



# New Brunswick Branch Newsletter

April 2010 Edition

PO Box 484 Saint John NB Canada E2L 3Z8

Website [www.uelac-nb.ca](http://www.uelac-nb.ca)

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## Happy 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Saint John Canada's First Incorporated City The Loyalist City



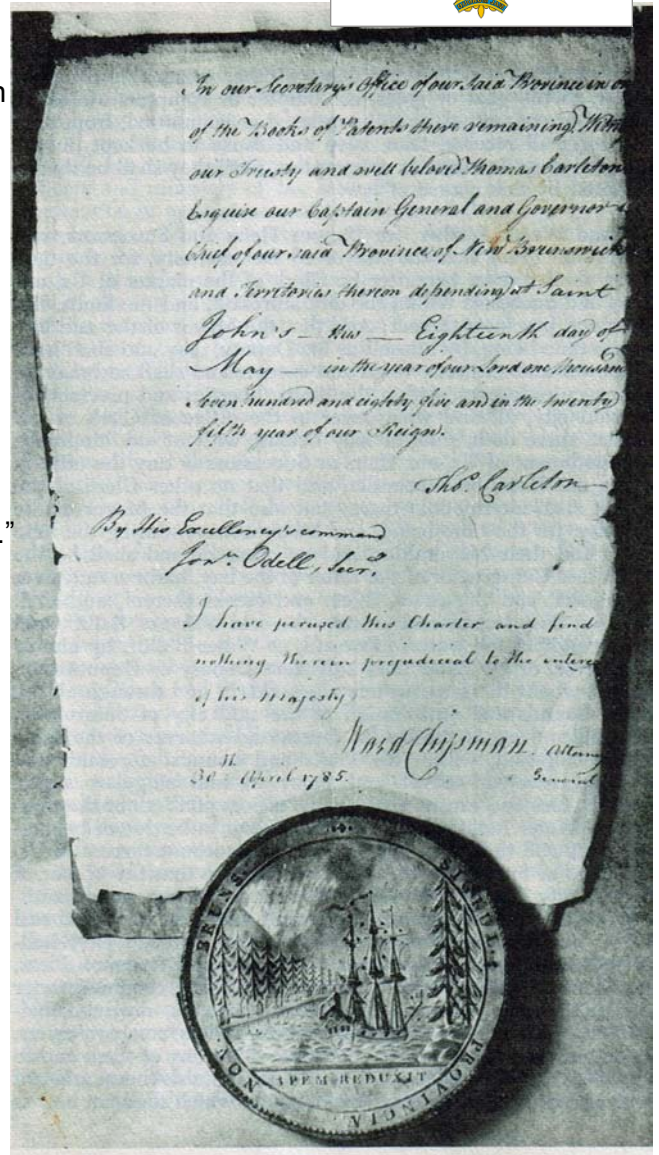
History records that, French explorers, Sieur de Monts and Samuel de Champlain arrived at the mouth of the Saint John River on 24 June 1604, feast day of St. John the Baptist...and named the river in the Saint's honour. The first permanent French settlement was located at Portland Point, in what was then known as Acadia. In 1621 King James I changed the name 'Acadia' to 'Nova Scotia'. Charles de la Tour became Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia between 1631 and 1635 and engaged in trade with the native peoples.

In 1758, the settlement was taken by the British who rebuilt and settled around an old French fort, on the lower west side, and renamed it 'Fort Frederick'. At that point Simon, Hazen & White had established their trading posts at the "settlement at the River Saint John." Fort Frederick was destroyed by American privateers in 1775 and replaced in 1777 by Fort Howe, a building project spearheaded by Guilford Studholme.

**In 1783, part of Nova Scotia became New Brunswick. With the infusion of thousands of Loyalists that year, the settlement began to develop in earnest. Without the Loyalist numbers, no charter would have been granted by the British government, two years later. The Loyalists established Parrtown and Carleton on the shores of Saint John Harbour.**

**In 1785 the two communities amalgamated as 'Saint John', named after the river, to become Canada's first incorporated city. The date on the City Charter was 18 May 1785.**

Signatures on the final page of the City Charter were:  
Thomas Carleton, Governor; Jonathan Odell, Secretary;  
Ward Chipman, Attorney General



Final page of the City Charter  
with the Seal of New Brunswick

# Loyalist Days Celebrations

## Friday, May 14

Reception & Dinner at the Union Club  
NB Branch Members & their Guests

Cocktails at 6:15 pm ~ Cash Bar  
Dinner at 7:00 pm

Tickets \$36 per person\*

\*Contact Newspaper Editor to reserve Dinner Tickets  
Valerie Teed (506) 847-1465 [Val@ancestorsnb.com](mailto:Val@ancestorsnb.com)

## ~ Menu ~

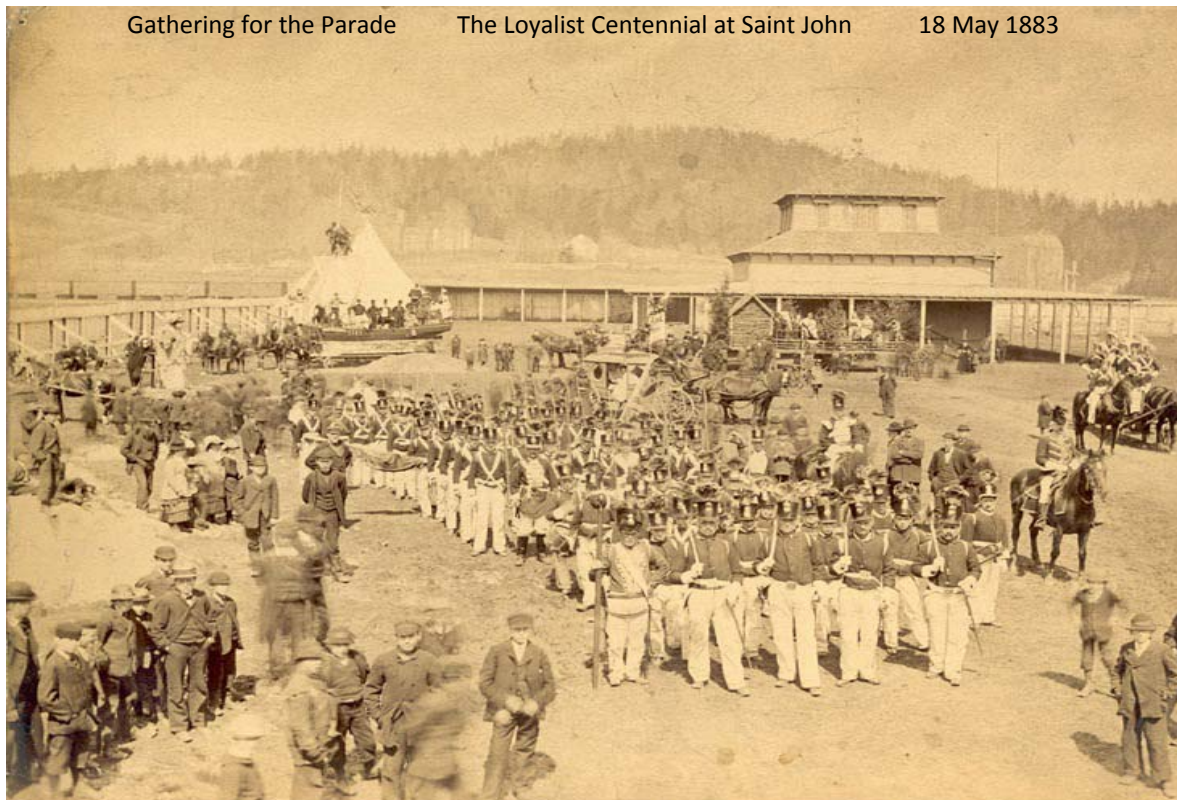
Cream of Fiddlehead Soup  
Broiled Salmon & Cream Sauce  
Mashed Potato  
Baby Carrots    Green Beans  
Fresh Rolls  
Lemon Angel Cake  
Coffee, Tea  
Glass of Wine

## Sunday, May 16

10:30 am ~ Loyalist Church Service  
At Trinity Church, Saint John  
NB Branch Members in Period Costume if desired

## Tuesday, May 18

10:15 – 10:30 Saint Mary's Band at City Hall Plaza  
10:30 – 11:00 Flag Raising Ceremonies at City Hall Plaza  
11:00 am Saint Mary's Band Concert  
12:00 Noon 21-Gun Salute from Fort Howe  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery)



## Xmas Pot Luck & Auction

The Branch held its annual Xmas Pot Luck Luncheon and Auction on Saturday, Dec 12, at Stone Church, Saint John. We enjoyed great food, laughter and a lively Xmas Sing-Along. The pot luck included shepherd's pie, baked beans, several delicious casseroles, English trifle and home-made sweets – many from old family recipes. The auction not only raises funds for Branch activities, but also provides some of its members with additional Xmas decorations and gifts.



Dave Laskey ~ Auctioneer

## New Year's Levee

On New Year's Day, the Branch joined the N. B. Historical Society in hosting a levee at historic Loyalist House. The house was built between 1810 and 1817 (construction was interrupted by the lack of building materials during the War of 1812) and belonged to five generations of the Merritt family.

The old dining room table was laden with traditional festive fare. Tea, hot apple cider and cranberry punch were served. Impromptu tours of the house were offered. Levee guests of all ages enjoyed the roaring fire in the original kitchen fireplace, still in working order after almost 200 years. Music from the rare old piano-organ in the parlour added to the authentic atmosphere of a Loyalist era celebration.



The Dining Room at Loyalist House ~ New Year's Day 2010

We remember our Loyalist ancestors through functions such as these and know that they enjoyed much the same pleasurable diversions that broke up the long, cold winters in their new homeland so long ago.

## Upcoming Events

**Next General Meeting – Thurs, April 8 7:00 pm at Stone Church, Saint John**  
**Speaker ~ Dave Laskey on “Lost Cousins and the Spragg Project”.**

**Annual General Meeting – Thurs, June 10 7:00 pm at Stone Church, Saint John**

**October Mini Conference** - A decision to hold a Mini Conference was made at the March meeting of the Branch Executive. Details, including the exact conference date and venue have not been finalized. The event would be a regional event for the UELAC, organized and staffed by the members of our NB Branch. The theme is Loyalists as Refugees. Tentatively confirmed is one speaker, Bonnie Huskins, UNB professor. Details will be available as they are confirmed.

**Query** - I am interested in sharing Turner genealogy with Dorothy Anne (Turner) Snyder, who is my 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin. James E and Charlotte Turner are our common ancestors. Hoping to hear from you. Ms Leslie Gale Poole Apt 9, 79 Union Street, Camden, Maine 04843, USA [crows@midcoast.com](mailto:crows@midcoast.com)

Albert Button

## List of New UE Recipients

*Congratulations to:*

Rosalyn Dale Lawton, UE  
Trevor Wade Lawton, UE  
Shana Maria Ganong, UE  
Caroline Anne Acheson, UE  
David Christian Wold, UE  
William David Roy Harding, UE  
Dr John Sinclair Mackay, UE  
Ruth Stella (Secord) MacLean, UE

*Ancestor*

John Lawton  
John Lawton  
Henry Bulyea  
Henry Bulyea  
Jonathan Muchmore  
Capt William Harding  
Gideon Palmer  
Elias Secord

Frances Morrissey, UE

## Obituary



Elizabeth Prescott 1925 - 2009

Members of the New Brunswick Branch/UELAC were Saddened to learn of the death of their long-time member, A. Elizabeth (Hoyt) Brown Prescott. Descendant of Israel Hoyt, on 8 December 2009. She became a member of the Branch in the 1960s and was an energetic and faithful member until poor health prevented her from attending meetings. Elizabeth was president of the Branch from 1991 – 1993 and chairman of the social committee for many years.

Elizabeth graduated from Saint John High School, McGill University with a B.A. degree in Mathematics and Economics in 1946, and the University of New Brunswick with a B.C.L. (Civil Law) degree in 1950. She was appointed to the Queen's Counsel

in 1982 and given a life membership to the Law Society of New Brunswick in 2000. Elizabeth practiced law in Saint John for many years and was a partner in the firm of McKelvie, MacAulay, Machum & Fairweather at the time of her retirement.

She was a member of the YMCA, Westfield Golf & Country Club (Ladies' Golf Secretary); the Union Club (Ladies' President); United Empire Loyalists Association (President) and Gamma Phi Beta Society (McGill). Elizabeth is survived by one sister, Eleanor Carson (Alexander) of Calgary, Alberta; niece, Margaret Fox (Dale); nephew, James Carson (Teri); great niece, Lannie Fox and great nephews, Brait and Nathan Carson. Besides her parents, she was pre-deceased by her first husband, Horace S Brown in 1985 and her second husband, Basil A Prescott in 2006.

## Expanding 'Loyalists All'

The anecdotal stories & lines of descent of eighty New Brunswick Loyalists were submitted to our Branch in 1984. The information was transcribed by our members and compiled into a book in 1985. It was called 'Loyalists All'. Loyalist surnames in the book include:

**Ansley, Arnold, Balmain, Baxter, Belyea, Bentley, Blakney, Bonsall, Bostwick, Brown, Bull, Cable, Clark, Downey, Dykeman, Fowler, French, Ganong, Gerow, Gillies, Gilman, Gunter, Hatheway, Haycock, Hendry, Holder, Howard, Hoyt, Humbert, Johnson, Jones, Kiethland, Keirstead, Lawton, Mallard, Manzer, Marvin, Maxwell, McKenzie, Melick, Merritt, Millidge, Morehouse, Peters, Post, Prince, Reed, Roberts, Robertson, Saunders, Savary, Scott, Scovil, Secord, Seely, Slipp, Smith, Snyder, Squires, Stinson, Taylor, Teed, Theall, Thornton, Tilton, Towers, Underhill, Upham, Watson, White, Wilmot, Winslow.**

**MRS. W. Q. SHAW**

WOULD return her sincere thanks to the inhabitants of Woodstock, and the public generally, for the liberal patronage bestowed on her during the past season, and would most respectfully solicit a continuance of the same.

She has lately received a well assorted stock of

**MILLINERY and FANCY GOODS**

suitable for the season. Also, an assortment of

**Groceries and Dry Goods.**

She has on hand a large stock of **BONNETS, HATS, Head Dresses, &c.**, of the latest styles, which she will dispose of at a **very low figure.**

**BONNET TRIMMING, &c.**, attended to with neatness and despatch.

**Country Produce** taken in exchange for Goods.

Mark the place—**MAIN STREET, opposite the SENTINEL OFFICE.**

MRS. W. Q. SHAW.

Woodstock, Dec. 4, '63—1y.

Two suggestions have recently been made

(1) To reprint 'Loyalists All' (2) To gather more Loyalist surnames/stories/lines of descent and produce *an expanded version of the book*.

**For this project we need contributors, transcribers and an editor.**

Please contact Newsletter Editor if you can help! [Val@ancestorsnb.com](mailto:Val@ancestorsnb.com) (506) 847-1465

In the meantime, both "Loyalists All" and "The Loyalists of New Brunswick" by Esther Clark Wright are available from our NB Branch for \$25 each + shipping & handling. The "Teachers' Loyalist Resource Book" is also available for sale for \$6.00 + shipping & handling.

Contact Shana Ganong at [shana1@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:shana1@nbnet.nb.ca) or phone (506) 466-2601

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Ruth Lesbirel and Valerie Teed

## Incredible Miniatures ~ A Loyalist Ambassador

Ruth Lesbirel, one of our most active Branch members, has an incredible talent. She makes miniatures, and with an historical eye, does them exactly to scale (1 inch = 1 foot) from original full-sized antique pieces. Ruth is also a published contributor of "project articles" to trade publications such as the American magazine, "Dollhouse Miniatures" and "The Dolls' House Magazine" published by the Guild of Master Craftsmen in East Sussex, UK. It features writers, artisans, and collectors from many countries and is circulated all over the world. She says her first article in the UK magazine was the Lawrence Hanging Cradle, which is in the children's nursery at Loyalist House, here in Saint John.

About six months ago, her editor encouraged her to write a book on "Georgian Furnishings of the Loyalist House". She says the Georgian era is very popular in miniatures and the hobby is very popular in the UK, in particular. She has submitted the outline of the book to the publisher in the UK for commissioning.

The furnishings and artifacts in Loyalist House have provided Ruth with fodder for her remarkable talent. Having to create a variety of projects for the magazine articles, she fashioned a potting bench for an April issue and a 3-panel Tudor screen and side table for May.

She says, "I then did the Loyalist House tea caddy and Wine chest for June and the Nisbet sewing table for the July issue. The leaves of the table do drop and all the drawers work. The sewing bag is silk. The table is made from 1/16" basswood, 1/32" and 1/64" plywood, 1/8" dowels, round wooden cocktail sticks, thread, paper, and purchased miniature knobs and casters. The Bible is cut from a cedar shim and the text at 3pt is readable (John 14: 1-6) which includes, *In my Father's house are many mansions...*"

"I like my miniatures to function and to resemble the original as closely as possible. The tea caddy has real tea in its two compartments and miniature lemon and orange slices in the blending glass in the middle. The wine bottles have copies of the hand painted labels attached. I learn something with every item that I make, both historically and in the mechanics of miniature production."

For an October issue, she returned to Loyalist House with the Lemuel Gilbert piano-organ. She comments "The House is an endless source of inspiration for these 1:12 scale models. Each article begins with careful research measurements, photos, and scale drawings. I write the how-to portion, incorporating some background history and step-by-step instructions. Then, as I construct, I modify the

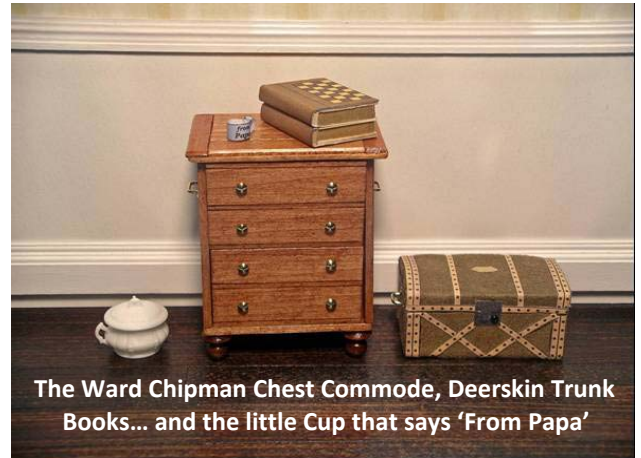


text, if necessary. My husband takes the photographs and also works wonders on my sketched templates to make them into beautiful graphics for readers to use. We generally have 15 to 20 photos to send, some during construction and one full page template, showing the dimensions of all components. When appropriate, I also provide a page of cut outs to enhance the project – for example, with the sewing table I included the scaled down silhouettes from the Loyalist House, maps of this region from the Library of Congress, and early engravings of Saint John from the NB Museum.”

Through her miniatures, Ruth is indeed an ambassador to the world for New Brunswick Loyalists.



The Lemuel Gilbert Piano-Organ



The Ward Chipman Chest Commode, Deerskin Trunk Books... and the little Cup that says 'From Papa'



Clock

The E li Terry Clock – that works.  
It is a 2½" miniature of a 30" original



The Thomas Nisbet Sewing Table and the Bible

© Stephen Davidson

## The Portraits of John and Lucretia Murray

Most of the refugees of the Revolution spent their entire lives only knowing what they looked like by peering into a mirror. Having an artist paint one's portrait was a luxury only the upper classes could afford. Between 1753 and 1774, the most sought after portrait artist in America was John Copley, a Boston loyalist. Having produced 350 portraits over 21 years in the Thirteen Colonies, Copley was forced to move to England because of his associations with Massachusetts' loyalists.

Two of his loyalist portraits were commissioned by the Murray family of Rutland, Massachusetts. The painting of **John Murray** ended up in the home of a businessman in Saint John, New Brunswick; the portrait of **Lucretia Murray** also travelled to New Brunswick, but found its way back to Massachusetts. This is the story of those two portraits.

John Murray was a poor man when he emigrated from Wales to Massachusetts, but he achieved success in the mercantile business to such a degree that he acquired social position and political influence as well as wealth. His personal life, however, was marred by tragedy. When Murray's first wife died, he married Elizabeth McLanathan. She bore him ten children before dying. In 1761, Murray married Lucretia Chandler, the daughter of a prominent judge. [Dorchester, New Brunswick]

Their romance is retold in a family history in this manner: *"There appeared at this time in society in Boston a handsome man by the name of Murray, of whose antecedents people seemed to be ignorant. He fell in love with the beautiful Miss Chandler...and after her marriage they went to Rutland to live."*

Lucretia was a noted beauty; Murray was also an imposing man. He stood at 6 feet 3 inches. The newlyweds commissioned Copley to paint their portraits. The artist produced a three-quarter picture of Lucretia, dressing her in a brocade silk gown with long flowing sleeves. Murray's portrait shows him in the full dress of a gentleman and wearing a wig. Within a year, Lucretia bore Murray a daughter, but died soon after. This girl, named for her mother, was a very plain child. Growing up with the portraits of such attractive parents did nothing to boost little Lucretia's self-confidence. Relatives remember her saying, *"How could such a handsome father and mother have such an ugly child as I am?"*

Sometime between 1762 and 1774, Murray married for a fourth time. Deborah Bronley also bore him a daughter. While Murray's domestic situation was improving, his political fortunes were in decline. In 1774, he was appointed to the much-hated Mandamus Council. 1,500 rebels marched on Murray's Rutland home, demanding that he publicly announce his resignation in the Boston newspapers. The crowd was told that Murray was not at home. Angry at not being able to lay their hands on the loyalist, the patriots took their wrath out on Murray's portrait. And it is here that the family stories vary.

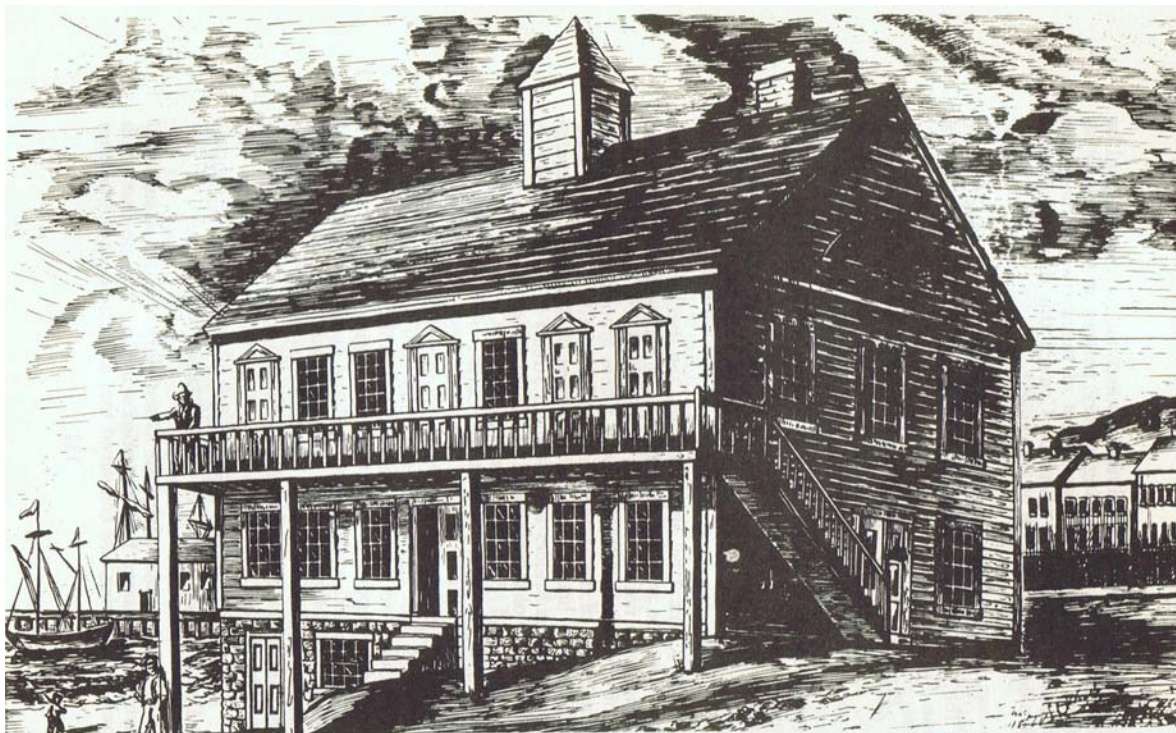
One account says that the frustrated patriots were "determined to leave their mark", and so they put a bayonet blade through the wig in Murray's portrait. The other story is that the rebels shot a bullet through Murray's portrait where his heart would be, leaving a hole the size of a silver dollar. Murray fled his home and moved to Boston, taking his portrait and that of Lucretia with him. Within two years, Murray, his wife and a number of their children fled Boston for Halifax. Alexander, a son of Murray's first wife, was a patriot and stayed behind on the family farm in Massachusetts.

The Murray family eventually settled in Saint John, New Brunswick. John and Deborah had a large home built on Prince William Street, but Murray also acquired farmland up the river in Maugerville and Fredericton. The portraits of John Murray and his third wife Lucretia hung in his Saint John home until his death. Just across the city's harbor from the Murray's house, lived another loyalist who had sat for a John Copley portrait. One can only wonder if Gabriel Ludlow, Saint John's first mayor, ever had the opportunity to admire Murray's portrait. Did the two loyalists share thoughts about happier days when they had the ease and fortune to commission a John Copley on canvas?

John Murray died in 1794, leaving Deborah and his loyalist children all that he had amassed since arriving in New Brunswick. Plain Lucretia was 34 years old at the time of her father's death. Although Murray's will expressed the hope that his spinster daughter would marry, he must have felt sorry for her; in addition to a modest annuity, he gave her the largest number of family heirlooms of any of his children. Although she had no memory of her beautiful mother, Lucretia received Copley's portrait of Mrs. Murray as well as a quantity of silverware.

After her father's death, Lucretia returned to Massachusetts where she died alone at the age of 74 in 1836. She bequeathed her mother's portrait to a cousin named Nathaniel Chandler. He proudly displayed the painting of his loyalist relative in the "Chandler House" in South Lancaster, Massachusetts. Robert Hazen, Murray's grandson, inherited the portrait damaged by patriots and hung it in his Saint John home for many years. Hazen became a politician, and eventually was appointed as one of Canada's first senators in the Parliament of 1867. The New Brunswick Museum now has this Copley portrait in its collections. It was put on display for the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the

loyalists in 2008. Today, the portraits of John and Lucretia Murray not only reveal the faces of these loyal colonists, they also reveal the toll exacted on one family by the events of the American Revolution.



First Market Building and City Hall in Saint John    Constructed 1789    Demolished 1837

Eric Langley, UE

## One Loyalist Daughter's Youthful Dreams

Charlotte (Flewwelling) Purdy of Newburgh, New York

Children of the Revolution are often a forgotten demographic in the history books, and were for the most part not identifiable until such time as they were married or owned property, as muster rolls and census statistics of the era did not name them. They were however, very much a part of the unfolding history, as their parents chose sides for them, and their dye was cast. The children of the Loyalists got a raw deal - even more so than their cousins whose parents were Patriots, and who were left to put their communities back together after the Revolution. The sons and daughters of the Loyalists left their childhood dreams and aspirations in the dust of war, first as they escaped their homes with scant belongings as the auctioneer sold off their farms, and again as they boarded cargo ships alongside a New York city wharf or lying in a Long Island inlet.

One of these children was **Charlotte Flewwelling**, born 7 Oct 1770, the first child of **Abel Flewwelling** and **Abigail Fowler** of Newburgh, Orange County, New York. Her life started out in the most normal fashion on her parents' prosperous acreage, where she began to grow with the hopes and dreams of all children, and especially those dreams of little girls who work hard to help their mothers with housekeeping and tending to new babies. When Charlotte was a year and a half old her first sibling arrived, sister Elizabeth, and when she was four, her brother Samuel came along. At 6, she had another new sister, Abigail.

About the time baby Abigail was born in 1777, their father left the farm in Balmville, and Charlotte may not have seen much of him, if at all, until her mother, and the children were forced off the farm in 1779, when Charlotte was 9. They may have sought shelter with a family relative nearby, and escaped down the river to New York, where they joined their father Abel, and endured the next four years of the war. In that period, her sister Sarah and then her brother John were born, but sadly little sister Abigail died.

Charlotte always felt the weight of being the oldest, and in her most formative years, while the younger ones about her played amidst the impoverished conditions of the war, she helped her mother to cope. Her father spent weeks at a time absent from the family, as he piloted British ships through the waterways of New York, New Jersey, and Delaware, employed in the Engineers Department. She must have overheard the talk and worry about the family's plight and felt the anxiety. It would have made her mature beyond her years. She must have wondered about her future, and dreamed the dreams that young girls have.

Then there came that excellent adventure of the summer of 1783 and their trip aboard the ship 'William' to the Nova Scotia wilderness, where the children scampered ashore into the scruffy landscape. Charlotte was soon to be 14; Elizabeth was 11 and Sarah, just 3. Their brother Samuel was almost 9, and John was just a wee infant in his mother's arms. There was naught for Charlotte to do but help her mother in any way she could during that first horrendous winter, in a hut amongst the rocks of Parrtown. As the eldest daughter, she would have felt the heavy responsibility to keep the younger ones warm and fed somehow. Here too, in the rare moments maybe she retreated to her own thoughts, wondering what was to become of her, and where her Prince Charming was to take her away from her life of toil and want.

The challenge started anew in late 1784, when Abel informed the children that they were to travel up the river 10 miles and begin camping on their own land once again, even though it would prove to be nothing like the farmland, or the village, they remembered. Charlotte was then maturing into a young woman, going on 15, and working as hard as ever for the struggling family - erecting another crude cabin, cutting and clearing trees and brush in order to till the land and get potatoes in the ground. From their new homestead they probably could not see their neighbours, each family tucked into a convenient sheltered spot on their own 200-acre grant, although usually close to the river. Before long, the men and the children carved out a trail to the river's edge, as well as a trail or two to their nearest neighbours. It was still a long way to meet up with friends for a quick game of hide-and-seek, and there was no schoolhouse to attend. The occasional family social event, or Sunday trip by boat to Trinity in Saint John, perhaps, would offer such a young lady the only opportunities to interact with the other children and teenagers, and the rare chances to cast her eye about for the boys she liked. It is difficult to determine which other young men might have been living along the Long Reach in the strip of land grants on the lower Kingston Peninsula, but there is no doubt that Charlotte mulled each one over in her mind.

Within two years, love visited young Charlotte, perhaps unexpectedly, in the person of her mother's cousin, **Samuel Purdy** of New York, already 35 years of age, and visiting his many cousins, aunts, and uncles. Samuel was the son of **Henry Purdy** and **Mary Foster**, of Cortlandt Manor, New York, downriver from the Flewellings' former home at Newburgh, and on the other shore. Samuel Purdy may have had early Loyalist inclinations, as his name appears amongst the residents of Westchester County opposed to sending delegates to Congress in April 1775, however he apparently did not become an active Loyalist, and may in fact have served with the Patriots in the Westchester Militia, as he was already 25 years old when the Revolution began. It is hard to determine from Revolutionary documents just what he may have done for the Continental forces, but perhaps seeking a wife and starting a family under those circumstances didn't work out for him, or he decided to do first things first - fight the war, then establish a family of his own.

Why did Samuel Purdy wander up north to New Brunswick in 1785/86? Was he seeking his own future there, or his future bride? He was not entitled to any of the perks of a Loyalist, and he might even have been unwelcome in many circles as an American patriot, and since his subsequent occupation was farming, it would appear, aside from perhaps two strong arms, he had no particular skills to trade in the primitive settlements of New Brunswick. He did however, have many relatives, and those relatives had daughters, whose lives on this frontier could never approach what they left behind in the Hudson River Valley, where communities did not take long to revive, and thrive, after the Revolution.

Samuel Purdy's father, Henry, was the youngest brother of Charlotte's grandmother, Charlotte (Purdy) Fowler, for whom she was named. He had not only loyal Purdy cousins in New Brunswick, but Fowlers and **Merritts** as well. It was undoubtedly to one of these cousins Samuel turned for shelter and social

introductions, if he needed any. In addition to his cousin Abigail Flewwelling's family, there was his cousin Stephen Purdy at Carleton/Lancaster, and Stephen's sons David, settled at Oromocto, and Gilbert, settled at Hammond River. Coincidentally, there was a **Daniel Purdy** on board the ship 'William' with the Flewwelling family in summer 1783, and he may be the most likely connection between Samuel and Charlotte.

It is also possible that Samuel knew exactly which young lady, or ladies, he was going to find before he left home. There had been several families of Purdy cousins around Newburgh before the Revolution, and it is likely that Abel and Abigail Flewwelling knew their cousin Samuel Purdy of Cortlandt Manor before the Revolution, and that the young Charlotte knew of him as well. Now, in 1786, and under their present circumstances, what did they think of this 35-year old prospect for their eldest daughter, 20 years younger than he, and had this liaison been planned much in advance, or was it unexpected?

It is little wonder, with Charlotte's youth spent mostly in harsh and demanding circumstances, that she was ready and able at 16 to enter into a marriage and a family of her own; after so many years of arduous work, at the expense of a childhood, she may have been nothing short of jubilant. And who of the other young daughters of the Loyalists around her would not have jumped at the opportunity to marry an older, familiar, suitor, and fulfill her long-held dreams, after the ordeals of the past decade?

Charlotte and Samuel were married by the Reverend Richard Clarke, who arrived in New Brunswick in May 1786 with two other clergymen of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, to be the pastor at Gagetown, and traveled up the St. John River in the spring of that year. He would have stopped at various locations on his way, and it was probably at this time that he married Charlotte and Samuel, at or near her father's home on his land grant on the river, if Mr. Clarke's record book is correct. The Ernest Mott Papers in the New Brunswick Museum indicate that Church Records show the marriage was at Trinity Church, Saint John, 11 June 1787, yet the Church Records of the Parish of Gagetown, record the marriage of Samuel Purdy and \_\_\_ Flewwelling, at Gagetown, 8 July 1786, a year earlier. This is a curious discrepancy and the birth of their first child, Henry, born in 1788, is no help in pin-pointing their marriage year.

There was no clergyman assigned to Westfield Parish on the lower Kingston Peninsula for many years after the Loyalists arrived, and religious rites for those settlers were conducted either where a minister was, requiring newborns and engaged couples to travel to him for baptism or marriage, or he traveled to them. It seems unlikely that Charlotte and Samuel traveled upriver to Gagetown to be married, as there was no church building there until 1791, while there was in fact a crude church building for Trinity in Saint John since 1784, which Abel Flewwelling may have had a hand in arranging, and where Peninsula families would be more likely to gravitate in the early years of settlement. However, the most likely scenario is that the Rev. Mr. Clarke touched in along the southern part of the Long Reach on his inaugural journey upriver to Gagetown, where he married Charlotte and Samuel, and probably several other couples. Mr. Clarke was subsequently well known for his constant travel among the settlements in Queens and Kings Counties, carrying out his ministry where there was no resident clergyman.

Samuel and Charlotte (Flewwelling) Purdy did not spend much time as newlyweds in the wilderness of the Kingston Peninsula, but traveled, probably by ship, back to New York, where they settled on a farm in or near the Balmville neighbourhood, north of Newburgh, from whence Charlotte and the Flewwellings had fled less than ten years before. The Census conducted in April 1791 shows the household of Samuel Purdy, a farmer, with one boy child, Henry, and two females, one of them Charlotte, and the other unknown, perhaps a relative or helper; their daughter Elizabeth would be born later in 1791, although this baby may have been the one they counted in the Census, in anticipation of her birth.

They were then living next door to some of the patriots who had driven Charlotte's parents and uncles out of the place, while about two dozen houses along the road was Charlotte's grandmother, the widow Charlotte Fowler, with her two household slaves, next to her son Samuel Fowler, the Methodist preacher. Ten years later, the Census of 1800 does not list this family, yet they were in fact there in 1810, 1820, and 1830, in the same place, after which time Samuel Purdy died 30 June 1836, aged 85, and Charlotte (Flewwelling) Purdy died 14 December 1839, aged 69.

Charlotte never saw her beloved sister Elizabeth again, nor her parents and most of her other siblings, although there was, no doubt, some intermittent correspondence. Her brother Samuel Flewwelling went back to New York in 1796, at about age 22, where he went into the fledgling banking business. Samuel spent the years 1802 to 1812 in Poughkeepsie, across the Hudson River from Newburgh, and would have had opportunities to join his sister's family circle for special occasions. Her father Abel died at Maugerville, New Brunswick, in early 1814, and her mother Abigail, at Hatfield's Point on the Belleisle Bay, in January 1833.

Charlotte Flewwelling and Samuel Purdy had five sons and nine daughters, but their descendants were few. Their eldest child **Henry Purdy**, born 1788 and died at Newburgh in 1860, had four daughters, and lived his later years as a widower looking after the rest of the family. In the 1860 Census at Newburgh, Henry Purdy, eleven months before his death, was styled a 'Gentleman', and his household consisted of himself and his unmarried sisters. On Tombstone #122 in the Old Burying Ground of Newburgh, are the names of Henry Purdy and those five sisters: Mary d. 1855, Elizabeth d.1857, Martha d. 1867, Abigail d. 1870, and Esther d. 1882. Of Samuel and Charlotte's other children, William died at age 13 in 1809; Ann died unmarried at age 36 in 1834; Charlotte died at age 11 in 1812; Samuel died at age 15 in 1819; Jane lived only one month; Amelia did not survive birth; and John died at age 14 in 1829. Their youngest son, **Abel Guilford Purdy**, married but had no children, and appears in the 1860 Census just one house from his older brother Henry; Abel Guilford Purdy died in 1877.

Despite the hardships and the turmoil of a community at war, children clung to their dreams, and the occasional young lady, after the sacrifice of her younger years, found her dreams in the smoke and ashes of the conflict, and managed to resurrect them.

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*Ancestors* New Brunswick

Family Tree Research

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