

## Another Tale from the “Hearings”

I have certificate for proof of descent from John Yerxa/Jurckse, loyalist from Cortlandt Manor, Westchester Co., New York, who settled in 1788 on land at Keswick, York Co. New Brunswick.

A copy of one of his petitions/Memorials to the Commissioners follows. I found this one particularly interesting.

(The first page)

### AMERICAN LOYALISTS

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Transcript of the Manuscript Books and Papers of the Commission of Enquiry into the Losses and Services of the American Loyalists held under Acts of Parliament of 23, 25, 26, 28 and 29 of George III. Preserved amongst the Audit Office Records in the Public Record Office of England 1783 – 1790.

### Volume 19

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Examinations in Nova Scotia, Ec.  
Memorials, Schedules of Losses, and Evidences.  
New York Claimants in eight books (Book iii)

(The second page)

(New Claim)

### To the Commissioners

Appointed by Act of Parliament for enquiring into the Losses and Services of the American Loyalists.

### The Memorial of John Yerxa,

Humbly sheweth,

That he has ever been Loyal and hath suffered much by reason thereof. That he was aiding and assisting His Majesty in the support of his Government by every endeavour in his Power whilst within Rebel Lines and from the commencement of the War.-

That he was driven within the British Lines in 1780 when he joined the Refugees under Colonel Delancey, in which service he continued till he came to the Province of Nova Scotia now New Brunswick.

He therefore hopes the Honorable Commissioners will consider his Sufferings, his Losses and Loyalty and make him such Recompense as to them shall hereafter appear Equitable and Just.

And as in Duty bound shall ever pray.

(on third page)

St. John 27<sup>th</sup> February 1787.  
Evidence in the Claim of **John Yerxa**  
Late of New York.-

Claimant Sworn,

Says, he came in August, went to Magerville.-Sent by Captain  
Vanderburgh, could not send before.-  
Lived on Cortlands Manor, joined the British in the year 1780.  
Served with Colonel Delancey as Volunteer.-

Property. One cow taken by Continental Militia, Lost one after he got within  
The Lines, he bought her and carried her in.-  
Lost cash taken from him and money spent in Prison.-

**William Free** Sworn,

Claimant served under Colonel DeLancey, knew the Rebels took a Cow  
from him for his not serving in Militia, this was in 1778 two years before he  
went within the Lines.-

(on fourth page)

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State of the Losses & Sufferings of **John Yerxa**

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|  |          |
|--|----------|
| 5 acres of wheat on the ground supposed to be 70 Bushels |          |
| value 6/ (?) Bushel .....                                | 21.10    |
| 2 cows taken by the Rebels .....                         | 10. -    |
| Cash taken by ditto .....                                | 7. 4 .   |
| Five Weeks imprisoned, Expence & Damages.....            | 8. -     |
| Sufferings and Damage at Sundry times .....              | 6. -     |
|  | <hr/>    |
| York Currency -  | 52.14. - |

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- Note: 1) I have always wondered about the part that says "He bought her (a Cow) and carried her in." Strong guy! Or does this have another meaning?
- 2) In my ancestry background there are 6 great grandparents descended from Loyalists, born in New Brunswick, 2 on my father's side, names Burt & Boone; 4 on my mother's side – Yerxa, Hawkins, Ebbett, & Atherton.