

Biography of Loyalist, Jasper Stymest Esq.

By

Carl Stymiest UE

Notes taken from:

“Down By the Old Mill Stream– A Stymiest Chronicle”
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Brother to Loyalist Benjamin Stymiest II, and Uncle to Loyalist, Benjamin Stymiest III; Jasper was the twelfth child of Benjamin Stymiest I and Sara Emmans. The book, "NB Loyalists: A Bicentennial Tribute" by Sharon Dubeau says that "Jasper was from Westchester Co., NY. (CS) In other sources cited, Jasper is recorded as being a native of Long Island, NY". (CS)

Jasper and Milcah Amelia (McKeel) Stymiest had nine children in total. In one source, only 8 children's recorded birth dates is listed (Staney (Stanley) Stymiest is missing in this record) The Nine children are listed as follows: (It is believed that these dates are approximations based upon census records.)(CS)

Benjamin Michael Stymest-Abt 1787; m. Eleanor Thomas , daughter of Henry Thomas; **Catharine** Stymest-Abt 1789; m. John Stevens, son of Shubael Stevens and Martha Howe; **Elizabeth** Stymest-Abt 1792; m. Andrew Hutchinson; **Amelia** Stymest-Abt 1794; m. Henry McAdam; **Sarah** Stymest-Abt 1796; m. Ruben Watts; **Deborah Wildy** Stymest-Abt 1799; m. Samuel Spence, daughter of William Spence and Katherine Irvine; **Charlotte Ann** Stymest-Abt 1802; m. Solomon S Knight; **Jesse McKiel** Stymest-Abt 1804, died (12 Dec 1828) at sea on voyage to England.

Sources:

"International Genealogical Index 3.06", Church of The Latter Day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah.
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Jasper moved from Peekskill on the Hudson River in New York to Hampstead, Long Island where he worked alongside his brother Benjamin. Both Benjamin and Jasper were helping the loyalist with provisions and were eventually evacuated to Staten Island, New York and transported to Parrtown, Nova Scotia (now Saint John), New Brunswick, Canada. It does appear, however, that Jasper adopted the surname spelling of "STYMEST." (ES)(CS)

Source:

"NYGB", Vol. 29 page 33.

"To be let, That large and commodious two-story dwelling House, situate at the corner of Duke and Prince William streets, now occupied by the proprietor --- containing ten rooms, with seven fireplaces --- a stone cellar, and a fine spring of water in it --- and is well calculated for a person in business, or a private family. --- For further particulars apply on the premises to JASPER STIMAS. N.B. Possession will be given the first day of May next. St. John, April 17, 1789".

Source:

"The Royal Saint John Gazette" and "Nova Scotia Intelligencer", April 17, 1789, p.29. Microfilm N-4420, National Library of Canada.

Listed as person #234, Jasper Stymest was requested: "The Commrs. of American Claims desire that you would inform them in Writing the time you left New York and what was the particular place of residence in this Province after your arrival from New York until the 25 March, 1784."

Source:

"Second Report of the Bureau of Archives for the Province of Ontario", Alexander Fraser, Provincial Archivist, 1904, Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Toronto.

And again..."STYMEST, JASPER, Westchester Co., NY was obliged to flee to Army in NY; left with family for NB, September 1783. {Memorial 25 Feb. 1786, St. John. Claims}: Goods [unspecified]. Rejected."(SEE: APPENDIX B)

Source:

"American Loyalist Claims: Vol. I"; Peter Wilson Coldham, F. A. S. G.; Abstracted from the Public Record Office, Audit Office Series 13, Bundles 1-35 & 37; National Genealogical Society, Washington, D. C., 1980.

Author's Note:

It is a belief from the extensive research completed that Jasper Stymest left Peekskill, NY for the same reason(s) as did his brother, Benjamin II. Jasper being loyal to the British Crown sought protection for his wife and family (Milcah was with child when they decided to leave the colonies for Saint John). They decided to leave the colonies and emigrate to a safer haven, namely Parr Town (now St. John, NB); British North America (then Nova Scotia before becoming the province of New Brunswick). In an American "Stymiest Family History" by Steven P. Stymiest, there is a reference that Jasper Stymest died and was buried in Long Island, NY. It is believed that this Jasper Stymest (1726-1756) was the son of

Benjamin Stymiest I and his first wife, Sarah Anna Van Stee. Jasper Stymest (10 September 1751- 01 March 1826) was the "Loyalist" and was buried in St. John, New Brunswick in the "Old Loyalist Graveyard". (CS)



Courtesy of Carl Stymiest UE: Gravesite of JASPER STYMEST & MILCAH MCKEEL

The book entitled, "OLD TIMES IN ST. JOHN" written by Clarence Ward noted that "Mr. Jasper Stymest (was) an old and respected inhabitant of this city and (was) one of the earliest settlers of this province."

"THE ST. JOHN GAZETTE" of July 23, 1817 notes that "Jasper Stymest was engaged in the leather business at the corner of Prince William and Duke Streets."

Author's Note:

The following record gives further information on Jasper Stymest and his son, Benjamin Michael Stymest. *(CS)

"Genealogy of the Stevenson Family written by Alexander Stevenson (1870): The Emigration of Robert Stevenson."

1. Having been for some time past, desirous that coming generations of the family, might be able to trace their lineage farther back than to their grandfathers, I began this Record, hoping to afford information to those who may come after me, by letting them know something of their ancestors.

2. Not being able to furnish older dates, I begin with the births of our father, Robert Stevenson 1786 and Janet Crawford, his wife. (Born 1786). I have not room on this page to give many particulars. At some future time I may write a more detailed account of some events that might prove interesting, to future generations of the family. I shall only say here, that on the 28th day of March in the year 1818, our father bade farewell to his family in the village of Howwood, parish of Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire, Scotland. He took the road by Kilmarnock and (sic) Ballarntrae to Port Patrick, thence by Packet to Donaghadee, Ireland, thence to Belfast thence in the Brig, Active of Ayr, Capt. McLean.

He sailed for St. Andrews, New Brunswick, where he arrived on the Anniversary of the birth of George the Third to wit, June 4th in the year 1818. He assisted in loading the Brig, with Timber at Digdeguash, which took about four weeks for which he received his board and, one dollar per day, then coming to St. Andrews got employment at his trade, shoemaking with the late, BENJAMIN W. STYMEST, (sic) Tanner, whoever after proved his friend. He continued in his employ, until a short time before the arrival of his family. He had commenced business on his own account in a shop, in one end, of the old Market House, St. Andrews. Our Mother and six of us, namely Neti Alexander, Charles, John, Matthew, Robert and James, embarked on board the Ship "Jessie & Flora"; Captain Robert Love, who proved a kind, Considerate man to Mother and us.

On Sabbath morning the first day of August 1819 we set sail from the West Quay of Greenock. We had a comfortable pleasant passage of five weeks and three days to St. John. We were all ashore at MR JASPAR STYMETS (sic), and were most kindly treated. We were pressed by a Mr. Campbell, a Lochwinnoch man to lodge with him, that night. We were very well treated. Next day we returned on board the ship, waiting for the packet, - when she arrived, we were by Captain Love's directions, put on board the Sloop, "Lady Dashwood", John Pendlebury Master. On the fifteenth of September, we started for St. Andrews, where we arrived all well, on the Sixteenth day, at eleven o'clock, a.m.

On the passage we received very great kindness from Major Thomas Wyer and Mrs. Wyer. That night we occupied a house our father had secured for us at what is called "Happy Corner" where we resided the following winter. On the second of May 1820 we moved to a lot on the "Western Commons", St. Andrews. On the 16th Sept. 1839 being the Anniversary of our arrival at St. Andrews, all the family with their wives and children, except Matthew's wife and children, she being weak to go from home met at Charles's house. They read, sang, and prayed together - there was great peace and unanimity among them, and they thought "how good and how pleasant it is for Brothers and Sisters to dwell together in unity" and resolved to keep this Anniversary so long as they should live. Play such peace attend their meetings in future, and when the hand that wrote this is cold in death, - I trust the sixteenth of

September will be a day of peace and unanimity among those who remain. May our Father in Heaven grant it for Christ's sake. Amen.

SIGNED:

Alexander Stevenson at 35 years of age.

P.S. Revised and copied Dec. 7, 1870. "

"Robert Stevenson, shoemaker, (1786-1829) a native of Lochwinnoch, Renfrew, arrived at St. Andrews 04 June, 1818 in the Brig "Active" from Ayr. He helped load the Brig with timber at Digdeguash for the return trip. His wife Janet Crawford (1786-1869) with sons Alexander (1804-1879); Charles (1806-1877); John (1809-); Matthew (1811-1876); Robert (1814-1885); and James (1818-1888) came out from Scotland in 1819 in the ship "Jessie" and "Flora" arriving at St. John, NB."^

Sources:

*"Charlotte County Archives", Charlotte, Co., NB.

^"The St. Stephen Courier", New Brunswick, 13 Nov., 1873.

Jasper was married to Milcah McKeel (middle name Amelia) of Peekskill, NY and they had nine children. Jasper died on Thursday evening, March 2, 1826 at the age of 73.*

"Died on Thursday, 2nd. March, 1826, in his 73rd year of his age, Mr. Jasper Stymest, an old and respectable inhabitant of this city, and one of the earliest settlers of the province. Mr. Stymest left behind him numerous offspring, and a large circle of acquaintances by whom he will be long held in remembrance. Funeral from his late residence, Upper end of Duke Street."~~ Milcah, his wife died in 1838, aged 76. They are both buried in the "Old Loyalist Cemetery" in St. John, New Brunswick, Canada.

Sources:

*"Vital Statistics From New Brunswick (Canada) Newspapers", Vol. 3 # 706; dated 14 March 1819; New Brunswick Royal Gazette.

~~"Scrapbook # 13", New Brunswick Museum, St. John, N. B.

In a letter from Benedict Arnold to Bliss, October 13th, 1791 Arnold states, "that Jasper Stymest of this city (St. John) informed him that Jabez Cabels (sic) sold a great deal of his flour."

Source:

PANB:"New Brunswick Museum", St. John, NB

"Died on Thursday last, after a long illness, which he bore with exemplary patience and resignation, in the 73rd year of his age, Mr. Jasper Stymest, and old and respectable inhabitant of this City, and one of the earliest settlers of the Province. Mr. S. has left behind him a numerous offspring and large circle of acquaintances by whom he will long be held in remembrance."

Source:

"The New Brunswick Royal Gazette", St. John, New Brunswick, March 1826.

The St. John "COURIER" dated September 2, 1826 contained a notice which stated, "All persons having legal demands against the estate of Jasper Stymest are required to attest within eight months, and all those indebted to make immediate payment".

Source:

"New Brunswick Courier", Dec. 9, 1826, p.1, Col.3, and Sept 2, 1826, p.1, Col.2.

The inscription on Jasper's tombstone in the Old Loyalist Cemetery includes this verse:

SHRINKING FROM THE COLD HANDS OF DEATH

I TOO SHALL GATHER UP MY FEET

SHALL SOON RESIGN THE FLEETING BREATH

AND DIE MY FATHER'S GOD TO MEET.

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF JASPER STYMEST

A NATIVE OF LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK

AND FOR MANY YEARS A RESIDENT OF THIS CITY.

HE WAS BORN ON THE 10TH OF SEPTEMBER

1751 AND DIED ON THE 2ND MARCH 1826

ALSO HIS WIFE MILCAH, A NATIVE OF PEEKSKILL

***NORTH RIVER, NEW YORK WHO WAS BORN
ON THE 23 SEPTEMBER 1762 AND DIED IN THIS
CITY ON THE 17TH JANUARY 1838.****

***ALSO OF THEIR SON,
JESSE STYMEST
WHO WAS BORN IN THIS CITY ON THE
25TH OF OCTOBER 1803 AND UNFORTUNATELY
DROWNED ON HIS PASSAGE TO ENGLAND
DECEMBER 12TH, 1828.***

Source:

"Old Loyalist Burial Ground-1783", St. John, N.B. (Plan showing the location of Headstones. This wonderful map contains an index to many of the early Loyalist family names. Scale: 1"=10', July 30, 1955; (drawn by Fred Spinney, B. Sc.); New Brunswick Museum, St. John, NB

Author's Note:

The Map and Index of which I have a copy locates the burial place of Jasper Stymest, his wife Milcah, and their son, Jesse as plot # 157. (CS)

"Old Burying Ground No. 5 (St. John)- Near the southeast corner of the ground is a flat stone which has been badly smashed and thrown down. The following inscription upon it tells all we have been able to learn of the family history: In memory of / Jasper STYMEST./ a native of Long Island, New York State, who / was for many years a resident of this city / Born 10th. Sept. 1751. Died 2nd. March 1826. / Also his wife / Milcah STYMEST / a native of Peekskill, New York born 23rd. / Sept. 1762; died 17th. January 1828 / Their son / Jesse M. STYMEST / who was born in this city on the 25th. October? 1803, unfortunately drowned on his passage to / England, December 12th., 1828."

Source:

"Vital Statistics From New Brunswick (Canada) Newspapers", Vol. 36, #277; dated 28 October 1874; Daily Telegraph, St. John, N.B.

"An examination of the list of NB Loyalists shows that most of them belonged to families that had been for several generations settled in the American colonies. If one takes, for instance, from the hundreds of

names of New Brunswick Loyalists, these which will be readily recognized as typical Loyalist family names, [STYMEST]."

Also from the index of names in Ester Clark Wright's book, the following is listed:

Stymest, Jasper, carpenter, 85 NY W. Co. P810

Stymest, Benjamin, NY LI Mir.

Source:

"The Loyalists of New Brunswick" , Ester Clark Wright

Will of Jasper Stymiest (Stymest)

"City of St. John, St. John Co., Yeoman. Will dated 21 December, 1825, proved 28 March, 1826.

Wife Amelia Stymest (*Note: I believe Amelia was Milcah's middle name as a daughter is also named Amelia (CS) annuity of 50 £ (pounds) and the use of the dwelling house and furniture during her life. Eldest son Benjamin Michael Stymest and youngest son Jesse McKeel Stymest each an annuity of 25 £ for four years after my decease. Eldest daughter Catherine Stymest 10 £. Four years after my decease all real estate in the City of St. John to be sold and proceeds divided among my children.

Whereas my brother Peter Stymest, late deceased, of Monmouth, New Jersey, bequeathed to me his land in Monmouth, with his personal estate left in the hands of his wife Jane (Amack/Amock) Stymest, all that may remain after her decease, the same to be divided between my children. Eldest son, Benjamin Michael Stymest, youngest son Jesse McKeel Stymest and friend Henry Thomas executors. Witnesses: Daniel Ansley, Samuel Mason Jr., William Brundage.

On 28 March 1826 Jesse McKeel Stymest and Henry Thomas, the two surviving executors, were sworn. On 19 February 1829 further administration of estate granted to Catherine Stevens, daughter of deceased, and Rubin Watts, husband of Sarah Watts, another daughter, both of the city of St. John, and William H. Travis of the parish of Portland, the executors named in the will all being deceased and daughters Elizabeth Hutchison, Amelia Mc Addam and Sarah Watts all having renounced in their favour. Fellow bondsmen William J. Stevens and Stinson Patten of the city of Saint John."

Sources:

"Early New Brunswick (Canada) Probate Records (1785-1835)"; R. Wallace Hale., Heritage Books, Inc., 1989, p. 444.

"Vital Statistics From New Brunswick (Canada) Newspapers", Vol 4 #81, dated 25 March 1829; St. John City Gazette.

Jasper Stymest (also spelled Jesper) is recorded as bondsman in the will of David Morris, dated March 6th, 1817. It was the purpose of a bondsman to appraise the value of an estate according to the

provisions set out in a will. In this particular estate, David Morris, was appraised: "inventory, undated, valued at 615 £ " .

In another New Brunswick Probate record, Jasper Stymest was mentioned as executor in the will of one Richard Smith, "Late of Long Island, and now at Nova Scotia and the Town of Carleton"; dated March 3rd, 1785.

In documents of Monmouth County Archives, New Jersey we find the following from Jasper Stymest to Timothy Murphy, Esq.:

"Letter of Attorney- Know all men by these presents that I, Jasper Stymest of this City of St. John, in the Province of New Brunswick, House Carpenter, one of the Advisors and Executors of Peter Stymest, deceased,...of the township of Middletown in the County of Monmouth and State of New Jersey. Whereas therefore said Peter Stymest did by his last Will and Testament give and grant the use and occupation of a certain part or portion of his personal estate unto Jane his said widow for & during the terms of her natural life, as by the said ...(?) will may more fully appear references being had thereunto. Now be it known that I the said Jasper Stymest for desires, good causes and considerations..." (The remainder of this document is not legible.)(CS)

Source:

"Monmouth County Archives", New Jersey Historical Society, Deed Book Q, p. 72-73, July 2, 1806.

"Jasper Stymest, Carpenter" was listed as a "Freeman of St. John, at the incorporation of the city in 1785. His son, Benjamin Michael, his first born son, was made a freeman in 1813."

Source:

"Acadiensis: Notes and Queries", Vol. 6, No. 3, July, 1906; New Brunswick Museum, St. John, NB

Author's Note:

(SEE: "Down By the Old Mill Stream- A Stymiest Chronicle" APPENDIX B: Jasper Stymest & Milcah Mc Keel reference notes and additional information compiled by Carolyn Luton, USA.