LOYALISTS

The Settlement of the Eastern Townships by the Loyalists: Myth or Reality?

Documentary Record

For Highschool



Techniques for the Analysis of Primary Sources

Primary and Secondary Sources

- / Primary sources are any document that was created at the time that an event occurred. For example, diaries, letters, photographs, interviews, newspapers or memoirs are considered primary sources. The archives housed at the Eastern Townships Resource Centre are primary sources.
- / Secondary sources are any document that was created after the primary sources. For example: history manuals, history books, historical texts, biographies, movies that relate historical events are all secondary sources. Several secondary sources have been added to the documentary records.

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Fact:

Verifiable information

Opinion:

Personal point of view, often arbitrary and volatile

Critical Analysis of Primary Sources

<u>Step 1:</u> Read (Observe and identify important information):

/ Who? What? When? Where?

Step 2: Interrogate the document:

- / External analysis (bearing on the context in which the document was produced)
 - With regards to the author (origins, intentions, religion, sex, etc.) and the source.
 - // Questions that must be answered:
 - /// Who is the author? Is the author an actor in the events that occurred, or merely a witness to them?
 - /// To whom was this document destined? Why was it written?
 - /// What are the origins of this document? Where does it come from? When was it produced?
 - /// Is this document an original document or a translation?
 - /// Does this document contain only an excerpt of the original document, or it is a reproduction of the original in its entirety?

/ Internal Analysis (bearing on the content of the document)

- // Questions that must be answered:
 - /// What are the main themes discussed within this document? What is the main message?
 - /// Is the content of the document plausible? Does it correspond to what we already know about this period and its context?
 - /// Does the document offer facts or opinions?

Step 3: Interpretation

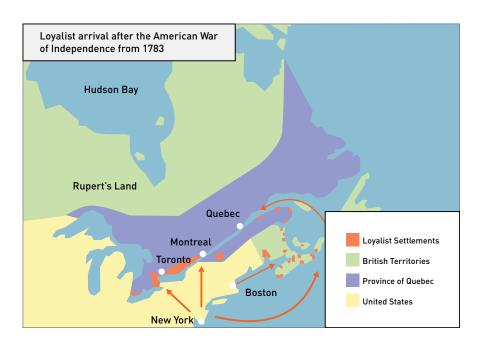
- / Give meaning to the content of the text and to the themes that you have identified:
 - What do you think was the purpose of this document and of the message it contains? What questions does it answer? To what other documents is it related?

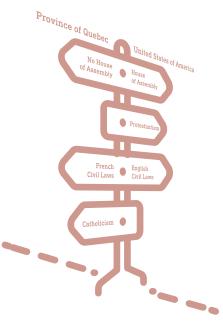
The Loyalists

The Death of General Montgomery in the Attack on Quebec, December 31, 1775



John Trumbull / Wikimedia Commons / Creative Commons (by-nc-sa)





Loyalists or Yankees?

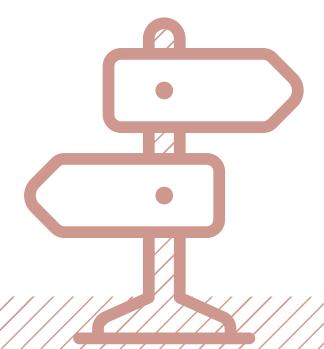
The Eastern Townships are known to have been settled by Loyalists of American origin. Is this really the case? Is this a myth or reality? What role did these individuals really play in Eastern Townships history? Were they really Loyalists or simple Yankees?

During the American Revolution, several volunteer combatants fought for the forces that remained loyal to the British Crown. When the treaty that effectively ended the War of Independence was signed in 1783, certain Loyalist refugees emigrated to the Upper Richelieu Valley, at the heart of the unoccupied seigneuries of Noyan, Foucault and St. Armand. These lands were good for clearing and their geographic location was a great asset for commerce with the United States. Roughly one hundred Loyalist families (for a total of 500-600 inhabitants) settled these lands illegally, as the governor of Lower-Canada was unwilling to cede them.

In 1791, these families are given new hope. The Constitutional Act stipulates that Crown lands can be ceded according to the township model. The province is subsequently divided in two: Upperand Lower-Canada. Lands in Upper-Canada are set aside for Loyalists so that they may live in accordance with their laws and their religion. From this moment on, Loyalists have the right to formally request Crown lands. In order to be entitled to land, an individual must demonstrate that he has suffered losses as a result of his loyalty to the British Crown. Moreover, he must pledge allegiance to the Crown and promise to settle the lands and establish a mill and build roads at his own expense.

In spite of the conditions outlined in the Constitutional Act, obtaining land in Lower-Canada is not so simple. General Haldimand, Governor of Lower-Canada, was reluctant to cede Crown lands to Loyalists. The State of Vermont was not yet part of the United States, and the governor wished to keep the Eastern Townships region as a buffer zone between Lower-Canada and the United States. Consequently, several American who had immigrated from New England illegally settled lands in the Eastern Townships region. Others, nicknamed Yankees by the British, would go on to pretend that they were Loyalists only to have the right to request land. As border control did not yet exist at the time, some Americans arrived in the area without even knowing that they were in Canada, noting only the abundance of lands that were good for clearing. Between 1792 and 1812, some twenty thousand individuals crossed the border and arrived in the Eastern Townships. How many of these were really Loyalists?

Yankee: A Yankee is a native or inhabitant of the United States. For the Americans, a Yankee is an inhabitant of New England, a region that corresponds to the following American states: Maine, Massachussetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

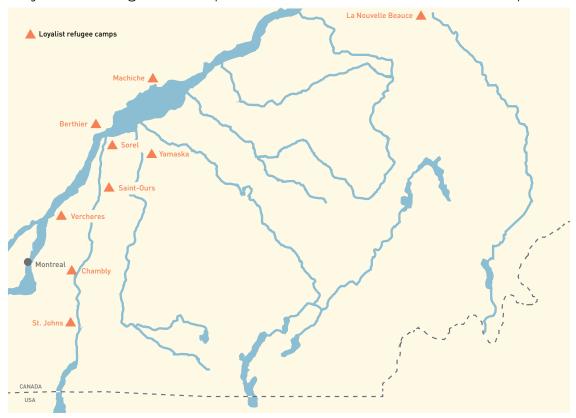


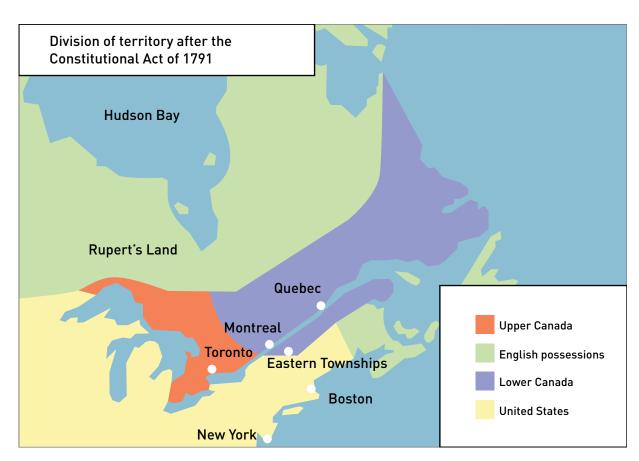
Settlement of the Eastern Townships by Loyalists



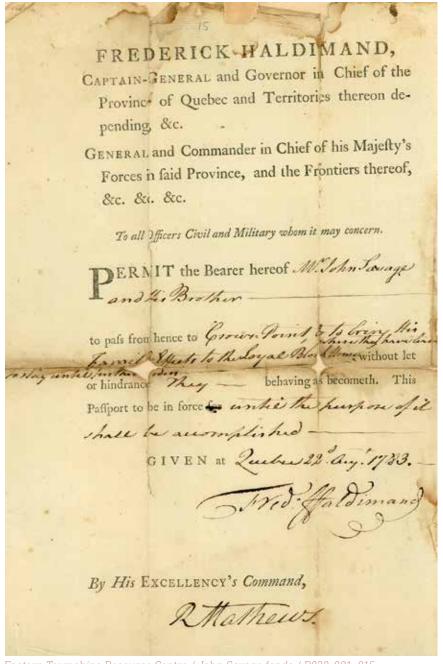


Loyalist Refugee Camps Close to the Eastern Townships





Letter From Governor Frederick Haldimand



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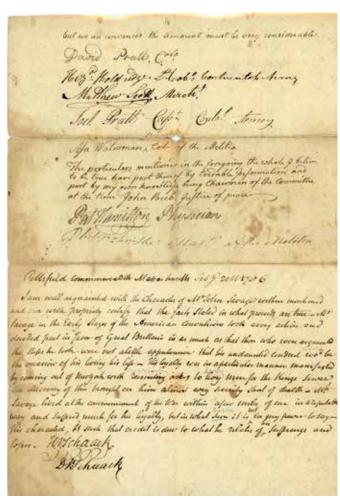
Permission given to John Savage and to his brothers to pass through Crown Point and to bring their families and belongings to the loyal bock house unbeeded

The *local block house* was a military refugee camp located in St. John's

Eastern Townships Resource Centre / John Savage fonds / P028-001_015

Letter Discussing a Loyalist

16 9ur 1706. We the surveilers of Spinner Town newtoniers the Son the County of allany and Man of newyork, interfy that John Lawaye late of Memberson aforesaid; out who nownessed in Coldwills -Money on the Castern then of Lake Crampton, lives in the Aughbourhood with us at the commencement of the late was between Great Buttoin and the lineted States of America when his Samely, and himself & Segrent Poriods; remaines as her the peace, and that the said John Saware was from the commence ment to the close of the was strongly attached to the Butter Guernment and look on action part anamer the united losses in support of the same, that in consequence of his conduct in lavar of the Butch Sovernment he actually suffered very a inside ably in his first, and the life of his Interest, by being Tropicular, and imprisoned; by the authority that existing in the American Governments at the rards stress of the same as Money Linking and Pour hachen, in the State of Tentiones and at Windson, Hartlest and now who in the State of Course dient, at each of which places he normained for a perior of consen able direction, and also by by sufering other Land continuent of by moment. He lift his home and Tamely in pursued of mean for the superat of Government in which business he consumes must Time , that we all his prosecutions and confinements he was -Inspection at his own validace, that he was comprehed top my the cost of wound Prosecutions carried in as west him, for his andust in apposition to the amount on excess, the production sun we cannot assertain . In one Instance his castle were distrained and toto the lefen on the measure abovementioner , as also the sense one one free of his to work at Home, council be accurately delines by in



Eastern Townships Resource Centre / John Savage fonds / P028-001_016 & P028-001_017

Letter dated February 16, 1786, signed by British Officers. The document states that:

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"Captain Savage left his home and family in pursuit of means of the British Government's support. In all his prosecutions and confinements he was supported at his own expense. Those who were acquainted with the steps he took were not a little apprehensive that undaunted conduct would be the occasion of hisz losing his life. The loyalty was manifested by his coming out of New-York with recruiting orders to levy men for the King's service. The discovery of this brought on him almost every severity short of death"

Petition submitted by John Savage and Associates to Obtain the Right to Settle Land in the Shefford Township

Whe South Chief trage of Mentical, god of A A A A A A PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CARADA. S. Serios. The Philiam of the Subscriberry the Thing Shelfe To His Expellency Alured Clarke Esqr. Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Lower Canada, Major General Commanding His Majesty's Kindrick of Montered and Promote of Liver Condas, Forges Ac. Ac. Ac.). Hout Humbly Thurst, (The Petition of John Savage Most zumbly sheweth That Philimen deamont there important didy That Your Petitioner took an early and active Part in Favour of Government at the Commencement of the late Rebellion, and served To commerciale their veweral wentersents on the fall our as Lieutenant in a Corps raised by Governor Tryon for Hie Hajastya Wakrenberry accouring that bligat their give hay beard and Service .- Being ande Prigoner by the Rebels and refusing to foin Revidenter in this place for Then years during which Times them, he was committed to Albany Goal from whence he escaped and joined the Royal Army at New York, with which he served until taken He has acted repregnant to vocable and foundly vaciety. Prisoner a second time, and closely confined in Irons in Kingston Propagations and ensuraging cornerly between nightboorn, & Throally reverse to any good or public undertakings. We have That Your Petitioner was very serviceable to the Scouts sent out from this Province by His Excellency General Haldimend then Boon lately informed That the wied Lawrence is appointed a Commander in Chief, by procuring for them Intelligence, and affording Briliff for this lawn which office has been conducted without That Your Petitioner at present has a Farm in Caldwell Manor To un, We therefore your Politimore work huntily which within the American Boundaries from which Colonel Allen is attemptyour Thomas . That the ward Theoremany may be deposed of ing to remove him, for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance to His Compleyment as Bailiff, the proser grant's well be the American States. That having never received from Government For war acknowledge and in duty haund will from any companiation for his Losses, and wishing to come under the John Tavage 12 Samuel Clark Protection of a British Constitution HUMBLY PRAYS That Your Excellency will be favourably pleased to Grant for 13 Abrilam Kimminer Jacob Hays himself and his Associates a Township of Ten Miles Square situated 14 John Allin between the Rivers St. Prancois and Chambly, bounded on the South John Guch paw 16 Propos Hoch Im Bell by the Township of Brone and on the East by the Township of Stukely lately ordered to be laid out. Flies Bell 17 Thomas danford And Your Petitioner as in Duty will ever pray Quebec 31st July 1792. Malama Hadarkit Whamis Mich Entersed- No.189. Petitics of John Savage - For a Township of Ten Miles Square bounded on the South by the Township of Miles Square bounded on the South by the Township of Brone, [1 July 1792. Referred to the Land Committee By order of His Excellency The Lieutenant Governor Quebec 1st August 1792. Reod. 26. August 1792, E.F. Fran Le Maistre. Muham 22 Judich & Fellogg Land Committee Recommended, Sign'd by order- atb Aug. 1792.

Eastern Townships Resource Centre / John Savage fonds / P028-002_032 & P028-003_116

"That your petitioner took an early and active part in favor of Government at the Commencement of the late Rebellion"

"That having never received from Government any compensation for this Losses, and wishing to come under the Protection of a British Constitution Humbly PRAYS"

"That your Excellency will be favorably pleased to Grant for himself and his Associates a Township of ten miles square situated between the Rivers St. Francois and Chambly, bounded on the South by the Township of Brome and on the East by the Township of Stukely"



[&]quot;Being made prisoner by the Rebels'

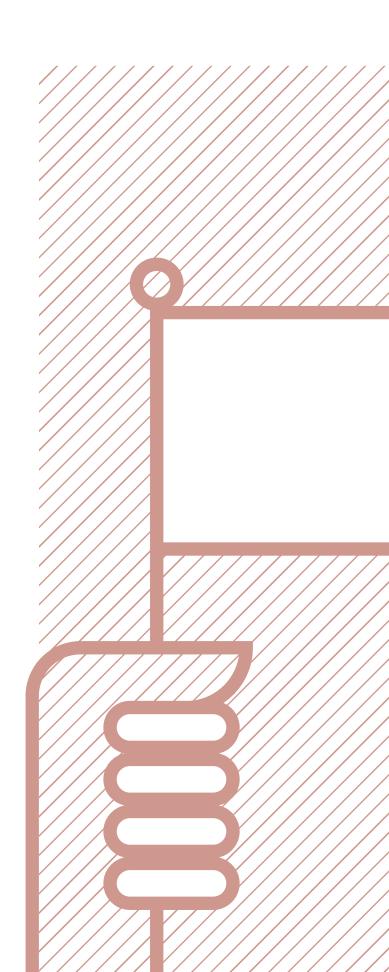
A Sketch of the Life of Captain John Savage: Excerpt

This text was published in 1921 in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of St. John's Church in Shefford.

"Captain Savage was obliged, hurriedly, one night in early winter 1792 to leave his farm in that part of Caldwell Manor, which was newly claimed by the Americans and make his way to Shefford with his famlily on a ox sled, in order to be within British lines and safety. Necessity compelled him to locate in Shefford before the Letters Patent were issued. Thus it occurred that he and his family were the only white people isolated and alone that first winter in the unbroken forests of Shefford".

"Beside the stream near the village of West Shefford may be seen a pile of stones that marks the spot where he built the "Dutch" back of his first cabin made of rough logs with a roof of hemlock bark".

"Captain Savage brought with him thirty head of cattle, but on account of the intense cold and lack of fodder all died except three. The story of that first dreadful winter was repeated about the fireside for many years. It is a pity that no written record was kept" (p. 8).



Loyalists John Savage and Gilbert Hyatt: Two Pioneers Who Contributed to the Settlement of the Eastern Townships

John Savage

During the American Revolution, John Savage was a volunteer fighter with the Loyalist forces. Captured during the conflict, he was released in 1783 and obliged to emigrate to Canada. He went on to settle at Caldwell's Manor (Noyan) after a stay in a military refugee camps in St. John's. Loyalist refugees who had settled at Caldwell's Manor (Noyan) were subject to pressure to vacate the land because they refused to pledge allegiance to the United States and because this territory was claimed by inhabitants of Vermont who wished to join the American federation.

With the Constitutional Act of 1791, Loyalist obtained the right to formally request Crown lands. Before even having obtained authorization from the Crown, John Savage left Caldwell's Manor in 1792 and headed towards West Shefford. He would only officially be given the charter to the Shefford Township by Lower-Canada's Lieutenant-Governor in 1801. However, during the years in which these lands had not yet been ceded, Savage travelled the territory and built roads.

The first years were very difficult. During the first winter, Savage lost nearly all of his livestock. During the pioneer years, several dangers awaited families who attempted to settle the Shefford Township. On top of flies and mosquitos, several problems were caused by wolves and bears that were also present on this territory. Before 1810, the Shefford Township was settled mainly by Loyalist farmers. After 1810, however, several Americans crossed the border to settle in the township, and henceforth the proportion of Loyalists and their descendants in the region went steadily down. During the War of 1812 that opposed Great Britain to the United States, more than 4000 Americans returned to the United States.

Gilbert Hyatt

In 1783, Gilbert Hyatt left the United States to settle own on the banks of the Mississquoi Bay. Several petitions were sent to Governor Haldimand of the Province of Quebec requesting Crown lands. Because he did not wish to allow Americans to settle near the province's border, Haldimand turned down these petitions. Instead, the governor ordered the Hyatt family to turn towards Sorel, Saint Jean or Quinte Bay, and forbade them to stay at Missisquoi Bay. Gilbert Hyatt, his family and several associates left the region and headed for the Ascot Township.

Even though he had not acquired the rights to any land, Gilbert Hyatt, along with his wife and ten children, headed 40 miles through the forest to the Ascot Township. With 204 associates by his side, Hyatt formally requested ownership of the lands of Ascot Township. Located at the intersection of the Magog and St-Francis Rivers, the network of waterways was favourable to the presence of a mill and to the development of a village. After significant investments in the development and roads and in the construction of a mill, Hyatt's requests for land were turned down by the governor.

After several years, part of the Ascot Township was finally ceded to Gilbert Hyatt and to 30 of his associates. The numerous refusals that they had encountered caused the original number of associates to decrease. Moreover, the portion of lands ceded to Hyatt was considerably less than what he had originally requested. In spite of this, Hyatt continued to work in order to develop his lots. Businesses were created, and Hyatt's Mill, later to become Sherbrooke, was created in 1818.

Loyalists Heading Towards Upper Canada

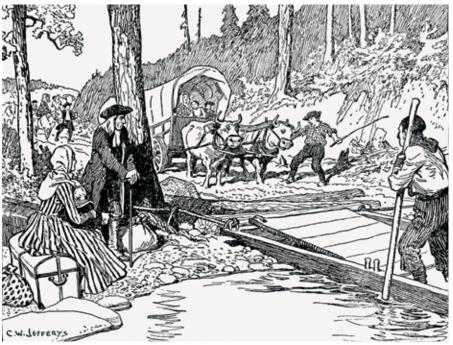


Image of Loyalists travelling to a township / ANC, C.W. Jefferies, The Picture Gallery of Canada, vol \it{II} , $\it{p.23}$

Loyalist Encampment, 1784



Image of Loyalists travelling to a township / ANC, C.W. Jefferies, The Picture Gallery of Canada, vol II, p. 23



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