

January 19, 2009 Howard Ray Lawrence

*Preliminary Data Collection and Analysis for Edited Paper Concerning*

**CAPTAIN GEORGE LAWRENCE and SARAH BEECRAFT**

By Howard Ray Lawrence, U.E.  
*Patron, Irish Palatine Association*

**Lawrenceville, aka Virgil,  
Newark Township, aka Niagara Township,  
Lincoln County  
Arrived Upper Canada 1782**

**Vermont**, during The American Revolution, is the place from which some Loyalists of the Lawrence family departed to St. Armand, Quebec. In 1765, our Lawrence family may have come to Vermont via the Port of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. [01] [02] [03]

**George Lawrence** was born on 26 March 1757 in Ballingrane, Limerick, Ireland, and he came to America with his mother, **Agnes Benner**, and a spouse by her second marriage to Peter **Miller** on 07 OCT 1765 in Rathkeale, Courtmatress, County Limerick, Ireland. [04] [05] [06] [**Sarah Beecraft** (various spellings), who **George Lawrence** married, may be a daughter of the notorious Loyalist **Benjamin Beecraft**, S.G. Corporeal Indian Department, who had married **Elizabeth Westbrook.**] [07] [08] **Peter (Laurence) Lawrence, Sr.**, his father, died around 1763 in Killiheen, Limerick, Ireland. Peter's first spouse, **Catherine (nee unknown)** is the mother of **John Lawrence, Sr.** who married **Margaret (nee Switzer) Embury**. Her first spouse is **Philip Embury**, the first Methodist preacher of North America. [09] [10]

**George Lawrence** may have lived in The Camden Colony, Oneida County, New York, with his parents [11] until moving with his parents to St. Armand, Quebec. In 1776, at the time of the declaration of American Independence, he may have moved to Fort Niagara, Upper Canada [12] **See 01**. From there he fought with Butler's Rangers. [13][14][15][16][17] In 1777 he fought under the command of **Ebenezer Jessup** at The Battle of Ticonderoga, New York. [General John Burgoyne was the commander of Ebenezer Jessup.] **George Lawrence** was a prisoner there. [18] **See 03**.

Their first child, **William Lawrence**, was born around May of 1781. On 30 November 1783, **George Lawrence**, Sary, and William are listed in the Return of Loyalists in the Company of Captain Bradt of the Corps of (Butler's) Rangers, Niagara. [19] [20] [21] **See10**.

There is a connection between a Lawrence family and the Camden Valley, or Camden Colony. The Camden Valley is located on the former Wilson-Embury patent. The Wilson-Embury Patent was 10 000 acres.

The area around that little settlement of Ash Grove was much disputed by the "Yorkers", those who ran the NY Colony, and those who ran the "Hampshire Grants" of which current Vermont was a part. Vermont as a state did not come into being until much later. Each political entity claimed the region that would later become Washington County, NY. Ash Grove is still practically within a stone's throw of the Vermont state line.

In fact there is a tiny Ash Grove Cemetery where a few Empeys are buried. It is very difficult to find that cemetery these days. Most graves therein are now unmarked.

**Ethan Allen** and his Green Mountain Boys of Vermont, termed by some historians to have been brutal thugs, regularly harassed the Irish Palatine settlers during the years leading up to the

Revolution. The gang often burned barns, and ran off their livestock. Our ancestors were loyal to England, because The Crown had given them the land, and they were not about to change that allegiance because of those bullies.

Eventually many of the Irish Palatine settlers abandoned their homes, and they fled to safety in Upper Canada.

The area around Cambridge, NY, is beautiful, charming, and full of 18th century history. Ash Grove was just a bit to the east of Cambridge. A couple of original Irish Palatine homes may still stand there.

The Embury family, and other Irish Palatines, established their homes and farms in this area.

Reference to "100 acres, Albany, N.Y." translates to what is now Washington County, NY. At the time the Emburys, Lawrences, Switzers, Empeys and others settled in Ash Grove, that entire area was known as Albany County, NY. The designation of Warren and Washington Counties came much later. [22]

**George Lawrence** seems to have fought in the War of 1812 as well; and it was said of him, "Among these was Messrs. **George Lawrence**, leader at Four Mile Creek . . . Their captivity (at Fort George, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario and prisoner at Albany) was an affliction which made friends more consoling . . . We had the supreme felicity of extending the hospitalities of our humble house in York to Mr. Lawrence, whom we all revered and loved as a father, towards the close of the war, on his way back from captivity. The writer met this saint of God in age and feebleness extreme, and found him rejoicing in hopes of the everlasting rest." In proving this connection, the roll book of **Captain John D. Servos** Company, First Regiment, Lincoln Militia, dated, 7 September 1812, contains a list of persons excused or incapacitated from military, including, **George Lawrence**, Captain, resigned, age 57 years. [23] [24] [25] [26] [27] See 10. There is some confusion about this event, but his son, Private **George Lawrence**, seems to have been taken prisoner at Fort George on 27 May 1813; and he was imprisoned at Pittsfield, Massachusetts. [28] See 26.

**George Lawrence**, Yeoman, also acquired property in the Township of Yarmouth County of Middlesex, District of London, by Order of Council on the 06 April 1813. [29]

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In 1783, his son **William Lawrence** is listed in that census as being 8 months old. [30] There is also a reference to **George Lawrence**, Home District, Soldier Butler's Rangers, 1794, wife 1 child, P.L.N. 1786, *Niagara Stamped Book*. [31] **William Lawrence** died 09 Sep 1864, at the approximate age of 83 years; and he is buried in Bookton Cemetery along with his son, **William Francis Lawrence**, and **Elizabeth Ann Longstreet**. So, there is a slight discrepancy of two years in the determination of William's age. [32-36] **Calvin Lawrence**, former Mayor of St. Thomas, at his Silver Wedding Anniversary in 1907, stated that ". . . his mother, (**Elizabeth Ann Longstreet**) . . . belonged to a family of United Empire Loyalists, while his father was a Canadian of Irish descent." [37]

In trying to determine the history of the Lawrence family in various Ontario locations, we learn, the following:

(1) **Calvin LAWRENCE** from 1906 to 1907, a Michigan Central Railway engineer, later was a lobbyist in Ottawa for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. Lawrence Street East, originally Curtis Street East, disappeared from the map in the early 1880's to later reappear as Lawrence Avenue in the city's southeast. But Lawrence also was the family name of a **George Lawrence**, an early settler, and the exact origin of the street name is unknown. [38]

(2) **Thomas Curtis** and **George Lawrence**, and subsequently **George Scott**, were the landowners upon whose lands the northern part of the town was built, while . . . This would tend to confirm the presence of a **George Lawrence** in St. Thomas, Ontario. [39]

(3) In 1814, according to a list of the sufferers furnished by **Colonel Talbot**: **George Lawrence**, a wife and three children were present in Ancaster Township. [40]

(4) **George B. Lawrence**, Flank Company, 1st Regiment, Lincoln Militia, is likely a reference to **George B(all?) Lawrence**, a son of **George Lawrence, Sr.** There has been some confusion about whether the son or the father had the rank of Captain. [41]

(5) The Talbot Road Upper Canada Land Petitions notes that a yeoman of Yarmouth wished to become a settler on the Talbot Road, was prepared to pay fees and perform settling duties, and asked for 100 acres. The surveyor General noted that a person named **George Lawrence**, a reduced Ranger, had received 100 acres in the township of Niagara and 400 acres in the township of Ancaster, but could not verify that he was the same person. That petition was approved thus implying a different man than the one in Niagara and Ancaster. [42] [43]

(6) Of Niagara, son of **George Laurence** of Niagara, and enrolled U.E. Loyalist, is of full age of 21 years has taken the Oath of Allegiance, was granted land on 20 May 1817. **George Laurence** the Elder of Niagara had testified to his identity. So, we can conclude that **George [Ball?] Lawrence**, son of **George Lawrence, Sr.**, is the person present in St. Thomas. And, it is very likely that Lawrence Avenue is named either after him, or his father. [44]

**Sarah Lawrence** was born in 1779. [45] See 04. Her brother, **Anthony Beecraft**, served in the Indian Department in the American War. Both **Anthony Beecraft** (23Nov1816) and **James Beecraft** (25Nov1816) received land on **(Isaac) Fairchild's** Creek by Order of Council. She asks for "the usual quantity of land generally given to the daughters of Loyalists." Her identity is testified to by **W. Ball**, J.P., who adds that her maiden name was **Sarah Beacroft**, and that her father was a staunch and friend to the government, and that he set out to join His Majesty's Forces in 1777 but found it "impracticable, and was much harassed for his attachment to the Crown, and was sent prisoner to New England" She was not recommended because her father was still living in the U.S., and was not in jail. [46]

**George Lawrence** is a founder of Lawrenceville, Lincoln County in 1784. The early inhabitants called it the 'Four Mile Creek Settlement'. It is where the Four Mile Creek Road met the Black Swamp Road. The community slowly grew, and consisted of a few farmhouses. Mills were later built on the Four Mile Creek. **George Lawrence** and **John C. Ball** laid out the village. Its first name was 'Crossroads'. In the very early days, the Church of England, the Baptists and the Methodists all had a strong religious following in the village. Because **George Lawrence**, a Methodist, stood out as an outstanding leader in the Methodist Church, the community decided to name their village 'Lawrenceville'. Lawrenceville was later renamed 'Virgil'. [47] In that year he took an Oath of Allegiance to The Crown. The Muster Roll of 10 July 1784 lists him as a Loyalist. [48]

In 1786, he completed service to The Crown in Butler's Rangers. [49] [50] In 1792, he also received land entitlement of 550 acres in the District of Nassau, Ancaster Township, Wentworth County, Ontario. [It should be noted that **James Beecraft**, born in Nassau District, Ancaster Township, Wentworth County, Ontario, born on 23 February 1794, a son of **Benjamin Beecraft**, received land on 25Nov1816 by Order of Council, and he settled in the Grand River area of Brantford Township, Brant County. **James Beecraft** is recorded in the 1816 *Assessment of the Grand River Tract* with 160 acres uncultivated and 40 acres cultivated. **James Beecraft** changed his surname to **James Bigcraft** in 1818 Assessment in which he had 150 acres uncultivated and

45 cultivated.] This would seem to confirm some kind of a connection between **George Lawrence** and the family of his spouse.

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**George Lawrence** was an Anglican until he became a Methodist in 1798. [51] By 1828 he had been a Methodist teacher in Virgil for twenty years. His son **William Lawrence** had married **Mary Cudney** on 01 April 1804 at St. Mark's Anglican Church, Niagara. [52] On 10 July 1806, by Order of Council, he received Lots 1, Con 3 on the Halton-Peel County line, Trafalgar Township, Halton County, Ontario. He resided in Trafalgar Township between 1812-1858. Although this is so, **William Lawrence's** son, **William Francis Lawrence**, born 18 July 1819, Trafalgar Township, Halton County, was a New Connection (Ryanite / Wesleyan) Methodist. The Irish Palatines of County Limerick were traditionally Methodists. Thus, the grandchildren were Methodists as well.

On 07 May 1843, at the Cross Roads, or Virgil, near Niagara, when **George Lawrence** was 83 years old, his spouse died. **Sarah (nee Beecraft) Lawrence** is buried in Grace Methodist United Cemetery, Niagara. Two old gray stones, one belonging to **Sarah Beecraft**, age 64, are burials there, previous to any burials in either St. Andrew's, or St. Vincent de Paul Graveyard. [53]

In this small graveyard (in Virgil) is a stone to one who is a saint. He was prisoner at the capture of Niagara, and he was for a long time class leader in the village named after him. The tombstone is inscribed, "**George Lawrence**, born March 26th, 1757, died August 5th, 1848, AE, 91 years." [54] See 01. [55] [56] See 23.

#### Irish Palatine Ancestry of Captain George Lawrence and Sarah Beecraft

1. **George Lawrence, Sr.**, born 26 March 1757 in Ballingrane, County Limerick, Ireland, died 05 August 1848 in Virgil, Lincoln County, Ontario.

He married **Sarah Beecraft**, in Niagara, who was possibly born in Ancaster Township, Wentworth County, Ontario, died 07 May 1843 at The Cross Roads.

#### Parents

2. **Peter (Laurence) Lawrence, Sr.**, born 1704 in Killiheen, County Limerick, Ireland, died 1763 in Killiheen, County Limerick, Ireland. He married (1) **Catherine (nee unknown)** after 1740. She was born 1721, and died before c. 1753. He married (2) **Agnes Benner**, married c. 1753 in Killiheen, County Limerick, Ireland. She was born on 1731 in Courtmatrix or Shehanagh, County Limerick, Ireland, and died in St. Armand, Quebec, and is buried in The St. Armand Cemetery.

Children:

- i. **John Lawrence, Sr.**, b. 1742, d. 24 Feb 1822,
- ii. **Peter Lawrence, Jr.**, b. 1761,
- iii. **Elizabeth Lawrence**, b. 1754,
- iv. **George Lawrence, Sr.**, b. 26 Mar 1757, d. 05 Aug 1848,
- v. **Agnes Lawrence**, b. 1763, d. 12 Sep 1764.

3. **Agnes Benner**, b. 1731 in Courtmatrix or Shehanagh, County Limerick, Ireland, d. Jul 1832 in St. Armand, Quebec, buried in St. Armand Cemetery, Lower Canada, Quebec. She married (2) **Peter Miller**, married 07 Oct 1765 in The Manor of Rathkeale, Courtmatrix, County Limerick, Ireland, b. 1740 in Courtmatrix, County Limerick, Ireland, d. 1819 in St. Armand, buried in St. Armand Cemetery, Lower Canada, Quebec. She married (1) **Peter (Laurence) Lawrence, Sr.**, married, c. 1753, Killiheen, County Limerick, Ireland, b. 1704 in Killiheen, County Limerick, Ireland, d. 1763, Killiheen, County Limerick, Ireland.

Children:

- i. **Mary Miller**, b. 20Jun1766, d.1855,
- ii. **Charles Miller**, b. 1772,
- iii. **Catherine Miller**, b. 1772, d.1834,
- iv. **Elizabeth Lawrence**, b. 1754,
- v. **George Lawrence**, Sr., b. 26Mar1757, d. 05Aug1848,
- vi. **Agnes Lawrence**, b. 1763, d. 12Sep1764.

#### Grand Parents

4. **Johann Nicholas Lorentz**, b. 1670, Kaiserslautern, The Palatinate, d. 1715. He married **Margarth Ruckle**.

Children:

- i. **Peter (Laurence) Lawrence, Sr.**, b.1704, d. 1763,
- ii. **George Lawrence**, b. 1707, d. 13Apr1758,
- iii. **Mary Lawrence**, b. 1700/1708, d. 01Jul1763.

5. **Margarth Ruckle**, b. 1675 in Lower Palatinate, d. 1710.

6. **Paul Benner**, b. 1684 on the **Sir Thomas Southwell** Estate, Rathkeale, County Limerick, Ireland, d. 1760. He married **Elizabeth Ruttle**.

Children:

- i. **John Benner, Sr.**, b. 1729, d. 1784,
- ii. **Agnes Benner**, b. 1731, d. Jul1832,
- iii. **Henry Benner**, b. 1731, d. 1806.

7. **Elizabeth Ruttle**.

#### Great Grand Parents

10. **Casper Roeckle**, born in the Lower Palatinate, d. 15Jul1751 in Ireland.

Children:

- i. **Sebastian Roeckel**,
- ii. **Margarth Ruckle**, b. 1675, d. 1710.

#### Children of Captain George Lawrence and Sarah Beecraft

Their other children received the land grants by Order of Council on the following dates:

20 August 1811 - **John** of Niagara,  
 20 May 1817 - **Peter** of Thorold,  
 20 May 1817 - **Elizabeth** (spouse of **John Emmett** of Grantham),  
 20 May 1817 - **George** of Niagara,  
 06 March 1822 - **Benjamin** of Niagara, and  
 02 July 1829 - **James** of Niagara. [57]

**John Ball Lawrence**, born 1785, Louth, Niagara, Virgil area, married (1) unknown date, unknown place, **Maria (nee unknown)**, and (2) 06 January 1825, Niagara, **Catherine Burtch**, died 1851.

With **Maria (nee unknown)**, they had the following children:

**Luke Lawrence**, born 1806, Ancaster Township, Wentworth County, Ontario, Canada, married (1) 18 September 1855, Lawrenceville, **Margaret (nee Smith) Conover** [*The Mail*: Wednesday 26 Sept 1855],  
 (2) 10 September 1832, Virgil, Niagara Township, Lincoln, Ontario, **Maria Corus**, and

(3) 26 June 1866, unknown place, **Elizabeth Coon**.

By his first spouse, **Robert Lawrence** was born in 1860, Ancaster Township, Ontario. He married in 1844, unknown place, **Agnes Perdy**.

By his second spouse, there were the following children:

- (1) **Mary Lawrence**, born 16 Aug 1833, Niagara-on-the-Lake, married (1) c. 1854, Of, Jerseyville, Wentworth, Ontario, **Vernal Sumer House**, died 22 Mar 1918, buried, Jerseyville, Ancaster Township, Wentworth County, Ontario;
- (2) **Elizabeth Lawrence**, born 1835;
- (3) **Rachel Lawrence**, born 1837;
- (4) **William Henry Lawrence**, born 16 September 1834, Ancaster Township, married 05 JUN 1862, Brant County, Ontario, **Catherine H. Keys**, died after 1901;
- (5) **John Ryerson Lawrence**, born 04 Apr 1841, Gore, Dumfries Township, married 19 Sep 1864, Oxford County, Ontario, Canada, **Jane Pettit**, died after 1900;
- (6) **Peter Schwartz Lawrence**, born 25 Feb 1843, Trafalgar Township, Halton County, Ontario, married (1) **Margaret Margurite Smith**, 21 Mar 1878, Palermo, Oakville, Halton County, Ontario, and (2) **Catherine Clements**, died, 15 Apr 1915;
- (7) **Martha Lawrence**, married **Justus Vansickle**; and
- (8) **Libby Anne Lawrence**, born 1849.

A sibling of **Luke Lawrence** is **Salome Lawrence**, born 1809, married Niagara area, **John Bellinger**. They were childless.

Another sibling of **Luke Lawrence** is **Rachel Lawrence**, born 12 February 1813, married 25 April 1833, **Peter Henry Swartz**, died 12 April 1889, buried, Jerseyville, Ancaster Township, Wentworth County, Ontario. They had six children.

And the last sibling of **Luke Lawrence** is **Eliza Jane Lawrence**, born 1818, married in the Niagara area, **Daniel Servos Whitmore**.

**Peter Lawrence**, born 1796, married **Anna Longhurst?**, died unknown date. There were no known children.

**Elizabeth Lawrence**, born 1787, Niagara, married (1) **John Emmett**, (2) 20 Sep 1836, St. Thomas, Ontario, **John H. Ferguson**, died 20 May 1861. She had four children with **John Emmett**. With **John H. Ferguson** there were no known children.

**George Ball Lawrence**, born 1792, married (1) **Catherine (nee unknown)**, (2) 23 February 1865, Lincoln and Welland, **Delilah Burtch**, (3) 1840, **Sarah Jane McDonald**, (4) unknown spouse. The following are his children:

With **Catherine**, he had **George M. Lawrence**.

With **Sarah Jane McDonald**, he had seven children.

With **Delilah Burtch**, he had no children.

With unknown spouse, he had **Margaret Lawrence**.

**Benjamin Lawrence**, born 1789, Niagara Township, Lincoln County, Ontario, Canada, married 1822, Niagara District, **Elizabeth Ann (Eliza Ann) Haines**, died 22 August 1862. They had six children.

**James Francis Lawrence**, born 1805-1811, Niagara Township, Lincoln County, Ontario, Canada, married **Frances "Fanny" Graham**, died after 1851. They had seven children.

This writer has more details for both their children and their descendants. [howardl@inreach.com]

## Citations:

[01] Family Tradition: Ray Palmer Lawrence, my father, spoke to me about Loyalists and the Lawrence family being in Vermont prior to The American Revolution. He is the son of Sylvester Lawrence who married Araminta Palmer. His brother is Calvin Lawrence. Their parents are William Francis Lawrence and Elizabeth Ann Longstreet. My first cousin, Lois Sutor who married John Cliveden Greenall, is a daughter of Emory Sutor who married Anne (Ann) Lois Lawrence, a daughter of Sylvester Lawrence who married Elizabeth Leotta Whittington. She stated that family lore has the Lawrence family coming to Upper Canada from Pennsylvania.

[02] Beth: glassbybeth@aol.com  
Place: Pennsylvania  
Year: 1765 ←  
Primary Immigrant: Lawrence, George ←  
Source Code: 2564  
Source Publication:  
Giuseppi, Montague Spencer, editor. *Naturalizations of Foreign Protestants in the American and West Indian Colonies (Pursuant to Statute 13 George II, c.7)*. (Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, 1921, vol. 24.) Manchester [England]: The Huguenot Society of London, 1921. 196p. Reprinted by Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1964. Repr. 1979.

### Source Annotation:

Data derived from return-forms connected with the naturalization of foreign Protestants, papers that were sent from the Colonies to the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations. Transcribed from two Entry Books, once the property of the Board of Trade and Plantations, now with the Colonial Office in the Public Record Office, London. Much other information. Contains returns from the West Indies, North and South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, New York and Pennsylvania. A more complete record of New York naturalizations can be found in no. 9860, Wolfe, and for Pennsylvania in no. 6680.

Source Page Number: 136

### [03]

Information from Faye Lyall via Fred H. Hayward . . . fhhayward@idirect.com :

Lawrence, George- Palatine family, b 1757, Limerick, Ireland, settled in Camden Valley NY, with stepfather Peter Miller, and then at St. Armand, Quebec. Fought under Ebenezer Jessup at Tyconderoga 1777. M. Sarah? (where/when), had a son William, (Where/when) and then settled in Newark/Virgil area of Niagara, in 1783 on his grant of land. Fought with Butler's Rangers, and was taken prisoner by the Americans during the 1812 war. Other children were Elizabeth (m. John Emmett), John, Peter, James, Benjamin, George Jr. All Info appreciated, especially from descendants. Mrs. Bruce G. Lyall, Agincourt."

George Lawrence was at the Battle of Bennington, Vermont.

George Lawrence was a prisoner in both The Revolutionary War, and The War of 1812.

[04] Carnochan, Janet, *History of Niagara (in part): with fifty illustrations*, Toronto, Ontario: William Briggs, 1914, p. 183

Source: Our Roots: Canada's Local Histories Online is made possible with the support of Canadian Heritage through the Canadian Culture Online Strategy and the support of partner institutions across Canada by the University of Calgary, and the Université Laval, Copyright 2006

Date of Access: 21 Nov 2008:

<http://www.ourroots.ca/e/page.aspx?id=782887>

[05] Editor, Karen Edge, [k.edge@m.cc.utah.edu](mailto:k.edge@m.cc.utah.edu), *IRISH-CANADIAN LIST*, May 1995, Part III. Date of Access: 16 Nov 2008:

<http://ftp.aset.psu.edu/genealogy/roots-l/genealog/genealog.icl3>

[06] Heald, Carolyn A., *The Irish Palatines in Ontario: Religion, Ethnicity and Rural Migration*, Gananique, Ontario: Langdale Press, 1994: p. 22.

[07] UCLP L Misc./5 1796-1797 C2138 *Upper Canada Land Petitions*

[08] "Return of Persons who are Reduced to Great Distress by the War", *Documentary History, Campaign Upon the Niagara Frontier, Niagara District*, 02 Feb 1814, p. 159.

[09] Reid, William D., *Death Notices of Ontario*, Lambeertville, New Jersey: Hunterdon House, 1980.

Permanent Entry Number: 1980555  
Accession Number: 8643442

[10] Withrow, William Henry, *Neville Trueman the Pioneer Preacher*

"Mr. Case says the Canadian prisoners 'were militia in arms,' but Mr. Lawrence was an exception. The reader will remember that he was one of the Methodist Palatine stock, and brother of John Lawrence, the second husband of Mrs. Philip Embury. In the war-time he was so advanced in years as to be exempt from militia duty, although his sons bore arms, and one of them was wounded the day his father was taken prisoner. Mr. Lawrence, senior, kept about the peaceful avocations of his farm, and continued to meet his little class in his own house in those stormy times. He was made a prisoner at his own door at Cross-Roads. [Footnote: About four half a mile from Mr. Lawrence's residence. A general skirmish (h)ad taken place all that morning between the pickets and advanced guards of the two armies. A body of only ten American Indians, or white men disguised like Indians, advanced toward Mr. Lawrence's, where an officer's mess was kept and a guard of thirty soldiers posted.

The Americans were then in the occupancy of Fort George, and a portion of the British army were entrenched at the Cross-Roads, about miles west of Niagara.] The writer, though only a child of four years, was there, and remembers well his arrest, as he does, all events consecutively since the battle of Niagara.

Date of Access: 16 Nov 2008: <http://www.pos1.info/n/vltm.htm>

[11] St. Catherines Journal Aug. 10, 1848 Obit from Christian Guardian  
George Lawrence, Sr., . . .came to Vermont, U.S.A. at age of 10 years from Limerick.

[13] Smy, William A., Lieutenant Colonel, *Book Notes: Butler's Rangers, 1776-1786*, "An Annotated Nominal Roll of Butler's Rangers 1777-1786 with Documentary Sources,"

[14] George Laurence - H District of the in the Old United Empire Loyalist List Appendix B, p. 204. Soldier B Rangers C. B. N 1794, a wife and one child, P.L.N 1786, Stamped Book Niagara.

[15] Lawrence, George.... Home District, Soldier Butler's Rangers, 1794, wife 1 child, P.L.N. 1786, Niagara stamped book; & + James

Date of Access: 16 Nov 2008:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/%7Eapassageintime/uelist/l.ue.html>

[16] *An Annotated Nominal Roll of Butler's Rangers 1777 – 1784*,

Date of Access: 16 Nov 2008:

<http://www.brockloyalisthistorycollection.ca/butlernominalroll.html>

[17] Smy, William A., Lieutenant Colonel, *Book Notes: Butler's Rangers, 1776-1786*, "An Annotated Nominal Roll of Butler's Rangers 1777-1786 with Documentary Sources,"

[18] See 03.

Prisoner at Ticonderoga [New York State on the road east of the Hudson River towards Vermont.]

Loyalist Muster Roll of 1777 being the "ROLL OF THE OFFICERS, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS & PRIVATES OF ROYALISTS WHO HAVE SERVED UNDER GENERAL BURGOYNE'S LAST CAMPAIGN; AND THOSE WHO CAME IN FOR PROTECTION; AND THOSE WHO WERE TAKEN PRISONER AT BENNINGTON AND AT DIFFERENT PLACES; AND KILLED; BELONGING TO THE CORPS UNDER MY COMMAND. DATED AT CHATEAUGUAY, 20TH DECEMBER 1777." PRISONERS WITH THE REBELS.

Date of Access: 16 Nov 2008:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyrensse/muster1.htm>

[19] See 17.



Butler's Rangers were a military unit formed in support of the British [American Loyalists] during the American Revolution, who with their Native allies became a formidable fighting unit. The Nominal Roll lists approximately 900 men who fought with the Butler's Rangers and gives a brief biography of each.

[20] Miller, Orlo, *Raiders of the Mohawk, The Story of Butler's Rangers*.

Preview the Book (Historical Overview)

The Corps of Rangers commanded by Lieutenant Colonel John Butler was raised in 1777 and served until the general reduction of the British Army in North America in 1784.

The Rangers were headquartered at Fort Niagara, first living in garrison, and then in barracks on the west side of the Niagara River. While the Corps fought as a major unit at Wyoming, Cherry Valley, Chemung, on Sir John Johnson and Major John Ross's raids, most of the expeditions were mounted by company or company plus sized units. A key factor in the successes of the Rangers was the close co-operation of the various Indian nations with which it served. The Corps fought in what is now New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia, Kentucky and Michigan. Military historians as the most active and successful Provincial Corps in the Northern Command have described it during the Revolution.

Date of Access: 16 Nov 2008:

<http://www.brockloyalsthistorycollection.ca/butlernominalroll.html>

[21] See 10.

[22]

From: Susan Willig <Larkspur@cox.net>  
From: "Susan Willig" <valcour@earthlink.net>  
Subject: [IP] Washington County, NY  
Date: Wed, 24 Jan 2007 16:27:31 -0700

[23] Carol, John, *Biographical History of Methodism in Canada*, Toronto: Samuel Rose/Wesleyan Printing, 1867

[24] Carroll, John, *Case and his Contemporaries*. Vol. I., 1877, pp. 316-20.

"Our preachers on the lines have frequent opportunities of preaching to the soldiers, who are very fond of hearing. We find it necessary to avoid all political discussions, both in public and in private.

"Having been kindly indulged by Col. Larned, commandant to the prisoners, we most joyfully embraced the privilege of proclaiming to them the sweet liberty of the Gospel. They were called together by their officers, and a more attentive congregation I never expect to address again. As soon as we began to sing there was weeping; and immediately on our kneeling to prayer they all knelt down, and here and there we heard the voice of 'Amen' to our petition for their salvation. I could not solve this till after the service. To my great surprise and mingled grief and joy, several brethren and acquaintances from Canada came and made themselves known unto us; they were militia in arms, and were taken near Fort George. Among these were Messrs. George Lawrence, leader at Four-Mile Creek; William Clinton, from the head of the lake, and Russel Hawley, brother of David Hawley, of the Bay of Quinte. Their captivity was an affliction which made friends more consoling."

Carroll, John, *Case and his Cotemporaries*, 1877, pp. 320-22.

On this statement, Dr. Carroll thus comments:

"Mr. Case says the Canadian prisoners 'were militia in arms,' but Mr. Lawrence was an exception. The reader will remember that he was one of the Methodist Palatine stock, and brother of John Lawrence, the second husband of Mrs. Philip Embury. In the war- time he was so advanced in years as to be exempt from militia duty, although his sons bore arms, and one of them was wounded the day his father was taken prisoner. Mr. Lawrence, senior, kept about the peaceful avocations of his farm, and continued to meet his little class in his own house in those stormy times. He was made a prisoner at his own door at Cross-Roads. [Footnote: About four miles west of Niagara.] The writer, though only a child of four years, was there, and remembers well his arrest, as he does, all events consecutively since the battle of Niagara. The Americans were then in the occupancy of Fort George, and a portion of the British army were entrenched at the Cross-Roads, about half a mile from Mr. Lawrence's residence. A general skirmish had taken place all that morning between the pickets and advanced guards of the two armies. A body of only ten American Indians, or white men disguised like Indians, advanced toward Mr. Lawrence's, where an officer's mess was kept and a guard of thirty soldiers posted.

"The cowardly officer of the guard, one \_McLeod\_ (let his name go down to posterity), threatened to 'cut off the first man's head who fired a shot;' and they fled to the camp, leaving the women and children to the mercy of the savages. These latter, when they came up, shot a corporal of the Glengaries, a Mr. Smith, who chanced to be there, and who boldly stood on his defence. Mr. Lawrence thinking the matter some \_emeute\_ between the soldiers and our own Indians, passed through the front gate into the road and gave one of the \_savages\_ his hand, who took and held it, while another came up with an angry countenance and grasped the old gentleman by the neck-cloth, and made him a prisoner. He and poor

Smith, whom only the courage of a woman, Mrs. Cassaily, kept the savages from killing outright in the house, whither he had crawled, were led; away from our sight. Smith died on the road. The alarm was given before any one had broken last. We all fled. The writer's mother and her four youngest children, passing the camp, found the army preparing for March, and an elder son and brother just mounting his horse with a view to coming to our rescue. We followed the retreating army through the Black Swamp road all that weary day, and broke a twenty-four hours' fast at sunset. We had the supreme felicity of extending the hospitalities of our humble house in York to Mr. Lawrence, whom we all revered and loved as a father, towards the close of the war, on his way back from captivity."

Date of Access: 16 Nov 2008:

[http://www.schulers.com/books/wi/n/Neville\\_Trueman\\_the\\_Pioneer\\_Preacher/Neville\\_Trueman\\_the\\_Pioneer\\_Preacher17.htm](http://www.schulers.com/books/wi/n/Neville_Trueman_the_Pioneer_Preacher/Neville_Trueman_the_Pioneer_Preacher17.htm)

[25] Patrick20@comcast.net

Niagara District, 1st Lincoln Militia, Captain George Lawrence shows recorded as having resigned in July 1812. There was also a George B. Lawrence, who was a private in the District of Niagra, 1st Lincoln, 1st Flank Company (possibly later on). Also and it does not identify his Regiment, there was a Private George Lawrence taken prisoner at Fort George, May 27, 1813, and removed and imprisoned at Pittsfield Mass., in the US. General Hull did not invade Canada until July 12th 1812, and abandoned his offensive Aug. 8th returning to the US without much conflict, and the Battle of Fort George was not until May 27, 1813.

[26] Lincoln Militia, War of 1812, " From letters written during the War of 1812 -14"

The roll book of Captain John D. Servos's company of militia contains a list of persons excused or incapacitated from military service that is not without some local interest.

Roll of males in the limits of Captain John D. Servos's Company 1st Regt. (Lincoln Militia), September 7, 1812.

Age	Name	Infirm	Remarks
-----	------	--------	---------

57	George Lawrence		Capt. militia, resigned
62	Ezekiel Cudney		
50	John Ball		Magistrate
71	Johnathan Lawrence		

Date of Access: 21 November 2008:

<http://www.sandycline.com/history/Lincmilitia.html>

[27] See 10.

[28] See 26.

[29] Grant to George Lawrence, Township Of Yarmouth, County of, F.F., Dec. 7th 4125, Reg.'d 6 July ????, Emigrated ????, Township of Yarmouth County of Middlesex, District of London, Yeoman, Lot number 48 on the north side of Talbot Road East. . . Order of Council 6thApril1813 under the administration of, . . .Roger M. ???, Past President of Regulations of 6Jul1804---.S.O.G. fiat no. 939 patent fee??? paid Description Number 4125.R.J. C.O. No. 906 to the Receiver General 25Nov1818. . .R.G.O. No. 934 The settling duty certified by Col. Talbot. . .A.G.O. No. 1413, 14 April1813, to ??? been faithfully performed.

[30] 30 Nov 1783 *Census of Niagara*: George Larence aged 26, his wife Sary aged 21, their son William 8 months.

[31] Lawrence, George.... Home District, Soldier Butler's Rangers, 1794, wife 1 child, P.L.N. 1786, Niagara stamped book; & + James

Date of Access: 17 Nov 2008:

<<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/%7Eapassageintime/uelist/l.ue.html>>

[32] Bookton Cemetery, Windham Township, Norfolk County, Ontario, Contributed by Murray E. Fair [murrayfair@rogers.com]. Date of Access: 16 Nov 2008:

[http://www.interment.net/data/canada/ontario/norfolk/windham/bookton/book\\_kz.htm](http://www.interment.net/data/canada/ontario/norfolk/windham/bookton/book_kz.htm)

Lawrence, Abigail C., d. ? ??? 18??, dau/o ?? & ?? Lawrence  
Lawrence, Eley A., d. 8 Jul 1870, 15 y, 4 m, 14 d, dau/o William & ?? Lawrence  
Lawrence, Florence O., b. 1880, d. 1880  
Lawrence, James, b. 1809, d. 1886  
Lawrence, James, b. 1849 d. 1928, h/o Melissa S. Lawrence (Cornell)  
Lawrence, John G., b. 1874, d. 1886  
Lawrence, John, d. 21 Sep 1861, 12 y, 3 m, 6 d, son/o Wm. & Elizabeth Lawrence ←  
Lawrence, Mary Ann, b. 1817, d. 1906  
Lawrence, Mary J., d. 24 Mar 1859, 7 y, 7 m, 16 d, dau/o Wm. & Elizabeth A. Lawrence ←  
Lawrence, Melissa S. (Cornell), b. 1856, d. 1928, w/o James Lawrence  
Lawrence, William Francis, d. 12 Feb 1888, 36 y, 6 m, 4 dys ←  
Lawrence, William, d. 9 Sep 1864, 83 yrs ←  
Lawrence, Wm. F., d. 18 Mar 1896, 77 y, 9 mons ←

**[33]**

Ontario Cemetery Finding Aid:

14 matches, page: 1

Surname Given Name Cemetery County Township Reference  
LAWRENCE Abigail Bookton Norfolk Windham NR-90-58  
LAWRENCE E. Bookton Norfolk Windham NR-90-58 ←  
LAWRENCE Elizabeth A. Bookton Norfolk Windham NR-90-58 ←  
LAWRENCE Florence D. Bookton Norfolk Windham NR-90-58  
LAWRENCE James Bookton Norfolk Windham NR-90-58  
LAWRENCE John Bookton Norfolk Windham NR-90-58  
LAWRENCE John C. Bookton Norfolk Windham NR-90-58  
LAWRENCE Mary Ann Bookton Norfolk Windham NR-90-58  
LAWRENCE Mary J. Bookton Norfolk Windham NR-90-58  
LAWRENCE W. Bookton Norfolk Windham NR-90-58  
LAWRENCE William Bookton Norfolk Windham NR-90-58 ←  
LAWRENCE William E. Bookton Norfolk Windham NR-90-58  
LAWRENCE William F. Bookton Norfolk Windham NR-90-58 ←  
LAWRENCE William Francis Bookton Norfolk Windham NR-90-58

**[34]**

Murray Fair [murrayfair@rogers.com](mailto:murrayfair@rogers.com)

I made a trip out to Bookton Cemetery yesterday and checked out the LAWRENCE monuments. I cannot find a monument or grave marker for Elizabeth Ann (Langestraat) Longstreet, spouse of Wm. F. (Francis) LAWRENCE. I did find an old slab type monument lying on the concrete foundation beside the monument for Lawrence, William Francis, d. 12 Feb 1888, 36 y, 6 m, 4 dys.

This slab type monument is broken into three pieces and the inscription is completely obliterated. I was unable to read anything from it at all. I would suggest to you that it is possibly Elizabeth Ann's monument, but there's no way of knowing for sure. This is the best that I can do for you.

As for the Ontario Cemetery Finding Aid, OCFA, yes I'm familiar with it and I often refer to it, but I do not use any records from that site as it could result in a copy of infringement. The records on OCFA are compiled from records supplied by each Ontario Genealogical Society Branch.

**[35]**

The exact wording on several stones in the Bookton Cemetery may be of help. According to one headstone, William and Elizabeth Lawrence did have a son named William Francis. That headstone says: "William Francis 2nd son of W & E Lawrence Died Feb 12, 1888 Aged 36 yrs. 6 mos. 4 dys." (This death date is 10 years earlier than your first email mentions). Another nearby stone says: "In memory of Wm. F. Lawrence Died Mar. 18, 1896 Aged 77 yrs. 9 mos."

Despite the suggestion from the computerized listing from the Ontario Cemetery Finding Aid, that there are several W. Lawrence's buried in the Bookton cemetery, the actual headstone transcriptions publication makes it clear that there are only the two above named buried there. FYI, the earlier listing for a William Lawrence d. Sept. 9 1864, was revised in the 2005 Ontario Genealogical Society publication to read William Lawrence LEE with a note that the stone was broken as of 2005.

North York Central Library  
Canadiana Department  
5120 Yonge Street  
Toronto ON M2N 5N9  
Reference Desk [416] 395-5623

Please note our new email address: [clca@torontopubliclibrary.ca](mailto:clca@torontopubliclibrary.ca)

[36]

Name: William Francis Lawrence ←  
Spouse Name: Susannah Elizabeth Lee ←  
Marriage Date: 25 Jul 1883  
Marriage Place: Orillia Township  
Registration Number: 37784  
Archives of Ontario Microfilm: 44  
Source: Indexed by: Genealogical Research Library ←

[37] *St. Thomas Times Journal*, 1907

[38] Eric Bunnell, "The Streets of St.Thomas" *TIMES JOURNAL*, 27 June 1981

Date of Access: 19 Nov2008:

<http://www.elginogs.ca/talbottimes/talbottimes1988sep.htm>

[39] Ermatinger, C. O., "The Talbot Regime, or, The first Half Century of the Talbot Settlement, St. Thomas": *Municipal World*, 1904, p.119.

[40] In 1814, according to a list of the sufferers furnished by Colonel Talbot: George Lawrence, a wife and three children were present in Ancaster Township.

[41] Lauber, Wilfred, *Index, Land Claim Certificates, UC Militiamen, War of 1812-1814*, p. 53 pp 1361-1364

[42] Talbot Road UCLP L2/36 C214 *Upper Canada Land Petitions*

[43] Crowder, Norman K., *Early Settlers of Ontario*, Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore (1993), p. 185.

[44] UCLP L11/12 C2126 *Upper Canada Land Petitions*

[45] See 04.

[46] UCLP L Misc./5 1796-1797 C2138 *Upper Canada Land Petitions*

[47] Carnochan, Janet, *History of Niagara, Streets and Maps*, William Briggs, Toronto, Ontario, 1914, p. 101.

Date of Access: 25 Nov2008:

<http://www.ourroots.ca/e/page.aspx?id=782791>

[48] *War Chipman Papers*, Muster General's Office, - Loyalist Musters, 1776-1765, Public Archives of Canada, N.G. 23, D1, SERIES I, VOLUME 24, pages 1- 470.

[49] Lawrence, George.... Home District, Soldier Butler's Rangers, 1794, wife 1 child, P.L.N. 1786, Niagara stamped book; & + James

Date of Access: 16 Nov 2008:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/%7Eapassageintime/uelist/l.ue.html>

[50] George Laurence is listed with a wife and child 1786, Soldier B. Rangers. Crowder, Norman K., *Early Ontario Settlers, A Source Book*, Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1993, p. 185, "1786 Provisioning Lists, Loyalist Victualing List at Niagara of M Tenbroecks District, 14 9ber [November] 1786, "Index Number J500. It reads, 1 man, 1 woman, 1 boy, total 3, Rations per Day 2 1/2.

[51] Rev. Donald McKenzie, Death Notices, *Christian Guardian*, 1836-1850, 1982, p 186: LAWRENCE, George. . .attended the Episcopal Church until c. 50 years ago, when he joined the Methodist Church.

[52] Marriages Notices, *Welland Telegraph & Welland Tribune*, 1871-1875

[53] Carnochan, Janet, *Inscriptions and Graves in Niagara Peninsula*, "Grace United - Methodist Graveyard", 147 pp.

Date of Access: 21 November 2008:

<http://www.sandycline.com/history/grave1.html>

- [54] McKenzie, Rev. Donald, "Death Notices, *Christian Guardian, 1836-1850*", 1982, p 186.
- [55] Hutchinson, Paul, *Niagara Newspaper Index*, Slabtown Website, in the SJC 10 August 1848, page 3, column 4.
- [56] See 23.
- [57] Reid, William, *The Loyalists of Ontario*, Hunterdown House, Lambertville, New Jersey,