

Kings County Memories

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The Kings County Gazette~Est. 1782

'The Loyalist Dream' ~ "The Arrival and the Aftermath!"

"Images"~Loyalist Leaders and Loyalist Descendants



~Kings County Memories~

~The Mission of the Kings County Historical & Archival Society~ ~To Promote and Preserve The Heritage Of Our Kings County Families~

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- 4. Sir Guy Carleton: 1730, The Evacuation of New York!
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~ Sources & References ~

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- Pioneer Profiles of N.B. Settlers~C.G. Robinson
- An intimate History of N.B. ~Stuart Trueman
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"Looking Back"~Miss Baxter

~ All To Go Smash!~

"Within the short space of thirteen years after the close of the Seven Years' war with France when all the subjects of King George III had rejoiced over the triumph of British Arms and the new field opened to British commerce; disagreements over the practical distribution of power between mother country and colony caused all to go smash! By 1776 a vast host of the King's American subjects, fearing a determination of Britain to keep them permanently subordinate, had rebelled and declared their independence. It was by no means a unanimous decision. Between 20 to 30% of the colonists kept faith with the empire. They clung to the original ideals and fought against their countrymen to preserve British rule in America. These were the Loyalists! With the same zeal that drove their rebellious countrymen, the Loyalists took up arms for the sake of liberty!

~The Envy of the American States!~

The province of New Brunswick is the direct product of this upheaval. It was established in 1784 as a refuge for the Loyalist exiles. The original governing class was composed almost exclusively of senior Loyalist leaders who had defended the empire in the political debates prior to the Revolution and led the Loyalist regiments into battle in the war. These Loyalists reflected their beliefs in empire and liberty in forming the basic institutions of New Brunswick~executive, legislative, judiciary, churches, schools and college as well as fashioning its commercial relations and social rituals.

The Loyalist rejection of the revolutionary faith was complete. New Brunswick would be the proving ground. It and the other remaining provinces in British North America would combine the benefits of empire with local self-government. Liberty and prosperity would flourish. They would be 'model colonies'. They would be the envy of the American states!

~ The Original Loyalist Dream~

The original Loyalist leaders worked to create the province, set up its original institutions and governed it for the next thirty years. These men wanted to establish an aristocratic form of government in which power would flow downward from the King to his Governor, then on to the appointed Council and judges, and finally down to the elected representatives of the people in the Assembly, where a limited amount of power would serve local needs. The elite placed its hopes for success on three key institutions: a highly refined property class which would hold most of the political power, a series of cultural institutions centering on the Anglican Church to sustain loyalty and respect for the established order, and a supportive empire which would supply the political and economic framework necessary to sustain prosperity and stability in their infant province.

~The Dream Meets Opposition!~

The Loyalist leaders enacted these hopes in New Brunswick as best they could. At each step along the way, however, their efforts were modified by dissent from within the great mass of the Loyalist rank-and –file, by imperial indifference, and by the harsh environment of the northern

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wilderness. At no point did the leadership command the totality of Loyalist opinion. From the time they left New York to go into exile until the triumph of democracy in New Brunswick, opposition to the leaders' ideals of aristocracy, property, and establishment arose from within their own ranks-from other Loyalists-who also wanted to preserve the empire, but who were equally determined to preserve the traditions of self-government and egalitarianism they had grown up with in the American colonies. As well, the Loyalist leaders' dreams were frustrated by the failure of Great Britain to play the role assigned to her as Mother Country and by the success of the United States with its experiment in republicanism. Yet the Loyalist leaders clung to their dreams and established in New Brunswick a series of institutions and a way of life which provided a high measure of order, responsiveness, and style. The result was an impressive degree of self-government within an imperial framework-a combination that did in fact produce liberty.

~The Tory Twenty~The Loyalist Leaders~

The Loyalist leaders lived a life of action rather than speculation. History did not grant them the parliamentary forum, the coffee house, the pulpit, or the leisure in which to write pamphlets expressing their philosophy of empire and liberty. These were 'The Tory Twenty' a group of gentlemen who were the first political leaders of the province, serving as the first councillors, judges, and top administrative officials of New Brunswick. They were native Americans, who had supported the retention of British rule in their homeland, and who chose to go into exile when the thirteen colonies achieved political independence. Many had served as officers of the Loyalist military regiments during the war, and afterwards acted as agents for the various groups of soldiers and refugees who wished to emigrate to British North America.

~The Tory Twenty~ Principal Offices Held in New Brunswick~

Name	Dates	Birth	Offices Held
Isaac Allen ~	1741-1806~	New Jersey~	· Agent for the Provincial Regiments; Supreme Court Judge
Daniel Bliss~	1743-1806~	Mass.~Cou	ncil Member, Chief Justice, Court of Common Pleas
Jonathan Bliss~	1742-1822~	Mass.~Atto	rney General, House of Assembly, Chief Justice
Amos Botsford~	1745-1822~	Conn.~Loya	alist Refugee Agent, Speaker, Judge, Vice Admiralty
Ward Chipman~	1753-1824~	Mass.~Soli	citor General, Supreme Court Judge, Agent to the Boundary
John Coffin,~	1756-1842~	Mass.~Age	ent for Provincial Regiments, Supt. Indian Academy,
		Council	
William Hazen,∼	1748-1816~	Mass.~Con	nmissary to Fort Howe, Sheriff of St. John County, Council
		Member.	
George Leonard~	1742-1826~	Mass.~Age	nt for Provincial Regiments, Supt. Of Trade and Fisheries
Gabriel G.Ludlow~1733-1810~ New York~Mayor of Saint John, Judge Vice Admiralty Court, Council			
		Member	
George D.Ludlow~ 1733-1808~ New York~Chief Justice, Supreme Court, Council Member			
Jonathan Odell~	1737-1818-	New Jersey	~Provincial Secretary, Council Member
William Paine~	1750-1833-	~ Mass.~Dep	outy Surveyor of the King's Woods, House of Assembly
James Putnam~	1725-1789	~Mass.~Sup	reme Court Judge, Council Member
Beverley Robinson~1754-1816~New York, Council Member			
John Saunders~	1754-1834	~Virginia~S	upreme Court Judge, Chief Justice Supreme Court
Jonathan Sewell~	1728-1796	~ Mass.~Jud	ge, Vice Admiralty Court, Council Member

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Joshua Upham~ 1741-1808~ Mass.~Supreme Court Judge, Council Member

William Wanton~ 1734-1816~ Rhode Island~Collector of Customs

Abijah Willard~ 1722-1789~ Mass.~Council Member

Edward Winslow~ 1746-1815~Mass.~Agent for the Provincial Regiments, Council Member,

Surrogate General, Secretary to the Boundary Comm., Deputy

Surveyor to the Kings Woods, Supreme Court Judge.

Edward Winslow could trace his American heritage back to the landing of the Mayflower in 1620. His ancestor, the first Edward Winslow, had served as "the trusted emissary of the Pilgrims and later of the Bay Colony", and had the long chain of family service at the county, provincial, and imperial levels which included three governorships and a chief justiceship. He was born at Plymouth, Mass. on February 20th, 1746, graduating from Harvard in 1765. He was his father's assistant in various offices he held and was also Naval Officer of the Port. At the breaking out of the Revolution he was loyal to the crown. He received from General Gage the appointment of Collector of the Port of Boston and Registrar of Probate for Suffolk County. In the evacuation he went to Halifax, spiriting away with him all the Records, and also the Royal Coat of Arms from the Council Chamber. The Records were returned in good order after the peace, but the coat of arms remained, and now hangs on the walls of Trinity Church, Saint John, N.B.



The Royal Coat of Arms is a treasured possession. It hung for half a century in the Boston City Council Chambers. Edward Winslow is to New Brunswick what Paul Revere is to Massachusetts.

Edward Winslow drew up the charter of the city of Saint John. He eventually settled in Fredericton, N.B. (Photo~Saint John, Scenes from a Popular History)

~Mob Violence~Atrocities~Horror Stories~Guy Carleton's Mission~

"While it is true that the revolutionary movement included dedicated colonists willing to risk their lives for their principles, there was also the rabble who revelled in rioting and saw a chance to loot and burn at will~the criminals, the anarchists and the ne'er-do-wells. At the start, the revolution was not a spontaneous general upswell of public fury. Had it been so, the British would have been promptly overwhelmed, as their total forces numbered no more than 45,000 troops, including 25,000 in the provincial regiments. In fact the rebels were a distinct minority; the outright Loyalists also were a minority; most of the people remained un-committed, waiting to see which way the war would go. Practically no one at this time seriously supposed America would sever her ties with Britain. The aim before the intervention of France and Spain, was self-taxation and constitutional liberty.

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~ "Hang Them!" Was the Cry~

The terrorist element had two contrasting effects. It intimidated many of the undecided into supporting the rebel cause and converted many others into staunch Loyalists. Many a public official was labelled royalist merely for trying to maintain order in the face of mob violence. A saying became popular: "Persecution made half the King's friends!" But the real orgy of barbarism began after the war~ after the American government had pledged itself in the articles of peace to fair treatment of the Loyalists and restitution of confiscated estates and property. The individual states almost gleefully mocked this spirit of reconciliation. Vengeance against "traitors" was the catchword. "Hang them!" was the cry.

In Rhode Island the ultimate penalty for those dealing with the enemy was death and confiscation of estates. In Massachusetts anyone "denounced" could be arrested and sent to British-held territory. If he came back the automatic sentence would be death without the benefit of clergy. Two Philadelphia men, Roberts and Carlisle, who stayed after the British evacuated the city, were marched to the gallows behind a cart, halters around their necks, and publicly hanged.

~ An Orgy of Barbarism by 'The Sons of Liberty' ~

Loyalists soon became non-persons in many states, unable to legally to buy and sell land, work, speak, or write their opinions, collect debts by legal means, or seek the law's protection if physically attacked. As the storm mounted, guffawing mobs who called themselves 'Sons of Liberty' dragged prominent Tories through the streets, subjected them to "smoking"~confinement in a closed room before an open fire of green wood, with chimney blocked; made them sit on cakes of ice to cool their loyalty; tarred and feathered them; rode them on a rail through town; left them bound and gagged for days; warned old-time friends and neighbours

not to dare speak to them; insulted and stoned their wives and daughters; poisoned their livestock; extorted their money and family silver in exchange for dubious protection; fired bullets into their homes; carted them

about in wagons on public display; forced them to pay a forfeit as they entered each town, and in some places even drove Tory judges from the bench and abolished the courts.

~A Letter By An Eyewitness~

This letter, written by a patriot in Newburg to a friend in Boston, October 22, 1783, expressed the mood:

"The British are leaving New York every day. Last week there came one of the damned refugees from New York to a place called Walkill, in order to tarry with his parents, where he was taken into custody immediately. His head and eyebrows were shaved. He was then tarred and feathered, and a huge yoke put on his neck and a cowbell on it. Upon his head a very high cap of feathers was set, well plumed with soft tar, and a sheet of paper in front with a man drawn with two faces, representing Benedict Arnold and the Devil's imps, and on the back of it a card with the refugee or Tory driving her off." "In Boston, the wife and daughter of an absent Loyalist, Captain Fenton, were tarred and feathered and paraded around the streets."

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~ Washington Intervenes!~

Even Washington tried to no avail to remind the mobs that these excesses might bring retribution. He pointed out that even though the victims had joined the British side after it had been declared treason to do so, they had not previously taken the oath of allegiance, nor entered the American service, so it could be said they had the privilege of choice. His pleas, however, fell on deaf patriot ears!

"Evacuation" ~ A Huge Job!~

Sir Guy Carleton wrote from New York to Elias Boudinot of New Jersey: "The violence of the Americans, which broke out soon after the cessation of hostilities, increased the number of their countrymen

who looked to me for escape from threatened destruction; but these terrors of late have been so considerable augmented that almost all within these lines conceive the safety both of their property and their lives to depend on their being removed by me, which renders it impossible to say when the evacuations can be completed." Altogether 100,000 persons were being hounded out of the thirteen colonies, 35,000 to 40,000 settling in Nova Scotia, which then included New Brunswick. New England towns were stripped of prominent citizens. Refugees from Boston included one hundred Harvard alumni, doctors, lawyers, business- men, judges, military, farmers, traders, teachers, women, children, the very young and the very old.

~The Arrival of the Loyalists!~1783~

Their Stories~By Miss Baxter~Reporter~

Editor~ It is May 18th, 1783 and the Spring Fleet with about three thousand men, women, and children, has just arrived in the harbour at Portland. Our Reporter, Miss Baxter, is on the dock, having just interviewed Major Studholme, who is in charge of the garrison at Fort Howe. James White, James Simonds, and William Hazen have also recounted their adventures in the preloyalist years at Portland Point. The few locals wave as the Loyalists arrive. Soon their mere trading post will find itself with 5,000 souls braving the harsh winter of 1783-84. Overnight their tiny wilderness outpost will grow to one-third the size of Boston. Preparations have not been made for them. Before they can be landed from the overcrowded ships, brush has to be cut away from Upper Cove (later Market Slip), so the first tents and hurricane houses of sails can arise.

They have been promised land~not the promised land! They are entitled 300-600 acres, plus more than a year's provisions or the equivalent in money; an allowance of serviceable clothing and medicine, mill-stones, ironwork for a gristmill, items for a sawmill; nails, spikes, hoe, axe, spade, shovel, plow-irons, musket, powder and ball; also window-glass. Plus the back-breaking life of a pioneer! Luckiest of the migrants are those aboard the **Union**, who immediately sail upriver exploring in a small sloop, and decide to settle at Kingston Creek. The Loyalists have chosen as Agents on their behalf: Lieut. Col. Ben Thompson, Lieut. Col. Edward Winslow, Maj. Joshua Upham, Rev. Samuel Seabury, Rev. John Sayre, Amos Botsford, and James Peters.

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Miss Baxter~ "There are twenty ships in the fleet and it is the 'Union' that is the first to dock. This transport is under Master Consett Wilson, having departed Huntingdon Bay, New York, on April 16th, 1783. Major Studholme and I are speaking to **Fyler Dibblee**, deputy agent for the 'Union' and hearing his account of his trials and horrific sufferings inflicted by the patriots in Connecticut and on Long Island before embarkation."

Fyler Dibblee ~"This is my wife, **Polly Jarvis**, of Stamford, Conn. We have five children: Walter, William, Peggy, Ralph and Sally. I am a lawyer and a graduate of Yale. I led the town's militia company and served as Stamford's representative to the Connecticut general assembly. We had a home with its own library valued at 500 lb. British retaliation was quick after the Congressional Congress made its Declaration of Independence. As soon as the King's troops took control of New York City in August 1776, Stamford, Conn. was suddenly on the frontier that separated Patriot and British forces. It was no longer a safe place for a loyalist lawyer and his family to live. So in December of 1776, I had to flee to Long Island to escape the violent patriot mob. Polly and my children were evicted from our fine home and joined me there. Even there my family was attacked by marauding rebels, stealing all we owned, even our clothes and shoes. Almost naked, we were sent to New York City under a flag of truce. We eventually returned to Long Island, settling among other Loyalists at Oyster Bay. We felt we were now safe, as this was near the largest of all Long Island's British garrisons, Fort Franklin. However, in April of 1778, Connecticut patriots invaded our home, and took me away. Six months later I was set free in a prisoner exchange. We then moved to West Hills. My family was sought out and attacked by another group of raiders who threatened to bayonet my children. We were left to perish in the cold but we once again relocated to Hempstead South where Polly gave birth to a son. My family was yet again robbed in a night attack. I petitioned the British government for restitution, to be compensated for my losses, and was made a deputy agent to assist in transporting loyalists from New York to Nova Scotia. My family has two African servants, the only servants on the Union. The ship has 62 men, 39 women, and 108 children to be settled here. I am going to settle in Parrtown, and as magistrate assist in the settlement of these Loyalist families. Everyone on board is in good health, but all are staying on board until suitable lodgings are in place. Meanwhile David Pickett, Israel Hoyt, Silas Raymond, John Marven, John **Lyon** and others are going to sail upriver to look for a site for settlement. They will report back and if it is suitable all the families are going, including the widowed mother of Silas, Mary Raymond, 86, and widow, Ruth Nicholls and sons, who lost her husband at Bunker Hill."

David Pickett~ ": Our family had emigrated to America from England 150 years ago. I was a master weaver in Stamford, Connecticut, ha a prosperous business where I employed several other weavers. Early in the War I signed a statement of loyalty to the Crown. As a result I was pronounced guilty of a great crime and tried before a committee of inspection in April 1776. I was unwilling to support the Continental Congress, so all persons were ordered to break off commerce with me. I was treated as an enemy of the country. I left Stamford, Conn. in Sept. 1776, went to Long Island where I served in the wagon dept. of the British Army. Eleven days after I left, Sarah, expecting, and my three children, were evicted from our home, and the property confiscated. Isaac Bell assisted Sarah and our children privately during that time. They joined me on Long Island the next spring. It has been nearly seven years since then that we are

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finally arriving here on the Union. We are going to make our way to the Kingston Peninsula to settle there."

Israel Hoyt~ "I am a shoemaker from Norwalk, Conn. Because of my Loyalist stand during the war I was insulted before a mob, carried before a committee of investigation and thrown into prison to be tried for my life. I escaped and found my way behind British lines in 1777. In 1781 I returned to Norwalk to find that my home had been confiscated and had suffered from fire. His shoemaker's shop was gone as were his tools and belongings. I was again captured and arrested but managed to escape a second time to Long Island. With my wife, Mercy, and six children we boarded the Union and here we are finally. We are going upriver to the peninsula with other families from the Union."

Walter Bates~ "I was arrested at fifteen years by rebel guards and accused of concealing the whereabouts of

Loyalists. I didn't have information they wanted but they threw me in jail and threatened to tie me near the low tide mark and let me drown. Late at night an armed mob came to my cell, and took me to a back creek outside of town. They stripped me, tied my hands and feet to a tree, and left me to the mercy of the salt marsh mosquitoes. Later a guard urged me to disclose information on penalty of 100 stripes. If that didn't kill me, I would be hanged. I could tell them nothing so they gave me twenty lashings and sent me to the guardhouse for further abuse. They threatened to tie me to a log in the mill and be cut in two. Finally they released me, but I had to hide in the woods for two years before eventually reaching British lines on Long Island. I lived in the Loyalist community of Huntington Bay, where I taught school for a time. I have come on the **Union** to begin a new life in Nova Scotia. I am going with the others to the peninsula upriver to settle."

Capt. Joseph Mercer~ "Captain Peters of the 'Sovereign' has chosen seventeen families to sail upriver to Burton to take up land grants there. My wife, Sarah, and two sons are going. I was a farmer in Bladen County, N.C. when the war broke out. I was also a member of the North Carolina Militia. I and four other Tories were wrongly charged with killing a patriot in Nov. 1776. A reward of 100 lbs was offered for taking and securing me, while a reward of 500lbs for the others, and in case of resistance or flight we were to be killed. I escaped through the woods to Long Island. I left behind a wife and five children. Three years passed and I married Sarah thinking that I would never see my other family again."

Benejah Northrup~ "I lived in Fairfield County, Conn., on my father's farm. When I told my family that I wanted to join the British Army, a meeting was held, and then I was given fifteen minutes to leave the pro-

perty. Sarah, my wife, and three children are going with me upriver with other families from the **Hope** to settle on the peninsula."

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Miss Baxter~Reporter~ The Summer Fleet brings 2000 more Loyalists. There are 250 on the *Two Sisters*. Among them are Sarah Schofield Frost and her husband William.

Sarah Frost~ "You have probably heard of my husband's daring exploits! He was blacklisted for death if he returned to Stamford, but he did in 1781, and he and his men captured 48 patriots and delivered them to the British. The Stamford Loyalists had been dispossessed by these men and revenge was sweet. On this voyage we have been sharing a cabin with six other households and were on board three weeks before we sailed. We have suffered great confusion in such small quarters and at times I thought I would go crazy! The weather was terrible with thick fog and gales. Our thirteen ships were often not visible to each other. We, however, sought to make the best of it, made punch when hailstones fell on the ship, played crib for diversion, fished for mackerel and cod. Measles flared up among the children, but we coped with that emergency. You know, this is the roughest land I have ever seen, but they say this is to be our city! My next child will be born here."

Miss Baxter~Reporter~ "The Fall Fleet brings another 1200 settlers, mostly American Loyalist soldiers from disbanded regiments. Edward Winslow feels so badly for these men arriving in such inhospitable weather in the month of October, without shelter and without knowing where to find a place to reside. These men have served all the war faithfully and have been promised land, but nothing has been done for them. The final transports are arriving in December under Lt. John Ward of the Loyal Americans. They will have to take whatever shelter they can get before winter savagely grips the landscape." "Disaster! The Martha has been wrecked on a ledge with the loss of ninety-nine persons; seventy-five saved by fishing boats."

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Vol. 1 The FingerBoard, Kings County, N.B. December 18th, 1783

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~The Loyalists of the Spring, Summer and Fall Fleets have been trying desperately to settle on their Parrtown lots and find their way to their land grants. Winter is upon us and we are reporting on the conditions of the families to date.

~The early-arrived Loyalists, in a tremendous burst of industriousness, have completed 1,500 dwellings at Parrtown and Carleton before winter blizzards strike, one-room log cabins, not as pretentious as those left behind.

~Of note are the remnants of a more refined lifestyle as there are to be found mahogany dressers, grandfather clocks, silver plate, crystal, Bibles, silk gowns, fancy frock coats, silk stockings, blue morocco slippers with silver buckles.

~Those late arrivals who only managed to pitch canvas tents thatched with spruce boughs and banked with snow are less fortunate as many women and children are dying of malnutrition and exposure.

~Lieut. John Ward and his men are under canvas down at Lower Cove. John's son was born recently in an army tent there whose door flapped ceaselessly as winter's chill blasts, sweeping Barrack Square.

~The Loyalist women who attempted o go on to St. Anne's in late autumn have had to winter with their families in forest glades en route, with the frozen ground for a floor, the only heat coming from circular fieldstone fireplaces. Nightly mothers have had to heat boards and stones to hold against their infants to keep them alive.

~The migrants on the Union have been very well treated by the local Indians as they were greeted by them with the shout, "We all one brother!" They have been supplied with moose meat by the Micmac Indians, and their log cabins were built and occupied by November, a triumph as they had neither horse nor oxen to drag their logs from the woods.

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~The infamous Colonel David Fanning, known for his sadistic delight in killing revolutionaries, has taken up residence in Parrtown. He and General Benedict Arnold have been seen in the Exchange Coffee House hobnobbing over drinks.

~Dr. John Califf's wife, fearing for the safety of her family, of Ipswich, Mass., chartered a sloop, hired men to load the mahogany highboys, and other furniture aboard, sailed for Saint John with her children, and has recently straggled ashore in a blizzard at Red Head, and have been helped by sailors to reach Parrtown.

~Major John Coffin has bought 6000 acres at Nerepis (Beaubear's Point) twelve miles up the St. John River. Included is a mansion which he will name Alwington Manor. Major Coffin has recently been wounded in a duel with Colonel Campbell. Soon, however, he will have another duel with Captain Foy, Stepson of Governor Carleton.

~Five weeks after her arrival at Parrtown, Sarah Frost has given birth to a daughter, Hannah, second child born here.

The first child born was Ann, a daughter of Thatcher Sears of Conn., born in a tent after the mother disembarked.

~Having drawn Lots 196,197,198 in Carleton, just across the river from Parrtown, Gabriel and Ann Ludlow are building their new home on the site formerly occupied by Fort Frederick.

~John Ryan and Jacob Mott are today publishing the first issue of the Royal Gazette and Nova

Scotia Intelligencer, the first newspaper in Parrtown. They retrieved their presses and type from New York and are set up seven months later.

~We regret to report that Fyler Dibblee, Lawyer of this place, has taken his own life, on Thursday May 6th. Depression over his property losses in Connecticut, and the limited chances for success in his new country are thought to blame.

After a winter of despair, Fyler leaves a wife and five children to mourn their loss.

Editorial: **225 years ago**, **on** May **18**th **1783**, Major Studholme, Miss Baxter, James White, James Simonds, William Hazen and a few settlers witnessed this epic event! Hollywood could never re-enact such a story! Wouldn't it have been great though if someone could have filmed it for us! The Arrival yes, but maybe not the Aftermath!

Barb Pearson