

A Loyalist Primer **John Ruch, 1994**

(Updated and annotated by D. Meyerhof, 2020)

This article is based on material donated to the Sir Guy Carleton Branch, UELAC by John Ruch's wife, Elizabeth Ruch. The donated images appear to have been the basis of a presentation. The original date of the presentation has been inferred from dates on the images. There were no speaking notes accompanying them. The images themselves contain, in a condensed and easily understood form, an overview of Loyalist history, records containing pertinent information, and a summary of Loyalist settlement in parts of Canada. It seemed a worthwhile task to put this material on the Sir Guy Carleton website.

The material has been updated by referring to books in the Sir Guy Carleton Branch Library located at the City of Ottawa Archives:

<<https://ottawa.ca/en/arts-heritage-and-events/city-ottawa-archives>>.

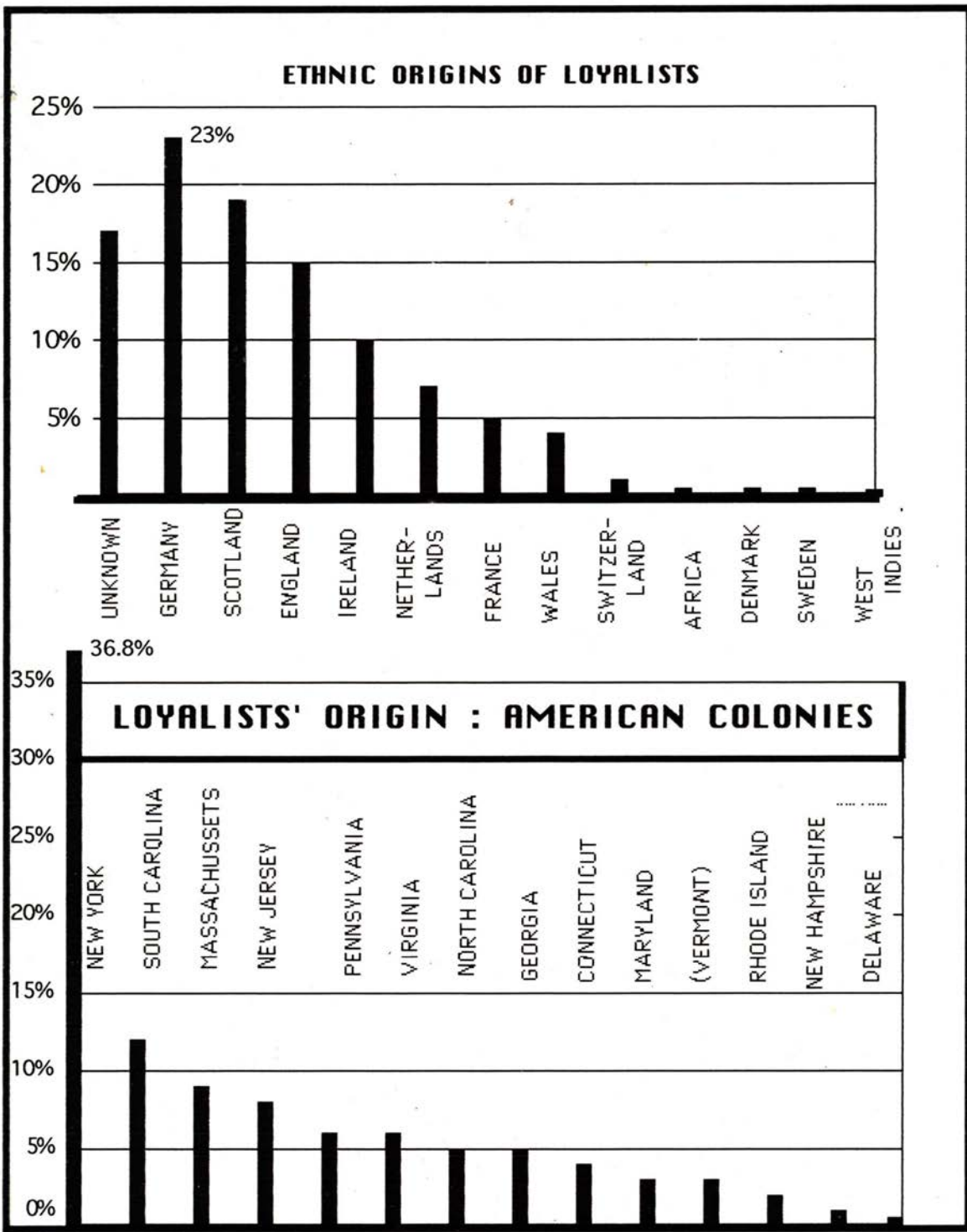
Online sources and indexes that would not have existed in 1994 are also highlighted.

The Armorial Bearings of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada



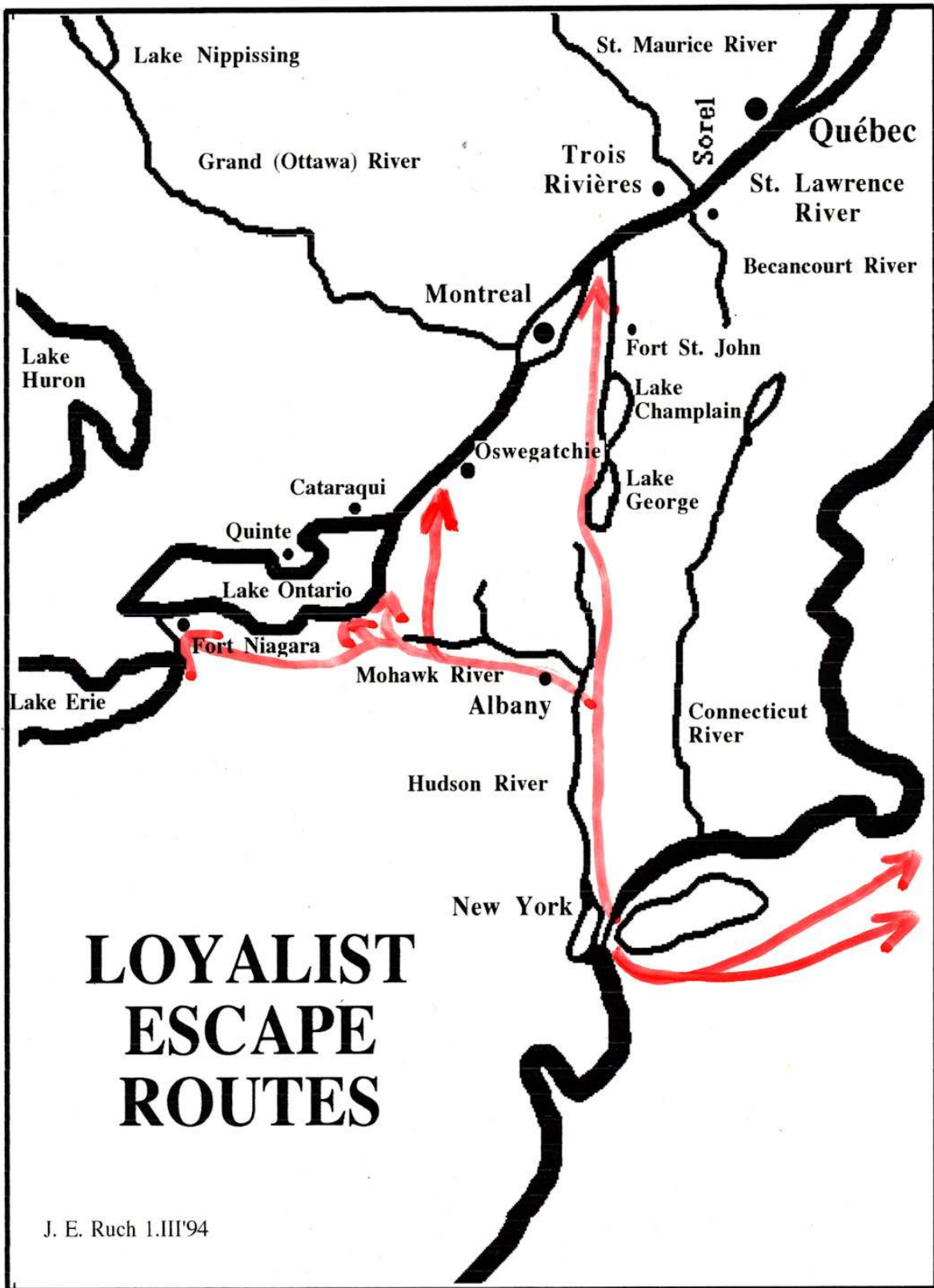
Briefly, the 13 swords represent the Loyalists of the 13 American colonies: Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts Bay, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. The tomahawk represents the Iroquois nation. A full explanation of the symbolism in these Armorial Bearings can be found at the following link:

<https://reg.gg.ca/heraldry/pub-reg/project.asp?lang=e&ProjectID=438&ShowAll=1>

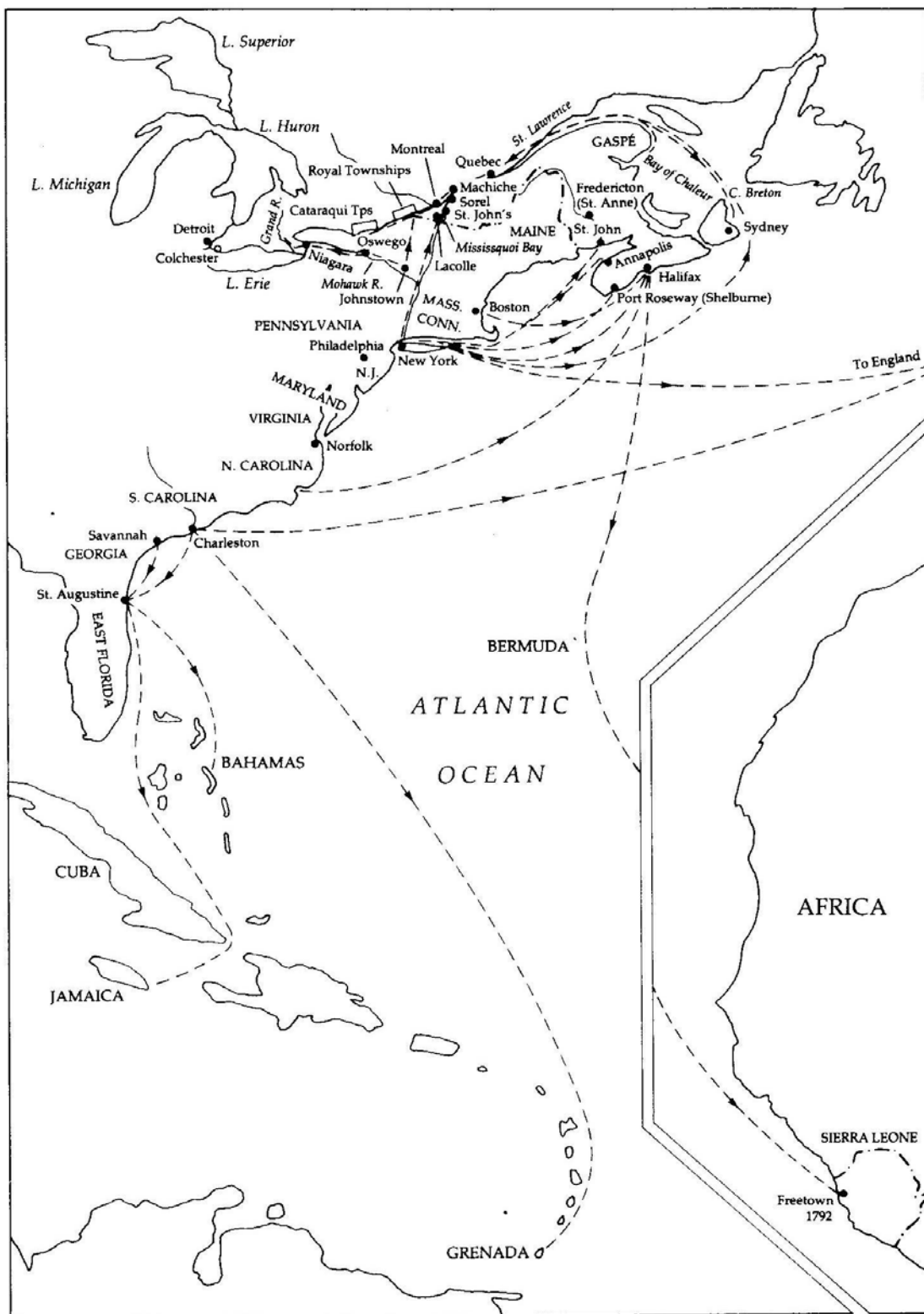


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Composition of the Loyalists according to their country of origin and the states in which they settled.



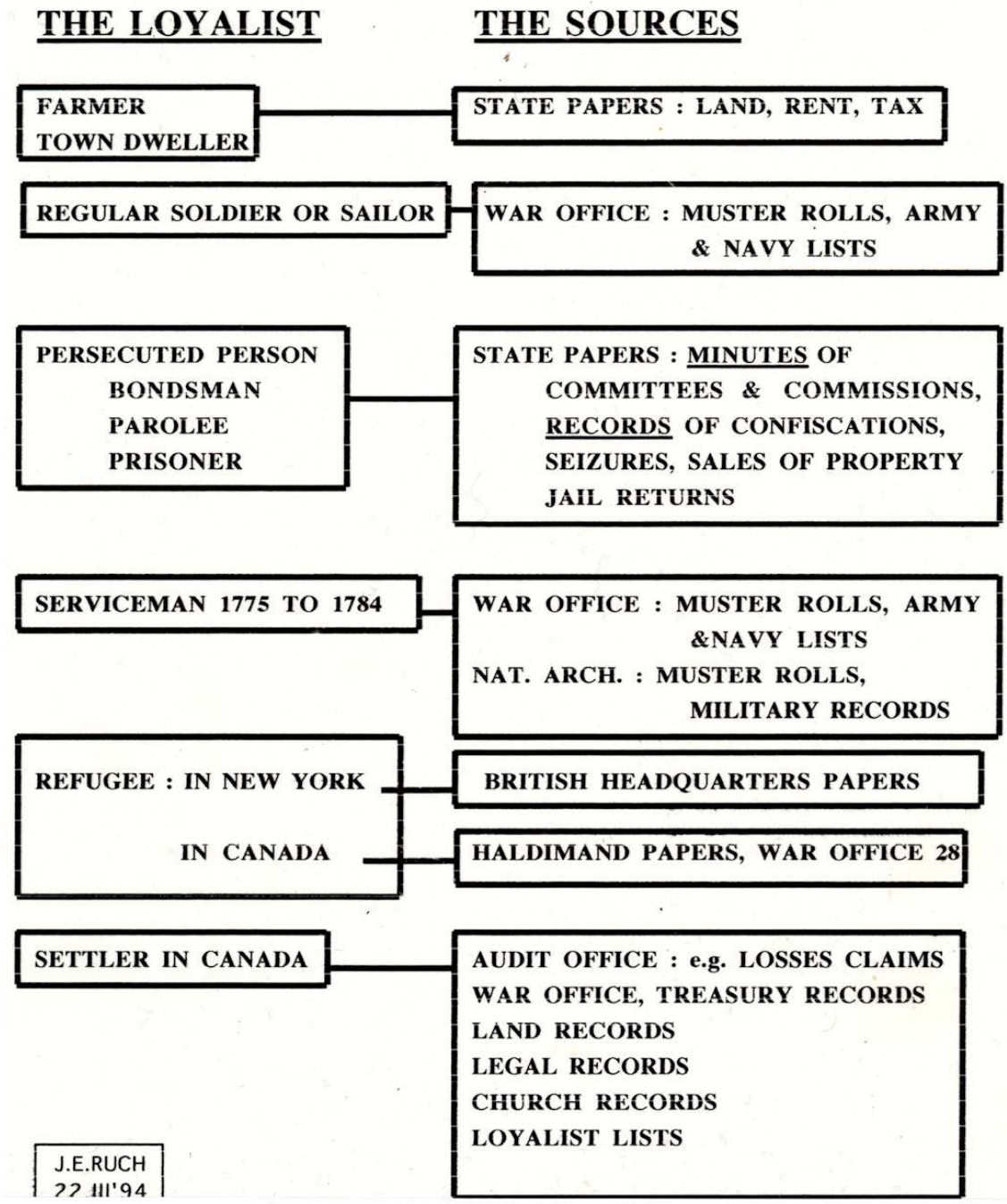
Overland escape routes from New York to what later became Quebec and Ontario



Escape Routes by Sea from the Thirteen Colonies to Great Britain,
Canada and other British Territories

(Elinor Kyte Senior, "Loyalist regiments after the American revolution", *Canadian Genealogist*, Vol. 2, No. 1 (1980), p. 35.)

THE LOYALIST & THE SOURCES



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Sources for the documents referred to in this chart are summarized below. Many, although not all, can be searched on the internet, or at Canadian repositories.

Loyalist - Farmer and Town Dweller

State Papers: State papers are available at the appropriate State Archives (Land, Rent, Tax).

Loyalist - Regular Soldier or Sailor

War Office: Muster Rolls, Army and Navy Lists

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) holds some British Military and Naval Records (RG8 C Series) which cover the period 1759 to 1871 when the British left Canada. Other War Office Records (MG13 WO) and Admiralty Records (MG12 ADM) are British military and naval records held by The National Archives in the UK, microfilms of which, up to and including the First World War, are held by Library and Archives Canada. These relate to British regiments that served in Canada until the First World War. Some have been indexed and are now available online. Others have to be consulted at LAC.

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/Pages/military-heritage.aspx>

Books that provide muster lists and information on military units are too numerous to list here. In the Sir Guy Carleton Branch Library they can be found under catalogue numbers UEL 973.3XXX to UEL 973.4XXX.

Loyalist - Persecuted Person, Bondsman, Parolee, Prisoner

State Papers: Minutes of Committees & Commissions, Records of Confiscations, Seizures, Sales of Property, Jail Returns as well as Banishment Laws. State papers are available at State Archives. Books that list some of these records include:

- H. C. Burleigh, Sequestrations, Confiscations and Sale of Estates -- State Papers of Vermont, 1950 (UEL 325.20743 BUR)
- E. Alfred Jones, Loyalists of Massachusetts: Their Memorials, Petitions and Claims, 1969 (UEL 325.20744 JON)
- James H. Stark, Loyalists of Massachusetts and the Other Side of The American Revolution, 1988 (UEL 325.20744 STA)
- John W. Tyler, Connecticut Loyalists: An Analysis of Loyalist Land Confiscations in Greenwich, Stamford and Norwalk, 1977 (UEL 325.20746 TYL)

Loyalist - Serviceman 1775 to 1784

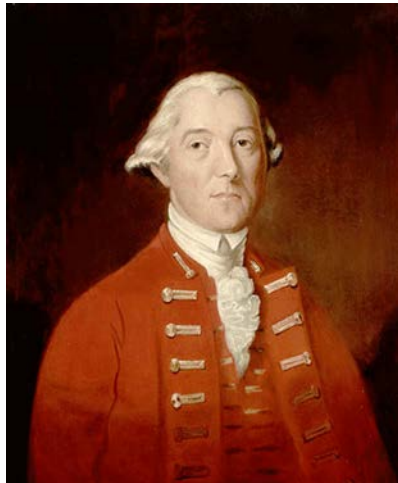
War Office: Muster Rolls, Army and Navy Lists

Nat. Arch. (Library and Archives Canada, LAC): Muster Rolls, Military Records. (See explanation and resources above under "Loyalist - Regular Soldier or Sailor.")

Loyalist - Refugee in New York

British Headquarters Papers:

The original British Headquarters Papers, otherwise known as the Carleton Papers, are preserved at The National Archives in England. Sir Guy Carleton was charged with the orderly evacuation of New York at the end of the American Revolution. These papers are a list of the refugees and freed slaves that left New York on British ships bound for Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and other British territories. A microfilm copy of the papers is held by Library and Archives Canada (LAC) (MG23 B1, microfilms M-343 to M-369).



Sir Guy Carleton
(http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/carleton_guy_5E.html)

These papers have been indexed by Sir Guy Carleton Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada (UELAC), a project initiated and spearheaded by John Ruch. This index with explanations is available on this website as is an index to The Book of Negroes.

They are also indexed on the LAC website at the following locations:

Refugees:

<<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/loyalists/loyalists-british-soldiers-1722-1784/Pages/search.aspx>>.

Book of Negroes:

<<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/loyalists/book-of-negroes/Pages/introduction.aspx>>.

Images of pages from the Book of Negroes are available on the Nova Scotia Archives website: <<https://novascotia.ca/archives/africanns/BN.asp>>.

MUSTER ROLLS (in British Headquarters Papers, New York)		
<p>NAMES ARE INDEXED FROM THESE MUSTER ROLLS IN THE BHP</p> <p>A. PROVINCIAL (LOYALIST) REGTS - ALL NAMES INDEXED</p> <p>B. OTHER REGIMENTS:</p> <p>1. INDEXED IN FULL: NAMES FROM BRITISH REGTS WHICH WERE DEMOBILIZED IN CANADA</p> <p>2. FROM ROLLS OF OTHER BRITISH AND GERMAN REGTS: LISTED ONLY THOSE MEN KNOWN TO HAVE TRANSFERRED TO LOYALIST UNITS OR TO HAVE SETTLED IN CANADA</p>		
<p>1. LOYALIST REGTS.</p> <p>American Legion Armed Boatmen Black Pioneers British Legion Bucks County V. Butler's R. Delancey's Brigade Guides Guides and Pioneers King's American Dragoons King's American King's Florida R. King's Orange R. King's R. King's Royal Regt. of New York Loyal American Associators Loyal American Loyal Irish Loyal North Carolina Militia Loyal Nova Scotia V. Loyal Refugees of West Florida Maryland Loyalists Militia - many miscellaneous units Military Batteauxmen Newfoundland Foot</p>	<p>New Hampshire V. New Jersey V. New York V. North Carolina Highlanders North Carolina Independent Co. North Carolina Loyalists North Carolina Provincials North Carolina Royalists North Carolina V. Pennsylvania Loyalists Philadelphia Light Dragoons Prince of Wales American Queen's Loyal R. Queen's R. Roman Catholic V. Royal American Reformers Royal American Fencibles Royal Garrison Batt. Royal Georgia V. Royal North Carolina St. John's (P.E.I.) V. Safe Guards South Carolina Royalists Virginia Loyalists V. of Ireland West Florida Royal Foresters West Jersey V.</p> <p>2. OTHER REGTS.</p> <p>A. BRITISH</p> <p>1st Foot (Grenadier) Guards 2nd Foot (Coldstream) Guards 3rd Foot (Scots) Guards 4th Foot (King's Own) 7th Foot (Royal Fusiliers) 8th Foot 16th Foot 17th Foot 17th Dragoons 21st Foot (Royal North British Fusiliers) 28th Foot 31st Foot 33rd Foot 37th Foot 38th Foot</p>	<p>40th Foot 42nd Foot (Royal Highland) 54th Foot 57th Foot 60th Foot (Royal American) 64th Foot 70th Foot 71st Foot 74th Foot 76th Foot 80th Foot 82nd Foot 84th Foot (Royal Highland Emigrants) Royal Artillery</p> <hr/> <p>B. GERMAN</p> <p>Anhalt Zerbst Regt. Artillery Anspach Bose Brandenburg Brunswick (Redesel) Corps Bunau du Corps (Leibgarde) Dittfurth Donop Graff Hesse Hanau Free Battalion Huyn Jagers Knoblauch Knyphausen Landgrave Lengerke Linsing Lossberg (Sr.) Lossberg Jr. Minnigerode Mirbach Prince Charles Prince Héréditaire (Erprinzi) Seitz Trumbach Waldeck Wissenbach</p> <p>Abbreviations : R = Rangers V = Volunteers.</p>

Loyalist - Refugee in Canada
Haldimand Papers

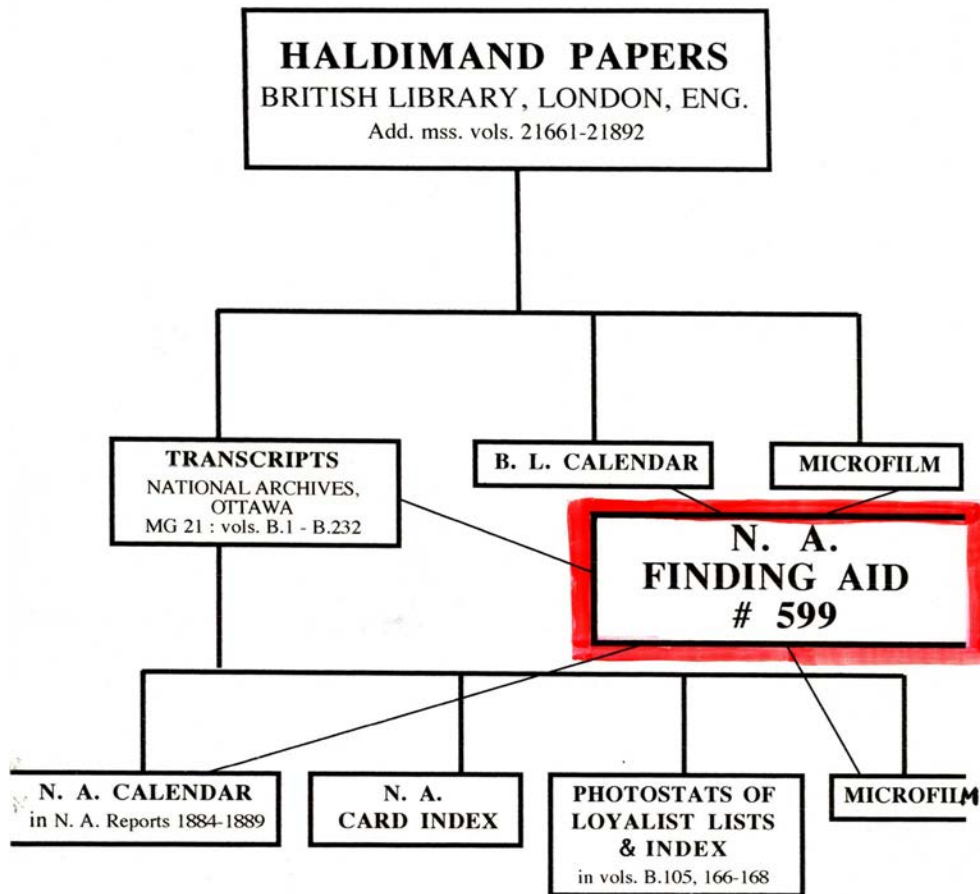


Sir Frederick Haldimand
http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/haldimand_frederick_5E.html

Sir Frederick Haldimand, KB (11 August 1718 – 5 June 1791) was a military officer known for his service in the British Army in North America during the Seven Years' War and the American Revolutionary War. From 1778 to 1786, he served as Governor of the Province of Quebec.

The Haldimand Papers consist of some provision lists and muster rolls relating mostly to Loyalists, disbanded soldiers and their families in the province of Quebec. The original records are held in the British Library, London, England. Transcripts are held by LAC (MG21, Add. MSS 21765, volumes B105, B166, B167, B168) with a nominal index on microfilm C-1475. These microfilms can be viewed online at Heritage Canada.

<http://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac_reel_c1475/6?r=0&s=1>.



The Sir Guy Carleton Branch library holds several books on Quebec Loyalists, for example:

- Keith E. Fitzgerald, Loyalist lists: over 2000 Loyalist names and families from the Haldimand Papers, 1984 (UEL 325.20714 FIT). This is a partial listing of the Haldiman papers.
- Gavin K. Watt, Loyalist Refugees: Non-Military Refugees in Quebec, 1776-1784, 2014 (UEL 325.20714 WAT)
- Heritage Branch, UELAC, Loyalists of Quebec 1774-1825: A Forgotten History, 1989 (UEL 325.20714 HER).

Loyalist - Refugee in Canada

War Office 28

Textual material, originals held by The National Archives, UK. Microfilm copies held by LAC cover the period 1775-1856, (MG13-WO28) divided into four subsections: General Orders in Nova Scotia (1841-1851), General orders in Canada (1841-1856), General orders in Canada (1811-1817) and America (1775-1805). The records for the first three subsections consist of General Orders, the fourth subsection consists of subseries 2 - 10, containing letters, returns and memorials from field officers and military departments in Canada. The material has not been indexed.

http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/collectionsearch/Pages/collectionsearch.aspx?DataSource=Archives/FonAndCol&SearchIn_1=partof&SearchInText_1=105016&lang=eng&enviro=prod

Loyalist - Settler in Canada

Audit Office: e.g. Losses Claims

Some of the most detailed records of the hardships faced by the Loyalists are their accounts of losses and difficulties suffered during the American Revolution. A summary of the process for submitting claims and where the surviving records ended up was prepared by W. Bruce Antliff in Loyalist Claims: A Wealth of Information, 1986 (UEL 325.2071 ANT) (1986), typewritten notes discovered in the Nova Scotia Archives.

The Loyalist Claims Commission was established by an Act of the British Parliament on 15 July 1783. Two Commissioners were appointed to hear the claims, Daniel Parker Coke and J. Eardley Wilmot. The Act laid out the conditions under which claims had to be filed. The deadline was 25 March 1784, only eight months and 10 days after the Act was passed. In addition, claimants had to travel to London to present their case.

Many didn't learn of the process until it was too late. For others it made no economic sense. They were too busy building their new lives to make the journey, or felt their chances of success were too slim to risk the time and cost. Those who could make a claim but failed to do so were forever barred from receiving compensation under acts. Over 2000 claims were made under the 1783 Act. In 1785 a second act was passed which allowed claims to be heard in North America. At this point the Commission split into two parts. One went to British North America to receive claims and examine claimants. The other continued the work in London. The two commissioners in North America travelled from Halifax to Niagara to conduct their work.

The following chart is a summary of the activities of the Royal Commission.

ROYAL COMMISSION
ON THE
SERVICES AND LOSSES OF THE LOYALISTS

1777-July 1783



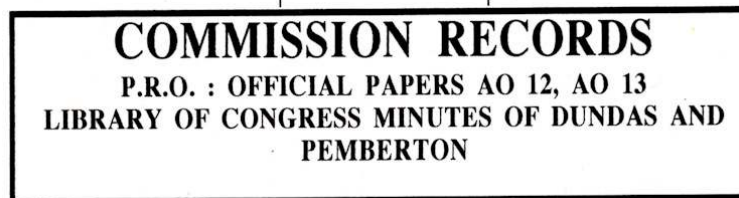
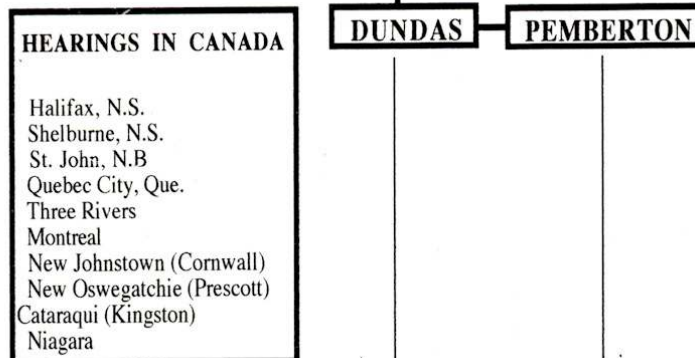
July 1783-mid 1785



mid-1785-May 1786



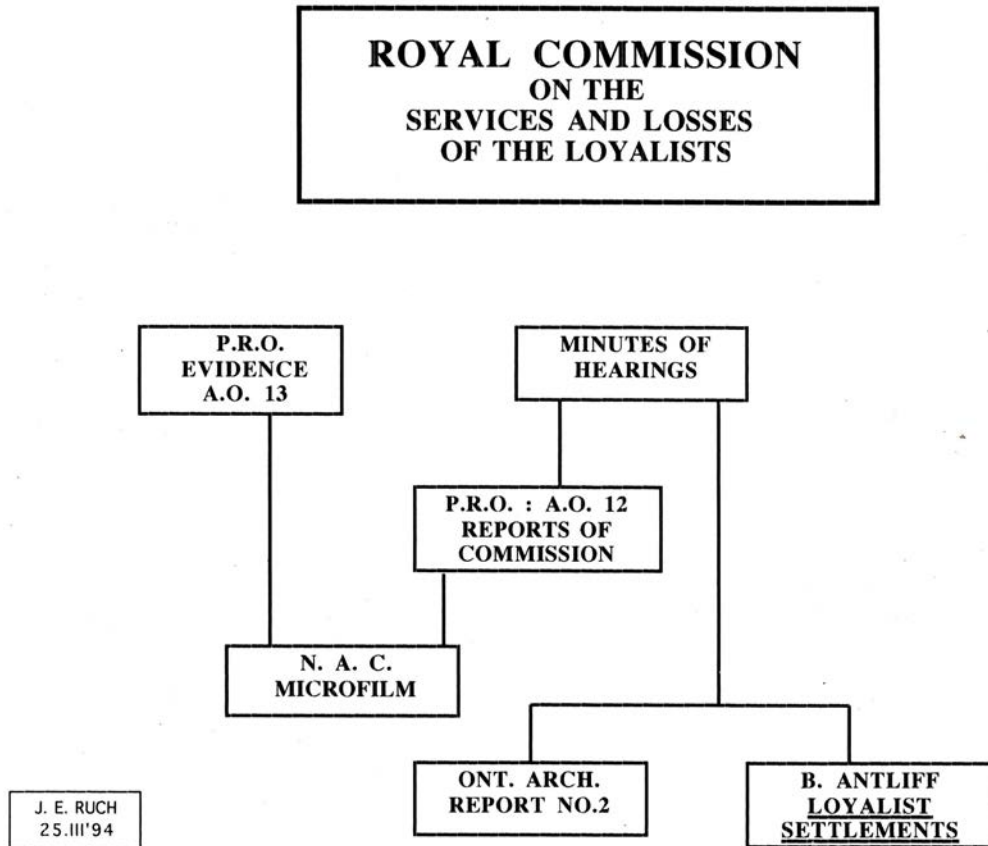
1785-1789



P. R. O. = Public Record Office, London. Now The National Archives.
AO 12, AO 13 = Audit Office 12 and Audit Office 13

The documentation for these hearings had three components:

- The memorials and supporting documents provided by the claimant
- The official records and decisions of the Commission, and
- The personal records of the Commissioners.



Surviving Records and their Locations

The London Hearings:

The surviving official records of the Commission are found in Audit Office 12, volumes 1-56. Many volumes were lost. The surviving material is found on LAC microfilm C-9821. These records have been digitized and are available through Ancestry.ca (subscription or free access at some local libraries). The material is also available at Heritage/Canadiana on-line (free). The Library of Congress, United States also holds some records of the Commission, <<https://catalog.loc.gov/vwebv/holdingsInfo?searchId=15223&recCount=25&recPointer=6&bibId=5809578>>.

After 1785 claims continued to be heard in London. The surviving volumes of official records for this time are included in Audit Office 12. These included claims received in London too late to be accepted under the Act of 1783. Additional claims were also submitted in London.

No record of these has survived and many were rejected as they could have been submitted under the Act of 1783. Those that have survived are found in Audit Office 13.

The Sir Guy Carleton Library contains many of the books that have been published regarding these claims, including:

- Alexander Fraser, United Empire Loyalists, Enquiry into the Losses and Services in Consequence of their Loyalty: Second Report of the Bureau of Archives for the Province of Ontario, Parts I & II, 1904, reprinted 1994 (UEL 325.20713 FRA Part I, Part II). This is ONT. ARCH. REPORT NO. 2, above.
- Bruce Antliff, Loyalist Settlements 1783-1789: New Evidence of Loyalist Claims, 1985 (UEL 325.2071 ANT 1985).
- Peter Wilson Coldham, American Migrations, 1765-1799: The lives, times and families of colonial Americans who remained loyal to the British Crown before, during and after the Revolutionary War as related in their own words and through their correspondence, 2000 (UEL 325.2071 COL 2000).

The personal records of the Commissioners were often more detailed than the official records. The records of Daniel Parker Coke, who retired in 1785, are complete and reside at the NY Public Library. These are the only complete set of records of a Commissioner. The Sir Guy Carleton Branch Library has books with partial records of two Commissioners who attended the London hearings. The book by Hugh Edward Egerton is a partial transcription of the evidence submitted to Commissioner Coke during the three years of his service as a Commissioner. Many of the claimants remained in England, but some returned to North America.

- Hugh Edward Egerton, The Royal Commission on the Losses and Services of American Loyalists, 1783 to 1785: Being the Notes of Mr. Daniel Parker Coke, M. P. , One of the Commissioners During that Period, 1915. Facsimile copy by Forgotten Books, 2015. (325.2071 EGE)
- John Eardley-Wilmot, Historical view of the Commission for enquiring into the losses, services, and claims of the American Loyalists, at the close of the war between Great Britain and her colonies, in 1783 : with an account of the compensation granted to them by Parliament..., 1915. Facsimile copy by Gale Sabin Americana Print Editions 1500-1926, 2020. (325.2071 EAR)

Loyalist - Settler in Canada War Office, Treasury Records

Other War Office (WO) records held by The National Archives in the UK that relate to British involvement in the American Revolution and therefore to Loyalists are listed below. Those held by LAC are WO 12, WO 13, WO 17, WO 24, WO 25, WO 26, WO 28, WO 33.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

(KEW)

LONDON, ENG.

WAR OFFICE RECORDS

<u>VOL.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
11	1774-1782	NEW YORK, GEN.ACCT.
12	1782-1783	", "
13	1782-1783	", JOURNAL
14	1782-1783	", LEDGER
15	1782-1783	", CASH BOOK, MEMOS, SALES OF STORES, &c.
16	1776-1783	", ACCTS. OF VICTUALLING SHIPS
17	1782	", ABSTRACT, RATIONS FOR FOREIGN TROOPS
18	1782	", "
19	1782	", TABULAR ACCOUNTS
20	1782	", "
21	1782-1783	", "
22	1776-1784	", VOUCHERS OF SHIPS VICTUALLED
23	"	", "
24	"	", MISCELANNEOUS VOUCHERS
25	"	", "
26	"	", "
27	"	", "
28	"	", "
29	"	", "
30	"	", "
31	"	", "
32	"	", "
33	"	", "

TREASURY RECORDS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>VOLUME #</u>	<u>CONTENTS (pp.)</u>
1776	521-527	
1777	528-538	
1778	539-547	
1779	548-555	
1780	556-563	
1781	564-569	
1782	570-579	1476 + 3 Vs. unpag.
1783	580-595	1099 + 2 Vs. "
1784	596-610	2070 + 2 Vs. "
1785	611-625	1890 + 2 Vs. "
1786	626-640	3013 + 1 V. "
1787	641-652	2803 + 1 V. "
1788	653-664	2550 + 1 V. "
1789	665-676	2500 + 1 V. "
1790	677-688	2500 + 1 V. "

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WO 60/32 and 60/33 contain miscellaneous vouchers, general returns and nominal lists from New York between the years of 1776 - 1784. Some examples of information found in these papers held by The National Archives of the UK at Kew are given below.

A SELECTION FROM P. R. O. : WO 60/32, Part 1

1782-1783 - VOUCHERS, GENERAL RETURNS, NOMINAL LISTS.

A. Loose papers, including numerous general vouchers for parties travelling on various ships, and other items such as :

- 12.VI.1783, **Michael Grass and John Davis** to Brook Watson. re Loyalists wishing to go to Frontenac.
- 23.VI.1783, **Return of seconded officers and their families on the sloop Lydia** for Annapolis Royal.
- [1783], **Capt. John Perrot's company**. Return of Loyalists who are gone and going in private vessels to Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia.
- 19.XI.1783, **Capt. John Perrot's company**. Return of Loyalists (incl. Perrot) on the transport **Joseph** for Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia. Also a separate voucher for the negroes.
- 10.VII.1783, **Col. Morse, Chief Engineer**. Respecting **artificers** who went to Halifax last fall under the idea of being looked upon as refugees when discharged from the public works. List of 24.

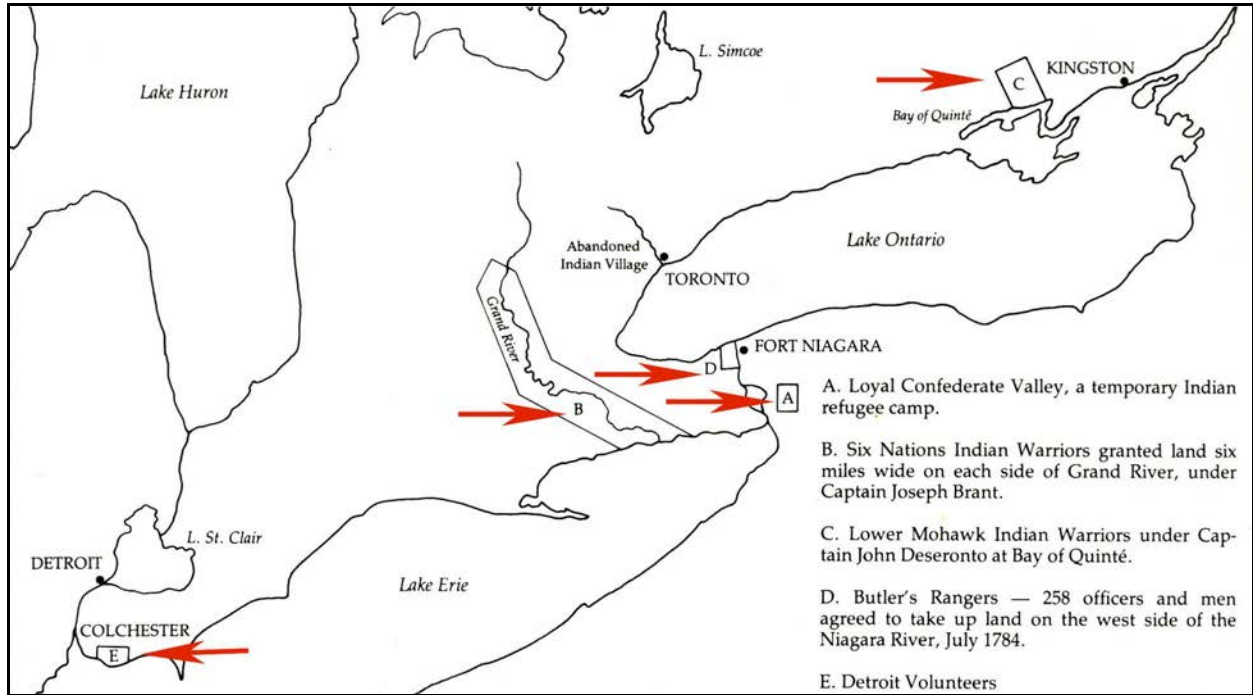
B. Bundles :

- [1st large] - 27.V.-23.VI.1782, H.M. Troops, etc. **General return of number of rations** issued to, at New York and the outposts. Also many returns of **women** on various ships.
 - 30.IX.-11.XI.1782 **Black Pioneers** on board **Peggy**, numbers only.
- [2nd large] - **many lists** nominal and otherwise, e.g. **pilots** going to Nova Scotia.
- [smaller] - **Refugee Artificers**. Return of, going to Port Roseway in Engineer's Dept. List of families with names.
 - 10.XI.1783, **Capt. John Perrot's company**. Return of Loyalists.
 - 15.VI.1783. **Return of persons going to Nova Scotia** aboard **Ranger**, total 19 people, including Mrs. Delancey's family of 10.
 - [1783] **New Jersey Volunteers, 2nd Battalion**. List of men. 29 persons for Annapolis Royal.
 - 24.IX.1783 [New York]. **Return of families going to Port Roseway** in brig **Olive Branch**, names of 15 men (and places of former residence, e.g. Germany), total 55 persons.
 - **New Jersey Volunteers, 1st Battalion**. Maj. Millidge. List of officers, men and Loyalist families, for Annapolis Royal.
 - [i] **Return of seconded officers and families** on various vessels for St. John's, beginning with Richard Holland on sloop **Three Friends**.
 - [ii] Capt. Zebedee Terry Sr. **Return of Loyalists on Phebe**, 20 persons.
 - [iii] Capt. Wm. Clark. **Return of Loyalists on Kingsfisher**, 8 persons.
 - [iv] Col. Pattinson. **Return of Loyalists on Ann**, 10 persons.
 - [v] 23.VI.1783, Ensign Francis Finney. **Return of Loyalists on Samuel**, 3 persons.

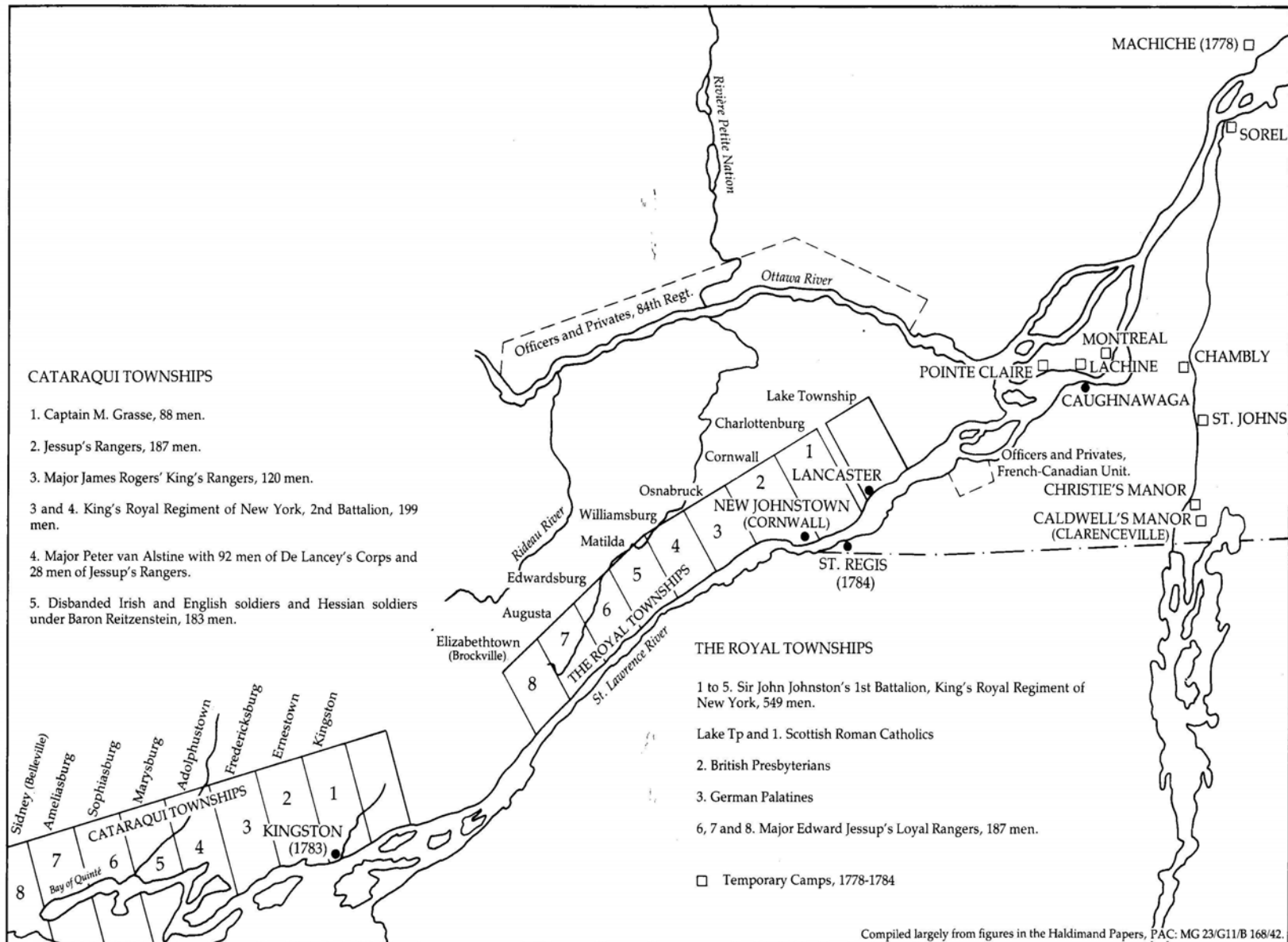
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Loyalist - Settler in Canada

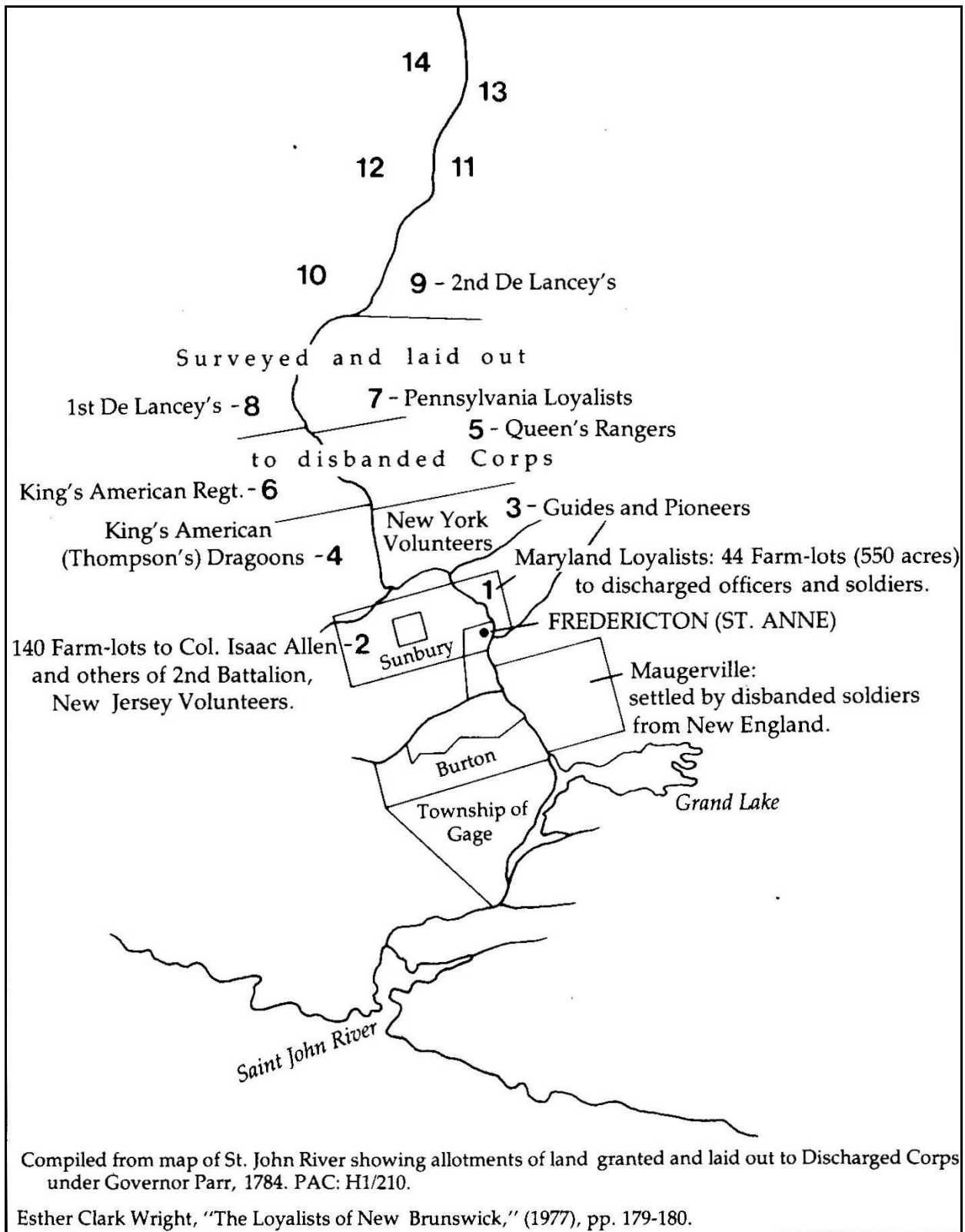
To find where an ancestor first settled, it may help to understand where various military groups disbanded. The following three maps summarize some of these. (Elinor Kyte Senior, "Loyalist regiments after the American revolution", *Canadian Genealogist*, Vol. 2, No. 1 (1980), pp. 41, 32-33 and 38.)



Settlement of Butler's Rangers and Six Nations Indian Warriors, 1784



Loyalist Regiments Settled along the St. Lawrence River



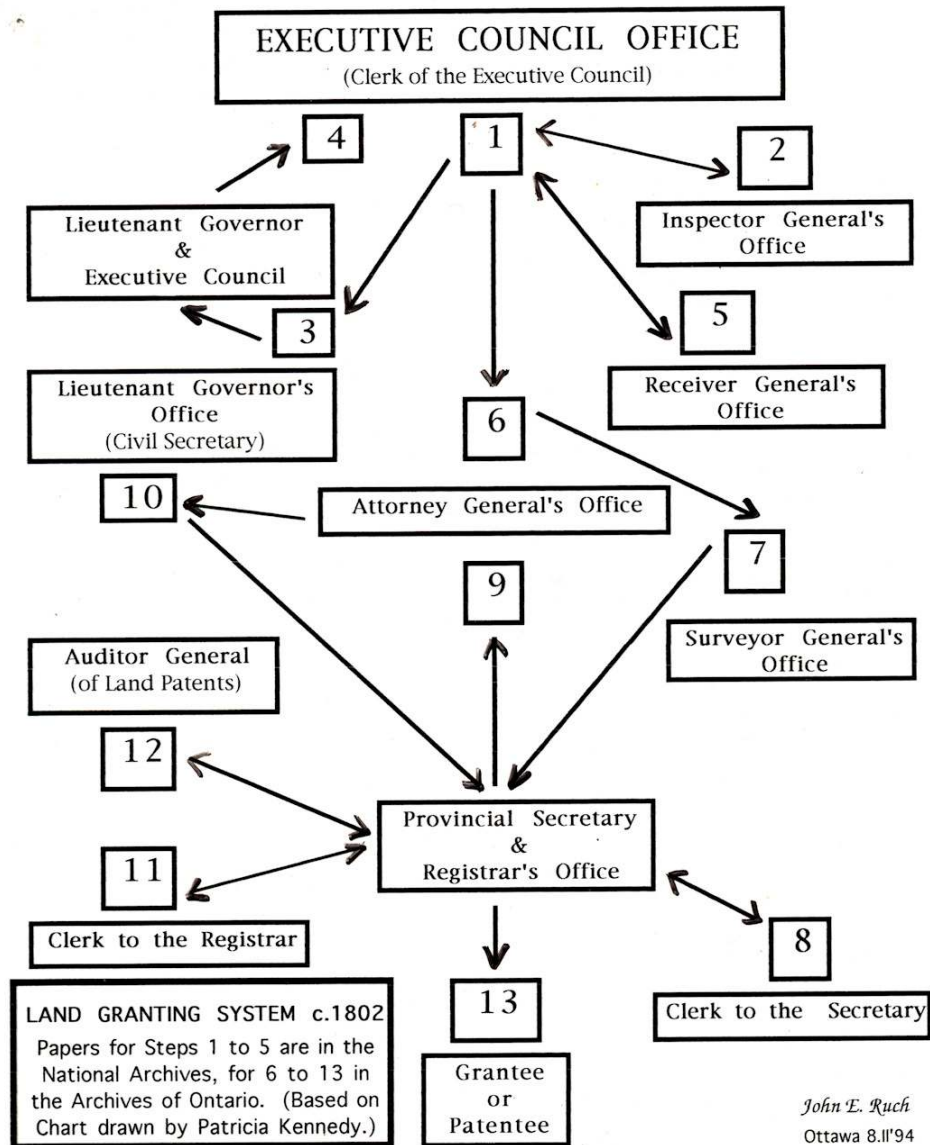
Loyalist Regiments Settled in New Brunswick, 1783-84

Land Records

LAC holds land petitions for Lower Canada (1764-1841) and Upper Canada (1763-1865). These land records are available at: <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/land/Pages/land-records.aspx>.

Instructions for searching these are given in The Ottawa Loyalist, Vol 35, Issue 3, Fall 2019, available at: <http://www.uelac.org/SirGuyCarleton/newsletter.php>.

U.C. LAND RECORDS



Ontario:

Land records held by the Archives of Ontario are not digitized and searchable by name online as are the LAC records. Property abstracts showing a summary of when the property was first granted and subsequent sales and purchases are available free at ONLand. To use this tool, however, it is necessary to know the location of the land (County, Township, Concession and Lot). While the abstracts are useful, it is recommended that copies of the original documents be obtained from the relevant Land Registry Office. These can give family connections and other details. Not all of the earliest records of transactions have survived; there may be gaps in the records. County Atlases of Ontario have been digitized and indexed by McGill University. These maps date from a later time than the Loyalist arrival, around 1870. If property remained in the family they can be used to identify the Concession and Lot number.

- ONLand is available at <<https://www.onland.ca/ui/65/books/browse>>.
- A list of Ontario Land Registry Offices is available at <<https://www.ontario.ca/page/land-registry-offices-lro>>.
- The McGill County Atlas Project can be accessed at: <http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/countyatlas/searchmapframes.php>

Land records in other provinces:

Quebec:

- Land petitions of Lower Canada are available at LAC (see above).
- Family Search has a summary of the location of Quebec Land records online: https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Quebec_Land_and_Property

New Brunswick:

- Provincial Archives of New Brunswick has a “Federated Database Search” that includes an Index to Land Petitions: Original Series, 1783-1918, and Index to New Brunswick Land Grants, 1784 - 1997.
- <<https://archives.gnb.ca/Search/FEDS>>

Nova Scotia:

- The Nova Scotia Archives has some databases online at <<https://archives.novascotia.ca/genealogy>>:
 - The Nova Scotia Land Papers 1765-1800 has an index with the names of settlers and has digitized the petitions for land in Nova Scotia and Cape Breton.
 - Overlapping Cape Breton Island Petitions 1787-1843 is an additional searchable name database for early land petitioners there.
- Other records have to be searched on site such as Nova Scotia Commissioner of Crown Lands, Petitions, 1765-1914.
- Access Nova Scotia also has a subscription website, Property Online. <<https://novascotia.ca/sns/access/land/subscribe-property-online.asp>>
- Those searching Nova Scotia Loyalist land records can also consult the book by Marion Gilroy, Loyalists and Land Settlement in Nova Scotia, 1990 (UEL 325.20716 GIL).

Prince Edward Island:

- Prince Edward Island Archives and Records Office - Genealogy, lists the land records available.
<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/genealogy-public-archives>
- Petitions made to the Executive Council contain some petitions for land and can be searched at <http://www.gov.pe.ca/parosearch/>.
- Family Search has an excellent summary of what PEI land records are online and where to find others:
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Prince_Edward_Island_Land_and_Property#What.E2.80.99s_Available_on_the_Internet

Loyalist - Settler in Canada

Legal Records -

Church Records -

Loyalist Lists -

For all of these records it is recommended that Provincial Archives be consulted as well as Provincial and local historical and genealogical societies, the UELAC website <http://www.uelac.org/> and individual UELAC branches.

NOTE: The internet URLs given here were current when this document was prepared. These may change over time. There are no plans to to keep them current.

D. Meyerhof
April 2020