

Remembering the Loyalists of Annapolis and Digby Counties, Nova Scotia

*By Brian McConnell, UE **

Over 230 years ago approximately 20,000 United Empire Loyalists came to Nova Scotia as refugees after the American Revolution. How can they be remembered ? Their presence is noticeable in Annapolis and Digby Counties in the names of communities, in the Loyalist era churches and cemeteries with their gravestones, in buildings and monuments, interpretative signs and plaques, and in street signs.



Bayard Family Cemetery, Wilmot, Annapolis County

Annapolis County

Bayard Family Cemetery - on Hwy 201, Wilmot. Location of gravestones of Major Samuel Vetch Bayard (1757 - 1832), his wife Sarah (1772 - 1859), and daughters Ethelinda, Aleda, and Louisa.

Bayard Road - located off Hwy 201, Wilmot, named after Samuel Vetch Bayard, who served as Major with Kings Orange Rangers. At conclusion of the war he settled at Wilmot where he was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel of the Royal Nova Scotia Regiment.

Christ Church Anglican Church - at 3065 Granville Road, Karsdale, begun in 1790 and consecrated in 1793 by Loyalist Bishop Charles Inglis includes grave of Jonathan Anderson (1745 - 1809) who was raised in Harrison, New York where his father, William, was a farmer. During American Revolution he enlisted in the New York Volunteers and in June 1784, brought his wife, Mary, and six children to Granville, Nova Scotia as Loyalist settlers. Their home in Karsdale still stands.

De Lancey Family Graveyard - follow trail off Highway 201 at Round Hill. It has been maintained by Historical Association of Annapolis Royal since 1925. It includes gravestones of Col. James De Lancey (1746 - 1804), his wife Martha (1760 - 1837) and son William De Lancey. During American Revolution Col. De Lancey raised volunteers from among the Loyalists of Long Island for DeLancey's Brigade.

Garrison Cemetery - in Annapolis Royal, next to the old Court House on corner of George Street and Highway 1. It is oldest British graveyard in North America and includes monument to Black Loyalist Rose Fortune (1774 - 1864) and gravestone of Loyalist Minister Rev. Jacob Bailey (1731 - 1808), a Harvard-educated Anglican minister ordained in London, England in 1760. He served the congregation in Pownalborough, on the northeastern frontier of Massachusetts (in the vicinity of West Dresden, Maine) until 1779, when relocated to Nova Scotia, arriving in Annapolis Royal in 1782.



Monument to Black Loyalist Rose Fortune in Garrison Cemetery

Historic Loyalist Homes - Lower Saint George Street, Annapolis Royal. Three homes built on land originally acquired by Loyalist Frederic Davoue between 1784 and 1787.

Kniffen Hollow and Kniffen Brook - Loyalist George Kniffen settled in this area.

Loyalist Cemetery - located along Highway 10 at New Albany.

Margaretsville - named after Margaret Inglis, daughter of Bishop Charles Inglis, Loyalist and first Bishop of Nova Scotia. She was also the wife of Honourable Brenton Halliburton, Chief Justice of Nova Scotia.

New Albany - named by Loyalists from Albany, New York who settled in area. Also nearby Albany Cross.

Old Holy Trinity Anglican Church - located on Main Street in Middleton. Construction of the church began in 1789 under the direction of Rev. John Wiswall who came to Nova Scotia as a Loyalist. Gravestones of Rev. Wiswall (1731-1812) and of Brig. - Gen. Timothy Ruggles (1711 - 1785) can be seen.

Old St. Edwards Loyalist Church and Museum - at Clementsport, consecrated in 1797 by Bishop Charles Inglis. Includes gravestones of Loyalist settlers including members of Ditmars family which donated land for church.

Pioneer Cemetery - on Highway 1 at Belleisle. Location of gravestones of United Empire Loyalist Walter Willett (1746 - 1812), who was a discharged Officer from the British Legion, also known as Tarleton's Legion, together with wife Abigail, son Isaac, and daughter Eliza.

Port George - named to honour King George III.

Ruggles Road - located off Hwy 201, Wilmot, named after Brig. - General Timothy Ruggles.

United Empire Loyalist Monument - a cairn erected in 1965 donated by the Middleton and District Board of Trade with burnished copper plaque supplied by The Historical Sites Commission of Nova Scotia. It is located in Centennial Park on School Street in Middleton. Inscription on Cairn reads: UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS. Erected to the Memory of Brigadier-General Timothy Ruggles, Major Samuel Vetch Bayard, Major Thomas H. Ruggles and other Loyalists who settled in this part of Nova Scotia. Ruggles (1711-95), was born in Rochester, Mass. and educated at Harvard College. He achieved great distinction in civil and military life. Bayard (1757-1832) served in the King's Orange Rangers, Barclay (1757-1832) served in the Loyal American Regiment, as Speaker of the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia, and as the British Consul General in New York.

Waldec - settled after American Revolution by disbanded soldiers from Waldeck, Germany. Originally, there were two sections of Clements referred to as 'Waldeck' and 'Hessian' lines. Hessian Line now called Clementsvale.

Waldec Line Cairn - Cairn on Waldeck Line Road, Clementsvale erected to memory of Hessian Regiment which fought with British during American Revolution and afterwards received land grants to settle this area.



Sign for Moody Lane, Weymouth, named after Lt. - Col. James Moody

Digby County

Barton - on Hwy 101 heading south from Digby towards Weymouth, named after Lt. - Col. Joseph Barton, who commanded the 1st Battalion of the New Jersey Volunteers and received grants of land in the area after the war.

Loyalist Old Baptist Cemetery - along Lansdowne Road entering Bear River contains graves of early settlers of Bear River and area from approximately 1810 to 1920 including members of Loyalist families.

Moody Lane - off Hwy 1 approaching town of Weymouth from Digby, named after Lt. Col. James Moody who served with New Jersey Volunteers and settled here after American Revolution.

New Edinburgh - named by Loyalists from New York, Samuel Gouldsbury and Anthony Stewart, who were originally natives of Scotland and attempted to establish community there in 1783 after American Revolution.

Savary House - on Hwy 101 at Plympton, named after a descendant of Nathan Savary who came to Digby with Loyalists in 1784. It was the former home of Alfred William Savary, QC, first member of Parliament for Digby in 1867.

Savary Provincial Park - located across Highway from Savary House at Plympton, Nova Scotia. Nathan Savary, born in Rochester, Mass., USA in 1748 came to Nova Scotia at close of American Revolution with other Loyalists. His family settled at Savary Brook, now called Plympton. He, his wife, and other family members were buried on land later donated to the Province of Nova Scotia which is within Savary Provincial Park.



Loyalist sign in Weymouth

Sissiboo Landing - at 4575 Highway 1, Weymouth. Interpretative signage recognizes contribution of Loyalists Lt. - Col. James Moody and Col. John Taylor to start of shipbuilding industry. The first ship was called 'The Loyalist'.

Smiths Cove - named after Loyalist John Smith from New Rochelle, New York who settled there in 1784 and is buried in Sullis - Smith Cemetery off Harbour View Lane.

St. Peter's Anglican Church - at Weymouth North, with gravestones of Lt. - Col. James Moody (1744 - 1809), wife Jane (1752 - 1837) family and other leading Loyalist settlers of area including Col. John Taylor (1742 - 1822) and Josiah Jones (1744 - 1825) whose stone reads: "To the Memory of Josiah Jones of Weston, Massachusetts. Steadfast in allegiance to the King, he exchanged his native Country, A.D. 1783 for the wilderness of Nova Scotia; and by the blessing of God upon his industry and judicious economy, was enabled to live in it comfortably, happily, and independently. His several duties as neighbor, husband, parent, citizen, and magistrate, were fulfilled with a steady, temperate, and conscientious perseverance, worthy of emulation. Humbling confiding in the merciful promises of God in Christ, he departed this life in peace, the 10th day of June, 1825, in the 81st year of his age."

Tiddville - named after Loyalist Samuel Tidd, a Private in Col. Beverly Robinson's Loyal American Regiment. The New York Loyalist settled with his wife and 5 children on Digby Neck.

Timpany Lane - located off Highway 303 at Rossway named after Lieut. Robert Timpany of New Jersey Volunteers who settled in area.



**Bayonet Belt & Scabbard of Loyalist Col. David Fanning
at Admiral Digby Museum**

Town of Digby, Digby County

Admiral Digby House - located on Maiden Lane at corner of Prince William Street, where reputedly Admiral Digby, who led the fleet of British ships that arrived in Digby with 1200 Loyalists in June 1783, stayed on return visits.

Admiral Digby Museum - at 95 Montague Row is the Town of Digby and Area museum which includes historical collection and genealogical materials related to Loyalists. It has on display a Bayonet Belt and Scabbard of Loyalist Col. David Fanning.

Admiral Digby Well - on Maiden Lane across from Admiral Digby House is well used by early Loyalist settlers of Town. Sign on Well reads: " This well was established by Rear Admiral Robert Digby, for whom this town was named. He brought the United Empire Loyalists to the area in 1783".

Admirals Walk - located on Digby waterfront near Tourist Bureau and across from Admiral Digby Museum on Montague Row has interpretive signage about Digby's Loyalist Heritage and Digby's Black Loyalists. There is also a Cairn.

Carleton Street - named after Sir Guy Carleton, Lord Dorchester, who helped organize evacuation of Loyalists from New York including those who settled in Digby. He also urged the Governor of Nova Scotia to grant the Loyalists free land and provisions for a year.

Old Loyalist Cemetery - on Warwick Street at corner of First Avenue includes early gravestones of Loyalists including James Holdsworth (1736 - 1834) and sons John (1761 - 1813) and Thomas (1762 - 1798), as well as Joshua Smith (1729 - 1817) and Daniel Leonard (- 1796).

Trinity Anglican Church - at 109 Queen Street. Original church was built in 1788 and adjacent cemetery contains graves of over 200 Loyalists including gravestones of Lieut. Robert Timpany (1742 - 1844), Rev. Roger Viets (1738 - 1811). The oldest visible Loyalist gravestone is one of Mary Getsheus who died in 1785. Inside the church is a plaque to Rev. Viets which notes he was buried under the East wing of the original church.



Plaque to Rev. Roger Viets in Trinity Church, Digby

Note:

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