

Nova Scotia Branch

United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

Loyalist Tidings

Summer 2024
Volume 6, Issue 1

President's Message

For several years I have enjoyed travelling about the Maritimes from my home in Nova Scotia to visit historical sites of United Empire Loyalists. My book "Loyalist History of Nova Scotia", available on Amazon at

<https://www.amazon.ca/Loyalist-History-Scotia-Brian-McConnell/dp/B08FP3SRFH>

included over forty photos from these visits. Recently I was happy while on a trip through the United States to see connections to Loyalists who settled in Nova Scotia.

For two days in June, 2024 I enjoyed touring Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain in northeastern New York. It played a key role in the American Revolution. Rebels captured it in 1775 and transported large cannons to Boston to force its evacuation in 1776 by the British and transporting of Loyalists to Halifax. Fort Ticonderoga is a replica of the original fort built by the French between 1755 and 1757 called Fort Carillon then surrendered to the British in 1759 and renamed Fort Ticonderoga.

On my visit I viewed a powder horn which once belonged to esteemed Loyalist Timothy Ruggles (1711 – 1795), a native of Massachusetts who after the American Revolution settled near Middleton, Nova Scotia. He commanded forces for the British during the French – Indian War and later remained loyal during the 1770s which led to him having to flee to Nova Scotia.



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Powder Horn of Timothy Ruggles depicting area between Montreal and Fort Ticonderoga

At Fort Ticonderoga I also saw the Scottish Dirk of Major General John Small (1726 – 1796) who commanded the 2nd Battalion, 84th Regiment of Foot, also known as the Royal Highland Emigrants. He was a native of Scotland who served with the Black Watch in America before taking a command with the 84th. Members of the 84th were discharged at Fort Edward in Windsor, Nova Scotia at the close of the American Revolution and granted land in Hants County, Nova Scotia.



Scottish Dirk, marked above as 11, of Major General John Small

For further information on Fort Ticonderoga and the museum collection as well as visiting see <https://www.fortticonderoga.org/>

By Brian McConnell, UE President, NS Branch



Editor's Message

Welcome all to the Summer 2024 edition of Loyalist Tidings.

In this issue I have included a book review about the Loyalists who fled America and took haven in Britain, Caribbean, Canada and India. This book was very interesting and I learned a lot about the struggles of these individuals.

Its amazing to learn where we came from and how are lives have evolved.

Submitted by Linda Jobe UE

Spring Nova Scotia Branch Meeting

On Saturday, Apr 20th, the Spring meeting of the NS Branch of the UELAC took place via Zoom.

We thank all of those who took the time to join us.

NOVA SCOTIA BRANCH EXECUTIVE

Brian McConnell UE, President

David Decker UE, Vice-President & Membership Chair

Linda Jobe UE, Secretary & Newsletter Editor

Jill Mattinson UE, Treasurer

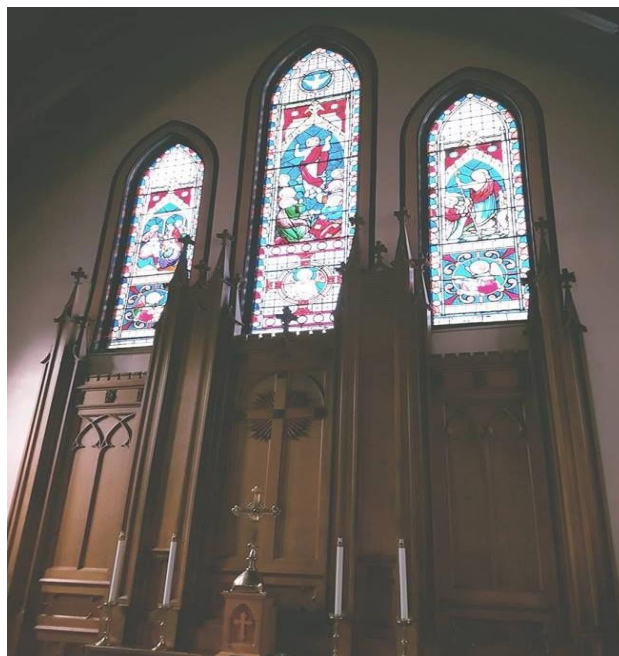
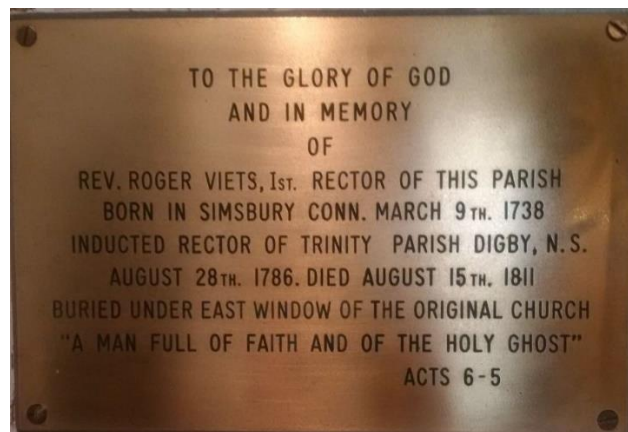
Margaret Nickerson-Dorey UE, Genealogist

Linda Jobe UE, Assistant Genealogist

A Loyalist Rector who helped establish a School for Blacks in Digby

By Brian McConnell, UE

Reverend Roger Viets (1738 – 1811) was a Loyalist from Connecticut who ministered at Digby, Nova Scotia to Loyalist refugees. (1) His ministry included Black Loyalists as well as White. Within the historic Trinity Anglican Church in Digby is a plaque to him and also large colourful stained glass windows dedicated to his memory and his son Roger Moore Viets who succeeded him there as Rector of the Anglican Church. (2)



In 1792 the Blacks living in Digby were desirous of schooling their children and prepared a Petition which was supported by Reverend Roger Viets and others. It was signed by three Black Loyalists on behalf of 22 Blacks and their 28 children. Support was made by prominent United Empire Loyalists who had settled in Digby. The Petition has been digitalized in the archives of the Associates of Dr. Bray in Britain held by the British Online Archives. (3) It states:

To the Right Reverend the Bishop of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, etc, etc.

The humble Petition of the Black People of Digby in Nova Scotia, Sheweth

That your Petitioners sensible of the great happiness and many Privileges they enjoy and being strongly attached to their present eligible Situation, preferred an Abode in this place when much the greater part of the Blacks with our late Schoolmaster returned to Africa, and being sincerely grieved at the loss of the Benefits of a School for our Children, and earnestly desiring that our rising Generation may be instructed in the common and necessary rudiments of learning so far as to become capable of being good Christians and profitable Members of Society. Do with all Deference and Regard apply to you, begging you to use your influence with the pious and worthy Associates and the Reverend Mr. Lyttleton to procure a continuation of the School among us.

We have no less than twenty – eight Children who are of a proper Age to attend on a School and desirous of being instructed. By obtaining the Benefits of a School they will be trained up as devout Members of the Established Church and good Subjects of his Majesty.

We would further humbly represent to the venerable Bishop that we have no none of our own Colour at present among us sufficiently qualified to teach us; and would beg the favour of a White School Master, who we imagine would answer the purpose much better than Leonard the black Man, our former Instructor. We regret your Approbation and Promotion of our Petition and your Petitioners, as in Duty bound, will ever pray.

Digby 1 June 1792

A list of Free Black People now Resident in Digby

Mens Names	No. of Women	No. of Children
Thomas Byng	1	1
John Williams	1	2
John Custus	1	2
Henry Redick	1	3
John Erwin	1	1
Adam Bush	1	1
Abidnigo Jordan	1	3
William Barton	1	2
Henry Wright	1	2
Catchpole	1	
Robert Johnston	1	
John Shepherd	1	
Bristol Godfrey	1	

Jacob Brummel	1	
Sam Farmer	1	
Glasgo Griggs	1	5
John Buff	1	1
Charles Francis	1	2
Charles Faire		
Liberty Legree	1	
Francis Rabett	1	1
Richard Holstead	1	1
Cuffy Bush	1	2
Douglas		

We the subscribers put our names to this Petition on behalf of ourselves and all the others here mentioned.

Thomas Byng

John Custus

William Catchpoll

We whose names are underwritten do hereby certify that the within is a true representation and that much the greater part of the Blacks there inserted are very well known to us and appear to be desirous to have Instruction and Christian Education for their Children.

Roger Viets, Rector & Missionary

Andrew Snodgrass, Justice of the Peace

Isaac Bonnell, Justice of the Peace

Fred William Hecht

Isaac Hatfield, Church Warden

James Wilmot, Church Warden

June 29th 1792

P.S. Since the within List was delivered to us; No less than six men, six women and nine children of Blacks have come into the settlement.

Roger Viets

Richard Hill

We the undersigned to recommend to the Right Reverend Bishop, Mr. James Forman as a proper Person to teach the black children in Digby. Mr. Foreman’s Character and Abilities are well known to the venerable Prelate, and he has signified his willingness to undertake the task, as likewise to prepare an Apartment in his own House, at his own Expense, to accommodate them. Mr. Foreman will devote as much of this Time to the Tuition of the Blacks as is compatible with his Duty to other part of his School.

Roger Viets

Richard Hill

The result of the Petition was a recommendation from Bishop Charles Inglis that teachers be retained. This was the case and a school established.

NOTES:

- (1) Thomas B. Vincent, “VIETS, ROGER,” in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 5, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003–, accessed June 16, 2024, http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/viets_roger_5E.html.
- (2) “Trinity Anglican Church” in Canada’s Historic Places, accessed June 16, 2024. <https://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=7266>
- (3) “Bray Schools in Canada, America, and the Bahamas 1645 – 1900”, in British Online Archives, accessed January 29, 2024 , <https://microform.digital/boa/collections/30/bray-schools-in-canada-america-and-the-bahamas-1645-1900>

Liberty's Exiles
American Loyalists in the Revolutionary World

By Maya Jasanoff

2011

ISBN:978-1-4000-4168-8

The American Revolution ended in 1783 leaving Loyalists unsure of their future. They left their American homes to live elsewhere in the British Empire. They sailed for Britain, Canada, Jamaica, Bahamas and some even went to Sierra Leone and India.

The author of this book, **Maya Jasanoff**, does an excellent job in telling their stories and recreating the journeys of their new lives.

The cast of characters include:

Beverley Robinson and Susanna Philipse who fled to Britain and in 1816 Beverley Robinson visited New York, fell ill and died.

Joseph Brant (Thayendanegea) who settled in Grand River (now Brantford), Ont, and died in 1807.

Elizabeth Lichtenstein Johnston (daughter of **John Lichtenstein** and wife of **William Martin Johnston**) who fled to Edinburgh, then Jamaica and finally Nova Scotia.

David George who as a free Black Loyalist fled to Shelburne then settled in Sierra Leone and died 1810.

John Murray (4th Earl of Dunmore) who went to Britain in 1776 and then became Governor of the Bahamas (1787-1796).

Guy Carleton (Sir/First Baron/Lord Dorchester) settled in Quebec but retired in England. **George Liele** sailed to Jamaica as an indentured slave to **Loyalist Moses Kirkland**.

John Cruden who settled in the Bahamas and died there at the age of 33 in 1787.

William Augustus Bowles who settled in Florida then died in a Havana prison at age 42 in 1805, as the result of a hunger strike.

Thomas Brown who at the age of 25 was beaten, tarred with hot black pitch and scalped, settled on St. Vincent Island, Caribbean, after the Revolution.

Joseph Galloway settled in Britain, with his daughter, and never returned to the United States. **Charles Inglis** sailed to England in 1783 but then settled in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

William Franklin (son of **Benjamin Franklin**) fled to Britain and died in London.

William Smith born in New York, went to England in 1783 then settled in Quebec City as Chief Justice.

Patrick Tonyn resided in East Florida till 1785, and died in London 1804.

Samuel Shoemaker sailed to Britain with the last evacuation fleet but returned to Pennsylvania in 1789 and died in Philadelphia in 1800.

John Eardley Wilmot was a Loyalist claims commissioner.

Isaac Low sailed to Britain and died on the Isle of Wight, 1791.

Granville Sharp was an abolitionist and sponsor of the Sierra Leone settlement.

Jacob and Sally Bailey sailed to Halifax in 1779, destitute of money and clothing and then settled in Annapolis Royal. Jacob Bailey died there in 1808.

John Parr was born in Ireland and arrived, with his family, in Halifax in 1782 and was Governor of the province. He died in 1791 at the age of 66 and is buried in Halifax.

Benjamin Marston fled Boston in 1776 and sailed to Halifax and died in 1792 at Bolama, Portuguese Guinea.

Boston King, a Black Loyalist, fled to Nova Scotia and then settled in Sierra Leone where he died in 1802.

"Daddy" Moses Wilkinson a Black Loyalist, fled to Nova Scotia and then settled in Sierra Leone. Death unknown.

Edward Winslow, Mayflower descendant, retreated to Halifax with his fellow British Army troops in 1776 and settled in New Brunswick.

Frederick Haldimand sailed from Boston to London one day before the Battle of Bunker Hill (June 1775) and served as Governor of Quebec (which at that time included Ontario), 1778 - 1786.

John Graves Simcoe served during the Revolution in the Queen's Rangers but was invalided back to England in 1781. He was Canada's first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada (1791-1796).

John Maxwell was an Irish Protestant military officer who was the Bahamas Governor but left for England in 1785. He was divorced with no known children and died in 1790.

John Wells (1752-1799) lived in Charleston and sailed to the Bahama's where he published the Bahamas' first newspaper, the Bahamas Gazette, in 1784. He is buried on Nassau.

William Wylly (1757-1828) lived in Georgia, commanded a detachment of the Thomas Brown's Rangers, sailed to the Bahamas and was the solicitor-general. He died in Devon. **Louisa Wells Aikman** born in Charleston, she was a sister to John Wells and fled to London. She then sailed to Jamaica to marry Alexander Aikman.

Alexander would die in Jamaica in 1838 while Louisa (who had left to live with her daughter) died on the Isle of Wight, 1831. Louisa was also an author and music score collector.

Maria Skinner Nugent daughter of General Cortlandt Skinner, was born in New Jersey ca. 1770 and remembers the terror of the Revolution as a young child. The family fled New York for London in 1783 and she married British Army Officer George Nugent, 1797. They lived in Jamaica from 1801-1806 where he served as Governor. They returned to Britain and went to India together where he was commander-in-chief. She died in England, 1834. She was a diarist and art collector.

Thomas Peters was a Black Loyalist, served with the Black Pioneers during the war, who then fled to Nova Scotia. In 1792, he sailed to Sierra Leone to settle where he died shortly after arrival of malaria.

John Clarkson was an English abolitionist who worked as an agent for the Sierra Leone Company. He was appointed superintendent for this new colony in 1792 and was the founder of Freetown. He returned to Britain in 1793 and died in Suffolk, 1828.

Zachary Macaulay was a Scottish statistician and abolitionist who became the Governor of Sierra Leone, 1794-1799. He then returned to Britain and died in London, 1838.

David Ochterlony was born in Boston and in 1777, at age 18, sailed to India as a cadet where he moved up the ranks of the British military in India. He died at Meerut, India, 1825.

William Linnaeus Gardner was born in New York's Hudson Valley in 1770 and sailed out of New York for Britain at the end of the Revolution. He became an officer with the British Army and left for India in 1790. He died at Kasganj, India, 1835.

The book "Liberty's Exiles" was an excellent read and covered many locations such as Florida, Caribbean, India, Britain and Canada. The book is large, 342 pages, with a conclusion, Appendix, Notes, Bibliography, Index, Illustrations Credit and Maps.

I really enjoyed reading about the Loyalist history of Florida, the Caribbean Islands and India.

The Notes section is not too be overlooked as it contained some intriguing information.

I highly recommend this book for those who enjoy Loyalist history.

Submitted by
Linda Jobe, UE

Volunteers Needed!

Do you enjoy history and want to make a connection with your Loyalist past? Do you enjoy meeting new people with similar interests, then join us as we are always looking for new volunteers.

To find out more about how you can become involved as a volunteer with the Nova Scotia Branch

*Please email Brian McConnell, President, NS Branch at:
brianm564@gmail.com*

We want your stories!

If you have an interesting United Empire Loyalist story to share, please send it in! No matter how great or small, if you found an interesting discovery in your family heritage with a Loyalist connection, we want to hear about it!

Email:

novascotia@uelac.org

Attention Members:

Are we missing something!

What content would you like to see?

What could we do better to interest you in participating in-person or online?

Let us know!

novascotia@uelac.org

