

## Col. John Crysler: The Son of Philip Crysler, *Not* John Crysler Sr.!

By Lorraine Sherren UE

Many books have been written on the life of Col. John Crysler, Jr. of the "Battle of Crysler's Farm". What struck me was that so many writers got his parentage wrong; even while he was alive. Even the publication *Loyalist Lineages of Canada*. They put out a 2<sup>nd</sup> edition in 1991 and still got it wrong. I did my own research and recorded these notes in my family tree (he is my 4<sup>th</sup> great grand uncle).

On his tombstone is etched: "John Crysler of Crysler Farm Williamsburg, Jan. 18, 1852, Age 84 yrs." (assumption – born in 1768). It seems that even back in Col. John's time, confusion reigned as to who he was the son of. Apparently he and his brother Geronomous were removed from the U.E.L. list, because it was thought they were the sons of John, Sr. In 1807 he submitted the following Land Petition (Upper Canada Land Petitions, Reel C, - 1650 R.G.1, L3, Vol. 96, "C" Bundle 8, Fol.53 – see Petition 1 at end of article):

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*"Humble sheweth that your Petitioner served in Butlers Rangers during the late war and was discharged on the 24th day of June 1784 and came and settled in the Township aforesaid. That his name (was) inserted on the U.E.L. List, John Crysler Junior, and at the same time had an uncle of same name Senior, and in consequence was suspended as thought to be the Son of aforesaid. But was the son of Phillip Crysler, also pray to have.... (illegible) to Crysler in the Books of the U.E.List for my Brother Geronomous, who also was in the Butler Rangers also as will appear by his discharge. Dated February 20th, 1807. Signed John Crysler"*

On the reverse side of the page is the note: *"Read in Council 21 Feby 1807. Recommended that the name of the Petitioner and also the name of Geronomous Crysler be inserted on the U.E. List. Thomas Scott, Chairman. Approved Francis Gore, Lt. Governor. Both entered."*

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In 1836 he submitted the following Petition (see Petition 2):

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*"To His Excellency Sir Francis Bond, Head Knight Commander of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order, and of the Prussian Military Order of Merit, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Upper Canada...*

*In Council*

*The Petition of John Crysler of the Township of Williamsburgh in the Eastern District and Province of Upper Canada...*

*Humbly Sheweth*

*That your Petitioner is the son of the late Philip Crysler of the Township of Williamsburgh, District and Province aforesaid deceased an U.E. Loyalist, that he has attained the age of twenty-one years that he has never received any Land or order for land from the Crown as the son of an U.E. Loyalist. Wherefore your Petitioner prays that your Excellency will be pleased to grant him two hundred acres of the waste lands of the Crown. And your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.*

*Cornwall, October )*

*14th, 1836 ) (sgd) John Crysler"*

*On the reverse side of the Petition, the clerk has noted "It does not appear that the Petitioner has received any land granted in Feb'y 1807"*

*# # # # # # # # # #*

There was also confusion on which John was born when. According to Col. John's tombstone, he would have been born in 1768. But that couldn't be, because his brother Hieronymous (Geronomous) was born on 3 May 1768. His Uncle Johannes (Sr.) also had a son, John Martin born supposedly on 24 July 1770 or 5 August 1768. Following through with the previous confusion, I am assuming that Col. John's birthdate was 24 July 1770, and his cousin John Martin was born on 5 August 1768. This was confirmed in a petition submitted by Col. John Crysler swearing to the petition of his son Pembroke Guy Crysler for U.E. status (see Petition 3):

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*"I, John Crysler of the Township of Finch, do make oath and say that I am the father of Pembroke Guy Crysler the before named Petitioner, that I the said John Crysler am a U. E. Loyalist, that I am now aged nearly seventy-three years being born the twenty-fourth July one thousand seven hundred and seventy. That I came into the Province of Canada in the year One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Nine and continued to reside therein ever since. That I first settled in the Township of Williamsburgh and removed to the Township of Finch in the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-three. That I served during the Revolutionary War between the years One Thousand Seven Hundred & Eighty Three as a Drummer in the Corps. called Butlers' Rangers, Commanded by Lieutenant Colonel John Butler for the space of nearly four years and was reduced or discharged in the year One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty four - that I served as a Captain in the War with the United States of One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twelve - That I served as Lieut. Colonel for six months with the Embodied Dundas Militia from the first November One Thousand Eight Hundred & thirty-eight to the first May One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty nine, and was engaged with the Patriots at the Windmill near Prescott, the first encounter after they effected a landing.*

*The names and ages of my children (living and dead) as follows:*

*Cornelius..... Dec. 20th, 1791.... Died in infancy*

*Rachel..... May 8th, 1793..... " " "*

*Elizabeth..... Jany 21st, 1795... Living*

*Anna..... July 1st, 1797..... "*

*Margaret..... June 19th, 1799.... "*

*John Pliny..... Feby. 26th, 1801.. "*

*Samuel Ira..... Feby. 10th, 1806... "*

*William Ira..... May 21st, 1807..... Dead*

*James Henry..... Febry. 1st, 1809... Living*

*Charles Blaker..... Decr. 15th, 1810... Living*

*George Moselly... June 20th, 1812... "*

*Caroline Maria..... August 9th, 1814... "*

*Gordon Morrison. July 24th, 1816.... Died in infancy*

*Gordon Harvey.... Octr. 9th, 1819..... Living*

*Pembroke Guy.... March 7th, 1822.. "*

*Mary Ellen..... July 7th, 1825..... "*

*Lucretia Valentine.. Feby. 5th, 1818... "*

*Adelaide Ann..... August 21st, 1830 "*

*I do swear that the foregoing particulars are correct to the best of knowledge, recollection, and belief.*

*(signed) John Crysler*

*Sworn to before me, at Cornwall this*

*twelfth day of July 1843*

*(signed) James Pringle*

*Justice of the Peace, Eastern District"*

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Another petition was submitted on the same day, which included John's wife, Ann (see Petition 4):

*"We, John Crysler and Ann Crysler, father and mother of Pembroke Guy Crysler, of the township of Finch in the Eastern District and Province of Canada, do make oath and say that Pembroke Guy Crysler, the foregoing Petitioner, was born in the township of Williamsburgh on the seventh day of March one thousand eight hundred and twenty-two, and is now and has always been a usual or permanent resident within the Province of Canada and is the son of John Crysler of the Township of Finch, a U.E. Loyalist as described in the foregoing Petition.*

*We do further swear that Ann Crysler the mother of the Petitioner who is the third wife of John Crysler, was born on the first day of March one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine, and further that the children of the said John Crysler who were born since 31st December 1821 are as follows...*

<i>Names</i>	<i>When Born</i>
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<i>Pembroke Guy</i>	<i>7th March 1822</i>
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<i>Mary Ellen</i>	<i>7th July 1825</i>
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<i>Adelaide Ann</i>	<i>21st August 1830</i>
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*Sworn to, before me in Open Session ) (sgd) John Crysler*

*at Cornwall this twelfth day of July ) Ann F. Crysler*

*1843 )*

*James Pringle )*

*Clerk of the Peace )*

*Eastern District )*

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It is interesting to note the Col. John Crysler played down his role in the battle that took place on his farm, referring more to his role with the militia. Many stories have been written on the "Battle of Crysler's Farm" but the most concise one I have read on the life of Col. John was written by C. Don Chrysler and posted at his web site <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nyschoha/crbook.html>. Here are some excerpts:

"Following the [Revolutionary] War, Philip and his two drummer sons, Geronomous and John, were granted hundreds of acres of land along the St. Lawrence River near

Williamsburg and Morrisburg, Ontario. Here John built a General Store and became a very successful businessman. He kept his ties with the British military and when the War of 1812 began he was commissioned a Captain in the Canadian Militia. The decisive battle of the War of 1812 was fought on his farm. ... The British losses at Crysler's Farm were 22 killed, 48 wounded and 12 missing. The Americans totaled 102 killed and 237 wounded. It proved to be one of the most important battles of the war and virtually ended America's attempt to conquer Canada."

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The following plaque has been erected in the Village of Crysler:

Col. John Crysler

1768 - 1852

Col. Crysler came to Canada in 1784 as a U.E.Loyalist. He served in the Ontario Legislature from 1808 until 1824. He was a member of St. John's Anglican Church, Crysler, and donated land for the three churches in the Village. He is buried in St. John's Anglican Cemetery, Crysler.



Also, the following plaque:

Location: At the entrance to the former farm, now (picturesque) Battlefield Park,

H-way #2, east of Morrisburg

It's been almost 211 years since the guns fell silent at the Battle of Crysler's Farm...

### **BATTLE OF CRYSLER'S FARM 1813**

In November, 1813, an American army of some 8000 men, commanded by Major-General James Wilkinson, moved down the St. Lawrence en route to Montreal. Wilkinson was followed and harassed by a British corps of observation consisting of about 800 regulars, militia and Indians commanded by Lieut.-Col. Joseph Morrison. On November 11, Morrison's force, established in a defensive position on John Crysler's farm, was attacked by a contingent of the American army numbering about 4000 men commanded by Brigadier-General J.P. Boyd. The hard fought engagement ended with the Americans withdrawal from the battlefield. This reverse combined with the defeat of another invading army at Chateauquay on October 26 saved Canada from conquest in 1813.

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Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario

With all the documentation available confirming who Col. John Crysler's father was, it surprises me that even to this day, I will pick up a book written on his life, stating that he is the son of John Crysler Sr.

So, how did all this confusion come about, and why is Col. John referred to as 'Jr' when his father is Philip. There is no other documented source, but I have a theory. Philip Crysler and his family fled to Upper Canada in 1783, followed shortly by his brother Johannes (John) Crysler and family in 1874. They settled on adjoining lots in the Eastern District. According to the late genealogist, Lynne Cook, UE, Johannes' two eldest sons, Geronimus (b. 1765) and John Martin (b. 1768) were not with the family. That would have left Johannes with seven children too young to work on the farm. He turned to his brother Philip for help. Philip decided to loan his two sons, Geronimus (b. 1768) and John (b. 1770) to their Uncle John for the summer to help with the farm. Johannes Sr. now had another John working on his farm. So he elected to refer to John as 'Junior' since his own son John was not around. The nickname stuck. With all the John Crysleys in the area, Philip's son John was from that point on called John Crysler Jr.

Note to all - Col. John Crysler, Jr. is the son of Philip Chryslar, not Philip's brother John.

Loyally yours,

Lorraine Sherren, UE

4x great granddaughter of John's brother Geronimus



PETITION 1

To his Excellency Francis Gore Esquire  
Lieutenant Governor of the province  
of Upper Canada &c &c &c

In Council

The Petition of John Copley of the Township of ~~Windsor~~ <sup>Windsor</sup>  
Essex District Esquire

Humble Sheweth that your petitioner served in Butler's Rangers  
during the late war and was discharged on the 24 day of  
June 1784 and came and settled in the Township aforesaid  
but his name is listed on the U & L List John Copley Junior and  
at the same time had an uncle of the same name Simon  
and is consequently was authenticated as the nephew the son of  
said. and was the son of Phillip Copley also here to know  
the blank field to Copley in the Book of the U & L List of  
Brother Genovous: who was in Butler's Rangers also as well  
as here by his discharge

and your petition will any way

7th February 1807

John Copley



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To His Excellency Sir Francis Bond  
Head Knight Commander of the Royal  
Hanoverian Guelphic Order, and of the  
Prussian Military Order of Merit Lie-  
utenant Governor of the Province of Upper  
Canada &c. &c. &c.

In Council

The Petition of John Crysler of  
the Township of Williamsburg in the  
Eastern District and Province of Upper  
Canada  
Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner is the Son  
of the late Philip Crysler of the Township  
of Williamsburg, District and Province  
aforesaid deceased an H. E. Loyalist, that  
he has attained the age of twenty-one years  
that he has never received any Land or  
order for Land from the Crown as the  
Son of an H. E. Loyalist Wherefore your  
Petitioner prays that your Excellency  
will be pleased to grant him two hundred  
acres of the waste Lands of the Crown  
And your Petitioner as in Duty bound  
will ever pray.

Committed October  
11<sup>th</sup> 1836

J. M. Crysler



PETITION 3

Eastern District, I, John Cayser of the Township of Finch  
do make oath and say, that I am the  
Father of Pembroke Junr. Cayser the before named Peti-  
tioner; that I the said John Cayser am a U. C.  
Loyalist that I am now aged nearly Seventy Three  
Years being born the twenty fourth July the Thousand  
Seven Hundred and Seventy. That I came in  
to the Province of Canada in the Year One Thou-  
sand Seven Hundred and Seventy Nine and con-  
tinued to reside therein ever since, that I first  
settled in the Township of Williamsburgh and re-  
moved to the Township of Finch in the Year One Thou-  
sand Eight Hundred and Forty three. That I  
served during the Revolutionary War between the  
Years the Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy  
Six & the Thousand Seven Hundred & Eighty Three  
as a Drummer in the Corps called Butler's Rangers  
Commanded by Lieutenant Colonel John Butler  
for the space of nearly four years and was reduced or dis-  
charged in the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred and  
Eighty four. That I served as a Captain in the War with the  
United States of the Thousand Eight Hundred and Twelve that  
I served as Lieut. Colonel for Six Months with the Un-  
derd's Militia from first November the Thousand Eight Hundred &  
Thirty eight to the first May the Thousand Eight Hundred and For-  
ty nine and was engaged with the Patriots at the Windmill near  
Prescott the first encounter after they effected a Landing.

The Names and ages of my children (living & dead) as follows. Viz-

Names.	When Born	Remarks.	Names.	When Born	Remarks.
Conrad.	Decr 30 <sup>th</sup> 1791	Dead in infancy	Charles Blaker	Decr 15 <sup>th</sup> 1810	Living
Richard	May 5 <sup>th</sup> 1795	"	George Hensley	June 30 <sup>th</sup> 1812	"
Elizabeth	Jan'y 28 <sup>th</sup> 1795	Living	Caroline Maria	August 9 <sup>th</sup> 1814	Dead in infancy
Anna	July 16 <sup>th</sup> 1797	"	Orson Harrison	July 24 <sup>th</sup> 1816	"
Anna	Jan'y 19 <sup>th</sup> 1799	"	Constance Harney	Octr 9 <sup>th</sup> 1819	"
John Henry	Jan'y 26 <sup>th</sup> 1801	"	Pembroke Junr	March 5 <sup>th</sup> 1825	"
Samuel Junr	July 10 <sup>th</sup> 1806	Dead	Mary Ellen	July 5 <sup>th</sup> 1815	"
William Junr	May 21 <sup>st</sup> 1807	Living	Isabella Valentine	July 5 <sup>th</sup> 1815	"
James Henry	July 1 <sup>st</sup> 1808	Living	Isabella Ann	August 21 <sup>st</sup> 1818	"

I do swear that the foregoing particulars are correct to the best of Knowledge, Recollection, and belief.

Given to before me, at Cornwall this  
twelfth day of July 1840  
James P. Pingle  
Notary Public Eastern District B.

John Cayser



# PETITION 4

1  
 The said John Crygler and Anne Crygler  
 Father & Mother of Pembroke Guy Crygler in  
 the Township of Finch, in the Eastern District and Province  
 of Canada do make oath and say that Pembroke Guy Crygler  
 the foregoing Petitioner was born in the Township of Wilket  
 on the seventh day of March the Thousand Eight  
 Hundred and Twenty-two and is now and has always  
 been a usual or permanent resident within the Province of  
 Canada and is the Son of John Crygler of the Town  
 ship of Finch a N. E. Loyalist as described in the  
 foregoing Petition.  
 We do further swear that Anne Crygler the Mo  
 ther of the Petitioner who is the third wife of the said  
 Crygler was born on the first day of March One Tho  
 sand Seven Hundred and Eighty Nine and  
 further that the Children of the said John Crygler  
 who have been since 31<sup>st</sup> December 1821 are as  
 follows - viz.

Names	Age	Born	Remarks
Pembroke Guy	7 <sup>th</sup>	March 1822	---
Mary Ellen	7 <sup>th</sup>	July 1825	---
Adelaide Ann	21 <sup>st</sup>	August 1830	---

Shown to before Me in new Session  
 at Cornwall this twenty day of July 1843.  
 James Pangle  
 Clerk of the Peace  
 Eastern District.  
 John Crygler  
 Ann Crygler