

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

11

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF CAPTAIN GEORGE LAWE, SR.

The "boat people" of yesterday in Gaspesia were the distressed Loyalists and veteran soldiers of the American Revolutionary War who landed on the shores of Bay Chaleur from a flotilla of small ships and whale-boats in the summer of 1784.

This issue of GASPE OF YESTERDAY proposes to focus on the life and times of Captain George Lawe, Senior, the Superintendent of Loyalists in Bay Chaleur by appointment of Governor, Sir Frederick Haldimand.



THE LIFE AND TIMES OF CAPTAIN GEORGE LAWE, SR.

The settlement of the Loyalists and veteran soldiers on the shores of Bay Chaleur in 1784 is of particular interest to Gaspesians as many of today's families, with deep roots in the District of Gaspé are descendents. Responsible for the settlement of these Loyalists was Captain George Lawe, Sr., who arrived on the brig, "POLLY" - one of the flotilla of small ships and whaleboats that carried the settlers from Quebec to Bay Chaleur. As the career of Captain Lawe was matched in adventure and service by the experience of many of the Loyalist pioneers in Gaspesia, this account will serve to supplement the historical study of the late A.D. Flowers, "LOYALISTS OF BAY CHALEUR".

ANGLO-IRISH ORIGINS

Though the family background of George Lawe, Sr., remains to be documented, there is reason to believe that he was born in Ireland circa 1730. His parents and a brother were living in Ireland in 1782. In 1794 he returned to Ireland on family business relating to property left to him there by his father. That he had the benefit of a sound education in his youth is evident from his letters, reports, petitions and memorials that have survived.

EARLY ARMY CAREER

A military career was the choice of young George Lawe. He joined the British Army in 1754 and on the outbreak of the Seven Year's War in 1756 was serving as a Lieutenant in the 76th Regiment. As the colonial war between England and France escalated he served in America in 1756, took part in the military expedition against the French West Indies in 1759 and was severely wounded as a participant in the daring British assault on the strategic Island of Belle Isle off the coast of France. During the reduction of the French island of Martinique in 1762 by the forces under the command of General Monckton, George Lawe won the command of a company and purchased his commission as Captain with the proceeds of a small patrimony. He was still in the army in 1763 when he was promoted to Major and then to Lieutenant Colonel in 1764. In 1765 he was promoted to Colonel and in 1766 to Major General. In 1767 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1768 to General. In 1769 he was promoted to Major General and in 1770 to Lieutenant General. In 1771 he was promoted to General and in 1772 to Major General. In 1773 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1774 to Major General. In 1775 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1776 to Major General. In 1777 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1778 to Major General. In 1779 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1780 to Major General. In 1781 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1782 to Major General. In 1783 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1784 to Major General. In 1785 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1786 to Major General. In 1787 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1788 to Major General. In 1789 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1790 to Major General. In 1791 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1792 to Major General. In 1793 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1794 to Major General. In 1795 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1796 to Major General. In 1797 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1798 to Major General. In 1799 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1800 to Major General. In 1801 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1802 to Major General. In 1803 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1804 to Major General. In 1805 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1806 to Major General. In 1807 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1808 to Major General. In 1809 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1810 to Major General. In 1811 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1812 to Major General. In 1813 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1814 to Major General. In 1815 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1816 to Major General. In 1817 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1818 to Major General. In 1819 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1820 to Major General. In 1821 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1822 to Major General. In 1823 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1824 to Major General. In 1825 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1826 to Major General. In 1827 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1828 to Major General. In 1829 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1830 to Major General. In 1831 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1832 to Major General. In 1833 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1834 to Major General. In 1835 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1836 to Major General. In 1837 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1838 to Major General. In 1839 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1840 to Major General. In 1841 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1842 to Major General. In 1843 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1844 to Major General. In 1845 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1846 to Major General. In 1847 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1848 to Major General. In 1849 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1850 to Major General. In 1851 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1852 to Major General. In 1853 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1854 to Major General. In 1855 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1856 to Major General. In 1857 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1858 to Major General. In 1859 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1860 to Major General. In 1861 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1862 to Major General. In 1863 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1864 to Major General. In 1865 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1866 to Major General. In 1867 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1868 to Major General. In 1869 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1870 to Major General. In 1871 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1872 to Major General. In 1873 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1874 to Major General. In 1875 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1876 to Major General. In 1877 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1878 to Major General. In 1879 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1880 to Major General. In 1881 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1882 to Major General. In 1883 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1884 to Major General. In 1885 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1886 to Major General. In 1887 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1888 to Major General. In 1889 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1890 to Major General. In 1891 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1892 to Major General. In 1893 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1894 to Major General. In 1895 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1896 to Major General. In 1897 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1898 to Major General. In 1899 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and in 1900 to Major General.

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Islands until the end of the War in 1763. Then, in common with the lot of many of his fellow Army officers, he was reduced to half-pay and retired to the Army reserve.

A DIFFICULT DECADE

The period of ten years from 1764 to 1774 were, according to his own testimony, difficult ones for George Lawe. He noted that during that time he experienced many private misfortunes, which, together with the unavoidable expense attending a family, obliged him to sell his half-pay as a British Army Officer. Unfortunately, it has not yet been possible to reconstruct his life during this difficult period from contemporary records. The name of his wife remains unknown but it is known that their family consisted of four sons and possibly a daughter. The personal name of Tonnendine, the second name of their youngest son, John T.Lawe, may reflect the maternal family name.

THE SEIGE OF QUEBEC -1775

In 1774, as reward for his earlier military service at the reduction of Martinique, George Lawe obtained from Governor Tryon of the Province of New York, the grant of 3000 acres of land in that colony located near Lake George. However, the outbreak of the American Revolution wholly deprived him of that grant. Realizing that revolutionary war was imminent in America, he left home and family to sail for America in 1775. There, hearing that the fortress of Quebec, the key to control of the St.Lawrence, was threatened by American attack, he made his way there to offer his services to General Carleton. He served as Engineer of the besieged garrison throughout the siege of Quebec by the American armies of Montgomery and Arnold and was a member of the Council of War that planned Quebec's defence. In action, his initiative and bravery was responsible for the defeat of a major American assault on the walls of Quebec on the last night of December, 1775. His services in general and on that occasion in particular were recognized by General Carleton. It is of interest to note that he was one of four officers recommended by Carleton to the King for Royal Approbation. Among his fellow officers during the

defence of Quebec were Nicholas Cox, who was named subsequently to be Lieutenant Governor of Gaspé and Francis Le Maistre who would succeed Cox in that post in Gaspesia. After the lifting of the American siege George Lawe was awarded a commission as Captain in the 84th Regiment - Royal Highland Emigrants - commanded by Colonel Allan MacLean. The role of George Lawe in the defence of Quebec is recorded in detail in a number of historical records and accounts of the time.

Following secret service missions for General Carleton along the St. Lawrence, Captain Lawe requested permission to join the military expedition of General Burgoyne against the Americans. He was appointed as Assistant Engineer and Bridge Master. When the Burgoyne army met with disaster at Saratoga, Captain Lawe made good his escape from the Americans and returned to Quebec to rejoin the 84th Regiment. In 1777 he served as the Barrack Master for Montreal and Fort Chambly.

FAMILY AND SECOND MARRIAGE

Information on the sons of his first marriage is contained in memoriaks submitted by Captain Lawe. In that year one of his sons, whose first name does not appear in British Army records but who was an Ensign in the 47th Regiment, lost his life at sea while en route from England to join his Regiment in America. Another son, possibly Robert Lawe was then serving as a Lieutenant in the 60th Regiment. Army Records show a Robert Lawe commissioned as Ensign in the 3rd Battalion of the 60th Regiment and his subsequent promotion to Lieutenant in 1778. A third son, George Lawe, Junior, the only son of the first family to survive his father, was to settle at Niagara. His career will be recalled later in this account. Yet another son, John Tonnendine Lawe, fourteen years of age, arrived in Quebec circa 1776 and joined the 84th Regiment as a volunteer.

As noted, the name of the first wife of George Lawe, Sr., remains unknown, as yet. She is presumed to have died prior to 1778 for in September of that year Captain Lawe and Rachel Franks of Montreal were married by the Rev. Veyssiere in the Protestant Church of Three Rivers. Rachel was a sister of Jacob Franks, a

merchant of Montreal with interests in the fur trade of the upper Great Lakes region. Signing the marriage register was John Franks, thought to have been another brother-in-law of George Lawe. In December, 1779, George and Rachel Franks Lawe had a son, John, who was baptised at Christ Church (Anglican) in Montreal. That the family continued to reside at Montreal is evident from a 1781 Deed Of Sale for the purchase of land in that city by John Franks and Captain George Lawe of the 84th Regiment.

FINANCIAL TROUBLES AND NEW DIRECTIONS

Serious financial distress that Captain Lawe attributed to a Mrs. Franks, likely his mother-in-law, obliged him to sell his treasured commission in the 84th Regiment in 1782 and to appeal to his friends, including the Governor, Sir Guy Carleton and Brigadier Allan MacLean for aid and support. The sympathy and practical help that he received in his distress enabled him to purchase a commission for his son, John Tonnendine, and to find other service in the reception and care of the Loyalist refugees who were flooding into Quebec from the American colonies and were being provided with temporary accommodation in camps along the St. Lawrence, downriver from Montreal.

When it was agreed that one group of the distressed Loyalists would settle on the shores of distant Bay Chaleur, Captain Lawe was involved in their preliminary movement to the port of Quebec and embarkation on the ships that had been provided to carry them to Gaspesia. Indeed, he sailed with them in his official role as Superintendent of Loyalists in the Bay of Chaleur. In August, 1784, Lieutenant-Governor Nicholas Cox would include in his report to Governor Haldimand the RETURN OF CAPTAIN GEORGE LAWE on the number, situation and needs of the Loyalist settlers.

In the report of the lots drawn by the Loyalists at Paspébiac shortly after their arrival in Bay Chaleur George Lawe is shown as having received Lot. No. 67 of 100 acres and John Lawe, Volunteer, Lot No. 3 of 50 acres.

By November, Captain Lawe was back in Quebec to report to the Governor and deliver dispatches from Nicholas Cox.

Governor Haldimand directed him to ensure a continuing supply of food and other needs to the Loyalist settlement and ordered the payment without delay of Captain Lawe's personal allowance for the past six months. Through such direct and personal involvement with the pioneer Loyalist families of the Bay Chaleur settlement, Captain Lawe was well known to them. Nor did his personal life, like theirs, escape tragedy, for his son, John Tonnendine Lawe drowned in Gaspé Bay while enroute to Bay Chaleur. The loss of that promising young son, only twenty-two years of age, must have been a bitter blow to his father and the Lawe family.

While it seems clear that Captain George Lawe, Sr., did not settle in Bay Chaleur, it remains an open question if the Allan Law that settled at New Carlisle some years later and whose descendents continue to live in Gaspesia to this day, was a relative. Church records indicate that Allan Law was born in Ireland circa 1787 and was the only known member of the Law family to settle in Gaspesia after the arrival there of the Loyalists under Captain George Lawe in 1784. Research continues on this question.

GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS

On the departure of Sir Frederick Haldimand as Governor of Quebec, Sir Guy Carleton, now the Lord Dorchester, returned to Quebec for a second term as Governor. In 1785 he appointed his companion-in-arms, Captain George Lawe, Sr., as a Commissioner of the Peace for the District of Quebec and three years later named him as a member of the Commission on the Jesuit Estates. The reports of the proceedings of that Commission, recorded in detail in the Journals of the Legislative Assembly of Quebec, show that Captain Lawe was active in its work and that, on occasion, meetings of the Commission were held at his Quebec home. He was charged with liason between the members resident in Quebec and Montreal and had ready access to the person of Lord Dorchester at the Castle of St. Lewis, Quebec. The period from 1785 until 1790 appears to have been the apex of Captain Lawe's career. While his public activities during that time are on record, distressingly little has been found to date on his personal and home life while resident in Quebec.

Circa 1790 Captain Lawe moved from Quebec and located at Newark (Niagara) in Upper Canada where he had employment as Overseer of Works under Governor Simcoe. His son, George Lawe, Jr., had preceded his father to the Niagara District where he was involved in survey work, as an officer of the Lincoln Militia and pioneer settler. In a petition from Niagara in 1792, Captain Lawe, Sr., stated that he had lost two sons in His Majesty's service and had yet two sons living in Upper Canada. He petitioned for a land grant of 3000 acres - "in the Township of York prayed for by Major Smith or else on Chippewa". Order-in-Council Warrant Number 1108 of June 22nd., 1793, granted him 3000 acres in the Township of Pickering, consisting of 15 lots in the 7th., 8th., and 9th., concessions.

JOURNEY TO ENGLAND AND IRELAND

In the autumn of 1793 Captain Lawe left Niagara to travel to London, England, bearing letters and official dispatches from Governor Simcoe of Upper Canada to the British Colonial Office. In a letter of introduction Governor Simcoe stated:

"This letter will be transmitted by Captain Lawe, a very old and distinguished officer of His Majesty's Service and an Inhabitant of this Province, as this Gentleman acts as Assistant to the Engineer. He can speak with propriety to the requests which it is my duty to make....

Captain Lawe proposes to return early in the Spring and would be a proper person to be entrusted with any dispatches...."

On his arrival in London, Captain Lawe was interviewed by officials of the Colonial Office regarding the state and needs of Upper Canada with particular reference to the looming threat of American invasion. He submitted a personal memorial to the King and travelled to Ireland on family business. For the first time in records of his life and career he noted that he was now old and infirm. In the last of his letters found to date, he was about to leave London on his return to Niagara. He had arranged

passage for himself, his daughter and two sons, from Bristol to Philadelphia on an American ship. He noted that they would then face an overland journey of some 800 miles to reach his post at Niagara.

It remains to be determined if that return journey to Niagara was ever completed. No later letters of Captain Lawe have been found to date and diligent search has failed to find any record of his death and burial at Niagara.

CAPTAIN GEORGE LAWE.JR.

Of the sons of the first family of Captain George Lawe, Sr., three had lost their lives in His Majesty's service by 1795. A fourth son, George Jr., a Captain of the 1st Lincoln Militia on the outbreak of the War of 1812-14, was severely wounded in the American attack on Fort George and made prisoner. In the same battle his elder son, George William Lawe, only 18 years of age was killed. The Lawe homestead at Niagara was plundered and burnt by the Americans and their Indian allies. With her husband captive and her elder son dead, Elizabeth McGrath Lawe, daughter of a Loyalist, was left in distress to care for her young daughter and son, John, until the return of her husband from captivity. Captain George Lawe Jr., served as Usher of the Black Rod in the Parliament of Upper Canada. He died and was buried at St. Mark's Anglican Church, Niagara, in 1816.

JOHN LAWE OF THE SECOND FAMILY -GEORGE SR. AND RACHEL FRANKS LAWE

From correspondence of Jacob Franks of Montreal it is known that in 1795 the Widow Rachel Franks Lawe returned from England and placed her son, John "under the protection of her brother, Jacob Franks". Jacob sent his sixteen year old nephew to Mackinaw to learn the fur trade. In that he was so successful that, in time, he bought out his uncle's interests and became associated in the fur trade with John Jacob Astor. He was early appointed a Justice of the Peace and later was named as a Judge for the Green Bay District. The record of his remarkable life are held by the University of Chicago and the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

POSTSCRIPT

It is indeed difficult to convey in a brief synopsis of the life and times of Captain George Lawe, Sr., his indomitable spirit and the unswerving loyalty of his service. In these qualities his story is not unique as he shared such qualities of heart and mind with many of the Loyalists and veteran soldiers who found new homes on the shores of Gaspesia. It is right and fitting that their descendents should recognize and appreciate the rich legacy of initiative and fidelity that they bequeathed.

EXTRACTED FROM REPORT OF THE ARCHIVES OF CANADA

At a Council of War held at Quebec on the 16th of November, 1775

Present - Hector Theophilus Cramahé, Lt.-Governor

Lt.Col.McLean

Capt.Hamilton of ye "LIZARD"

Major Cox

Capt.McKenzie of ye "HUNTER"

Capt. Jones

Lt.Nunn, Commanding ye "MAGDELEINE"

Capt. Lawe

Lt.Pringle of ye "LIZARD"

Lt.Faunce, Acting Town Major Lt.Fowler of ye "LIZARD"

The annexed Returns of Provisions, of the Men in the Garrison, and of those belonging to the ships in ye Harbour, who may be employed in the Defence of the Town, having been laid before the Council of War by the Lt.-Governor. It is the unanimous Opinion of the Council of War that it is for the Benefit and Honour of His Majesty's Service at all Events to defend the Town to the last Extremity.

It is likewise their Opinion that the suburbs of St.Johns and all the Houses adjoining to the Fortifications and Defences of the Town, which may afford Shelter to ye Enemy, should be destroyed as soon as possible.

Also that as many Pilots as can be procured should be sent to Europe aboard the "EXPRESS", which is to carry the Dispatches of the Lt.-Governor, of Captain Hamilton, the Commanding Officer of ye Troops and the Determination of this Council of War.

That a signal should be agreed upon by the Lt.-Governor and Captain Hamilton and be then Communicated to His Majesty's Secretary of State and the Commanding Officers of ye Fleet and Army at Boston, by which it may be made known to the Fleet and Army which may come to ye relief of Quebec next Spring, whether it is in the Possession of the King's Troops or not.

/ctd

That as several Masters of Vessels, which have been detained in consequence of the Embargo laid upon Shipping for the Defence of the Province, have been subjected to great Inconveniences and who are zealous for the Service, some Immediate Provision should be made for them by the Lt.-Governor and their Case represented to His Majesty's Secretary of State.

(SIGNED)

Wm. Fooke

John Hamilton

Thos. Mackenzie

A. Maban

Allan McLean

Thos. Faunce

Geo. Lawe

Nicholas Cox

Thos. Pringle

Thom. Dunn

Henry Caldwell

H. T. Cramahé

Thomas Jones

"How we were conquerors at a juncture when we imagined all lost", says the journalist, "and at a time when we so little expected it, you will now be informed, viz:- The Governor being apprised by repeated messengers, some voluntary while others were ordered to carry him intelligence to the castle, in rotation of duty, how likely the lower town was to fall into the hands of the enemy, they having forced our outpost and nearly gained our last barrier, he, in consequence of this, with the greatest coolness, ordered an immediate sortie to be made from the Palace Gate to outflank them, conducted by Capt. Lawes of the Royal Engineers, which party was covered by a Captain McDougal of the Royal Emigrants, and this body had no sooner gained the bottom of the hill than they fell in with the rearguard of the enemy who were so much confounded at so unexpected an attack that they immediately threw down their arms and submitted themselves prisoners without firing a shot. Capt. Lawes kept boldly advancing (leaving McDougal to dispose of the enemy who had fallen into his hands as was thought proper) and soon gained the outpost at Saut au Matelot which he entered without opposition, none of his party having as yet come up, and rushed into the midst of the rebels crying out, with the greatest "sang froid", "You are all my prisoners".

If the rear party, which consisted of upwards 300, were astonished at being made prisoners so unexpectedly, you may well conceive the surprise of those who had made themselves masters of our post at being addressed in such language. "How", said they, "Your prisoners ! You are ours".

"No, No, my dear creatures", replied he, "I vow to God you are all mine - don't mistake yourselves"

"But were are your men?"

"O Ho !", says he "make yourselves easy about that matter - they are all about here and will be with you in a twinkling?"

Conversation to that purpose, for near ten minutes, was carried on, during which period a proposal was made to kill him, which was overruled; in the interim his party arrived, made themselves masters of the post, and placing the enemy between two fires, secured it, with the assistance of Capt. McDougal. Thus the whole body of the enemy which had taken possession of the Saut au Matelot were made prisoners. In this manner we within the town were released from impending ruin through this unexpected manouvre of the General by which means their whole party were either killed, wounded or taken prisoners; among the former were three officers and fifty privates; forty were wounded. For this brave conduct in the defence of Quebec Capt. Lawes received the Royal

To His Excellency John Graves Simcoe Esquire
Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada &c.
in Council

The Memorial of Captain George Lawe
Most humbly sheweth

That your Memorialist has had the Honor
of serving the late and His present Majesty thirty
eight Years on the Coast of France in America
and the West Indies.

That your Memorialist in the Year 1777
in consequence of his services at Martinique obtained
from Governor Poyers a Grant of three thousand
Acres in the Province of New York near Lake George
which upon the breaking out of the Rebellion in 1777
he was wholly deprived of. That the same Year
your Memorialist voluntarily left his Family and
Home for the service of his Country, was in
Quebec during the Siege in the Campaigns
of 1776 and 1777 under the Commands of Lord
Dorchester

W. Rogers and General Mudge, continued
in the service the remainder of the War, and was
at the conclusion of it a Captain in the 84th
Regiment.

That your Memorialist has lost two Sons,
whose Commissions he purchased, serving in this
Country: that he has yet two, unprovided for
now in the Province and prays on their
behalf as a reward for his Services & Losses,
he may be allowed to locate Three thousand
Acres of Land in the Township of York.
All which is humbly submitted to your
Excellency by your Memorialist.

Niagara October 5th 1792. - Geo. Lasse

A ~~WARRANT~~ OF ~~CONFESSION~~
Lots No. 22, 23, 24, 26, 27 ——— 7th Concession
Lots Number 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, ——— 2nd Concession,
Lots No. 22, 23, 24, 26, 27 ——— 9th Concession

Captain George Lane

Commencing where ——— posts are planted, in front of the said Concession,

At the South East Angle of *each* of the said Lots *respectively*

Then North 16 Degrees West, 100 Chains

Then South 74 Degrees West, 20 Chains

Then South 16 Degrees East, 100 Chains

Then North 74 Degrees East, 20 Chains

To the place of beginning. *in each Lot respectively*

Containing ——— 3000 Acres, more or less.

For which — 428 Acres and — 4 sevenths are reserved per Margin.

In Lot No. 20 — } 27-7 33.
6 Concession. }

D. W. SMITH,
Acting Surveyor General.

With the Order of Council, Warrant Number 1108 ———

GRANTED to

Captain Geo Lawe

3000 Acres *M C*

ORDER OF COUNCIL,

22 June 1793

J. Smith

To THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

GRANTED to

Captain George Lawe

Three Thousand Acres.

ORDER OF COUNCIL,

22^d June 1793

J. Smith
C C

To the Attorney General

To His most Excellent Majesty

The Memorial of George Lawe,
Most Humbly sheweth



That Your Memorialist enter'd your Majesty's
Service in the year 1754—

That your Memorialist was sent with Dray
to North America in 1756— Served in the Expedition
on the Coast of France was at the taking of
Belle-Isle, where He was severely wounded, and
afterwards at the Reduction of Martinique, had
the command of General Mouchton.—

That in 1762 He was reduced at Portsmouth
as Capt. in your Majesty's 76th Reg^t— then commanded
by Brigadier General Mifflin.—

That on the breaking out of the Rebellion in
1775, He voluntarily left His Family, and went to
America where, hearing that Quebec was threaten'd
with an Attack, your Memorialist went there
and on offering His Service was appointed Command
Engineer by Gen^l Carleton during the seven
Months the Place was besieged by the Rebels.—

That on the 31st day of December 1775
when the Enemy storm'd Quebec, your Memorialist
was order'd by General Carleton to command

the Rebels, then under the Command of General Arnold, killed, and wounded several, (among the latter was their General) drove them from a Strong Post they had possess'd, and took upwards of four hundred Prisoners, more than 30 of whom were Officers. — This Action is mention'd in General Carleton's public Letter of the 6th of May, 1776, and your Memorialist was given to understand His Conduct met your Majesty's gracious Approbation. —

That on forming your Majesty's late or, ^{4th} Reg^t under Brigadier General M^oLean your Memorialist was appointed to the Command of a Company. That finding the Reg^t was to remain in Canada your Memorialist wishing to be employ'd on other Service, obtain'd leave from Sr Guy Carleton (now Lord Dorchester) to go as a Volunteer on the Expedition in 1776 and 1777 under His Lordship's first, and afterwards General Burgoyne's Command was appointed Artillery Engineer and Bridge-Master and your Memorialist most humbly and Respectfully submits His Conduct during these two Campaigns to such Enquiry as your Majesty may deign to make of either of the several Officers engaged therein. —

That on the Surrender of General Burgoyne's Army, your Memorialist made his Escape and join'd the 5th Reg^t in Canada. —

That subsequently your Memorialist having no other means to provide for His Family, sold out, and purchased Commissions for

Two of his Sons - each of whom lost their Lives
in your Majesty's Service shortly after - and very
recently your Memorialist's Eldest Son lost
his Life whilst a Captⁿ in your Majesty's
Service. -

That your Memorialist remained
in Canada, as Asst. Engineer, but being now
only Possessor of Books at Niagara, at 50
p^r Day, Old, extremely Infirm, and unable
to subsist Himself and four surviving
Children, in Canada - received from Governor
Simeon, Public Dispatches to come to
England, in hopes of doing something better
for His (Memorialist's) Family. -

Your Majesty's Memorialist most
Humbly prays, That his long Services, and
present Situation may be taken into
consideration by your most Gracious Majesty
and that your Majesty may be pleased
to give Him some useful Appointment,
adequate to the moderate Subsistence
of your Memorialist during his remaining
Days, or to grant such other reliefs
as to your Majesty may seem meet. -
And your Memorialist as in Duty bound

Wth ever pray
No 10 St. James Street
London.
March 16th 1794.

George Lowe

11/5 Martin St. Secy. Squ

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I hope you will not take this intimation Amiss—it would give me real concern to be thought Capable of giving the Smallest offence— I have been informed that travelling Expences are sometimes allowed to Persons bringing out dispatches— if it is Customary I should be most thankful to you to consider me— indeed I should not make this application but that I have met some very heavy misfortunes of late & my Family & self afflicted the whole Winter with Sickness & obliged to live in London at Expence— & thro' the injustice & indolence of an Unworthy Brother I find myself almost wholly deprived of a considerable property left me in Ireland by my Father— that now after Forty One years Service mostly in the West Indies & Canada have hardly a living—

I brought dispatches from Governor Simcoe last year— after landing at Philadelphia will have above eight hundred miles to travel before I arrive at my Post at Niagara with my Daughter & two Sons— But Sir you

may be assured the Letters shall be very safely
delivered into Lord Borchester & Governor Sirs
hands & with the utmost dispatch, having
the Honour of being Personally known to them
both — relying on your Generous Charact.
They leave to repeat again my apologies
for this trouble —

at about 3 O Clock Tomorrow
the Chair is to call for us — & while I
remain at Bristol will be at the
Glanwater House. Should you have any
further Commands — expect to sail on
Sunday & am Sir very respectfully

Your most Obedt Servt
Geo: Latt

T. Shing Esq: & Co —

... of the son George Laun of Majora in the Sea
 War between Great Britain and the United States of America

Damages done by the British Indians		£	Sh	D
A single horse stout shod pleasure sleigh, robes and harness	---	17	10	0
" a two wheel'd one horn Carriage and harness	---	15	0	0
" two sacken bottom'd bedsteads, valued at £3-15 each	---	7	10	0
" 27 Chairs at 7/6 each	---	10	2	6
" a folding leafed walnut dining Table	---	2	10	0
" four single do - tables	---	4	0	0
" two chests of drawers totl	---	20	0	0
" Farming utensils, such as spades, shovels, axes, harrow &c	---	7	10	0
" five barrels of flour £2-10 each	---	12	10	0
" three pairs of dog iron and kitchen furniture	---	14	10	0
Cumulative		111	2	6

damages done by the Enemy				
A dwelling house 30 feet long by 20 feet wide 1 1/2 story high a lobby and two chambers up stairs a small cellar 12 feet square walled with stone underneath with a stack of Chimneys at each end, also a wing at each end of the building 15 feet long by 26 wide and 12 feet high composed of framed timber and weather boards connected in the rear by a gallery of 6 feet width 1/2 story high	---	275	.	"
A Barn 30 feet long by 20 feet wide and 12 feet high composed of framed timber & weather boards	---	25	.	"
a barnack 16 feet square 20 feet high, covered with boards	---	12	.	"
a four Year old Mare	---	20	.	"
two calves at £10 each	---	2	10	-
a pair of walnut dining tables	---	3	10	-
two side boards with papers underneath	---	6	-	-
two Knife cases containing 3 1/2 dozen of knives	---	7	10	-
A Mahogany letter case with pigeon holes & drawers	---	4	-	-
Mathematical instruments and a case of colour	---	3	-	-

