

The
Steele Family
History

Compiled by

Ted Steele

June 2021

Pressure mounts...

I am aging and I feel the need to get what I know of the Steele family history written and saved, so that it can at some point be not only kept alive but hopefully added to in the future. I have large files of papers and photos as well as stories passed on to me, especially from cousin Blake, who had been the family historian. If only I had met and exchanged information with him much sooner than I did!

Our roots begin with William Steel in Ireland.

Born in 1744, in Tipperary County or Enneskillin County, he was a weaver by trade. With no wife and one son (John) who was about 7 years old, he travelled to Liverpool, England, and sailed for the British colony of New York.

I had always assumed that he arrived poor and struggled to make his way in his new home. I now know, thanks to Uncle Ralph's files which I acquired during the autumn of 2019 that he actually arrived with a fortune.

He had approximately 4,000 pounds sterling, a sizable fortune at a time when few had cash at all. He was thus able to buy a plantation in New Jersey, complete with its slaves to provide the labour. At this time, slaves were common in many states, & several American presidents had slaves well into the 1800s.

"WILLIAM STEELE. In his childhood he was 'taught to love his King and the Constitution of England,' and 'his resolute loyalty in the American Revolution won for him the applause even of his enemies.'

"He was an Irishman who emigrated in 1761, or 1762, taking with him about £4,000 sterling, which he laid out (with some more money borrowed) in the purchase of over 600 acres of land, negroes and farming requisites, within eight miles of New Brunswick in New Jersey, where his activity resulted in the suppression of smuggling.

William was a known supporter of British policies, and apparently made no secret of this as he offended some important people in the area & came under attack from the newspapers. As the American patriots became more and more dissatisfied with life under British rule, he seems to not have been able to keep his views to himself... a dangerous behaviour at that time. *As the rebellion brewed, he was vilified by the press and declared an enemy of the people.*

"His loyalty was manifested early, so much so, that it is stated he was tarred and feathered and 'held up to the world as incorrigible.' Finally, he was 'hunted by a hundred firelocks through the woods,' and a reward of 100 dollars was offered for his body, dead or alive; but, although within a few yards of him, he escaped alive.

I have recently found documentation that he was at some point tarred & feathered by a patriot mob, and a reward was offered for his capture, dead or alive. This likely propelled him into the revolution itself, as he joined Loyalist forces in New Jersey and became a New Jersey Volunteer.



Depictions of Tar & Feathering



In the same archives, 2d series, V, 296 (Vol. V of Newspaper Extracts) is quoted ~~xxxxxxx~~ an item from the New Jersey Gazette, headed Chatham, September 11 (1781) that "Last week William Steele, an accomplice of Jerry Ding's, was taken on his way from Roxbury, and committed to Morris Town gaol. This villain had a particular account, in writing, of the troops, both French and Americans, that marched with General Washington, together with a list of all the ordnance."

***His lands and property were
confiscated by the state,
so he lost everything he had
for the sake of his principles.***



New Jersey Volunteers re-enactors

***The New Jersey Volunteers (NJV)
fought for Britain throughout the war,
and was one of the most effective
Loyalist military units.***

Family legend was that William was a spy for the British and was jailed in chains at West Point. For ten years I tried to find substantiation for this story but could not.

I contacted an expert on the NJV, (Todd Braisted) and he wrote back that his researches showed William to be a good soldier, but nothing that would support the spy story.

***But lo & behold, in these newly
acquired papers, I found my proof.***

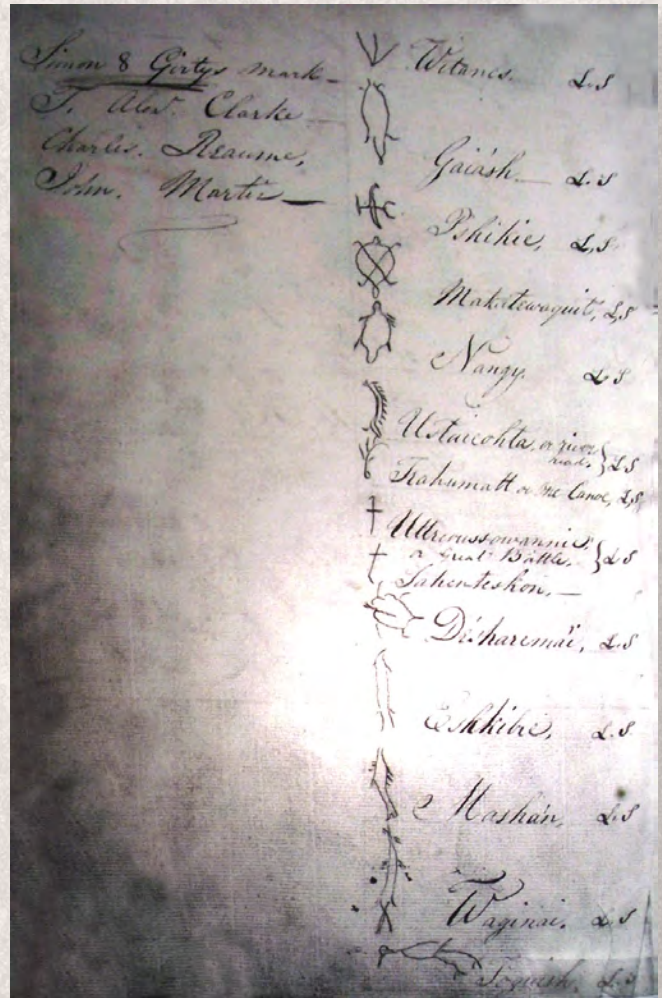
In 1781, near the end of the rebellion, he was a spy carrying secret documents, was caught and jailed at Morris Town (West Point).

He escaped; I have read often that prisoners, even criminals, could often bribe their jailors and escape. *The legend is true!*

At the end of the war, he married one Deborah Dorson in Goshen, New York & departed for British Canada.

He arrived in the Niagara area about 1787, in all probability crossing at Buffalo. At first opportunity he filed his request for land as a Loyalist, but it seems there was some difficulty with this. *I suspect that the British did not have the land to give yet.*

A deal was struck at Blenheim, Ontario, in 1793 by Alexander McKee of the Indian Department. McKee traded goods & trinkets to the Indian tribes in the area.



Above: Indian Totems from the Treaty

The Chiefs "made their mark or totem" showing that they would give up claims to the land along Lake Erie to Lake Ontario.

***This land was then divided up
and given in grants to the Loyalists
who proved their claim;
but not all proved their loyalty.***

Sept 26th I assign to William Steel the
Lot No nineteen in the Third Concession
of the Township of Humberstone in the
Home District containing two Hundred
acres, being twenty Chains wide by
one Hundred Chains deep -

This Assignment is not transferable
except by an act of the Honorable the
Executive Council,

Given at Newark
this 29 day of July 1795

D. Smith
Clerk

In 1795, William was proven to be a Loyalist & received a grant of 200 acres.

In addition, his children, as children of a Loyalist, each were eligible for 200 acres upon reaching 21 years (girls earlier, if they married). Steele roots were thus set down in Humberstone, near Port Colborne. William produced 7 children, several of whom have important histories of their own.

See Appendix A, for the compensation documents regarding his lost plantation & the decision made on his request.

My research has centred on David... our GGG-grandfather.

HUMBERSTONE TOWNSHIP

Ministry Map
No. 12

Vol. 5
Pg. 140

Examined with the descriptions
September 21, 1811 - Thomas Ridout
Surveyor General

<p>Gravelly Bay</p> <p>W S E N</p> <p>Group of Islands</p> <p>LAKE ERIE</p>	Thomas Welch 33	Isaac Thomas 33	W.C.		The Welland Canal Company 27
	Christian Savitz 34	Peter Van Kenstover 34	Christian Stoner 34		Timothy Skinner 26
	John Neave 35	Peter Neave or Neafe 35	Christian Stoner 35		W.C. 25
	Peter Edzal 36	Abraham Neafe 36	Christian Stoner 36		W.C. 24
	Joseph Doan 37	Abraham Neafe 37	Christian Stoner 37		W.C. 23
	Robert Richardson 38	John Neafe 38	Christian Knisley 38		Anne Butler 22
	Matthew Warmut 39	Matthew Warmut 39	Jacob Neafe 39		Margaret Wintermute 21
	Peter Thompson 40	Henry Neafe 40	Margaret Douglas 40		Elizabeth Andrews 20
	Peter Thompson 41	John Lyons 41	Thomas Welch 41		Robert Hamilton 19
	Robert Hamilton 42	John Nevill 42	Thomas Welch 42		Robert Hamilton 18
	Robert Hamilton 43	Moses Nevill 43	Thomas Welch 43		Robert Hamilton 17
	Robert Hamilton 44	Mary Burns 44	John Starkie 44		Robert Hamilton 16
	John D.C. 45	Francis McKay 45	William Steel 45		Robert Hamilton 15
	Jonathan Kenney 46	Francis McKay 46	William Steel 46		Robert Hamilton 14
	Peter Bradt 47	Joseph James 47	James Doaning 47		Robert Hamilton 13
	William McKim 48	Benja. Schooley 48	James Doaning 48		Robert Hamilton 12
	William McKim 49	Benja. Schooley 49	James Doaning 49		Robert Hamilton 11
	Robert Richardson 50	Joshua Pell 50	Joshua Pell 50		Robert Hamilton 10
	Joseph Dennis 51	Joshua Pell 51	Joshua Pell 51		Robert Hamilton 9
	Joseph Dennis 52	Joshua Pell 52	Joshua Pell 52		Robert Hamilton 8
	Peter Campbell 53	Joshua Pell 53	Joshua Pell 53		Robert Hamilton 7
	Frederick Row 54	Frederick Row 54	Jonathan Pell 54		Robert Hamilton 6
	Edward Hunt 55	Joshua Pell 55	Jonathan Pell 55		Robert Hamilton 5
	Gaspar Shink 56	Joseph Pell 56	Jonathan Pell 56		Robert Hamilton 4
	Michael warr? 57	George Shuman 57	Jonathan Pell 57		Robert Hamilton 3
	Christopher Richards 58	James House 58	Jonathan Pell 58		Robert Hamilton 2
	Edward Harp 59	Christina House 59	Jonathan Pell 59		Robert Hamilton 1
	Dani. Forsyth 60	John House 60	Jonathan Pell 60		Robert Hamilton 0
	Daniel Forsyth 61	Joseph Havens 61	Jonathan Pell 61		Robert Hamilton -1
	Peter Feero 62	Jacob Shink 62	Jonathan Pell 62		Robert Hamilton -2
	Aaron Skinner 63	Abraham Laing 63	Jonathan Pell 63		Robert Hamilton -3
	John Moore 64	James Kennedy 64	Jonathan Pell 64		Robert Hamilton -4
		James Kennedy 65	Jonathan Pell 65		Robert Hamilton -5
		James Kennedy 66	Jonathan Pell 66		Robert Hamilton -6
		James Kennedy 67	Jonathan Pell 67		Robert Hamilton -7
		James Kennedy 68	Jonathan Pell 68		Robert Hamilton -8
		James Kennedy 69	Jonathan Pell 69		Robert Hamilton -9
		James Kennedy 70	Jonathan Pell 70		Robert Hamilton -10
		James Kennedy 71	Jonathan Pell 71		Robert Hamilton -11
		James Kennedy 72	Jonathan Pell 72		Robert Hamilton -12
		James Kennedy 73	Jonathan Pell 73		Robert Hamilton -13
		James Kennedy 74	Jonathan Pell 74		Robert Hamilton -14
		James Kennedy 75	Jonathan Pell 75		Robert Hamilton -15
		James Kennedy 76	Jonathan Pell 76		Robert Hamilton -16
		James Kennedy 77	Jonathan Pell 77		Robert Hamilton -17
		James Kennedy 78	Jonathan Pell 78		Robert Hamilton -18
		James Kennedy 79	Jonathan Pell 79		Robert Hamilton -19
		James Kennedy 80	Jonathan Pell 80		Robert Hamilton -20
		James Kennedy 81	Jonathan Pell 81		Robert Hamilton -21
		James Kennedy 82	Jonathan Pell 82		Robert Hamilton -22
		James Kennedy 83	Jonathan Pell 83		Robert Hamilton -23
		James Kennedy 84	Jonathan Pell 84		Robert Hamilton -24
		James Kennedy 85	Jonathan Pell 85		Robert Hamilton -25
		James Kennedy 86	Jonathan Pell 86		Robert Hamilton -26
		James Kennedy 87	Jonathan Pell 87		Robert Hamilton -27
		James Kennedy 88	Jonathan Pell 88		Robert Hamilton -28
		James Kennedy 89	Jonathan Pell 89		Robert Hamilton -29
		James Kennedy 90	Jonathan Pell 90		Robert Hamilton -30
		James Kennedy 91	Jonathan Pell 91		Robert Hamilton -31
		James Kennedy 92	Jonathan Pell 92		Robert Hamilton -32
		James Kennedy 93	Jonathan Pell 93		Robert Hamilton -33
		James Kennedy 94	Jonathan Pell 94		Robert Hamilton -34
		James Kennedy 95	Jonathan Pell 95		Robert Hamilton -35
		James Kennedy 96	Jonathan Pell 96		Robert Hamilton -36
		James Kennedy 97	Jonathan Pell 97		Robert Hamilton -37
		James Kennedy 98	Jonathan Pell 98		Robert Hamilton -38
		James Kennedy 99	Jonathan Pell 99		Robert Hamilton -39
		James Kennedy 100	Jonathan Pell 100		Robert Hamilton -40
		James Kennedy 101	Jonathan Pell 101		Robert Hamilton -41
		James Kennedy 102	Jonathan Pell 102		Robert Hamilton -42
		James Kennedy 103	Jonathan Pell 103		Robert Hamilton -43
		James Kennedy 104	Jonathan Pell 104		Robert Hamilton -44
		James Kennedy 105	Jonathan Pell 105		Robert Hamilton -45
		James Kennedy 106	Jonathan Pell 106		Robert Hamilton -46
		James Kennedy 107	Jonathan Pell 107		Robert Hamilton -47
		James Kennedy 108	Jonathan Pell 108		Robert Hamilton -48
		James Kennedy 109	Jonathan Pell 109		Robert Hamilton -49
		James Kennedy 110	Jonathan Pell 110		Robert Hamilton -50
		James Kennedy 111	Jonathan Pell 111		Robert Hamilton -51
		James Kennedy 112	Jonathan Pell 112		Robert Hamilton -52
		James Kennedy 113	Jonathan Pell 113		Robert Hamilton -53
		James Kennedy 114	Jonathan Pell 114		Robert Hamilton -54
		James Kennedy 115	Jonathan Pell 115		Robert Hamilton -55
		James Kennedy 116	Jonathan Pell 116		Robert Hamilton -56
		James Kennedy 117	Jonathan Pell 117		Robert Hamilton -57
		James Kennedy 118	Jonathan Pell 118		Robert Hamilton -58
		James Kennedy 119	Jonathan Pell 119		Robert Hamilton -59
		James Kennedy 120	Jonathan Pell 120		Robert Hamilton -60
		James Kennedy 121	Jonathan Pell 121		Robert Hamilton -61
		James Kennedy 122	Jonathan Pell 122		Robert Hamilton -62
		James Kennedy 123	Jonathan Pell 123		Robert Hamilton -63
		James Kennedy 124	Jonathan Pell 124		Robert Hamilton -64
		James Kennedy 125	Jonathan Pell 125		Robert Hamilton -65
		James Kennedy 126	Jonathan Pell 126		Robert Hamilton -66
		James Kennedy 127	Jonathan Pell 127		Robert Hamilton -67
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		James Kennedy 129	Jonathan Pell 129		Robert Hamilton -69
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		James Kennedy 134	Jonathan Pell 134		Robert Hamilton -74
		James Kennedy 135	Jonathan Pell 135		Robert Hamilton -75
		James Kennedy 136	Jonathan Pell 136		Robert Hamilton -76
		James Kennedy 137	Jonathan Pell 137		Robert Hamilton -77
		James Kennedy 138	Jonathan Pell 138		Robert Hamilton -78
		James Kennedy 139	Jonathan Pell 139		Robert Hamilton -79
		James Kennedy 140	Jonathan Pell 140		Robert Hamilton -80
		James Kennedy 141	Jonathan Pell 141		Robert Hamilton -81
		James Kennedy 142	Jonathan Pell 142		Robert Hamilton -82
		James Kennedy 143	Jonathan Pell 143		Robert Hamilton -83
		James Kennedy 144	Jonathan Pell 144		Robert Hamilton -84
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		James Kennedy 146	Jonathan Pell 146		Robert Hamilton -86
		James Kennedy 147	Jonathan Pell 147		Robert Hamilton -87
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		James Kennedy 150	Jonathan Pell 150		Robert Hamilton -90
		James Kennedy 151	Jonathan Pell 151		Robert Hamilton -91
		James Kennedy 152	Jonathan Pell 152		Robert Hamilton -92
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		James Kennedy 179	Jonathan Pell 179		Robert Hamilton -119
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		James Kennedy 235	Jonathan Pell 235		Robert Hamilton -175
		James Kennedy 236	Jonathan Pell 236		Robert Hamilton -176
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		James Kennedy 241	Jonathan Pell 241		Robert Hamilton -181
		James Kennedy 242	Jonathan Pell 242		Robert Hamilton -182
		James Kennedy 243	Jonathan Pell 243		Robert Hamilton -183
		James Kennedy 244	Jonathan Pell 244		Robert Hamilton -184
		James Kennedy 245	Jonathan Pell 245		Robert Hamilton -185
		James Kennedy 246	Jonathan Pell 246		Robert Hamilton -186
		James Kennedy 247	Jonathan Pell 247		Robert Hamilton -187
		James Kennedy 248	Jonathan Pell 248		Robert Hamilton -188
		James Kennedy 249	Jonathan Pell 249		Robert Hamilton -189
		James Kennedy 250	Jonathan Pell 250		Robert Hamilton -190
		James Kennedy 251	Jonathan Pell 251		Robert Hamilton -191
		James Kennedy 252	Jonathan Pell 252		Robert Hamilton -192

To the Commissioners appointed by Act of
Parliament for enquiring into the Losses and Services of the
American Loyalists.

The Memorial of William Steele
from the Jerseys near Brunswick in North America

Sheweth

That so early as the Stamp Act your
Memorialist distinguished himself in the support of said Act to
such a degree that he was threatened to have his House and place
set on fire about him, and would have ^{been} burnt in Effigy, had not
the repeal of said Act arrived which prevented it.

That soon after when the Duties were laid on
the Teas your Memorialist was likewise active in preventing
smuggling which brought your Memorialist under a general contempt
of the People; but prevented smuggling so very much that smugglers
were afraid to make Brunswick the place of landing any more

That when the Rebellion broke out the Rebels first
resentment was against your Memorialist. The first Act of theirs
was surprising your Memorialist in his own House taking him
under a strong guard upwards of two Hundred people to
Brunswick being Eight Miles, and publickly tarring and
feathering him, drawing him at the same time in a Waggon
up

Will of William Steele (1744- c1827) - extracts

I, William Steele, of the township of Humberstone in the county of Lincoln and province of Upper Canada, being in a poor state of health but of perfect sound mind and memory, declare this to be my last Will and Testament..

I give and bequeath to my wife Penelope nothing more than the law requires or allows her. I give and bequeath to my son John 12 pounds 10 shillings lawful money of Upper Canada. I give and divide to my son Samuel and to his heirs and assigns forever the south half of lot number 20 in the third concession of the township of Humberstone. I give and divide to my son David and to his heirs and assigns forever the south half of lot number 19 in the third concession of Humberstone. I give and divide to my son William and to his heirs and assigns forever the south halves of the north ends of lots number 19 and 20 in the third concession of Humberstone. I give and divide to my son Jonathan and to his heirs and assigns forever part of the northern halves of lots number 19 and 20 in the third concession of Humberstone.

I give and divide to my grandson William Steele, son of Solomon Steele deceased, and to his heirs and assigns forever, to come into his possession at his coming of the age of 21 years, the profits of which before that period shall be for the support of the family of my said son Solomon deceased, the north ends of lots number 19 and 20. My aforesaid son David shall pay to my estate the sum of 12 pounds 10 shillings lawful money; I give the aforesaid sum of 12 pounds 10 shillings in cash or its value in marketable produce to my son Samuel.

I also give and bequeath to my son Jonathan 25 pounds or its value in marketable produce. To my daughter Mary, called Polly Rice, I give and bequeath the sum of 50 pounds or its value in marketable produce. To my daughter Anna Bears, I give the sum of 50 pounds or its marketable value in produce.

If my executors can see no advantage in leaving it longer, which I leave to their discretion, they shall sell my moveable property, such as household furniture, stock, and farming implements; there shall then be an equal dividing of the surplus according to the appraisement of each of my children's share as I have described above, except my sons John and Jonathan and my Grandson William. They shall have nothing more than I have bequeathed to them previously.

I do also constitute and appoint my true executors to be my son John Steele, Benjamin Schooley of Humberstone, Samuel Zavitz of Wainfleet, and Christian Bachner of Crawland.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand & seal this 18th day of January in the year of our Lord 1827.

Witnesses: Abraham Laing, John Stoner, Elias Bennett

his
William x Steel
mark

Notes:

*At this time, the E on the end of the name seems to be just beginning.
David did use STEELE but others did not. I have a photocopy of the
original will, as well as a complete transcript.*

*We know little about his wife Penelope, but in the will, not only did he leave her
as little as possible, he also wanted the household items sold and the cash divided up;
she was not to get even that.*

ANCESTRAL MAP

1. William STEELE born 1744 in Ireland?, died c1827, occupation: weaver, farmer.

William built one of the first flour mills in the county (1790) near present day Port Colborne. William's sons fought with General Brock at Queenston Heights during the War of 1812. On his death the mill was passed to his son John.

ref.: Willam Steele-Surrogate Court Records-1827-Will? Niagara North.

Children:

2. i John STEELE born 1773.

ii Anne STEELE.

Land Grant - 20 May 1817.

She married Daniel BEARSS.

Daniel: of Humberstone.

3. iii Solomon STEELE born 9 May 1791.

4. iv David STEELE born 24 Nov 1793.

v Samuel STEELE.

Land Grant - 17 Sep 1823 - Humberstone.

5. vi Jonathan STEELE born 14 Jul 1797.

vii Mary Anne STEELE, born 19 May 1821, died 22 Jun 1858

Niagara Twp, Lincoln County, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne.

Land Grant 16 Jun 1819.

She married Joseph RICE.

Joseph: of Stanford.

Second Generation

2. John STEELE born 1773, died 1855 in Welland Co., Ontario, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne. This is the fellow who inherited the mill from William.

He married 4 times. Sarah, his 1st wife was about 14 when they married. She had 4 kids and died at ~24 years of age. John found a succession of widows to marry and to help raise his kids, while he worked the farm. Sarah (Doan) produced all of his children including Jonathan who later helped found Sparta, Ontario. His line leads to the 1837 Rebellion and Joshua Doan being hung as a traitor. John's last wife Lydia, was born 1794, died 10 Mar 1858 in Welland Co., Ontario, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne.

Children:

6. i David STEELE born 29 Dec 1816. (son of John & Sarah Doan)

3. Solomon STEELE born 9 May 1791 in Humberstone Township, Welland, Ontario, died 17 Apr 1824 in Niagara Twp, Lincoln County, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne.

Land Grant- 14 Nov 1818

Fought in the War of 1812 at Queenston Hts.

He married Lavina BARNES, born 16 Jul 1793, died 17 Jan 1866 in Niagara Twp, Lincoln County, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne.

ref.: Lavina: Surrogate Court Index Lincoln & Welland 1859-1900 Will # 1967-1896.

Children:

- 7. i Miranda STEELE born 23 Nov 1823.
- 8. ii Jonas STEELE born 27 Sep 1818.
- iii William STEELE, born 17 May 1816 in Upper Canada, died 28 Feb 1879 in Humberstone Twp, Lincoln County, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne.

Land Grant - 7 Jul 1831 Reeve Humberstone 1850-1 1871 C-9919 Humberstone #1, married, age 54, W. Methodist, Irish, farmer, 230 acres, 2 houses, 2 barns, 3 carriages, 1 wagon, 1 horse, 3 milk / 2 cattle, 1 hive, produced 150 lb butter, 30lb honey, cut 20 cord fire wood.

ref.: Surrogate Court Index Lincoln & Welland 1859-1900 Will # 825-1879.

He married Lavina SCHOOLEY, born 20 Nov 1823 in Bertie Twp., Welland Co., Ontario, (daughter of _____ SCHOOLEY) died 27 Aug 1896 in Humberstone Twp, Lincoln County, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne.

Lavina: 1871 C-9919 Humberstone #1, married, age 47, English descent.

- 9. iv Deborah STEELE.

4. David STEELE born 24 Nov 1793 in Pennsylvania, USA, died 24 Nov 1876 in Humberstone Twp, Welland Co., Ontario, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne.

1861 Census-#1080 Humberstone #3, married, age 67 -next to son Christian

1871 Census #9919 Humberstone married, age 78, lived next door to son Christian, 2 dwellings, 1 barn, 4 carriages / sleighs, 1 wagon, 1 plow, 1 farming mill

75 Acre UE Land Grant - 20 May 1817.

IN 1876, David received a token payment of \$20.00 for his service with General Brock.

ref.: Surrogate Court Index Lincoln & Welland 1859-1900 Will # 735 - 1876 - have copy

“This is the Last Will and Testament of David Steele of the Township of Humberstone in the County of Welland and the Province of Ontario, Yeoman. I will and desire that all my just debts, funeral and testamentary to be paid by my executors as soon as conveniently may be after my decease, And as to my worldly estate, wherewith it has pleased God to bless me, I give and dispose of the same as follows, -

I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Elizabeth Steele the sum of One Hundred and Twenty Five Dollars to be paid to her by my executors hereinafter named within one year after my decease and I also give and bequeath to my said wife Elizabeth all my household goods and furniture to hold to her, her heirs and assign forever.

I give and bequeath to my son Nelson Steele the sum of Two Hundred Dollars to be paid to him by my executors within one year from my decease.

I give and bequeath to my son Matthias the sum of Two Hundred and Seventy-five Dollars to be paid to him by my executors within one year from my decease.

I give and bequeath to my son Christian the sum of One Hundred Dollars to be paid to him by my executors within one year from my decease and I give an bequeath unto my said son Christian all my farming utensils for his own use and benefit.

I give and bequeath to my daughter Marilla the sum of One Hundred and Twenty-five Dollars to be paid to her by my executors within one year from my decease and I give and bequeath to my said daughter Marilla a promissory note which I hold against her for the sum of Fifty Two Dollars to be given to her by my executors hereinafter named.

And I give and bequeath all the rest and residue of my personal estate which may remain in the hands of my executors unto and equally divided between and among my sons, Nelson, Matthias, and Christian share and share alike and except one cow which I give and bequeath to my wife Elizabeth for her own use and benefit.

And I nominate and appoint my sons Matthias and Christian and my trusty friend David Steele (son of the late John Steele) of the Township of Humberstone, in the County of Welland, aforesaid to be the executors of this my will, hereby revoking all former wills by me at anytime herefore made. -

In witness whereof I the said David Steele have hereunto set my hand and seal the Twenty-third day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand, eight hundred and seventy five.

**Signed, sealed, published and declared by the
Said Testator David Steele as and for his last
Will and Testament in the presence of us who
at his request and in his presence and in
the presence of each other have subscribed our
names and as witnesses thereto**

his
David X Steele (seal)
mark

John Thompson Albert S Weaver.

David married Elizabeth ZAVITZ, born 3 Aug 1800 in Upper Canada, (daughter of Christian ZAVITZ and Margaret HAUN) died 6 Mar 1880 in Humberstone Twp, Welland Co., Ontario, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne.

Elizabeth: Zavitz Book person # 112 1843 built a frame house. 1861 Census-#1080 Humberstone #3, married, age 66, log home built 1812, 1871 Census #9919 Humberstone, married, age 70.

Children:

10. i Nelson STEELE born 10 Jan 1825.
11. ii Mathias STEELE born 20 Sep 1827.
 - iii _____ STEELE, born 1829, died 1860 in Humberstone Twp, Welland Co., Ontario.
Cause of death heart disease.
12. iv Christian STEELE born 8 Jan 1830.
13. v Marilla STEELE born 1833.

David Steele was the person who added an "E" at the end of the name, as William appears on various NJV muster rolls as "Steel". Some reports say William could not read or write, but he did sign his name on more than one document. David served in some capacity during the War of 1812, and was granted a pension for his services. As was common at the time, it took David many years to actually receive any pension, as the government seemed to stall payments in many cases, hoping the pensioner would die before collecting. David had several siblings who served in the war as well.

David's wife, Elizabeth Zavitz, was the grand-daughter of Christian Zavitz, who had designed and built many of the flour mills along the eastern coast of Lake Erie. Most were burned by the Kentucky Cavalry, who raided along the lakeshore during 1813. The mills were vital to flour production, and the invaders knew this would badly damage the lifestyle of the Canadian patriots who were opposing them.



**G-G-G Grandfather
David Steele**

David Steele, Eulogy

Mr. Steele was of Irish extraction, and born in the Township of Humberstone where has lived all of his life. He was one of the veterans of 1812, who so nobly defended their country against a powerful enemy, at that time invading its borders. His wife still survives. He has three sons and one daughter to mourn his loss. He was a good citizen, an honest man, and a valued member of society.

He held some positions of trust and responsibility in that township many years ago with credit to himself and the satisfaction of the public.



**Headstone of
David Steele**



Zavitz Mill, Gravelly Bay

To His Excellency, *James Mac Donnell* Esq. Lieutenant
Governor of the Province of Upper Canada
for &c. *David Steel*
The Petition of *David Steel*
Humberston In Council
of the Township of

Humbly Sheweth,
That your Petitioner is the Son of *William Steel*
of the Township of *Humberston* an enrolled U. E. Loyalist, is of the full
age of Twenty One Years, has taken the Oath of Allegiance and has never had any
Lands, or order for Lands from the Crown. Therefore Humbly prays that your
Excellency may be pleased to grant him Two Hundred Acres, of the
Waste Lands of the Crown. And permit *George Chubb* of
York Egre to be his Agent to locate the same and take
out the Deed when completed.
And your Petitioner as is in duty bound, will ever pray.
David Steel

District of *Niagara* } *David Steel* maketh Oath that he is
the Person he describes himself to be in the above Petition, is of the full age of
Twenty One Years, and has never had any Lands, or order for Lands from the
Crown. *David Steel*

Sworn in General Quarter Sessions
of the Peace, this *14th* day of *May* }
1814 }
W. Ball
Chairman

District of *Niagara* } *David Steel* maketh Oath
That *David Steel* the above Petitioner is
the person he describes himself, and has never had any Lands, or order for Lands
from the Crown, to the best of my Knowledge, and Belief.
Sworn in General Quarter Sessions
of the Peace, this *14th* day of }
May *1814* }
W. Ball
Chairman *George Chubb*

1814 Land Grant, David Steel
(note 'e' missing on document)

5. Jonathan STEELE born 14 Jul 1797, died 6 Mar 1854 in Welland Co., Ontario, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne.

Land Grant - 13 Apr 1819 Surrogate Court Records-1854-Will? Niagara North.

He married Sarah ABBOTT, born 1805, died 14 Dec 1888 in Welland Co., Ontario, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne.

Children:

14.
 - i Emaline STEELE born 3 Apr 1825.
 - ii Benjamin STEELE, born 9 Jul 1837, died 23 Oct 1838 in Welland Co., Ontario, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne.

Third Generation

6. David STEELE born 29 Dec 1816 in Upper Canada, died 26 Dec 1879 in Humberstone Twp, Welland Co., Ontario, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne.

ref.: Surrogate Court Index Lincoln & Welland 1859-1900 Will # 862 - 1880

1871 C-9919 Humberstone #1, married, age 54, Baptist, Irish, farmer, 6 children.

He married Hannah B CARTER, born 20 Apr 1826 in Brighton, New York, (daughter of Levi CARTER and Hannah GREEN) died 12 Jun 1902, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne.

Hannah: 1871 C-9919 Humberstone #1, married, age 45, English, born US 1881 Census Reel #13253 widowed, 2 children still at home and father, Baptist. 1891 Census Humberstone, widow, age 64, lives with son Charles and his family 1901 Census Humberstone, widow, lives with widowed daughter, Addie.

Children:

15.
 - i Jefferson STEELE born 3 Jul 1847.
 - ii Mary E STEELE, born 1847 in Humberstone Twp, Welland Co., On
Married 14 Oct 1867 in Humberstone Twp, Welland Co., Ontario,
Freeman STONE, born 1842 in Masskal Co., Iowa, (son of Henry
STONE and Susan FREEMAN).
Freeman: Welland Country Marriage Register 1858-1868.
 - iii Lewis STEELE, born 1850, died 1850, buried in Overholt
Cemetery, near Port Colborne.
16.
 - iv Adeline *Addie* Hannah STEELE born 11 Jul 1851.
 - v Charles STEELE, born 31 Dec 1853, died 21 Jan 1854, buried in
Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne.
 - vi John M STEELE, born 1855, died 1870, buried in Overholt
Cemetery, near Port Colborne.
 - vii male STEELE, born c 1858 in Humberstone Twp, Welland Co., On.
1871 C-9919 Humberstone #1, at home, age 13, attending school.
 - viii Clara STEELE, born 1860 in Humberstone Twp, Welland Co., On
1871 C-9919 Humberstone #1, at home, age 12, attending school
1881 Census C13253-Humberstone, age 21, at home, English, Baptist.
 - ix Martha J STEELE, born 1861, died 1861, buried in Overholt
Cemetery, near Port Colborne.
 - x Eliza J STEELE, born 1863, died 1868 in Humberstone Twp,
Welland Co., On, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne.
17.
 - xi Charles Eugene STEELE born 22 Aug 1865.
 - xii Myranda Steele, born 1 Aug 1869 in Humberstone Twp, Welland Co.,
Ontario, died 2 Apr 1872 in Humberstone Twp, Welland Co., On,
buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne.
1871 C-9919 Humberstone #1, at home, age 1.

7. Miranda STEELE born 23 Nov 1823, died 25 Oct 1881, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne.

She married Charles H CARTER, born 13 Aug 1821 in Chester County, New Jersey, (son of Levi CARTER and Hannah GREEN) died 14 Mar 1897, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne, occupation Harbour master, towing.

Charles: In 1838, Charles, with his brother Wm engaged in the business of towing on the Welland Canal, at first with horses & later with tugs, as steam superseded "horse" power. In 1874, Charles was appointed harbour master at Port Colbourne.

Children:

18. i Dewitt CARTER born 1849.
19. ii Charles *Sperry* CARTER, Capt. born 23 Jan 1851.
 - iii Frank William CARTER, born 1852, died 1943, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne, occupation: Tug & Wrecking Business.
 - iv Harry V CARTER, occupation lawyer.
 - v Alfred CARTER.
 - vi Addie Jane CARTER, born 31 Mar 1860, died 31 Oct 1860, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne.
 - vii Mary CARTER, born 15 Feb 1861, died 17 Dec 1861, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne.
 - viii Clara Miranda CARTER, born 1861, died 1957, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne.
 - ix Emma Louisa CARTER, born 16 Dec 1870, died 25 Dec 1871, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne.

8. Jonas STEELE born 27 Sep 1818 in Humberstone Township, Welland, Ontario, died 26 Mar 1887 in Fonthill, Ontario, occupation Mercantile Business.

As a young adult Jonas learned the carpenter and joiner trade, following these lines for 8 years. He built the first plank house in Jordan. Next he engaged in mercantile pursuits for a period of 24 years, at Ridgeville, formerly know as Steeles Corners. After that for ten years he devoted his attention to fruit growing, establishing the 1st vineyard at Ridgeville. He continued this pursuit 'til 1880. Upon retiring he moved to Maple Hall, Fonthill where he resided until his death in 1887.

He had been the first Postmaster of Ridgeville, Ontario & the Justice of the Peace for over 36 years.

ref.: Bilographical Sketches, History of Welland County, page 485
Surrogate Court Index Lincoln & Welland 1859-1900 Will # 1260-1887.

Married 13 Oct 1841, Magdeline CROW, born 1813, died 7 Mar 1887 in Pelham, Welland Co., Ontario.

ref.: Magdeline: Surrogate Court Index Lincoln & Welland 1859-1900 Will # 1259-1887.

Children:

- i Alfred W STEELE, born 1842.
- ii Sarah M STEELE, born 1848.
- iii Maggie STEELE.

Married 19 Jul 1879, John Abner CRYSLER, born 26 Nov 1853 in Thorold Township, near Allanburgh.

9. Deborah STEELE

According to her brother Wm's will she was marred to a CLINE.

She married George CLINE, (son of Daniel CLINE and Jemima ALWARD).

Children:

- i Jonas CLINE, born 8 Sep 1838 in Bertie Twp., Welland Co., On, died 26 Oct 1901 in Yarmouth Twp., Elgin Co., Ontario, buried in Orwell Cem., Malahide Twp., Elgin C., ON.

Was left 100 dollars in his Uncle William Steele's (BK #6085) will.
Married 26 Jan 1871 in Yarmouth Twp., Elgin Co., Ontario, Maria SHAVER.

10. Nelson STEELE born 10 Jan 1825 in Ontario, died 26 Apr 1898 in Stevensville Bertie Twp?, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne, occupation: farmer.

1871 Humberstone #1, age 46, (According to papers of Ralph D. Steele, Nelson had mental health issues and needed much care. Brother Mathias seems to have stepped in.) 1881 Census (reel 13253) married, age 57, 6 grown children, German descent Zavitz Book person # 373.

He married Eliza BAKER, born 23 Oct 1829 in Ontario, (daughter of Michael BAKER and Rebecca BEAM) died 19 Jul 1910, buried in Reformed Mennonite, Stevensville, Ontario.

Eliza: 1871 Census-C9919-Bertie, married, age 41, name given as "Martha", Mennonite 1881 Census #13256 Bertie, married, age 51 1891 Census - #6375 Bertie #3 - widowed, 5 grown children 1901 Census_T6503-Bertie - Widowed, age 71, lives with 3 adult children, Mennonite.

Children:

- i Martha STEELE, born c1851 in Welland Co., Ontario.
1871 Census-C9919-Bertie, age 20, living at home.
- 20. ii Aquilla STEELE born 28 Apr 1853.
- iii Janet STEELE, born 1855, died 1939 in Stevensville, buried in Reformed Mennonite Cem., Stevensville.
1871 census not with other children, maybe she is with the father who is also missing. 1901 Stevensville, Bertie Twp-at home, age 42.
- iv Garnet STEELE, born 1857 in Ontario, died aft 1901.
1861 1871 Census #9919-Bertie-living with Martha Steele, age 15 attending school 1881 Census #13256 Bertie, at home, age 24
1891 Census-T6375-Bertie, unmarried, at home, age 33, Methodist
1901 Census #T6503 Bertie - unmarried, age 42, lives with mother.
- v Michael David STEELE, born 15 Aug 1859 in Ontario, died 29 Jun 1920, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne, occupation: farmer.
1871 Census #9919-Bertie-living with Martha Steele, age 12 attending school 1881 Census #13256 Bertie, at home, age 21
1891 Census - #6375 Bertie #3, unmarried lives with mother, age 30?
1901 Census-T6503 Bertie, unmarried, lives with mother village of Stevensville.
- 21. vi Rebecca STEELE born 1862.
- 22. vii Abraham STEELE born 15 Aug 1865.
- vii Maud Eliza STEELE, born 16 Sep 1868 in Ontario, died 1923 in Stevensville, buried in Reformed Mennonite Cem., Stevensville.
1871 Census #9919-Bertie-living with Martha Steele, age 3, "Eliza Maud"
1891 Census #6375 Bertie #3 unmarried lives with mother, age 23, Methodist
1901 Census-T6503 Bertie, unmarried, age 31, lives with Mother, Stevensville.

11. Mathias STEELE born 20 Sep 1827 in Welland Co., Ontario, died 25 Sep 1912 in Overholt Cemetery, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne, occupation: farmer. 1871 Humberstone #1, married, age 44, C of E, Irish descent, farmer, 5 kids, his brother Nelson (46) is with them 1881 C13253-Humberstone, age 52, married, 2 children, Irish, farmer, UB. 1891 #T6376 married, age 63-1 child , son Chandler & family, Samuel Doan 1901-T6503-Humberstone #2-married, age 73, English, United Brethren, retired.

He married Sarah SPRINGER, born 29 Mar 1832 in Pennsylvania, USA, died 17 Dec 1908, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne.

Sarah: 1871 Humberstone #1, married, age 39 1881 C13253-Humberstone, age 11, at home, German, b. Penn, UB. 1891 #T6376 Humberstone married, age 59 - says born USA 1901-T6503-Humberstone #2 -at home, age 69 -says born US came to Canada in 1836.

Children:

- i Hylinda STEELE, born 29 Jan 1853, died 11 Mar 1858, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne.
- 23. ii Elizabeth STEELE born 25 Aug 1855.
- 24. iii Armantha STEELE born 18 Jun 1858.
- 25. iv Laurretta STEELE born 2 Nov 1860.
- 26. v Chandler STEELE born 21 Sep 1863.
- 27. vi Ellen (Ella) STEELE born 3 Dec 1868.

12. Christian STEELE born 8 Jan 1830 in Humberstone Twp, Welland Co., Ontario, died 26 Jul 1904 in Humberstone Twp, Welland Co., Ontario, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne, occupation farmer.

1861-#1080 Humberstone, married, age 32, 2 children -lives with parents, Mennonite
1871-#9919 Humberstone, married, age, 41, 4 children, no sect, Irish, farmer 1881-13253- Humberstone- married, age 51, 3 children at home, Methodist, Irish. 1891- #T6376 Humberstone, married, age 61, plus Edgar and his family 1901-T-6503 Humberstone, age 71-parents lived with Edgar and his family, U.B.

Farm of Christian Steele and Martha Doan 1871

According to the 1871 Census Reel # 9919 Humberstone Township, County of Welland Christian and Martha had a fairly comfortable life. They lived with their family of 2 sons and 2 daughters on 98 1/2 acres Con 3 Lot 19/20.

They had a house and 2 barns, 3 carriages/sleighs, 3 wagons, 4 plows/cultivators, 1 horse rake, 1 fanning mill? On these 98 acres, 60 acres were improved, 15 acres were pasture, 4 acres were garden or orchard and 12 acres were in wheat.

They harvested that year; 125 Bushels of winter wheat, 91 of bushels barley, 106 bushels of oats, 60 bushels of corn, 50 bushels of potatoes, 13 ton of hay, 300 lb. of grapes, 300 lb. of apples, 5 lb. of pears and 100 lb. of maple syrup. Plus, they cut 1000 board feet or square white pine, and 80 cords of firewood.

They had 4 horses, 2 colts/fillies, 4 milk cows, 5 horned cattle, 2 swine, 4 hives of bees. They butchered or sold that year 2 cattle, 14 sheep, 3 swine. They produced 200 pounds of butter, 60 pounds of wool, 82 yards of home made flannel/fabric.

I haven't extensively compared them to other farms in the area but I would say they were a very self sufficient, prosperous family.

Christian & Martha (Doan) Steele

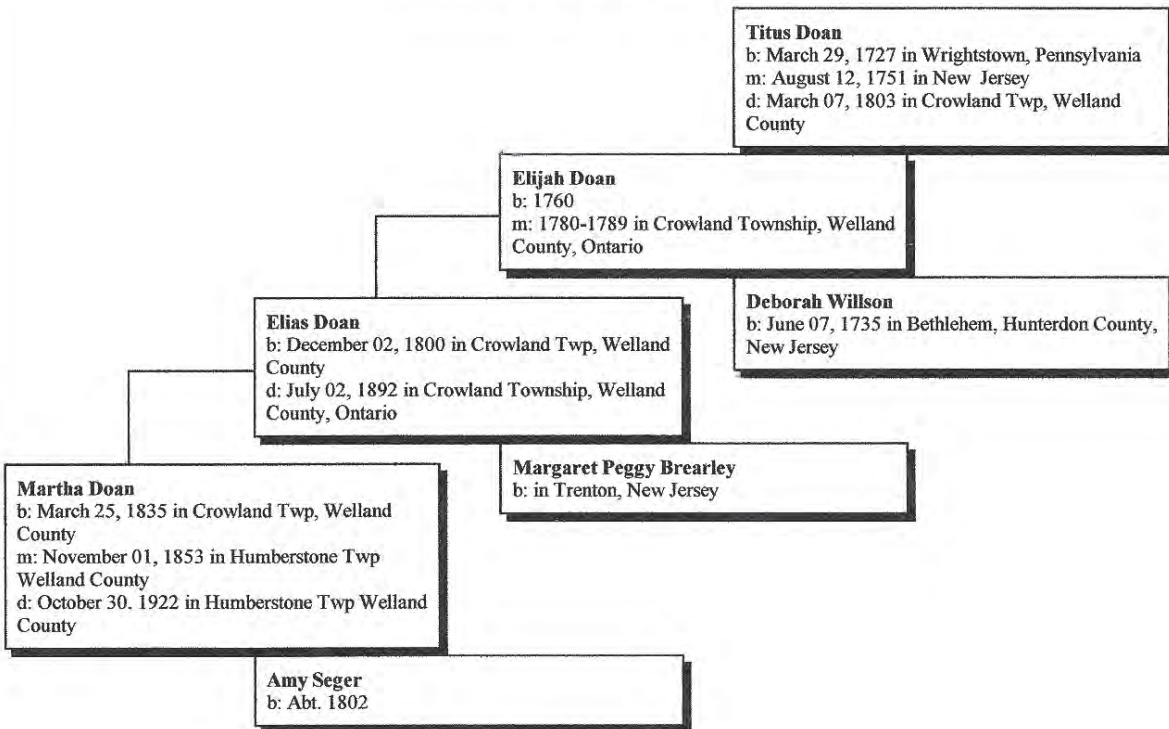


Family Group Record- 56

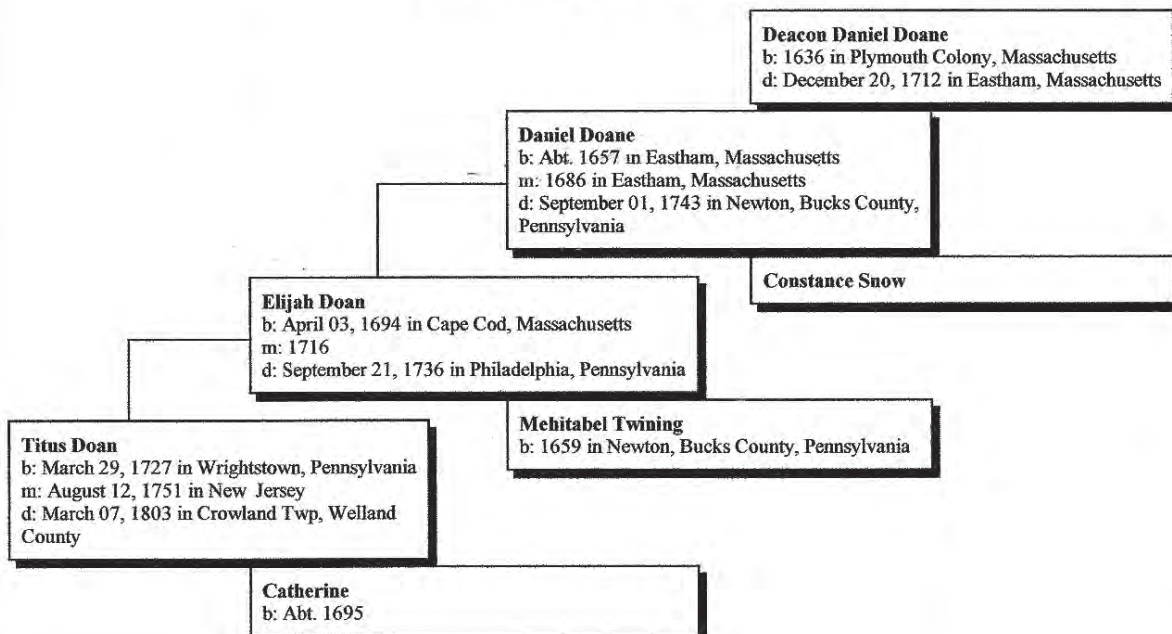
Page 1 of 2

Husband Christian Steele-160		
Born	8 Jan 1830	Place Humberstone Twp., Welland Co., Ontario, Canada
Died	26 Jul 1904	Place Humberstone Twp., Welland Co., Ontario, Canada
Buried		Place Overholt Cem., Humberstone Twp., Welland, Ontario
Married	1 Nov 1853	Place Sherkston, Welland Co., Ontario, Canada
Husband's father	David Steel-33	
Husband's mother	Elizabeth Zavitz-43	
MRIN: 8		
Wife Martha Doan-162		
Born	25 Mar 1835	Place Crowland Twp., Welland Co., Ontario, Canada
Died	30 Oct 1922	Place Port Colborne, Welland, Ontario
Buried		Place Overholt Cem., Humberstone Twp., Welland, Ontario
Wife's father	Elias Doan-635	
Wife's mother	Amy Crowland-636	
MRIN: 226		
Children : List each child in order of birth:		
1	M Wilmer Ellis Steele-171	
Born	18 Oct 1854	Place of Sherkston, Welland Co., Ontario, Canada
Died	13 Apr 1945	Place
Buried		Place Overholt Cem., Humberstone Twp., Welland, Ontario
Spouse	Julia Ann Sherk-172	
Married	23 Oct 1879	Place Welland, Ontario, Canada
MRIN: 52		
2	M Marshall Edgar (Ed) Steele-632	
Born	1 Dec 1858	Place West Humberstone, Welland County, Ontario, Canada
Died	21 Mar 1950	Place Humberstone, Welland, Ontario
Buried		Place Overholt Cem., Humberstone Twp., Welland, Ontario
Spouse	Sophia Smelser-638	
Married	Abt 1880	Place Welland, Ontario, Canada
MRIN: 227		
3	F Clarissa Adell Steele-633	
Born	Abt 1861	Place Welland County, Ontario, Canada
Spouse	William E Troup-3424	
Married	8 Oct 1879	Place Humberstone Twp., Welland, Ontario
MRIN: 918		
4	F Martha Jane Steele-634	
Born	9 Mar 1863	Place Welland County, Ontario, Canada
Died	1950	Place
Buried		Place Overholt Cem., Humberstone Twp., Welland, Ontario
Spouse	William Henry Babion-3195	
Married	31 Aug 1884	Place Thorold, Welland, Ontario
MRIN: 821		
5	M George Steele-3267	
Born	Abt 1869	Place Humberstone Twp., Welland, Ontario
Notes		
<p>MARRIAGE</p> <p>Christian was born, lived his life and died on his father's farm. He was fond of travelling, however, visiting Toronto, Hamilton, and London often to see fairs, and to see George Steele at least once in Komoka. He visited the World Fair in Chicago in 1893: He was a very powerful man and proud of his prowess. At fairs he won contests of strength and was always ready to take a dare. One one occasion he lifted 610 lbs., and he could put a 200 lb. sack of salt on his shoulder using only one arm. He never spared himself in working, and would often continue to work in the rain. R.D. Steele.</p> <p>Obituary: The Welland Tribune, July 29, 1904. OLD RESIDENT DEAD. Humberstone lost one of its very oldest native residents on Tuesday afternoon when Christian Steele passed away at the advanced age of 74 years. His death occurred suddenly and unexpectedly. He was taken ill while driving the mower in the field, but finished mowing the field before going home. It was several days later before a doctor was called, and a little over a week later his death occurred. His children was all at the bedside when he died. Diabetes and heart trouble were the immediate causes of death.</p>		

Ancestors of Martha Doan



Ancestors of Titus Doan



OLD RESIDENT DEAD.

Humberstone lost one of its very oldest native residents on Tuesday afternoon, when Christian Steele passed away at the advanced age of 74 years. His death occurred suddenly and unexpectedly. He was taken ill while driving the mower in the field, but finished mowing the field before going home. It was several days later before a doctor was called, and a little over a week later his death occurred. His children were all at the bedside when he died. Diabetes and heart trouble were the immediate causes of death.

He was a son of David Steele and was born in the same house in which he died, and has always been one of Humberstone's most prominent and valued residents. He was a lifelong and staunch Reformer and served in the municipal council for eleven years, holding the office of deputy-reeve for three years. He was also a justice of the peace. In religion he was a member of the U. R. church.

Deceased married Martha Dean, who survives him with four children, viz.:—Wilmer and Edgar Steele and Mrs. W. H. Babion of Humberstone, and Mrs. Troupe of Niagara Falls South; and a brother and sister, viz.:—Mathias Steele and Mrs. Samuel Clendenning.

The funeral takes place today (Friday) from the late residence of deceased, where service will be held at 10 o'clock. Interment will be made in Overholt's cemetery. In the afternoon a memorial service will be held in Bethel church at 2 o'clock.

The Welland Tribune, 29 July 1904: Old Resident Dead

"Humberstone lost one of its oldest native residents on Tuesday afternoon, when Christian Steele passed away at the advanced age of 74 years. His death occurred suddenly and unexpectedly. He was taken ill while driving the mower in the field, but finished mowing the field before going home. It was several days later before a doctor was called, and a little over a week later his death occurred. His children were all at his bedside when he died. Diabetes and heart trouble were the immediate cause of death.

He was a son of David Steele and was born in the same house in which he died and has always been one of Humberstone's most prominent and valued residents. He was a life-long and staunch Reformer and served on the Humberstone Township municipal council for 11 years, and was deputy-reeve for 3 years. He was also Justice of The Peace. In religion he was a member of the United Brethren church.

The deceased married Martha Doan who survives him with four children, viz - Wilmer and Edgar Steele and Mrs. W H Babion of Humberstone and Mrs. Troup of Niagara Falls South; and a brother and sister, viz: Mathias Steele and Mrs Samuel Glendenning.

The funeral takes place today (Friday) from the late residence of the deceased, where service will be held at 10:00 o'clock. Internment will be at Overholt Cemetery. In the afternoon a memorial service will be held in the Bethel Church at 2 o'clock."

He married Martha DOAN, born 25 Mar 1835 in Crowland Twp, Welland Co., Ontario, (daughter of Elias DOAN and Amy SEGER) died 30 Oct 1922, buried in Overholt Cemetery, near Port Colborne.

Martha: 1861 Census-#1080 Humberstone#3, married, age 24, E Methodist 1871 Census #9919 Humberstone, married, age 36 1881 Census C13253-Humberstone, age 46, married, Irish, E Methodist. 1891 Census # T6376 Humberstone married, age 55 1901-Census T6503 Humberstone, married age 66.

Children:

- i _____ STEELE, born 1853 in Humberstone Twp, Welland Co., Ontario, died 1860 in Humberstone Twp, Welland Co., Ontario. Cause of death - scarlet fever.
- 28. ii Wilmer E STEELE born 18 Oct 1854.
- 29. iii Marshall *Edgar* STEELE born 1 Dec 1859.
- 30. iv Clarissa *Adella* STEELE born 25 Apr 1861.
- 31. v Martha Jane STEELE born 1863.
- vi George A STEELE, born 1878 in Humberstone Twp, Welland Co., Ontario, died 9 Aug 1879 in Humberstone Twp, Welland Co., ON. 1881 Census C13253-Humberstone, age 12, at home, Irish.

The Memorial of William Steele, from the Jerseys near Brunswick in North America,
Sheweth-

That so early as the Stamp Act, your Memorialist distinguished himself in the support of said Act to such a degree that he was threatened to have his house and place set on fire about him, and would have been burned in Effigy, had not the repeal of said Act arrived which prevented it.

That soon after, when the Duties were laid on the Teas, your Memorialist was likewise active in preventing smuggling, which brought your Memorialist under a general contempt of the people, but prevented smuggling so very much that smugglers were afraid to make Brunswick the place of landing any more.

That when the Rebellion broke out, the Rebels first resentment was against your Memorialist. The first act of theirs was the surprising of your Memorialist in his own house, taking him unaware. Strong guard, upward of 200 people to Brunswick, being 8 miles, and publicly tarring and feathering him, drawing him at the same time in a wagon up and down Brunswick streets to the great fear and danger to his life.

That after the Committees were formed, their first objective was your Memorialist; they called your Memorialist before them to show cause why. Your memorialist refused to sign the association or pay the taxes. Your memorialist sent them in writing that they were assembled unlawfully and he would not comply with their citation nor would he sign to their association, as it was contrary to all the Acts of Parliament of England and would make him guilty of High treason and subject him to be taken to England and tried and hanged, drawn and quartered and his quarters disposed at the King's pleasure. These are the reasons that he has not signed to the association nor ever.

That in 2 or 3 days after your Memorialist's house was at daybreak surrounded by 25 armed militia who took your Memorialist and lodged him in Brunswick (??), for your Memorialist to remain there till tried and discharged by the Provincial Congress.

That after 25 days close confinement, your Memorialist was brought to his trial where there were 63 charges exhibited against him, all of which your Memorialist acknowledged to be true, and resolutely supported the justice and truth of every part of them. In as much that your Memorialist gained reputation not only by the Congress, but by the multitude that were present. That the next day your Memorialist was brought up to receive sentence, viz: that he should swear Allegiance to Congress, sign the Association, pay the taxes and sign a bond of 250 pounds for his good behaviour, and that your Memorialist was to have his parole, and perfect this sentence before the same committee that committed your Memorialist to jail.

That your Memorialist attended the Committee according to sentence but positively refused to comply with the sentence any further than the Bond which your Memorialist did perfect. The committee agreed that your Memorialist only wanted to make himself popular, and to raise a party for further disturbance, and resolved to discharge your Memorialist and have no further to say to him, which was done for this time.

That in some little time after the aforesaid, there appeared in John Holt's General Advertiser of New York. An advertisement of which there is a true copy here annexed; the original is yet in your Memorialist's hand, ready to produce when called on, and which Mssrs. Coke and Wilmot had the reading of, when your Memorialist was examined by these gentlemen.

That there were copies of said advertisement posted up in all public places about the country which had like to have had a dreadful effect, for no one dare have the least dealings with your Memorialist, nor ever dare be seen with him. And had it not been that there were

some more tender-hearted than others, that conveyed in the dead of night , both he and his family would have been in the utmost distress.

That when the English Army arrived at Staten Island, your Memorialist's house was surrounded in the dead of night with a Company of armed Militia of 100 men, but your Memorialist had the good fortune to slip through them unnoticed and got into the woods. The whole country was in arms, every avenue and road were stopped, and 100 dollars offered for taking your Memorialist dead or alive.

For it was given out if your Memorialist got to the English Army, he would do them more hurt than 500 men would do them good. Your Memorialist was pursued for 8 and 40 hours and twice was within 5 yards of them and yet escaped. Your Memorialist at length got upwards of 30 miles from them at the back of Amwell, where he was taken up on suspicion, and brought before the Committee of that place, who were called together on purpose- your Memorialist would not, and did not, give any account of himself, nor did he discover his name. Therefore the Committee sent him under a strong guard to the Provincial Congress at Trenton, who committed your Memorialist to close imprisonment where he remained upwards of 13 weeks.

That when your Memorialist being committed, it was publicly reported your Memorialist was taken at the head of 500 negroes to cut all the white people's throats. The Rebel Army that were passing through every day in great numbers from Virginia and Maryland to New York were so exasperated at the report, they made 2 attempts to break open the jail in order to put your Memorialist to immediate death, which would have been done , had not a company from Philadelphia who was quartered in the jail, the most of which were Loyalists forced into the Rebel Service, defended your Memorialist and saved your Memorialist's life.

That when General Howe gained the Battle of Long Island, the whole town were so dismayed they opened the jail doors, and your Memorialist went to his own home once more. That your Memorialist remained home till the English Army came into the Jerseys, when a negro Loyalist gave your Memorialist notice of a design plotted against your Memorialist, to surprise him and take him again. Your memorialist got out and after a circuit of 40 miles got into the English lines at Brunswick, which was only 8 miles from his own house going the straight road. The many extraordinary and surprising escapes your Memorialist had on this journey would be too tedious to set forth in a memorial.

That after your Memorialist was safe within the lines, the same trust negro came in the middle of the night, and informed the family that there was a meeting of the Rebels at his Master's house that night, and they resolved to surround the house at daybreak and take your Memorialist's only son, a boy of about 12 years of age, to make a (?) of him. The family immediately employed a trusty friend to take him into the woods and deliver him safe within the lines, and next morning the house was attacked and closely searched as aforesaid.

That the Rebels finding themselves disappointed began to plunder and strip your Memorialist's family of every thing, from day to day, until at last did not leave them the second shirt or shift to their backs, and sent them by a flag into the lines, where the Right Honourable Earl Cornwallis, commanded. By being stripped of every means of support, Lord Cornwallis recommended your Memorialist and family to General Howe.
Last October

That the losses sustained in consequence thereof were everything your Memorialist has in the world, when your Memorialist made his first escape, the Rebels broke open his desk and robbed him of all his books, papers, deeds and a small sum of money.

That your Memorialist was possessed of 700 acres of good land , with a dwelling house, barn, stables and all necessary out offices, with a large good (?) and garden . The land is a light soil with a black loam, remarkably good for either pasture meadow or arable. The timber on the land consisted of all sorts, particularly of white and black oak, of which your Memorialist made into staves, (?) and planks, s he cleared the land to great advantage. The hickory was inexhaustible, which your Memorialist kept teams constantly drawing to Brunswick, and sending to New York, for which your Memorialist cleared over and above all manner of changes upward of 100 pounds a year. Your Memorialist, situated within 7 miles of Crambury, 8 miles of Brunswick and 10 of Prince Town in the Jerseys.

That the attachment your Memorialist hath to the British government , your Memorialist can't account for any further than your Memorialist was in his childhood taught to love his king and the constitution of England.

That the value and property lost are as particularly and accurately described as your Memorialist can recollect, a schedule of which is here annexed being 5,217 pounds, 15 . Your Memorialist when examined before Mssr. Coke and Wilmot , upon a rough guess made the losses no more than 5217.15 pounds, which may be seen in the schedule annex. That this , in your Memorialist's power at present, to produce witnesses is at so great a distance, and these that your Memorialist could call upon, are gone to Nova Scotia or else dead, but your Memorialist verily believes that when he goes to London, he can find out some honourable gentleman that can and will give a general account of your Memorialist, but your Memorialist can at this time set forth their names or place of abode as required in the directions.

That your memorialist has included the real original citations which were served on your Memorialist, and copies of your memorialist's answers to them, and annexed a copy of a Memorial which your Memorialist served upon the Provincial Congress, which they never took any notice of. But your Memorialist is in hope they may serve in some measure , circumstantial evidence for your Memorialist.

That your Memorialist is at a loss to understand in the printed correction the word “documents” , if it means to whom the Parliament's bounty is to be disposed of. He wishes to have the benefit of Of it during his life, and after his death, \$800 to his youngest daughter Grace, being the most helpful; the remainder equally divided between his son William Henry and his daughter Ann, all of which are equal sufferers as himself.

Your Memorialist therefore prays that his case may be taken into your consideration in order that your Memorialist may be enabled under your report to receive such aid or relief in his losses as he may be found to deserve.

(With a flourish.....) Wm. Steele

A schedule of the Losses wherein William Steele suffers ; Viz-

Appendix A

Property lost either by being Seized.

Name & Description	Amount	Nature of the Property	Value	When & how seized of it.	By whom.
Steele Willm. Planter.	100	Valuable Plantations well stocked		1776	The Rebels

Went to New York with leave in 1770 - Has tied his allowance up to 5th July 1783 - went from Ireland about 13 y^{rs} ago carried out with him about 4000 l^{rs} - laid it out in Land, Negroes, & other personal estate worth 1200 - Was extremely ill treated, was lard & feathered, & twice in goal where he was very ill used - He was try'd before the Provincial Congress & convicted but afterwards let off; tho' he always refused to comply with any of their measures - He was advertiz'd & held up to the world as incorrigible; produces the advertisement - He was hunted by a hundred fire locks thro' the woods & a reward of 100 Dollars to take him dead or alive - They were within a few yards of him - His Estate confiscated & sold - Has no wife, but 3 Children - Has a lease hold in Dublin which brings him in 40 l^{rs} but it is out next Mth - His Children grow up - So 69 y^{rs} of Age

Appendix A (cont'd)

destroyed, or by falling into the Hands of the Enemy.

around
Britain
a year.

It left the Country
voluntarily or if,
Compelled.

Proofs.

Information & Observations.

1777 Compelled after Recommended & certified by Eighty five years of Age, with 3
being arrested & confined Lord Cornwallis Dr. Huger & his Children gone to America & not to be
where he lives with 3 Children

Decision

This Man has infinite merit in personifying
in his Loyalty under trials which might have staggered any
good Man. The Rebels themselves bore a noble testimony to his
principles by torturing & scourging him. Wherever we see that
we want no better proof of Loyalty & in such Cases we wish to show
our approbation by recommending a liberal Allowance.

This Allowance having been recommended
to Mr. Steele by other persons we have nothing left for us to do but
to confirm it which we do with great pleasure & think that this
Allowance ought to be continued.

Appendix A (cont'd)

A.D. 12 Vol. 109.

Index to American Claims

No. of Certificate	Name of claimant	Province	Amount for loss of property	Sum originally allowed	Sum as allowed on Revision	Percentage to be deducted from each of last 3	Total sum claimed and not allowed
No. 272-B	695 Steele William	N. Jers:	3,129 "	1050	1,150	1,150	

Answer to American Claims.

Province	Sum for loss of property	Sum originally allowed	Sum as allowed on Revision	% Contage to be deducted part of tax	Total Sum claimed under Act of 1848	Sum already received	Balance after such receipt	Deducted on acct of revision	Final Balance
		x			x			x	
1848, 1849:	3,129 "	1050	1,150		1,150		1,150 " "	20 "	1130 "

To the Commissioners appointed by Act of
Parliament for enquiring into the Losses and Services of the
American Loyalists.

The Memorial of William Steele
from the Jerseys near Brunswick in North America

Sheweth

That so early as the Stamp Act your
Memorialist distinguished himself in the support of said Act to
such a degree that he was threatened to have his House and place
set on fire about him, and would have ^{been} burnt in Effigy, had not
the repeal of said Act arrived which prevented it.

That soon after when the Duties were laid on
the Teas your Memorialist was likewise active in preventing
smuggling which brought your Memorialist under a general contempt
of the People, but prevented smuggling so very much that smugglers
were afraid to make Brunswick the place of landing any more,

That when the Rebellion broke out the Rebels first
resentment was against your Memorialist. The first Act of theirs
was surprising your Memorialist in his own House taking him
under a strong guard upwards of two Hundred People to
Brunswick being Eight Miles, and publickly tarring and
feathering him, drawing him at the same time in a Waggon
up.

Appendix B (cont'd)

up and down Brunswick Streets, to the great fear and danger of his life.

That after the Committees were formed their first object was your Memorialist. They cited your Memorialist before them to show cause why your Memorialist refused to sign the association or pay the Taxes. Your Memorialist sent them in writing, that they were assembled unlawfully and he would not comply with their citation, nor would he sign to their association, as it was contrary to all the Acts of Parliament of England, and would make him guilty of high Treason and subject him to be taken to England and try'd, and hanged drawn and quarter'd and his quarters dispos'd at the Kings pleasure. These were the reasons that he has not signed to the association nor ever shall.

That in two or three days after your Memorialists House was at day brake surrounded by 25 Armed Militia who took your Memorialist and lodged him in Brunswick Jail, by a writ from the Committee, for your Memorialist to remain there till try'd and discharged by the Provincial Congress.

That after 25 Days close confinement your Memorialist was brought to his Trial where there were 63 Charges exhibited against him all of which your Memorialist acknowledged to be true, and resolutely supported the Justice and truth of every part of them. Inasmuch that your Memorialist gain'd reputation not only by the Congress, but by the multitude that were present.

Appendix B (cont'd)

That the next day your Memorialist was brought up
to receive sentence. *Or* That he should swear Allegiance
to Congress, sign the Association, Pay the Taxes, and sign a
Bond of £50 for his good behaviour; and that your Memorialist
was to have his Parole, and perfect this Sentence before the
same

Appendix B (cont'd)

same Committee; that Committed your Memorialist to Jail

That your Memorialist attended the Court according to Sentence but positively refused to comply with the Sentence any further than the Bond which your Memorialist did perfect. The Committee agreed that your Memorialist wanted to make himself popular, and to raise a party for disturbance, and resolved to discharge your Memorialist. I have no further to say to him which was done for this

That in some little time after the aforesaid, appeared in John Holls General Advertiser of New York an Advertisement of which there is a true copy here And the original is yet in your Memorialist's Hands ready to be when called on, and which Messrs. Coke and Wilnot had Reading of when your Memorialist was examined by the Gentlemen.

That there were Copies of said Advertisement put up in all publick places about the Country which had to have had a dreadfull effect, for no one dare have the Dealings with your Memorialist, nor ever dare be seen and had it not been that there were some more tender Hearts others, that conveyed in the dead of Night some Supplies to and his Family woud have been in the utmost Distress.

That when the English Army arrived at Stratford your Memorialist's House was surrounded in the dead of Night by a Company of Armed Militia of 100 Men, but your Mem

Appendix B (cont'd)

Dead or alive, for it was given out if your Memorialist got to the English Army he would do them more hurt than 500 Men would do them good. Your Memorialist was pursued for Eight and Forty Hours and twice was within five yards of them and yet escaped. Your Memorialist at length got upwards of 30 Miles from them at the back of Amwell where he was taken up on suspicion and brought before the Committee of that place who were called together on purpose - Your Memorialist would not, nor did, not give any account of himself, nor did he discover his name. Therefore the Committee sent him under a strong guard to the Provincial Congress at Trenton, who committed your Memorialist to close imprisonment where he remained upwards of 13 weeks.

That upon your Memorialist being committed it was publicly reported your Memorialist was taken at the head of 500 Negroes to cut all the white peoples throats. The Rebel Army that were passing thro' every Day in great numbers from Virginia and Maryland &c to New York, was so exasperated at the report, they made two attempts to break open the Jail in order to put your Memorialist to immediate Death, which would have been done had not a Company from Philadelphia who was quartered in the Jail, the most of which were Loyalists, forced into the Rebel Service, defended your Memorialist and saved your Memorialists Life.

That when General Howe gained the battle of Long Island the whole Town were so dismayed they opened the Jail Doors and your Memorialist went to his own home once more

That your Memorialist remained home till the English Army came into the Jerseys, when a Negroe Loyalist gave your Memorialist notice of a Design plotted against your Memorialist to surprise him and take him again. Your Memorialist sat out and after a Circuit of 40 Miles got into the English Lines at Brunswick, which was only Eight Miles from his own House going the straight Road. The many extraordinary and surprising escapes your Memorialist had on this Journey would be too tedious to set forth in a Memorial.

That after your Memorialist was safe within the Lines the same trusty Negroe came in the middle of the Night and inform'd the family that there was a meeting of the Rebels at his Masters House that night and they resolved to surround the House at Day break and take your Memorialist only son a Boy of about 12 Years of Age to make a fife of him &c The family immediately employed a trusty friend to take him thro the Woods and deliver him safe within the Lines and next Morning the House was attack'd and closely searched as aforesaid.

That the Rebels finding themselves disappointed began to plunder and strip your Memorialist family of every thing from Day to Day till at last (did not leave them the second Shirt or Shift to their backs and sent them by a Flag into the Lines, where the Right Honorable Earl Cornwallis commanded By being strip'd of every means of Support Lord Cornwallis recommended your Memorialist and family to General Howe,

for relief. The General was pleased to order a subsistence, until your Memorialist came to England and the Lords of the Treasury out of their great goodness gave your Memorialist £100 a year which your Memorialist has received down to last October.

Secondly -

That the Losses sustained in consequence thereof, were every thing your Memorialist had in the world, when your Memorialist made his first escape, the Rebels broke open his Desk and Robbed him of all his Books, Papers, Deeds and a small sum of Money &c. -

That your Memorialist was possessed of 700 Acres of good Land, with a dwelling House, Barns, Stables, and all necessary out Offices, with a large good Orchard and Garden. The Land is a light Soil with a black loam, remarkable good for either Pasture, Meadow, or arable. The Timber on the Land consisted of all sorts, particularly of white and Black Oak of which your Memorialist made into Staves, Heading, and Plank, as he cleared the Land to great advantage. The Hierarchy was inexhaustible, which your Memorialist kept Teams constantly drawing to Brunswick, and sending to New York, for which your Memorialist cleared over and above all manner of Charges upwards of £100 per Year. - Your Memorialist was situated within 7 Miles of Crambury, Eight Miles of Brunswick, and Ten of Prince Town in the Jerseys.

That the Attachment your Memorialist hath to the British Government your Memorialist can't account for,

any further than your Memorialist was in his Childhood taught to love his King and the constitution of England.

That the value and property lost are as particular and accurately described as your Memorialist can recollect, a Schedule of which is here annexed being £5217. 15. 0 Your Memorialist when examined before Mess^{rs} Coke & Wilmot upon a rough guess made the Losses no more than £4700 but upon a more accurate calculation finds them to be £5217. 15. 0 which may be seen in the Schedule annexed.

That its not in your Memorialists power at present, to produce Witnesses as your Memorialist is at so great a distance, and these that your Memorialist could call upon are gone to Nova Scotia or else dead, but your Memorialist verily believes that when he goes to London he can find out some honorable Gentleman that can and will give a General Account of your Memorialist, but your Memorialist cant at this time set forth their Names or place of Abode as required in the Directions.

That your Memorialist has Inclosed the real original citations which were served on your Memorialist. And copies of your Memorialists Answers to them, ^{and} Annexed a copy of a Memorial which your Memorialist served upon the Provincial Congress which they never took any notice of. But your Memorialist is in hopes they may serve in some measure circumstantial Evidence for your Memorialist.

That your Memorialist is at a loss to understand in the printed direction the word Documents, if it means to whom the Parliaments bounty is to be disposed of. He wishes to have the benefit of

of it during his Life, and after his Death, Eight hundred to his Youngest Daughter Grace being the most helpless the remainder equally divided between his son William Henry, and his Daughter Ann, all of which are equal sufferers with himself.

Your Memorialist therefore prays that his Case may be taken into your Consideration in order that your Memorialist may be enabled under your Report to receive such Aid or Relief as his Losses and Services may be found to deserve.

Cork Feb. 16th 1784.

Wm. Steele

A Schedule of the Losses whereby Mr. Wm. Steele Suffered viz.

To 700 Acres of Land	£s. per acre	3.500	..	..
To 32 Head of Horned cattle	at each	192	..	..
To 12 Horses young & old 4 were of the English breed £30 each		360	..	..
To 45 Sheep	25/- 2/-	56	..	5
To 65 Hogs 30 of which were fat and fet to kill	5/- 2/-	162	..	10
To 3 Negroe men, and two Negroe Women		400	..	..
To 6 Horse Waggon, a Cart with gears & all necess ^{ies} to them		100	..	..
To all Farmers utensils for clearing of Land for Ploughing with		60	..	..
Slap, rollers &c. &c. supposed to be worth not less than			..	..
To a 3 Quart Silver Cup & Spoon, two pair of Candle sticks			..	..
a silver handle 12 Table Spoons 12 Tea Spoons Tea Tongue			..	..
and Milk Jug			..	..
To all sorts of Household Furniture Mahogany Tables and			..	..
Chairs, Peen Glasses &c. &c. brought from England, all of			..	..
which can't be valued at less than			..	..
To one Horse Chair			..	..
To a vast number of Articles that can't be ascertained			..	..
		5217	..	15

Ex.