the 1740's David's parents immigrated to the American colonies (most of the Irish Palatines had already done so; finding conditions in Ireland were not to their liking).

The outbreak of the American Revolution found David married to Mary Jennings and living as a tenant farmer in the Camden valley of New York state (about a 2 hour drive south of Kingston, Ontario).

According to several secondary sources, David joined the Loyalist standard and served with General Burgoyne's Army. He was captured following the army's defeat and, along with many other Loyalists, was paroled to Canada. As parolees, these Loyalists were not allowed to take up arms against the American colonists. However, they did engage in various other activities including the construction of defensive emplacements and living accommodation for other Loyalist refugees.

David Dulmage's name appears on various provisioning lists and regimental rolls found in the Haldimand Papers (including Captain McKay's Loyal Volunteers and Captain

Leake's Company and others). He appears alone in 1778, but, beginning in 1779, a wife and varying numbers of children are also listed (but not named) at several locations (Machiche, Coteau du Lac and Sorel) and not always with David.

I obtained a copy of a Dulmage family bible, from Dulmage descendants in Colorado. The bible was published in 1809, but the family data was added at an unknown later date (possibly the 1840's). The bible records David and Mary's daughters, Elizabeth and Mary, and son, Jacob, as having been born in the United States. Jacob's birth date is given as 1775, and this date appears in some secondary sources such as Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte (published 1905).

However, records I located in the Ontario Archives, suggest an earlier date.

In 1818, in connection with a petition to formalize the title to the land he had received some 30 years earlier as a military claimant, Jacob filed an affidavit and his military discharge papers. His discharge papers say that he was discharged from a Loyalist unit, Jessup's Rangers, in December of 1783 at age 14 (having served for 6 months). If this is correct, he must have been born about 1769 rather than 1775.

David and his wife also had several children following their arrival in Canada. One of his children, his namesake David, is baptized at Sorel, Quebec in 1781. I was surprised to find this baptism registered, only a few pages, and a year or two in time, away from the baptism of an ancestor of mine on my mother's side.

Although Jacob was born in America, arrived in Canada before 1783, and had served in a Loyalist regiment, he probably did not qualify as a Loyalist in his own right since he was a minor when he came to Canada.

Nor did he claim land as the son of a Loyalist (SUE), although several of his siblings did. Possibly this was because his land entitlement as a discharged soldier was as great, or greater, than his entitlement as a Loyalist or SUE.

Jacob and David were both granted land and settled on the Bay of Quinte near Adolphustown where they appear in the land records owning land on adjacent concessions.

Jacob married Sarah Huff, daughter of Solomon Huff, about 1798. Solomon has appeared on many Loyalist lists over the years. However, he is described on one of the early land lists as having settled in 1788 and appears on the 1804 list of those struck from the Loyalist rolls.

Solomon's daughter Sarah did claim, and receive, land as the daughter of a Loyalist (DUE), in 1802, two years before Solomon was struck from the Loyalist rolls. However, his other children do not appear to have made such claims.

Jacob's and Sarah's daughter Jane, born about 1804 married Conrad Bongard Jr in 1821. Conrad Jr. was the son of Conrad Bongard Sr. whose name appears on several Loyalist lists. However, Conrad appears to have been a military claimant rather than a Loyalist. He was a German soldier, one of about 15,000 who served in German regiments in the British Army during the Revolution, and received land as such.

Conrad Sr. was discharged following the peace treaty concluding the Revolutionary War and then served with surveyor Holland who, in 1783-84, surveyed the land in Prince Edward County in preparation for the resettlement of the Loyalists, military claimants and other settlers. Conrad Sr. received land at Adolphustown as a military claimant, and the Bongard family name is commemorated in the name of Bongard's corners in Prince Edward County.

I located an excerpt of a few pages from a Bongard family Bible in the Ontario Archives. There was no way to date the bible itself (although a page from a Church schedule dated 1866 was included among the bible pages). The excerpt included a record of family events from 1795 to the 1850's. However, I suspect from the consistency of the entries that most of the records were added at the same time, probably in the mid 1800's.

The bible pages recorded the date of Jane and Jacob's marriage and the dates of the births of their 11 children. About half of the dates could be verified, and confirmed as accurate, by reference to other sources such as the Wesleyan Methodist Baptismal register (of baptisms from the 1840's to the early 1900's).

Their daughter Susan, born in 1821, married Nathaniel Nutting (from the United States) in the late 1840's. I could not find a record of their marriage, but their children's births begin appearing in the Wesleyan Methodist Baptismal register in the late 1840's, and they, and their children, appear in the 1851, and later, census records.

Given available resources on-line, such as the various Canadian censuses and the Ontario birth, marriage and death records, it was then a relatively straightforward matter to trace the line to the birth of my wife's mother in the 1920's, thus confirming the Loyalist lineage laid out in the 1940's era genealogy.

Article by Greg Piasetzki