

CLAIMS OF THE LOYALISTS OF BAY CHALEUR

In 1785-1786 the Loyalists and Discharged Soldiers who had settled on the shores of Bay Chaleur had the opportunity to testify to their respective claims before a Board of Loyalist Commissioners. A record of their testimony has been preserved. Though brief reference to the information contained in these claims has been made in such published works on Gaspesia as LOYALISTS OF BAY CHALEUR by A.D. Flowers, the readers of SPEC may be interested in the following details drawn from the actual text of the claims.

Across the time gap of two centuries the testimony of these loyal and valiant men and women is a vivid reminder of the losses and exile they had experienced in flight from established homes in the American Colonies.

"GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY", in recording these claims, presents them in the same order that they were heard, originally, by the Board of Loyalist Commissioners.

Ken Annett

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LOYALIST COMMISSIONERS

1785-1786

Evidence in the case of Stephen Tuttle, formerly of Albany.

Claimant sworn:-

Is a native of New Jersey. At the commencement of the troubles (the American Revolution) he was settled 47 miles from Albany as a farmer. He was Deputy to the Surveyor General of the Province (New York) and Justice of the Peace. At the breaking out of the troubles in 1774 he was offered a company in the rebel service, which he refused. He steadily and uniformly acted a loyal part. He never took any oath to the Americans, although it was often tendered to him, and he was threatened for refusal. General Arnold threatened to hang him for a rebel.

He joined the British on Lake Champlain in 1779. Prior to that he took every opportunity of assisting the Loyalists and British prisoners. He would have joined General Burgoyne, but was prevented by the rebel army. He says he sent five sons to serve in the British army.

Says he has remained in Canada ever since. He furnished arms and ammunition to the Loyalists early in the war.

His claim was carried home from Canada by Colonel Jessup in October, 1783.

He then resided 120 miles above Quebec. He saw the account of the Act appointing Commissioners to inquire into the losses and services of the Loyalists in the Quebec Gazette some days before.

STATEMENT OF LOSSES

All his papers and titles were lost on his way through the woods to join the British in 1779.

Property:

351 acres, 3 miles below Fort Edward, on Hudson's River. He bought this about 1773 of Derrick Lifford and Daniel Campbell for £ 700 New York Currency. There was very little clearing on it. He thinks he laid out as much in improvements.

66 acres were cleared. Swears he thinks he could have sold this for L 1300 New York Currency.

15 acres on improvements bought of Hugh Mulloy, adjoining the former. There was a house on it, and the land all cleared, value £ 30, N.Y.Currency.

1050 acres in the northeast branch of Hudson's River, a grant, and no cultivation on it. The grant was dated 1769, valued at 3s/2d N.Y.C. per acre - £ 168 N.Y.C.

210 acres adjoining the South Bay, ten miles Skeensborough. Was a single right last war. Was not cultivated. Admits that there was a condition to cultivate. Values at £ 84 N.Y.C.

250 acres at the corner of the artillery patent purchased of Mr. Gilchrist. He held a lease for ever, paying 6¹/₂ per acre for ever after eight years. The lease was dated 1770. This never produced him anything, but it was valuable land.

Personal Property:

Hay on ground destroyed by the Americans	£ 16
Five acres of buckwheat in the ground	£ 20
18 bushels of potatoes planted	£ 22.10
Two young horses taken by the Americans	£ 45
20 sheep at 9/	£ 9
14 hogs	£ 34
Farming utensils	£ 30
Furniture	£ 35
Tools	£ 2
Liquors taken by the rebels	£ 11.16
Furnishing arms and ammunition to Loyalists	£ 24.10
States debts due him	£571
All his property is sold under confiscation.	
Fines for not fighting against the King	£ 40

Says he lost the use of his right arm by cold in going through the woods to join the British.

Certificate to his being considered a Loyalist in 1777 by the rebels from General Arnold.

Certificate from Thomas Mann, High Sheriff of Gaspe, formerly Ensign in the Loyal Rangers, to loyalty, and having assisted Loyalists in distress.

Evidence confirmed by witnesses, John Leonard and Captain Jonath Jones.

Evidence on the Claim of James Lovelace, late of Albany.

Claimant sworn:

His father died at Saratoga in 1781. He was executed as a spy by the Americans. Claimant was 19 years of age at that time & resided in Canada. In 1783 he lived at Fort St. Johns, Canada & says he could not send a claim home at that time. His late father, Thomas Lovelace was a native of America & when the war broke out he lived at Saratoga.

Says he never took any part with the Americans & joined the British Army on Lake Champlain in 1776. He remained with the Army until 1781, when he was sent with a party into the States. He fell into the hands of the Rebels & was executed. He left a wife & seven children. His widow named Lonas is now married to And. Norton & resides in the Bay of Chaleur.

Claimant is the oldest son. Ebenezer at Detroit. Lucy married in Chadobachto.

Thomas at Niagara. Elizab. at Bay Chaleur. William at Chaleur. Archd. do.

His father left no Will.

He now claims for the whole family.

Property:

100 acres of land near Saratoga. Produces conveyance dated 3 Feb. 1775 from

Cornelius Tabout to Thomas Lovelace in considn of £ 40/12s/6d N.Y.C. for one Hundred and one acres of Land.

This was Wild Land when he bought it. He cleared 30 acres & built a Log House & Barn. He thinks it was worth £ 150 N.Y.C. in 1775 as he was offered that sum for it.

100 acres of Wild Land in Jessup's Patent purchased in 1775. He cannot say what he gave for it. He cannot value it. Says he knows nothing of the present state of the Property.

Pr. Oxen	£ 14
4 Milch Cows	£ 17.10
5 Hogs	£ 5.00
Furniture	£ 36
Wheat	£ 20
Corn	£ 15

All this was plundered by the rebels when his father was with the British.

Witness - Jonathan Jones

Evidence on the Claim of Josiah Cass, late of Charlotte County, New York Prov.

Claimant sworn:

Says that in 1783 he lived at Mackick, that he made out his claim, but believes it was not sent to England, being too late.

He is a native of Connecticut. In 1775 he lived in Charlotte County as a farmer.

Says he never signed any association to the rebels or took any oath to them.

Once he was obliged to march a few miles with the Militia, but made his escape.

He joined the British Army under General Burgoyne in 1777, and did duty with Colonel Peters' Corps until the convention, when he came to Canada. He lived five years at Mackick & now resides at New Carlisle. He has three sons who

were soldiers in Sir John Johnsons' Corps all the War.

Property:=-

340 acres of Land in Keepport. Produces deed dated 8 April 1775 from Jonas Powers to Joseph Pomeroy in consideration of £ 20 N.Y.C. Conveys two lots in Keepport & the 3rd Division Lot with the remaining undivided right.

Says that Joseph Pomeroy was his Father-in-Law. To avoid it being seized by his creditors, he gave it to Claimant. He cannot say who is in Possession. Says that the consideration is nominal & thinks he could have sold these 340 acres for £ 232. He had a House, Stable & Barn on it. About 40 acres were improved. He cannot say who is in possession of this but he cannot say that J.Pomeroy is not in Possession

3 rights of Land, one in Bradport, one in Shoram and one in Smithfield, Vermont. Produces deed dated 8 April 1775 from Roger Rose to Claimant in consideration of £ 100. Conveys these 3 rights. These were grants under N. Hamp. Govt. They were Wild Lands. He pd. the price. He claims £ 100. He cannot tell in whose possession this is. Swears to all his personal property being taken by the rebels.

Certificate to his having taken the Oath of Allegiance, 16 July 1777. Signed by P. Skene.

(NOTE - The clearly legible tombstone marking the last resting place of Josiah Cass, Senior, is to be found in the Anglican Church Cemetery of Cape Cove)

Evidence of the Claim of Robert Caldwell, late of White Creek, New York Prov.

Claimant sworn:-

Says he resided at St. Johns, Lake Champlain, in 1783, & could not send his Claim in proper time.

He is a native of Ireland. He came to New York in 1761. In 1775 he lived in Charlotte County as a Farmer.

He was obliged to do Militia duty with the Americans until he had an opportunity of joining General Burgoyne at Skeensborough. He was afterwards taken prisoner & confined 2 years in gaol. He got to Canada in 1779 with his family, 4 sons and a daughter. He carried arms under General Burgoyne. Since 1779 he received rations and lived by his industry.

Resides at New Carlisle.

Property:

A lot of Land, 89 acres on White Creek on a lease forever at 1 s. pr. acre per an. from Oliver Delwinny & P. Debois. Says he cleared 30 acres & had a house & barn. The improvements were worth £ 200 Halifax Currency. One, Wm Mathews, is in Possession.

In 1785 he sent his son to recover & produces an order from the neighbours ordering him to remove at his peril. A negro man was employed to drive a team in the British Army & was taken at Saratoga - £ 50 Halifax Currency.

Swears he has lost what he claimed & £ 62.10 for not bearing arms against Colonel Carleton.

Produces affidavit of Wm Tyler in the King's Rangers to Claimant's Loyalty & to his having a negro taken with General Burgoyne, 10 July, 1787.

(NOTE - The four sons of Robert and Sarah Todd Caldwell were Robert Jr., Andrew Todd, James and John. Daughter, Elizabeth, became the wife of Secord Beebe in 1787.)

Evidence on the Claim of David Scott, late of New York, Charlotte County,
New York Province.

Claimant sworn :-

Says that he lived at Sorel in 1783 & could not send his Claim to England.
He is a native of Scotland & came to America in 1772. In 1775 he lived at
New Perth. He did exercise once with the Americans but never took any other
part with them. He joined the British Army at Skeensborough & was taken
(prisoner) at Fort Miller. He came to Canada in 1780 and after that served
in Jessup's Corps.

Produces his discharge at the end of the War & a good character from Capt. Burns.
Resides at New Carlisle.

Property -

176 acres of Land on a lease forever from Thomas Clarke, paying a shilling
N.Y.C. per an. He had cleared 20 acres and thinks the improvements & House
were worth £ 62 Halifax Currency. Crop - £ 18.10, Stock £ 10, House & Barn £ 14,
Furniture £ 10.

Witness Thomas Orel sworn:

Says he lived near David Scott before the War. He was always a Loyal man.

Evidence on the Claim of John Lane, late of Balls Town, New York.

Claimant sworn: -

Says he resided at Machich in 1783 & could not send his claim home.
He is a native of Ireland. He came to America in 1755 and settled in 1760
in Senectady. In 1775 he lived in Balls Town. He never joined the rebels,
only doing Militia duty, but joined General Burgoyne in 1777 at Fort Miller
& came to Canada in the Fall. He bore arms in Jessup's Corps.

Now resides in Hope Town, Chaleur Bay

Property -

100 acres of Land at Balls Town. He bought it before the War and paid 2 dollars pr, acre. He paid about one half, 100 dollars. He cleared 20 acres & built a House & &. Thinks it was worth \pm 100 Halifax Currency. Swears to the Personal Property allmost all lost.

Produces affidavit of Michael Connor to his knowledge of Claimant & his property & his suffering from Loyalty.

(NOTE - The records of St.Andrew's Anglican Church, New Carlisle, show that in 1789, Mary Lane, daughter of the late John Lane was married to John Caldwell. The witnesses were Robert Caldwell, Jr., and James Caldwell.)

Evidence on the Claim of Lawr. McKenzie, late of Skeensborough, N.York Province.

Claimant sworn: -

Says he was at Machick in 1783 & could not send his Claim home.

He is a native of Ireland & has been in America 35 years & was 14 years settled at Skeensborough.

Says he never joined the rebels at any time but joined General Burgoyne in 1777. He returned to Canada and enlisted in Major Rogers' Rangers until the end of the War.

He now resides at New Carlisle.

Property -

110 acres of Land on lease forever from Major Skeens, had cleared 10 acres. A small House - values at \pm 40 Halifax Currency. Stock, Furniture, Utensils & Crop all taken by the rebels.

Witness, Andr. Philip Skeens. Remembers Claimant before the War. He was a Tradesman & old settler in Skeensborough. Uniformly Loyal. All property was Lost to him.

Evidence on the Claim of Christopher Pearson, late of Burlington Patent, Tryon County, New York Province.

Claimant sworn: -

Says that in 1783 he lived at Macheche, made out his acct. which is produced, dated 5 Sept., 1783, but could not get it sent.

He is a native of England and came to America in 1771 & lived for some time in Philadelphia. He afterwards went to Tryon County. Says that he never joined the rebels in any respect. He was confined to his own house until 1777 when he joined the British Army. He enlisted in Butler's Rangers. Produces his discharge. He was afterwards in Major Rogers' Corps until the end of the War. He now resides at New Carlisle.

Property -

100 acres of Land in Burlington Patent purchased in 1773. He paid £ 25 Prov. Currency for it. He had cleared 16 acres & built 2 Log Houses. He values at £ 44 Halifax Currency. Clearance £ 46. Some Stock, Furniture & &. The rebels took all.

Produces affidavit of Jas. Cattle, 14 March 1786, that Claimant lived in good report & had stock & &.

Further evidence on the Claim of Cr. Pearson. Witness Dennis Ryan, sworn:

Says he lived near Claimant before the War. He was a Breeches Maker. He had a house & had furniture in it.

Evidence on the Claim of Mary Pearson, Widow of the late Jos. Beebe, late of Susquehanna, Pensilvania.

Claimant sworn : -

Says she lived at Macheche in 1783. See Christopher Pearson's Claim.

Her late husband, Jos. Beebe, was born in America in 1736. In 1775 he was settled on the Susquehanna. He never joined the rebels but joined Butler's

Remains in 1778. He went with an Express to New York from Susquehanna & died

of the Smallpox in 1779.

Claimant came into Canada in 1778 & is now married to Christopher Pearson.

She has 7 children by Beebe in Canada. Edw. at Niagara, 23; Secord 21;

Charlotte 20 (married to S. Chatterton at Chaleur); Emerson 18; Easse 15;

Sarah 12; Job 10.

Resides at New Carlisle.

Property -

Improvements on 300 acres Land. Stock L 27, Furniture L 20. Her children will be well satisfied if she receives compensation.

Produces a Certificate from Capt. Walter Baker that Claimant is the Widow of the late Jos. Beebe, who died at New York when sent there as an Express in 1778, leaving his family in distress.

(NOTE - Mary Pearson was a daughter of John Secord, a Huguenot, and relative of Laura Secord. Her first husband, Captain Krockston, was killed in the Indian Wars. Her second husband, Joshua Beebe II was the son of Joshua Beebe I and his wife Hannah Brockway. The children of Joshua II and Mary Beebe were Adin; Secord; Charlotte; Amasa; Asa I; Sarah; Joshua III. By marriage, members of this Beebe family were linked with the Gaspesian families of Chatterton; Caldwell; Hall and McKinnon.)

Evidence on the Claim of Jacob Tague, late of Tryon County, New York Province

Claimant sworn:-

Says he resided on Mal Bay in the service of the Government 1783-1784.

He was born at the German Flatts, Mohawk river. In 1775 he lived in Tryon County as a farmer. He was required by the Americans to sign an association but he positively refused and was obliged to fly in 1777 to Niagara. He then enlisted in Butler's Rangers where he served 2 years. He then enlisted in Sir John Johnson's & served until the end of the War.

Produces his discharge from each Regiment.

He now resides at Carlisle Bay.

Property -

200 acres of Land on Deed from Augustine Prevost. He purchased 9 years before the War. He paid £ 40 pr. hundred acres for it.

He cleared 15 acres & built a House, a stable & barn. Thinks he could have sold for £ 125 Halifax Currency. Furniture & all taken by the Americans.

Produces affidavit of Mary Stet, 16 March 1786 to good character, to her having been at the house and that he had some Improvements on his farm.

Evidence on the Claim of Wm Paterson, late of Crown Point, New York Province.

Claimant sworn:-

He is a native of England. He came to America in 1768. In 1775 he was settled at Crown Point as a Farmer.

He Was often required to join the rebels but by living in the Woods he avoided so doing. He joined the British Army in 1776 & served with Capt. Frazer as a guide and acted as a guide to General Frazer. He afterwards was employed as Forage Master and was taken prisoner and confined 2 years. During the remainder of the War he was employed in the Engineers Department.

Now resides at Carlisle Bay.

Produces Certificate from Capt. Scott, 53rd Regiment, to his good character and conduct, likewise to his having joined Capt. Frazer as guide in 1776 & his great sufferings.

From Capt. Fletcher to his acting as Forage Master in 1777 & others.

Property -

He had a farm on shares from Mr. Hugh White; half the Stock, £ 30, Carpenters Tools £ 10, Rob'd when taken prisoner, £ 29. A Cow, £3, Halifax Currency.

(NOTE - Embarked on the Brig St. Peter for Chaleur Bay in June, 1784,

Wm Paterson was accompanied by his wife and two children, a son and a daughter. It is believed that this family subsequently moved to Gaspé and that the Margaret Ann Paterson who became the wife of William Annett II of Peninsula was the daughter of this family.)

TO BE CONTINUED IN PART II.

CLAIMS OF THE LOYALISTS OF BAY CHALEUR

PART II

This account will continue and conclude a recall of typical claims made to the Loyalist Commissioners by pioneer settlers on the shores of Bay Chaleur.

The testimony given reflects not only the loss and suffering of these Loyalists and Discharged Soldiers but their unswerving loyalty to the British Crown.

The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, incorporated by Act of the Dominion Parliament, and having had as patrons twelve Governors-General of Canada, seeks to unite together descendants of the Loyalists and to preserve the history and traditions of Loyalist families. The Dominion Headquarters of this Association is at 23 Prince Arthur Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M5R 1B2.

Ken Annett

LOYALIST CLAIMS

PART II

Evidence on the Claim of Isaac Man, late of Still Water, New York Province

Claimant Sworn:-

Says that in 1783 he resided at Sorel & had not then an opportunity of sending his Claim to England.

He is a native of New York Province. In 1775 he lived at Still Water. He was Colonel of Militia in Albany County under the British Government & one of the Judges of the Inferior Court. He was required to join the rebellious party & in consequence of his refusal he was carried before a Committee, lodged and confined in several gaols for 16 months, when he was admitted on parole.

In July, 1778, he came into Canada where he has remained ever since. He now resides at Carlisle Bay.

During the War he was allowed Capt.'s pay, which ceased at the Peace

Property -

(NOTE- The property losses listed by Isaac Man were so extensive that only a total can be given here. His holdings in eight lots were 1866 acres of land on which he placed a value in excess of £ 2250. In addition he had lost some 60,000 feet of Timber and much personal property.)

Witness - Isaac Man, Jr. Son to Claimant. Sworn:-

Says that his Father was uniformly attached to the British Crown & on that account was much persecuted & in 1778 was sent into Canada.

Witness - John Jefferson. Sworn :-

When Mr. Man quitted the Country he had a good Stock & very considerable Plate and furniture. All seized by the rebels.

Evidence on the Claim of Isaac Man, Jr.,

Claimant Sworn:-

Says that he resided at Sorel in 1783 & had not an opportunity of sending home his Claim.

He is a native of New York. In 1775 he lived at Still Water & in consequence of his opposition to the Rebellious measures he was taken Prisoner & held for his life, He was acquitted & soon after joined General Burgoyne at Ticonderago with 57 Loyalists in 1777.

He did duty, as Quarter Master in Jessup's Corps & afterwards as Major of Brigade to the Provincials. He was taken at the Convention & returned to Canada, and some time afterwards was appointed Quarter Master in Sir John Johnson's 1st Battalion. He now enjoys Quarter Master's half pay and resides at Carlisle Bay.

Property -

100 acres on No.7, Saratoga Patent. £ 250.

Swears he lost articles of Personal Property and his share of the Timber lost by his Father. £ 150.

Evidence on the Claim of Andr. Coulter of Fort George, New York Province.

Claimant Sworn: -

Says he lived at St. John & Sorel in 1783-84 & could not send his claim home.

He is a native of Ireland. He came to America, a Soldier in the 46th Regiment, in 1757. In 1764 he settled at Fort George as a Farmer.

The rebels offered him a -- to join them but he never took any part with them.

He joined General Burgoyne in Lake George in 1777 & was employed in transporting

Baggage from Fort George to Fort Edward. After Burgoyne's defeat he came to

Canada, where he remained the whole War. He acted as a Volunteer under Colonel

Peters & under Lt. Frazer, and was a conductor in the Engineers Dept. for 3 years.

He now resides at Carlisle Bay.

Produces Certificate from Captain Dunlop, 53rd Regiment, to Andr. Coulter having been of singular service to His Majesty's Arms & to his Loyalty of Character.

Certificate from John Jones, Barrack Master, Fort George, that Andr. Coulter gave all possible assistance to the King's Troops.

Property -

110 acres of Land at Fort George. Upon this land he lived. Built several Houses and cleared above 20⁰ acres. Values at more than £ 120. One, Rodney Hay, has this.

200 acres of Land at the Creek - a grant as a Disbanded Non-Commissioned Officer. He built a Possession House. It is in Vermont & valued £ 1 per acre.

His Stock was taken by the rebels, £ 52. Furniture, Crops, Utensils - All lost.

Witness Robert Caldwell, Sworn:-

Knew Andr. Coulter before the War. He was an honest man & a good subject.

Remembers his farm near Fort George. On account of his Loyalty he lost all.

Evidence on the Claim of Andr. Naughton, late of Windsor, New York Province.

Claimant Sworn:-

He is a native of Connecticut. In 1775 he lived at Windsor. Says he always refused to take part against Great Britain & was put in gaol in consequence for 5 months.

In 1777 he joined General Burgoyne at Still Water.

At the Convention he came to Canada & served the remainder of the War in Jessup's Corps.

Produces Order for his Commitment by the Committee of Safety of Vermont.

Resides at Chaleur Bay.

Property -

100 acres of Land at Windsor. He had a House & Improvements. About 20 acres cleared. He had settled there 17 years before the War. He kept a tavern & it was very valuable. Values £ 130. Says the Minister of Windsor has now possession

of this Land.

Crop in the ground, House & Stock, Furniture & Farming Utensils, all taken when he was sent to gaol.

He received £ 50 from General Hope.

Evidence on the Claim of Thos. Shearer, late of the W.B. Delaware in New York Prov.

Claimant Sworn:-

Says he lived at Machick in 1783.

He is a native of Scotland. He came to America in 1774 with his family & 40 or 50 G's

He lived in the back Country. He was never asked to join the Rebels, being at a distance - 30 miles - from other settlements. He did not come from home until 1779

& served until the end of the War in Jessup's Corps.

He now lives at Cablisle Bay.

Property -

The promise of a Lease of 200 acres of Land from Gooldsbury Baagan, Esq. He have 32 sh. York for the improvements & cleared 20 acres and built a House.

Crop, Stock, Clothing, Farming Utensils & &. A scout of Indians destroyed his Property & carried them in Prisoners.

Evidence on the Claim of Benj. Betts, late of Saratoga, New York Province.

Claimant Sworn:-

In 1783 he resided at Machick.

He is a native of America. In 1775 he lived at Saratoga; a Farmer & Carpenter.

Says he never took part with the rebels more than mustering with the Militia. He joined General Burgoyne's Army in 1777.

At the Convention he came to Canada & served as a Volunteer in Dr. Adams' Company & afterwards in Jessup's Corps.

He now resides at Chaleur Bay.

Property -

built a House & Shop. He claims £ 87.10 Halifax Currency. Crops, Stock, 2 Cows, Furniture, Farming Utensils & Carpenters Tools. All these were lost to him. His wife was not allowed 2 Shift.

Evidence on the Claim of Donald Munro, late of White Plains, Albany County, New York Province.

Claimant Sworn:-

Says he lived at Mahiche in 1783 and sent his Claim to England by Colonel Cuyler. He is a native of Scotland. In 1756 he came to America in the 60th Regiment. He remained in the King's Service until 1764. The latter part of that time he was a conductor of waggons.

Then he went to White Creek and settled there, where he resided until the war broke out.

Says he at no time joined any party of the Americans. He was confined for not joining them and furnishing arms to the King's friends and gave £ 300 bail.

In 1777 he joined the British Army and never went home afterwards. He was employed as Conductor of Waggons. At the Convention he came to Canada and was employed in the Commissary Department and still continues in that employ at Chaleur Bay.

Produces a Certificate from John Craigie, Esq., Commissary General, of his being employed as Issuer of Provisions to the Loyalists and that he acquitted himself therein with Honesty, Diligence and Sobriety, and that he believes him to be an honest man and a Loyal Subject.

Property -

120 Acres of Land at White Creek. He purchased it in 1767 of Capt. John Munro when Wild Land. He had cleared 60 acres and had a House & on it. It was taken possession of by a rebel. Thinks he could have sold the Land & House in 1775 for £ 200 Halifax Currency. He left grain one half in Barn, £ 100.

Stock. 14 Cattle, 2 Horses, Hogs & Sheep, Furniture, Farming Utensils, all these were lost to him and his family.

Produces affidavit of Dd. McGill to Claimant being a person of Credit, being a freeholder and having a House, Furniture & Stock.

Witness Capt. Munro, Sworn:-

Knew Claimant, he lived near White Creek. He was a Loyal Man. Capt. Munro has a letter from a person whom he can depend upon, who says this land was sold under confiscation.

Evidence on the Claim of Nathan Sterns, late of Fort Edward, New York Province.

Claimant Sworn :-

Says that in 1783 he lived at La Chine and had no opportunity of sending home his claim.

He is a native of Rhode Island. In 1775 he lived near Fort Edward. Says that at no time did he join the Americans but joined Lord Dorchester in 1776 on the Lakes.

He was sent by Major Jessup to give notice that his party had joined the Army.

He was taken prisoner by the rebels and confined for months in gaol. He broke

gaol and joined General Burgoyne at Fort Miller. At the Convention he came to

Canada. He served 2 years in the Engineers department.

He now lives at Chaleur Bay.

Property -

300 Acres on Lease for 21 years. He was to be paid for his Improvements and thinks they were worth £ 200, New York Currency. Corn, 80 bushels, Crop in the ground, 4 Cows, 3 Y.Cattle, 2 Horses and waggon - all taken by the rebels. Furniture. All is lost.

Produces affidavit of James Benson to his good character.

Likewise affidavit of Lt. Wm. Tyler to his being confined with Claimant in Albany gaol.

Evidence on the Claim of Azariah Pritchard, late of Derby, Connecticut.

Claimant Sworn:-

Says that in the Spring of 1783 & since he has been at Chaleur Bay & did not hear of the Act of Parliament. (Re Loyalist Claims)

Says he is a native of Connecticut. In 1775 he lived in Derby, Connecticut, and remained there until May 1777.

Says that his Father and Brother were both violent friends to the Rebel cause & by their means he was allowed many favours, although his conduct and principles were always strictly Loyal.

Says that in 1776 he was active in getting off Major French & Mr. Mathews, Mayor of New York and says he carried 160 men at different times to Long Island from Milford.

In 1777 he was tried by a General Court Martial at New Haven for carrying intelligence from New York. Was acquitted by Bribing the Presentor.

After this he made his escape to Canada & acted as Guide on the Eastern part of Lake Champlain. 3 years with the pay of 3 sh. 4 d. per diem.

He raised a Company for the King's Rangers and was put in General Orders as Capt. but continued to be employed in Secret Service & during the rest of the War and now enjoys half-pay as Capt. and is now settled at Bay of Chaleur.

Produces Certificate from Geo. Smyth, Agent for Secret Service, dated St. John, 24 Dec. 1786, that Claimant had often been employed by him in Secret Service and often executed material service at the risk of his life.

Property -

600 acres of Land in the vacant Land near the Manadrix near Connecticut river. He values this at £ 600 Lawful.

A House, Barn & 73 acres of Land at Derby. Values at £ 615.

A Sloop loaded at Derby with provisions for the Fleet by order of Lord Howe, with whom he had a written agreement. The value of the Sloop & cargo was upwards of £ 700. Confiscated and sold by the rebels. Lord Howe's Agreement was burnt by his

wife for fear of discovery.

A set of sails & rigging stole from his store after he fled.

1/4 of a Grist Mill at Derby was seized - valued at £ 50 Lawful. Rum, Sugar, Indigo, 50 pr. Shoes, Cheese were taken by the mob when he fled. Furniture & Clothes were likewise seized and sold.

2 Horses & Cows. The Horses were taken as he made his escape & sold under confiscation.

(NOTE - The career of Capt. Azariah Pritchard is worthy of a major biography and, if it were written, Hollywood would likely snap up the motion picture rights. He was a daring and adventurous man in dangerous times during the Revolutionary War and equally active and controversial in the years of Peace that followed. In addition to his lands in Gaspesia he held at one time the Seigniory of Bic on the St. Lawrence)

Evidence on the Claim of William Tyler, late of Charlotte County, New York Prov.

Claimant Sworn:-

Says he was at Chaleur Bay in 1783-1784.

He is a native of Connecticut. In 1775 he lived in Charlotte County, New York, where he continued to reside until General Burgoyne marched into the County in 1777, when he joined him at Skeensborough. Before that time he took no part with the Americans. Says he never took an Oath or signed Association with the Militia. He had trained with them.

He was employed by General Burgoyne to carry dispatches & was twice taken prisoner & confined in Irons for Nine Months, but was released on Bail. He paid £ 25 to his Security & made his Escape to Canada.

He afterwards served in the King's Rangers & receives half-pay as Lt.

He now resides at Chaleur Bay.

Property -

He purchased in 1776 & 1777. Produces the Original Lease. He purchased the Improvements & gave about £ 200 New York Currency. One, Sealy, is in Possession. Says that when he joined General Burgoyne, one, Coll. Brown, seized his property & took cash out of his House, 47 Half Joes & 53 Guineas. This Cash, with all the Articles of Merchandise, were hidd in the Woods & he had permission to go & take them with an American guard, who robbed him to a great amount. His Stock was some taken by the Rebels in 1777 & some in 1780. The flower was manufactured for the British Army.

GASPE OF YESTERDAY concludes this sampling of typical Loyalist Claims with the following. It is included for its reference to family names that are well known in Gaspesia and to early Gaspesian commercé.

Evidence on the Claim of Lt. Henry Overing, 54th Regiment.

Claimant Sworn:-

Says his father, Henry John Overing, died in Bermuda in March, 1783, and that the Claimant sailed from New York for England in December, 1783. On the passage the ship sprang a Leake & was delaid in Ireland until the period for presenting Claims was past and by this means was prevented from presenting his Claim under the former Act.

His late Father resided at New Port, Rhode Island, before the troubles and at no time took any part with the Rebels and never became a subject of the American States.

Produces Certificate from Brigadier General F. Smith that Mr. John Overing took the Oaths to Great Britain 27 January 1777.

Commission from General Pigot appointing him Lt. in the Royal New Port Associator dated 30 October 1777.

Claimant has served as Lt. in the 54th Regiment since 1779, before that time he

was too young to have taken any part with the Americans.

His Father died without a Will at Bermuda in 1783, Leaving a Wife unprovided, Mary Overing, Claimant. Children - Harriet in Rhode Island; Polly, unmarried; Robert, 8 years old, in Rhode Island. By the Laws of Rhode Island the Oldest Son has two shares, the other children one share, after paying the Widow's thirds. Says the Claimant has a power of Atty to act for his mother & family. Says that his mother has administered to his Father's estate in America & he has in London. Mr. Taylor, Halifax, has a power of Atty.

Claim for -

Brig MARY, Condemned at Dominica as a Prize under Prohibitory Act. This Brig sailed from New Port in Sept. 1775 & cleared out from the King's Custom House for Gaspé where she loaded with Fish for Dominica.

She was taken going round the Island of Dominica by the VESPER, Capt. Graves & Condemned under the Prohibitory Act & sold for the advantage of Capt. Graves & crew.

The Brig was about 100 tons burthen and thinks she was worth £ 100 Str. The sum shipped to purchase the Cargo was 2000 Dollars in hard cash, as appears from the Receipt of Thomas Stacey, Master.

Claimant delivers in upon Oath the Certificate of Felix O'Hara, D. Collector of Gaspe, dated Quebec 28 Sept. 1787. That the Brig MARY, Capt. Stacey of Rhode Island was regularly cleared out by him from the Port of Gaspe for Dominica with a Cargo of Fish. 1775.

Claimant Produces Copy of Condemnation of Brig MARY, the Property of Henry John Overing, as a Prize under the Prohibitory Act by Alexr. Stewart, Judge of the Admiralty in Dominica, 12 April 1776, attested by Griffin Carles, Register of the Court, 10 January 1787.



ON AUGUST 3, 1784, LOYALISTS AND DISBANDED SOLDIERS OF BAY CHALEUR
DREW FOR FARM LOTS IN SUCH A SCENE AS THE ABOVE.

